

= New , Kalevar =

Body ) in Odia , the festival is witnessed by millions of people and the budget for this event generally exceeds \$ 500 @, @ 000 . The event involves installation of new images in the temple and burial of the old ones in the temple premises at Koili Vaikuntha . During the Nabakalebara ceremony held during July 2015 the idols that were installed in the temple in 1996 were replaced by specially carved new images made of neem wood . More than 3 million people are reported to have attended this festival .

= = = Suna Beshha = = =

Suna Beshha , ( ' Suna beshh 'in Oriya language means ? dressing in gold ? ) also known as Raja or Rajadhiraja Bhesha or Raja Bhesha , is an event when the triad images of the Jagannatha Temple are adorned with gold jewelry . This event is observed five times in a year . It is commonly observed on Magha Purnima ( January ) , Bahuda Ekadashi also known as Asadha Ekadashi ( July ) , Dashahara ( Bijayadashami ) ( October ) , Karthik Purnima ( November ) , and Pousa Purnima ( December ) . One such Suna Bhesha event is observed on Bahuda Ekadashi during the Rath Yatra on the chariots placed at the Simhadwar . The other four Beshas are observed inside the temple on the Ratna Singhasana ( gem studded altar ) . On this occasion gold plates are decorated over the hands and feet of Jagannatha and Balabhadra ; Jagannatha is also adorned with a Chakra ( disc ) made of gold on the right hand while a silver conch adorns the left hand . Balabhadra is decorated with a plough made of gold on the left hand while a golden mace adorns his right hand .

= = = Niladri Bije = = =

Niladri Bije , celebrated in the Hindu calendar month Asadha ( June ? July ) on Trayodashi ( 13th day ) , marks the end of the Ratha Yatra . The large wooden images of the triad of gods are taken out from the chariots and then carried to the sanctum sanctorum , swaying rhythmically ; a ritual which is known as pahandi .

= = = Sahi yatra = = =

The Sahi Yatra , considered the world 's biggest open @-@ air theatre , is an annual event lasting 11 days ; a traditional cultural theatre festival or folk drama which begins on Ram Navami and ends on Rama avishke ( Sanskrit meaning : anointing ) . The festival includes plays depicting various scenes from the Ramayana . The residents of various localities , or Sahis , are entrusted the task of performing the drama at the street corners .

= = = Samudra Arati = = =

The Samudra arati is a daily tradition started by the present Shankaracharya 9 years ago . The daily practise includes prayer and fire offering to the sea at Swargadwar in Puri by disciples of the Govardhan Matha . On Paush Purnima of every year the Shankaracharya himself comes out to offer prayers to the sea .

= = Transport = =

Earlier , when roads did not exist , people used to walk or travel by animal @-@ drawn vehicles or carriages along beaten tracks to reach Puri . Travel was by riverine craft along the Ganges up to Calcutta , and then on foot or by carriages . It was only during the Maratha rule that the popular Jagannath Sadak ( Road ) was built around 1790 . The East India Company laid the rail track from Calcutta to Puri , which became operational in 1898 . Puri is now well @-@ connected by rail , road and air services . A broad gauge railway line of the South Eastern Railways which connects Puri with Calcutta , and Khurda is an important railway junction on this route . The rail distance is about

499 kilometres ( 310 mi ) from Calcutta and 468 kilometres ( 291 mi ) from Vishakhapatnam . Road network includes NH 203 that links the city with Bhubaneswar , the state capital , situated about 60 kilometres ( 37 mi ) away . NH 203 B connects the city with Satapada via Brahmagiri . Marine drive , which is part of NH 203 A , connects Puri with Konark . The nearest airport is the Biju Patnaik International Airport at Bhubaneswar . Puri railway station is among the top hundred booking stations of the Indian Railways .

= = Arts and crafts = =

= = = Sand art = = =

Sand art is a special art form that is created on the beaches of Puri . The art form is attributed to Balaram Das , a poet who lived in the 14th century . Sculptures of various gods and famous people are now created in sand by amateur artists . These are temporary in nature as they get washed away by waves . This art form has gained international fame in recent years . One of the famed sand artists of Odisha is Sudarshan Patnaik . He established the Golden Sand Art Institute in 1995 , in the open air on the shores of Bay of Bengal , to provide training to students interested in this art form .

= = = Appliqué art = = =

Appliqué art , which is a stitching @-@ based craft unlike embroidery , was pioneered by Hatta Maharana of Pipili . It is widely used in Puri , both for decoration of the deities and for sale . Maharana 's family members are employed as darjis or tailors or sebaks by the Maharaja of Puri . They prepare articles for decorating the deities in the temple for various festivals and religious ceremonies . The appliqué works are brightly coloured and patterned fabric in the form of canopies , umbrellas , drapery , carry bags , flags , coverings of dummy horses and cows , and other household textiles ; these are marketed in Puri . The cloth used is made in dark colours of red , black , yellow , green , blue and turquoise blue .

= = Culture = =

Cultural activities , including the annual religious festivals , in Puri are : The Puri Beach Festival held from 5 to 9 November every year , and the Shreekshestra Utsav held from 20 December to 2 January every year . The cultural programmes include unique sand art , display of local and traditional handicrafts and food festival . In addition , cultural programmes are held for two hours on every second Saturday of the month at the district Collector 's Conference Hall near Sea Beach Police Station . Odissi dance , Odia music and folk dances are part of this event . Odissi dance is the cultural heritage of Puri . This dance form originated in Puri from the dances performed by Devadasis ( Maharis ) attached to the Jagannatha Temple who performed dances in the Nata mandapa of the temple to please the deities . Though the devadasi practice has been discontinued , the dance form has become modern and classical and is widely popular ; many of the Odissi virtuoso artists and gurus ( teachers ) are from Puri . Some of the famous Odissi dancers are Kelucharan Mohapatra , Mayadhar Raut , Sonal Mansingh , Sanjukta Panigrahi and many more .

= = Education = =

Some of the educational institutions in Puri are :

Ghanashyama Hemalata Institute of Technology and Management

Gangadhar Mohapatra Law College , established in 1981

Extension Unit of Regional Research Institute of Homoeopathy , Puri , under Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy ( CCRH ) , New Delhi ; established in March 2006

Shri Jagannath Sanskrit University , established in July 1981

Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya , a college and hospital where treatment and training is based on Ayurveda school of medicine

The Industrial Training Institute , a premier technical institution to provide education to skilled , committed & talented technicians was established in 1966 by the Government of India

= = Puri people = =

Gopabandhu Das ? Social worker

Nilakantha Das ? Social activist

Kelucharan Mohapatra ? Odissi dancer

Pankaj Charan Das ? Dancer

Manasi Pradhan ? Writer and activist

Raghunath Mohapatra ? Architect and sculptor

Baisali Mohanty - ALC Global Fellow at University of Oxford , United Kingdom

Sudarshan Patnaik ? Sand artist

Rituraj Mohanty ? Singer