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A Cultural Study on: Dwadasa Yatra of Lord Sri Jagannath

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Abstract: -

The grand temple of Lord Jagannath is famous for if unique ritualistic practices as well as various functions observed throughout the year. Traditionally, twelve months are fixed for Dwadasa Yatras or twelve festivals but in reality, more than fifty-six festivals are observed throughout the year. The Jagannath Sanskruti is the oldest Sanskruti in the Universe which is based on the “Sanatan Dharma” and the ruling God of this Sanskruti is Lord Jagannath. The culture and tradition of this Sanskruti are based on the rituals & festivals of Maha Prabhu Shree Jagannath. So, this unique culture of Odisha state is known as Jagannath Sanskruti.

Keyword: -
Dwadasa Yatra, Sanskruti, Culture, Festival, Gan-devata, Sanatan Dharma, Lord Jagannatha.

Introduction: -

The temple of Lord Jagannath at Puri, a coastal town near Bay of Bengal popularly known "Mahodadhi", occupies a distinct place in the entire religious world. The word Puri has been derived from Purushottam Puri which is the fundamental and original essence of Hindu philosophy. Both temple and the Lords have deep impact on the social life of people. The social life of Srikhetra is more or less spiritual and culturally based, Amidst hundreds of rites and rituals and festivals in the Jagannath Temple during the whole year.

Sri Jagannath is considered as Gana-Devata (God of people irrespective of caste, creed & religion.) He is regarded as “Patita Pavan” (the saviour of downtrodden). The cult of Jagannath pervades in all walks of life of people of Odisha. This cult of Jagannath has enriched the cultural heritage of Odisha – such as art, literature, music, drama and dance.

Music and dance but also have carved a niche in spiritual culture of the world. Odisha has become famous worldwide in her heart-touching elegant creativity in art and architectural beauty in Konark, Raja Rani and innumerable temples in Patta-paintings, Odissi dance and Odissi Music. In the world of spiritual culture, the Jagannath cult has also got worldwide recognition in fostering equality, fraternity, brotherhood, religious tolerance irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

Shree Jagannath, the Lord of universe and his colourful car festival attract lakhs of pilgrims during car-festival which is celebrated annually on second day of bright fortnight of Asadha (June-July). This is considered as the biggest colourful festival in the world.

Dwadasa Yatras Of Lord Jagannath: -

There is 12 yatra of Shree Jagannath celebrated each year at Puri. The magnificent pastimes of the devotees and the Lord are truly awe-inspiring. Lord Shree Jagannath is the King of All-Universe and holds many festivals throughout the year. As per Skanda Purana, Jagannath instructed King Indradyumna to make these twelve festivals or Yatras. All the festival must be celebrated according to the Ritus (Seasons), and rules.

Such as (1) Snana Jatra (Bathing of deities) (2) Ratha Yatra of Shree Jagannath (3) Shayana Yatra (4) Dakshinayana Yatra (5) Side-Changing Yatra (Parswaparibartana) (6) Uththapana Yatra (7) Pravana Sasti (8) Pusya Yatra (9) Uttarayana Yatra (10) Dola Yatra (11) Chandana Yatra (12) Niladri Mahadaya.

1.Snana Yatra (Bathing of deities)

This Snana Yatra is performed on the full moon day (Purnima) of Jyeshta month as per Sri mandir Panji. The fourth idol with Shree Jagannath is brought out from the Ratna Vedi of Jagannath temple and taken in a procession to Snana (bathing) mandapa. The deities are bathing with 108 pots of waters in Snana mandap.

2. Rath Yatra of Shree Jagannath

The Ratha yatra or car festival is celebrated in the Jagannath temple on Asadha Shukla Paskhya Dwitiya tithi as per Sri mandir Panji. The world-famous Rath Yatra is celebrated after a long stay of 15 days in the house called Anasara. On the day of the Car festival, Maha Prabhu Shree Jagannath, Balabhadra, and sister Subhadra some in in three chariots to Sharadha Bali to give darshan to the devotees worldwide.

3. Shayana Yatra

The Shayana Yatra is performed in Asadha Shukla Ekadashi Tithi as per Sri mandira Panji. On this ritual, the fourth idol and Shree Jagannath sleep and darshan of the deities are closed.

4. Dakshinayan Yatra

This yatra is celebrated in the Karkata Sankranti as per Panji. It is said that Vibhishan darshan Shree Jagannath on that day. So, the Dakshinayan Bandapana ritual is also performed on that day.

5. Side-changing Yatra (Parswaparibartana)

This Yatra is celebrated on the month Bhadrab Shukla Ekadashi (eleventh Day) as per Sri mandir Panji, as the Maha Prabhu are asleep on this day and turn their backs.

6. Uththapan Yatra

This Yatra is celebrated on the month of Kartik Shukla Ekadashi (eleventh Day), the Sayan ritual of deities is the end, Shree Jagannath awakens and the rituals are performed.

7. Pravana Sasti

The Pravan Sasti is celebrated in the month of Margasira Shukla Sasti tithi as per Sri mandir Panji. During the day the deities are dressed in winter clothes according to the ritual to escape the onslaught of winter in the winter season.

8. Pusya Yatra

The Pusya yatra is celebrated on the full moon day (Purnima) tithi of the month of Poush as per Sri mandir Panji. The bathing rituals of the deities are performed, and the bathing rituals are performed in the reflection of deities.

9. Uttarayan Yatra

The Uttarayan Yatra is celebrated on the Makar Sankranti of Poush month. Makar Churashi Bhog Niti Alati, Bandapana, etc. are offered to the deities.

10. Dola Yatra

On the full moon day (Purnima) of Falguna month, the Dola yatra is celebrated and the deities are brought to Dola mandap and the Suna Besha done.

11. Chandana Yatra

This Chadana yatra is celebrated for 42days from the month of Baishakha Shukla Tritiya tithi (Akshaya Tritiya). The deities' row in boat (Chapa Khela) in Chadana Pokhari (Chadana Pond) to get a little relief from the extreme heat.

12. Niladri Mahadaya

The Niladri Mahadoya Yatra is celebrated in the month of Baishakha Shukla Ashtami tithi as per Sri mandira Panji. On this day it is believed the Daru of the deities appeared on their own.

This shows the syncretism of the cult of Jagannath. In this context, it is pertinent to know the salient features of Jagannath cult. The cult of Jagannath pervades in all walks of life of Odia people. This cult of Jagannath has enriched the cultural heritage of Odisha – such as art, literature, music, drama and dance. In religious practice, Sri Jagannath is worshipped like a living human being. He gets up early, takes bath, takes food, have snacks; suffers from sickness, hears music, sees dance and have fun and quarrels with Laxmi. This is unique in the system of Jagannath seva, pujas, activities and impact of Jagannath cult on Odissi Music and dance If we look back to cultural history of Odisha, we find that musical tradition is more than 2000 years old. The ancient Odissi musical and dance tradition continue to be fostered and flourished centering round Sri Jagannath's Puja seva. Music, dance with musical instruments, became the integral part of puja, service of Lord Jagannath. Therefore, it can be concluded that the syncretism of the cult of Jagannath has not only enriched Odia spiritual life but also fostered Odissi music.

Conclusion

There is 12 Yatra of Shree Jagannath Temple Puri is celebrated in twelve months of a year. The yatra is started from Snana Yatra and ends with Niladri Mahadoya Yatra. This 12 yatras of Shree Jagannath Puri are mentioned in the Skanda Purana and Niladri Mahadoya. The culture & Sanskruti of Odisha is well known as Jagannath Sanskruti. It is the oldest Sanskruti in the world which is based on the principle of Sanatana Dharma and the ruling GOD of this Sanskruti is Lord Jagannath. All the festivals and rituals are celebrated in Odisha according to Sri mandira Puri. The Lord of the universe Sri Jagannath is an inspiration to all, who is infinite, inexpressive, unlimited and can be converted to all categories of forms and cultures. Thus, the Jagannath culture has been able to tie all sorts of culture and religious in one string and has become a unique platform for divergent religious faiths.

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