

JAUKANDHEI BAHAGHARA

INNOVATIVE STEP TAKEN: REVITALISATION OF JAUKANDHEI BAHAGHARA

Jaukandhei Bahaghara (Lacquer Doll Marriage), a festival with rich heritage: The Hindu socio-religious life is very rich in festivals. ‘Thirteen festivals in twelve months’ is a common saying in India. Most of these festivals are observed by Hindus in all regions of India in some way or other. Each festival has however acquired some local colour and form. There is also local festivals prevalent in different provinces and among different communities. There is no fundamental difference between the folk festivals and the festivals of the cultured, except the difference of forms and features .The same festivals are observed by the cultured and the uncultured as well, but not in the same way .Those festivities in which the common folk take the initiative and give expression to their natural tendencies and capacities ,their ideas and sentiments, can be counted as folk festivals. These festivals did not, perhaps originate with the common people. Some are mentioned in the classical literature of the Hindus. It is a general tendency of the human spirit to seek relaxation and self-expression without restraint.

All Hindu festivals have some religious background, but secular elements are also noticeable in them. The people try to amuse themselves in various ways and give expression to their love for freedom, beauty and joy sometimes. Each festival is held on a certain day of the lunar fortnight. Therefore, the day of its observance does not fall on the same calendar date every year, but varies from the solar day, as does the Christian festival of Easter.

AIM AND OBJECTS OF JAUKANDHEI BAHAGHARA : A REVIVED FOLK FESTIVAL

Almost all over the world at the initial stage, the intellectuals, social activists, pioneers of administration and the elites as well as the culture- lovers have joined hands to restore folk art festivals and ceremonies confined to their respective territories for the revival of their regional beliefs in paving the way for unique identification. They have provided immense hospitality and indigenous bliss to people of distant localities in furnishing such activities.

In antiquity, in some parts of Baleswar Lacquer-doll marriage ceremony was observed as a folk culture, though not massively. The ceremony was being held between two families/ lane (one bride and other the groom) with much pomp followed by a grand feast and ritual stands. Then it was gradually vanished because of modernization and lack of support of culture lovers.

Dramatist Bijay Mishra of Nilagiri, Baleswar also introduced a folk song with Akshay Mohanty, eminent lyricist and music director in his Odia Cinema titled 'Taopoi' which says;

“Aa baula bou-bouka khela kheliba,
jhia bahakari pua bahakari jani-jautuka deba”

(Let come my friend to play doll-marriage ceremony being parties of bride & groom and making fun and joy, giving dowry and gifts)

This song actually is based on Baleswari folk culture and tradition. Time masked this type of folk tradition for being neglected by the so-called pseudo westernized generations.

I have been taken initiative with the support of my organization “Baleswar Kala Kendra” to revive Jaukandhei folk art and culture through competition, training, workshop, exhibition, seminar, magazine release, selling stalls, websites etc. since 2003. Most writers and reporters of Baleswar describe the harmony and importance of this occasion in magazine and newspaper. It inspired many people for knowing such ancient tradition of glory and heritage.

A matter of great ecstasy is that from the year 2005 Fakir Mohan Art & Craft School at Santikanan of Baleswar has been organised a 'Child Art Competition' in this regard for its revival and to make people aware of the fact in my principal period & the President Eminent Odia Poet Dr. Brajanath Rath. All print and Electronic Media had extended immense support by propagating through their respective esteemed media. Baleswari Kala Kendra tried to solemnise the folk art & culture of Balasore in a moderate system to test people's reciprocation. In 2011, an array of intellectuals of the locality has unanimously decided to grace the ceremony in a grand way to find a unique place in the history of culture and heritage. A forum named 'Jaukandhei Bahaghara Utsav Committee' has been formed to satiate it irrespective of caste, creed and sect, so that it will bring about universal goodwill, communal harmony and explaining solidarity in the society for a common cause. It has started a revolution to continue this tradition in a more advanced form by cultivating and producing Lacquer for the sake of culture and earning livelihood as well. At first, the “Jaukandhei Bahaghara Utsav Committee” has selected such a subcommittee under Baleswari Kala Kendra & me as the Founder Secretary unanimously to tune up this folk festival throughout Odisha under Founder President Eminent Odia Poet Dr. Brajanath Rath.

Jaukandhei Bahaghara Utsav Committee printed a booklet titled 'Ama Lokaparba: Jaukandhei Bahaghara' in 2011 to popularise recognised norms of Jaukandhei Bahaghara highlighting the bellows

- The committee will be select the bride and bridegroom party for every year.
- Both the bride and bridegroom party will take prior permission from their respective God / goddess / Priest/ age-old persons.

- The name of the bride and bridegroom will be declared every year in the 1st day of the bright fortnight of Vaisakha according to Hindu calendar.
- Lagnadhara (engagement) will be held on Baishakha Purnami and the committee declares the names of the head of bride and bridegroom parties, Koilibara(Groom's younger brother), Nananda(sister of Groom), Bara(Bride groom) and Kania(Bride) on that day.
- At the same time bride party will declare the names of Bride's Brother and sister.
- Mr Parikshit Padhy family of Patrapada, Baleswar will be proposed to be Kania Bhai and to involve in the Khaipoda ceremony for their role in being involved in the doll marriage tradition for many years earlier.
- Both the bride and bridegroom party will demand dowry for social welfare.
- The gift to the groom or bride in any shape will meant for the welfare/ development of Baleswar. The presentations should be included with Baleshwari Gaja (a traditional sweet of Baleswar).
- The Koilibar (bachelor groom) below 12 year and the Nananda (Virgin bride) should be of below 20 year keeping in view their excellent and dynamism in various sector. They should be primarily the Baleswarians.
- Late Sabitri Nandi family of Nalamganj, Baleswar will be offered the first proposal to make the Jaukandhei bride and groom for her relentless and dedicative activity in this regard.
- Silpi Kesudas will be sought first to be the intermediary of the ceremony for his continuous effort to popularise this exclusive indigenous art & culture.
- The deities and the delegates will be invited to the ceremony through the unique traditional pattern of 'Guapaka'.
- District administration, media persons, social activists and activists of Art and culture will be invited to participate in the marriage ceremony.
- Purely vegetarian foods will be served in the reception ceremony.
- On the day of closing ceremony (Reception), committee will be declare the date of the next year Jaukandhei marriage ceremony.
- Mass marriages for the poor will be conducted every year.
- After the marriage ceremony, the Jaukandhei couple will be placed in the District Museum with details to attract the visitors for bettering the cultural heritage.
- The Committee will be mobilise developments of total lacquer like collection, cultivation, production, industries, and entrepreneurs in Odisha.

PROGRAMME CALENDAR OF JAUKANDHEI BAHAGHAR

Earlier there was no calendar for Jaukandhei Bahaghara, but people were celebrating this festival during Summer. Later on, the committee decided to prepare a new lunar calendar. This Calendar (Panjika) is prepared by Kesu Das(fellow himself) keeping in mind the schedule of Sabitri Brata & is

recommended and followed by Jaukandhei Bahaghara Utsav Committee, Baleswar and other Committees are following this Calender for Jaukandhei Bahaghara.

CALENDER FOR JAUKANDHEI BAHAGHARA

Sl.	Activity/Event	Duration	Tithi	Venue	Remarks
1	Collection of Ajna mala from Lord Jagannath and Water and earth from Holly Placqueres		From Dola Purnima		
2	Jaukandhei making (Start)	1 Day	Rama Navami	At Craftsman's Home	
3	Lagnadhara	1 Day	Chandana Purnima/ Baishakha Purnima	At Bride's Site	
4	Gum	1 day	Jyestha Krushna Pakdhya Pratipad		
5	Guamangala	1 Day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshya Dyitiya		
6	Guapaka : 1	1 Day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshya tritiya	Baneshwar Temple at Puruna Baleshwar	2km away from Balasore Town
7	Guapaka : 2	1 day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshya Chaturthi	Maninageshwar Temple at Bardhanpur	14km away from Baleshwar Town
8	Guapaka : 3	1 Day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshya Panchami	Bakreshwar Temple at Sargan	12km away from BaeshwarTown

9	Guapaka : 4	1 Day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshya Shashthi	Khajureshwar at Shergarh	14km away from Baleshwar Town
10	Guapaka : 5	1 day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshya Saptami	Gargeswar Temple at Remuna	10km away from Baeshwar Town
11	Guapaka : 6	1 Day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshy Ashtami	Kali Mandir At Balighat	2km. away at bank of River Budha Balang
12	Guapaka : 7	1 Day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshya Navami	Elders Home	In Balasore Town
13	Mangalan (Inauguration Ceremony of Jaukandhei Bahaghara)	1 day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshya Dashami	At Bride's and Bride Groom's Site separately	Child Folk Art Competition, Exhibition- cum-sale on Folk Craft, Folk Food and Special Lacquer Craft at Bride Groom's Site
14	Dian Mangala Baradhara Marriage Procession Marriage Ceremony Bara-kanya Bidai O Kandana	1 Day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshya Ekadashi	At Bride's and Bride Groom's Site separately, From Bride's Site to Bride Groom's Site, From Bride Groom's Site to Bride's Site, At Bride's Site' At Bride's Site	Evening Cultural Programme at Bride Groom's Site

15		1 Day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshya Dwadashi	At Bride Groom's Site	Folk Dance & Folk Song Competition
16		1 Day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshya Trayodash i	At Bride Groom's Site	Jhoti, Muruja, Sankha, Hulahuli & Kandana Competition
17	Bandhu Milan (Closing Ceremony)	1 Day	Jyestha Krushna Pakshya Chaturdas hi	At Bride Groom's Site	Cultural Programme
18	Laxminarayan Puja on the auspicious occasion of Sabitri Brata		Sabitri Amabashy a	At Balasore	A unique folk ritual of Balasore

**DESCRIPTION OF 5 YEARS LACQUER DOLL MARRIAGE
(2011- 2015)**

I described here 5years name list and photos of Bride groom, Karta, Kartee, Kaoilibara, Nalanda, Kanya Bhai O Bhauni and Madhyastha, the mediator of both side. All were played their role as Indian moretial ceremony

JAUKANDHEI BAHAGHARA- 27th – 31st May 2011			
Bridegroom	Jayanta	Bride	Usha
Karta/ Kartree	Er. Rabindra Ku. Jena & Subashini Jena	Karta/ Kartree	Bhagaban Mohini
Koilibara	Biswa prakash Ratha	Bhai	Jyotiprakash Mohini
Nananda		Bhauni	Debasmita Nayak
Madhyastha	Kesu Das	Madhyastha	Sashi sekhar Mohanty
Bara Pakhya	Jaukandhei Bahaghara Utsav Committee	Kania Pakhya	Sahadeb Khunta Jubak Sangha
Bara Ghara	Public School Premises	Kania Ghara	Bisweswar Temple, Chandamari Padia, Sahadevkhunta, Bls

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ବର ଘର -
 ଭରତସେନ କାନ୍ତାଘର ଉତ୍ତରା ଜୟନ୍ତି,
 ପଶ୍ଚିମ ସୁନ୍ଦ ପରିସର
 ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର

ବରୀ ଘର -
 ଉତ୍ତରାସେନା ପୁରୁଷ ଘର,
 ବିଶ୍ଵେଶ୍ଵର ମନ୍ଦିର, ଚାନ୍ଦିନୀ ପଡ଼ିଆ
 ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର

କର୍ତ୍ତା କର୍ତ୍ତ୍ରୀ:
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ସ୍ଵାମୀନିବନ୍ଧ:
 ବିଶ୍ଵ ଦେବୀ ଘଣ୍ଟ

ସମ୍ପାଦକ:
 ଶେଷୁ ପାତ୍ର

ଉପାଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ:
 ଉତ୍ତରାସେନା ମୋହାନ୍ତୀ

ସଦସ୍ୟା ଉପାଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ:
 ଦେବସିନୀ ନାୟକ

ବରୀ ଘର:
 ଶୋଭାପୁରୀ ମୋହାନ୍ତୀ

ସମ୍ପାଦକ:
 ଶ୍ରୀ ଶେଖର ମହାନ୍ତି

JAUKANDHEI BAHAGHARA- 15th – 19th May 2012

Bridegroom	Avimanyu	Bride	Uttara
Karta/ Kartree	Upendra Patra and Kanchanbala patra	Karta/ Kartree	Kailash Chndra Biswal & Labangalata Biswal
Koilibara	Surajit Behera	Bhai	Bijay Ketan Biswal
Nananda	Soumya Sucharita patra	Bhauni	Minamanjari Biswal
Madhyastha	Manaswinee Devi	Madhyastha	Radhakrusna Das
Bara Pakhya	Jaukandhei Bahaghara Utsav Committee	Kania Pakhya	
Bara Ghara	Town Hall, Balasore	Kania Ghara	Siddheswar Mandir Parisara,Angargadia ,Balesore



ଜଉକଣ୍ଠେଇ ବାହାଘର ବିବରଣୀ

15th -19st May 2012



ଜଉଜଣା ଓ ଜଣା
ରଘୁେ ଘର ଓ ବାଞ୍ଚନବଳା ଘର



ଜଣେ
ଶୈଳ୍ୟ ସୁବର୍ଦ୍ଧନ ଘର



ଜଉଦିବର
ହୁରୁଦିନ ଦେବତୁରା



ମଧ୍ୟସ୍ଥ
ମନସିନୀ ଦେବୀ

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ବର ଘର -
ଜଉକଣ୍ଠେଇ ବାହାଘର ଉତ୍ସବ କମିଟି,
ଟାଉନ ହଲ୍, ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର

ଜଣେ ଘର -
ପ୍ରିୟଙ୍କାଙ୍କ ମନ୍ଦିର ପରିସର
ଅନ୍ଧାରଗଡ଼ିଆ, ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର



ଜଣେ ଘର
ଦେବୀମତ୍ତର ବିପ୍ଳବ ଓ ରବିକାନ୍ତର ବିପ୍ଳବ



ଜଣେ ଘର
ବିଜୟ ଦେବନ ବିପ୍ଳବ



ଜଣେ ଘର
ମାଳାମତ୍ତର ବିପ୍ଳବ



ଜଣେ ଘର
ରାଧାକୃଷ୍ଣ, ଘର

JAUKANDHEI BAHAGHARA- 6th – 10th June 2013

Bridegroom	Achyuta	Bride	Mallika
Karta/ Kartree	Dr. Rabinarayan Dash	Karta/ Kartree	Madhusudan Das Sanjukta Das
Koilibara	Ankit Das	Bhai	Jagabandhu Acharjya
Nananda	Purba Sahoo	Bhauni	Sudipta Samantaray
Madhyastha	Monj Nayak	Madhyastha	Kanhu Charan Das
Bara Pakhya	Jaukandhei Bahaghara Utsav Committee	Kania Pakhya	
Bara Ghara	Town Hall, Balasore	Kania Ghara	Kanaka Durga Mandir, Sunhot, Balesore



ଜଉକଣ୍ଠେଇ ବାହାଘର ବିବରଣୀ

6th -10th June 2013



ବରକର୍ତ୍ତା
ଡ. ରବିନାରାୟଣ ଦାଶ



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ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣା ମାତୁ



ବରକର୍ତ୍ତା
କାର୍ତ୍ତିକ ଦାଶ



ସଂପର
ନନୋଇ ମାତୁ

ମନୁଷ୍ୟ ଓ ଅତ୍ୟୁତ
ପ୍ରଠେୟା

ବର ପର -
ବରକର୍ତ୍ତା ବାହାଘର ରମ୍ଭାବ କମିଟି
ନାୟକ ହୁଇ, ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର

ଜମ୍ପା ଘର -
ଜମ୍ପାକୁଣ୍ଡା ମନ୍ଦିର
ସୁନହୁଡ଼, ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର




ଜମ୍ପାକର୍ତ୍ତା ଓ ଜମ୍ପାକର୍ତ୍ତା
ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣକ କମିଟି କମିଟି



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ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣକ କମିଟି



ଜମ୍ପା ଘର
ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣକ କମିଟି



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JAUKANDHEI BAHAGHARA- 23th – 27th May 2014			
Bridegroom	Bhagia	Bride	Saria
Karta/ Kartree	Dr.Rabinarayan Dash	Karta/ Kartree	Jaminikanta Chand and Subhasini Chand
Koilibara	Aditya Mishra	Bhai	Sambit Kumar Jena
Nananda	Prangya paramita Mahunta	Bhauni	Manaswini Behera
Madhyastha	Padarabinda Dandapat	Madhyastha	Raghunath Lenka
Bara Pakhya	Jaukandhei Bahaghara Uttsav Committee	Kania Pakhya	Makalapur Yubak Sangha
Bara Ghara	Rotary Club, Baleswar.	Kania Ghara	Swapneswar Mandira, Makalapur, Balesore



ଜଉକଣ୍ଠେଇ ବାହାଘର ବିବରଣୀ

23th -27th May 2014



ବରକର୍ତ୍ତା
ଡ. ରବିନାଥ.ଏ.ଏ. ଦାଶ



ବରପତ୍ନୀ
ସୁଖା ପାଠଶିଳା ମହାପାତ୍ର



କୁଳଦିବ୍ୟ
ଅନିଳା ମିଶ୍ର



ମଧ୍ୟସ୍ଥ
ପଦ୍ମାବତୀ ଦେବଦାସ

ସାରିଥା ଓ ଭରିଥା
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ବର ପତ୍ନୀ -
ଜଉକଣ୍ଠେଇ ବାହାଘର ଉତ୍ସବ କମିଟି
ଭୋଗାଳା କୁଡ଼ି, ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର

ବଡ଼ା ଘର -
ମାକଲପୁର ଯୁବକ ମଘ
ସପ୍ତେଶ୍ଵର ମନ୍ଦିର, ମାକଲପୁର,ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର



ବରପାଖାଣି ଓ ବରପାଖାଣି
ପାମିନାବାଇ ଦାଶ ପ୍ରକାଶିନୀ ଦାଶ



ବରପାଖାଣି
ମନସିତା ଦେବଦାସ



ବରପାଖାଣି
ଅନିଲ କୁମାର ଦେବଦାସ



ବରପାଖାଣି
ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ଦେବଦାସ

JAUKANDHEI BAHAGHARA- 13th – 17th May 2015

Bridegroom	Purusottam Dev	Bride	Padmabati
Karta/ Kartree	En. Ashok Mohapatra and Rekha Mohapatra	Karta/ Kartree	Dr. Binoy Kumar Das & Anita Das
Koilibara	Parthasarathi Sangeet	Bhai	Subham Soumik
Nananda	Kabita Dutta	Bhauni	Nishita Das
Madhyastha	Bramhanath Rath	Madhyastha	S. K. Behera
Bara Pakhya	Jaukandhei Bahaghara Uttsav Committee	Kania Pakhya	Defence Colony Sanskrutik Parishada
Bara Ghara	Gandhi Smruti Bhawan,Balesore.	Kania Ghara	Defence Colony, Balesore

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ଜଉକଣ୍ଠେଇ ବାହାଘର-୨୦୧୫ ର ବିବରଣୀ

ତା: ୧୩.୦୫.୨୦୧୫ ରିଖ ରୁ ତା:୧୭.୦୫.୨୦୧୫ ରିଖ





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ଶ୍ରୀ. ଉତ୍ତୋକ ମହାପାତ୍ର ଓ ଶେଖା ମହାପାତ୍ର



ବରଜଣୀ
କବିତା ଦତ୍ତ



ବରଜଣୀ
ପାର୍ଥସାର ଫୁଲଡ଼



ମଧ୍ୟସ୍ଥ
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ବର ଘର -
ଜଉକଣ୍ଠେଇ ବାହାଘର ଉତ୍ସବ କମିଟି
ଗାନ୍ଧୀସ୍ମୃତି ଭବନ
ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର

କନ୍ୟା ଘର -
ତିନୋଟୁ କଲୋନା ସାଂସ୍କୃତିକ ପରିଷଦ
ତିନୋଟୁ କଲୋନା, ବାଲେଶ୍ଵର



କନ୍ୟାଘରୀ ଓ କନ୍ୟାକର୍ଣୀ
ଡ. ବିନୟ କୁମାର ଦାସ ଓ ଅମିତା ଦାସ



କନ୍ୟା ଘର
ପ୍ରଭାତ ଶ୍ରୀମିଶ୍ର



କନ୍ୟା ଘର
ମିଶିତା ଦାସ



ମଧ୍ୟସ୍ଥ
ପ୍ରଶାନ୍ତ କୁମାର ବେହେରା

IMPACT OF JAUKANDHEI BAHAGHARA:

Lacquer Doll Barati with the Pitula Nacha, Ghoda Nacha, Adibasi Nacha, Akhada, Atash Bazi, Vanati, Dhola, Fuljhadi, Palinki, Light Procession, etc. adds a vibrant colour to the Marriage ceremony. Enormous number of participants dance ,sing, make marry this way or that at the pick of their zeal, enthusiasm and excitement and this adds more colourful feathers to the glorious cap of this ceremony. The Barati is almost of 2 km stretch having participants of more than two thousand in number irrespective of their age and social status. One can have the smell of the real fragrance of our soil and tradition being involved in this ceremony where our rich cultural heritage is brightly sighted.

It starts on the day one of Dola Purnima and ends on the holly Sabitree Amabashya . The grand marriage ceremony is solemnised for five days from Jyestha Krushna Dashami to Chaturdashi observed with Folk song and dance competition, Sankha, Hulohuli, Kandana, Jhoti, Miruja competition, State level Lacquer craft sale and exhibition along with other local handicrafts, handlooms and cottage industry products. One can enjoy different types of fun and food along with attractive typical folk cultural programme in every evening.

Following the Jaukandhei bahaghara of Baleshwar Utsav Committee other committees are also formed for Observing Jaukandhei Bahaghara. Among those Nua Bazar Jaukandhei Bahaghara Committee and Soro Jaukandhei Bahaghara

Committee are observing this festival since 2014. EKATRA BALESWAR in Capital City Bhubaneswar & Kuruda Jaukandhei Bahaghara Utsav Committee also celebrated Jaukandhei Bahaghara since year 2016.

The folk festival brings joy and immense pleasure among many people from different walks of life and it is slowly captivating the young minds in Balasore and its surroundings spontaneously. The marriage procession termed as Sampark Yatra is now necessary see event of Baleswar. The Culture lovers belong to various part of the district is celebrating the folk festival with the same essence but to a lesser degree.

IMPORTANT NEWS CLIPS OF JAUKANDHEI BAHAGHARA

I have collected some news paper clips of Jaukandhei Bahaghara from 2011 and its highlighting are as bellow:

Dolls' marriage to revive Balasore art

SIBDAS KUNDU

(THE TELEGRAPH< BBSR< Thursday , April 21 , 2011)



Balasore, April 20: On May 28, the Bakleswari Kala Kendra (BKK), a socio-cultural organisation, has decided to organise a symbolic marriage of two dolls. The outfit feels that the symbolic act will help to revive the tradition of making lacquer dolls.

Though the marriage ceremony is more than a month away, the organisers are already on the job. Sources said a committee comprising people from several section of the society has been formed. "The main objective is to revive lacquer work, which is an age-old art practiced by the people of the region. We want to popularise it," said Kesu Das, an artist and BKK director.



Presence of lacquer articles in the house, once considered auspicious, has dwindled. "They have been relegated to the background with machine-made articles and feng shui taking over," he said.

The wedding ceremony would be a grand affair. The ceremony will adhere to all customs and traditions. "We have selected the parents of the bride and the bridegroom. On the day of the marriage, the groom will come in a procession and after a feast, the marriage customs will be held," said Das.

"We have been entrusted with the responsibility of acting as parents of the bridegroom and accordingly we are preparing ourselves," said Subasini Jena, a member of the marriage

committee and BKK patron.

“The marriage between a pair of dolls is considered auspicious. In good old days, people used to arrange such marriages. Besides, organising such marriages and participating and witnessing the event were also considered auspicious,” she added.

“It was believed that the presence of a pair dolls in the house would enrich and strengthen the nuptial bond. It would also add peace and prosperity to marital life. However, the doll lost its significance and the customs and traditions attached to it lost their importance,” she said.

A pair of dolls was generally taken home during Savitri Ambasha. On that day (new moon day), women observe fast for the well being of their spouse and children.

Savitri, as per mythological belief, had brought her dead husband back to life on a new moon night. She did it by appeasing Lord Yama, the god of death.

“This is not the first occasion that such a marriage would be held. But this time, it is going to be held in a grand manner to popularise and propagate our culture,” said committee member Niranjana Das.

Jhnuti (indigenous art using rice powder) would be made on the occasion. This apart, customs such as *hulhuli* (a kind of sound produced by women folk on auspicious occasions) will be observed.

Bangles, ornaments, bamboo boxes, wooden crafts, terracotta and dolls made of lacquer are very popular in the region. Craftsmen of the region specialise in making dolls using baking clay and paint them with various attractive colours that use lacquer.

A number of families in Balasore still thrive on lacquer work

Wedding to revive lacquer art

- Civil society members spend lakhs to organise unique event

(THE TELEGRAPH< BBSR< Tuesday , May 31 , 2011)

SIBDAS KUNDU



Balasore, May 30: Hundreds of people witnessed the marriage of a pair of lacquer dolls, Jayanta and Usha, which was solemnised here yesterday.

The date for tying the nuptial knot had earlier been fixed at a temple in Sahadevkhunta. After showering their blessings on the newly-weds, the people took part in a feast that had been arranged by the groom's side.

The marriage was a five-day affair organised by members of the civil society for the first time involving an expenditure of several lakh rupees to popularise the indigenous lacquer works of undivided Balasore district, which is virtually going extinct.

"Legend has it that Jayanta was the grandson of Lord Krishna and Usha, the daughter of the mighty demon Banasur, who is believed to have ruled this district.

"The name Balasore has been derived the demon's name," said Biswanath Rana, a bank officer and culture lover.

For the marriage between a pair of lacquer dolls or jau kandhei, art and culture organisation Baleswari Kala Kendra (BKK) played an instrumental role in the preparations. Invitation cards were also distributed.

The procession (baraat), which took off from Public School near the collector's residence, with traditional drum beats, pipers, folk dance and fireworks, reached the bride's house located 2km away.

"I was asked to play the role of the groom's mother. It is a part of the marriage where the expenditure is shared collectively," said Subasini Jena, president of Rotary's Inner Wheel Club, Balasore, adding that the reception dinner (priti bhojan) would be held on Tuesday at the school.

The symbolic marriage between a pair of dolls was held following traditional Hindu marriage rituals. "Priests from both sides performed the marriage rituals," said Bhagban Mohini, president of Sahadevkhunta Club, who acted as the bride's father.

BKK director Kesu Das said plans to conduct mass marriages for the poor next year onwards.

The inaugural function was attended by district collector Akhil Bihari Ota, vice-chancellor of Fakir Mohan University Kumarbar Das and several prominent personalities from different walks of life.

"It is a positive approach by the people of a culturally and educationally vibrant district to revive an indigenous art work which is losing its relevance," Das said.

"It is a collective effort made by the people of various sections of society.

"Their interest is, in fact, an encouraging trend for the revival of lacquer works," said Ota, who also encouraged the event by putting up some informative stalls of district administration at the marriage venue.

Wedding bells to ring for dolls, everyone's invited

THE TELEGRAPH < BBSR > Friday , May 11 , 2012

SIBDAS KUNDU



Balasore, May 10: The wedding ceremony of lacquer dolls will be held in Balasore on Wednesday. This event has transformed the town into a wedding *mandap*.

In an effort to popularise the dying traditional lacquer works of the district, local residents have decided to annually solemnise the wedding between a pair of dolls — depicting the bride and the groom.



This year many people are showing interest in the event, making the concept a success.

“The response this time has been very encouraging. The lacquer dolls have been made out of auspicious water and soil from the Ganges in Haridwar and Calcutta. We are receiving the materials required for the wedding such as dresses, utensils, and decorative items from different parts of India sent by the Odia residents,” said Kesu Das, one of the members of the organising committee and the key initiator of the event.

(Top) Lacquer dolls of the bride and the groom and (above) people making the dolls in Balasore. Telegraph pictures

All the events of the doll's wedding will take placquere as per rituals following authentic Odia culture and tradition, said Brajanath Rath, a poet and the president of the marriage organising committee.

One can witness the event between May 16 and 19. It would have the essence of a perfect traditional marriage.

While Upendra Patra, a resident of Balia in the town, is playing the *bara karta* or the groom's caretaker, Labangalata Biswal, resident of Angargadia here, is the *kanya karta*, taking up the responsibilities the bride.

“We are fortunate to share the responsibilities of bride. The unique wedding is worth seeing and everyone is invited to come and be a part of the gala event,” said Biswal.

The marriage between a pair of lacquer dolls has been derived from an age-old tradition of Balasore that used to be held since it was considered auspicious.

Wedding bells ring for lacquer dolls

The Telegraph< BBSR> Friday , May 18 , 2012

SIBDAS KUNDU



Residents take part in the wedding ceremony of dolls at Siddheswar temple in Balasore. Telegraph pictures

Balasore, May 17: Balasore turned into a grand wedding venue as hundreds of people assembled on Wednesday to witness the union between the two lacquer dolls — Uttara and Abhimanyu — named after mythological characters.

The tradition of conducting a wedding between lacquer dolls has entered its second year.

The initiative has been taken by a group of residents who are passionate about reviving, promoting and propagating the indigenous lacquer art.

“The name Uttara and Abhimanyu have a mythological connection and are characters of the Mahabharat, the great epic,” said Kesu Das, one of the members organising the event. “The symbolic names were chosen by our marriage committee,” he added.

According to the schedule, a colourful procession began from the residence of the bridegroom — the Town Hall. His *baraat* (wedding procession) was accompanied with lively music of traditional drums and other instruments and the bursting of crackers.

The local people who chose to be relatives of the groom were seen dancing with vigour. The procession reached the residence of the bride at Siddheswar temple in about two hours.

The wedding took placquere at the temple in Odia traditions. Members of the groom’s side, the *bara yatris*, enjoyed a lavish dinner.

“I was the brother of Uttara and accordingly my parents and I carried out all the rituals that are required in a typical Odia wedding,” said Bijayketan Biswal.



The bride and groom being taken around in a car

“We put in our best efforts required from the house of the bride to make the wedding as real as possible,” he said.

People from different parts of the country came together to witness the ceremony. For most of them, it was a once in a lifetime experience.

“After learning from one of my friends at Balasore about the dolls’ marriage I was drawn to the placquere. It was not only a unique one but also an unforgettable event,” said Mandar Mukherjee, reader of a college under Calcutta University.

“I am amazed to see the efforts put in by people here to revive aspects of culture that are getting lost. I would like to be part of this event in the coming years,” she said.

Now that the wedding ceremony has been completed in a grand way, the reception will be held at Town Hall on Saturday. During this period there would be cultural activities every evening, said well-known poet Brajanath Rath, president of the marriage committee.

DOLLS’ MARRIAGE HELD IN B’SWAR

Saturday, 16 May 2015 | UBACHAK MOHANTY | BALESWAR | in Bhubaneswar

The much touted marriage between a pair of dolls was solemnised on Thursday evening here as per schedule with pomp.

The marriage venue was the Defence Colony near the KV Baleswar and the groom’s procession began from Gandhismurti Bhawan.

The groom arrived at the colony in a procession which witnessed light, crackers, drums, dances and traditional martial art show. The groom along with his party was received by the family members of the bride like in any other marriage.

The event is being observed symbolically for last six years to popularize the lacquer works, an indigenous art of the district. This year the name of the bride and groom were Padmavati and Purosottam respectively.

DRDO senior scientist and additional director of ITR Dr Binay Das acted as bride’s father, while PHED assistant engineer Ashok Mohapatra was groom’s father. A lavish banquet was thrown on the occasion.

Dr Das said, “I and my family feel fortunate to be representing the bride’s side. The tying of nuptial knot was held very peacefully. The residents especially the women and children participated with a great enthusiasm.” Kesu Das, a key organizer, said, ‘Although the marriage between in the district was

initiated by BKK, Baleswari Kala Kendra in a small way, yet now it has gained enough popularity and is observed by a committee comprising civil society members.”

Subasini Jena, a culture lover and key founder member of lacquer dolls' marriage committee, said, “The prime objective of the doll's marriage was to promote and propagate the lacquer works. A considerable degree of success has been achieved in last 6 years in this direction,” adding that efforts should be made to see that the artisans get adequate market to sell their products.

BALESWARI KALA KENDRA CELEBRATES LACQUER DOLLS' MARRIAGE CEREMONY

Wedlock to hold indigenous art

By Subasini Jena
Baleswari, 11 May

Selling the lacquer doll marriage ceremony in progress, Baleswari Kala Kendra (BKK), which has been organizing the event for last couple of years, fixed the date of "marriage" at 14 May. "It has been decided that the marriage ceremony will be held on 14 June at Gandhi Saurabhi Bhawan," informed well-known artist and director of BKK, Kirtu Das.

The organization has been conducting the event - the marriage between a pair of lacquer dolls - to revive the indigenous art form which is slowly losing its appeal, and to promote and popularise it. People



from several walks of life have been supporting the initiative.

Mr Das informed that the "Jagna Sankhan" ceremony was held at Defence Colony near KN, Baleswari last evening. The "karta" of the "bride" and the "groom"

along with several other prominent persons attended the function.

"This year, additional director of Integrated Test Range (ITR) Dr HC Das has been officiating as the father of the bride, while assistant engineer of public health engi-

neering department (PHED) Mr Ashok Das would play the role of the groom's father," Mr Das said.

Every year the dolls are named under different names attached to mythology, culture and tradition of Baleswari dis-

trict. This year, the "bride" and "groom" are named Pashobhali and Purusottam Dev, according to Mr Hrishmanath Rath, an organiser.

Mr Das claimed that the event is highly popular and appreciated, and more and more people evince interest to participate in it.

"The marriage for the pair of dolls was considered an auspicious in older days. With loss of artisan value for lacquer works, interest for this kind of marriage is waning. While it is an effort to revive the lost work and its preservation each year more and more people are participating in it more enthusiastically," said Mr Das.



ଜମିଲା ଜଉ କଣ୍ଢେଇ ବାହାଘର

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ବିଦ୍ଵା ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ କେତାରେ ଜଉ କଣ୍ଢେଇ ବିକ୍ରୟରା ବାବଦ୍ଵା କେତା

ପୁରୀ, ୮ ଫେବୃଆରୀ: ପୁରୀ ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ପଢ଼ାପଢ଼ାଣୀଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ 'କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଉତ୍ତରଣ' ଆଣିବା ଲିଆରା ଅନୁରଣ... (Text continues with details of the initiative)



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