

ODISHA UNRAVELLED



ODISHA
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JULY 2022 | ISSUE 12

A Newsletter by Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha



CM inaugurates Odisha's first
luxury Houseboat Garuda

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Rajarani Temple, Bhubaneswar

Credit- Rakesh Kumar

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A Newsletter by Department of Tourism,
Government of Odisha



FOREWORD



ASHWINI KUMAR PATRA

*Minister Tourism, Odia Language,
Literature & Culture, Excise.*

Odisha's diverse and pristine ecosystem offers the best of niche tourism experiences. In a bid to establish the State as a hub of sustainable tourism offerings, Department of Tourism has made a number of interventions. Elevating the destination profile of Asia's largest brackish water lake – Chilika, Odisha Tourism facilitated introduction of an eco-friendly houseboat 'Garuda', ready to offer tourists a leisurely tour of this biodiversity hotspot with a hint of luxury.

With the annual Rath Yatra once again open for devotees to participate after the pandemic-induced restriction since

past two years, Odisha Tourism is leaving no stones unturned to make Puri ready to welcome tourists. From upgrading the hospitality unit at Panthanivas Puri to launching a 24X7 pure veg cafeteria near Swargadwar and from holding sensitisation programme for lifeguards to providing them with a special outfit, Odisha has taken strategic steps in elevating the beach town's hospitality infrastructure and safety measures.

This edition of the newsletter highlights proactive interventions and measures taken to elevate the experience of tourists visiting Odisha.

EDITOR'S NOTE



 SURENDRA KUMAR, IAS
Principal Secretary, Tourism, GA and PG

From being felicitated at SATTE 2022, South Asia's leading travel and tourism exhibition to being conferred with the Most Promising New Destination award at Travel & Tourism Fair, focused strides taken by Department of Tourism has brought many laurels to the State.

The key to developing tourism is the State is not just promoting various picturesque locations but elevating the destination profile to meet global standards and attract tourists. The major growth drivers of this sector are private sector investments and projects

developed on PPP mode. To attract substantial investments to the State, Odisha Tourism participated in tourism specific national events and investor meets in the last quarter like the Incredible India International Cruise Tourism Conference and HICSA.

With new projects like Garuda Luxury Houseboat in Chilika, Biju Adventure Park in Ganjam and the upcoming amusement park by WonderLa, Odisha is poised to offer tourists niche immersive experiences facilitated by Private Sector Investments.

CM SHARES ODISHA'S ACHIEVEMENTS ON FOOD SECURITY AT THE UNWFP

ODISHA INVESTORS' MEET IN DUBAI DRAWS INVESTMENT PROPOSALS
WORTH ₹21,000 CRORE

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik embarked on a two-nation foreign visit to Italy and UAE from New Delhi. He kicked off the 11-day international tour from 20 June 2022 with a 6-day tour to Rome followed by a travel to Dubai on 26 June 2022.



On the first leg of his journey, Shri Patnaik made a visit to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) headquarters in Rome where he was invited to share the transformational progress of Odisha on strengthening livelihoods and food security with a specific focus on marginalised communities and women. Thanking the WFP for acknowledging Odisha's transformational journey over the last two decades in the field of food production, food security, livelihoods, disaster management and programmes initiated towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals and inclusive development, he held interactions on the existing programmes and partnerships that the State Government and WFP are collaborating on. Discussions were also held on the collaboration of Odisha and WFP to take forward this learning experience and provide a global training platform for other similarly placed countries. The Italy tour concluded with an interactive session with the Odia diaspora residing in and around Italy.

The second leg of his tour began on 26 June 2022 with a visit to Dubai for the Odisha Investors' Meet organised in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The investors' meet attracted investment proposals of more than INR 21,000 Crore. Addressing the meet, Shri Patnaik outlined the State's



Single Window Portal GO SWIFT that has enabled Ease of Doing Business in the State through its user-friendly features providing time bound clearances to G2B services. With companies from minerals and metals processing, petrochemicals, chemicals, plastics, heavy industries, clean energy, real estate and hospitality sectors, food processing, electrical equipment and electronics manufacturing, logistics and warehousing, sector etc., participating in the investors' meet turned out to be a huge success. He concluded his tour after interacting with Odia expats staying in the middle east.



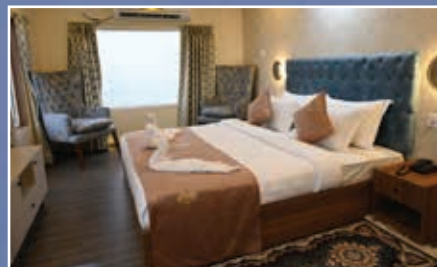
During his Italy visit, Shri Patnaik also called upon His Holiness Pope Francis at Vatican City, Rome and presented him with a Pattachitra that depicts The Tree of Life, highlighting the unique ancient traditional scroll painting as one of the finest representatives of Odisha's craftsmanship and artistry.

CM INAUGURATES ODISHA'S FIRST LUXURY HOUSEBOAT GARUDA

AN INITIATIVE OF VIKASH ECO RESORTS, GARUDA OFFERS
MULTI-DAY PACKAGES TO EXPLORE CHILIKA LAKE

Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik inaugurated Odisha's first ever luxury Houseboat named Garuda at Odisha Tourism Water Sports Complex at Barkul in Chilika Lake on 9 June 2022 on a virtual mode.

Highlighting the tourism potential of Chilika Lake as a major biodiversity hotspot in the country Shri Patnaik said that this luxury houseboat marks a significant achievement and addition to the State's diverse tourism offerings. This flagship niche tourism product seamlessly combines luxury with responsible tourism initiatives that the State prides itself on.



Designed by a team of highly experienced marine architects, Garuda has been developed and manufactured in Barkul. The build of the houseboat conforms to the technical and environmental standards required for Chilika. Boasting of premium amenities like two suite rooms, four premium rooms, Bar and Restaurant, an Open Air Lobby in upper deck for meetings/conferences, this initiative is poised to position Odisha as a tourism hub of global standards. Currently, tour packages offered consists of overnight stay along with full board meals, activities and cruising that covers different islands in Chilika.

This project has been approved through the State's single window mechanism under the Odisha Tourism Policy 2016 and is being promoted



by Vikash Eco Resorts. This niche tourism project is aimed towards generating direct employment for locals in operation and maintenance of the assets and aid in augmenting livelihood opportunities for fishermen, boatmen, small businesses etc. in the vicinity.

Tourism Minister Shri Ashwini Kumar Patra, Director Tourism Shri Sachin R Jadhav, Khordha Collector Shri Sangram Mohapatra, Khordha SP Shri Siddharth Kataria, Tourism Additional Secretary Shri Durga Prasad Mohapatra, Tourism OSD Shri Ansuman Rath, SDPO Shri Manas Barik and other senior officers were present at the inaugural ceremony.



OTDC INAUGURATES RAJA MAHOTSAV 2022

30 STALLS SET UP AT SAHID NAGAR DURGA PUJA MANDAP FOR WOMEN SHGs



Raja Festival is famous for its variety of Pithas (traditional cakes) through which the State celebrates the festival. Keeping this in mind, Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) launched Raja Mahotsav 2022 that'll promote traditional Raja delicacies and cultural performances. Shri Sachin R. Jadhav, Director Tourism and Managing Director OTDC, inaugurated this three-day festival at Kalinga Convention Hall in OTDC Panthanivas in Bhubaneswar on 13 June 2022. Other Officials of Odisha Tourism and OTDC were also present during the inaugural ceremony.



As part of the three-day festival starting from 14 June, special arrangements were made at Durga Puja Mandap in Sahid Nagar. 30 stalls were set up by OTDC for sale of Raja delicacies and sweets by Women SHGs and other entrepreneurs. The evenings witnessed cultural performances arranged by the Department of Culture. Tourism Minister Shri Ashwini K. Patra attended the closing ceremony.



To make the celebration grand, 18 Panthanivas properties by OTDC provided take away facilities for various Pitha and other delicacies enjoyed during Raja. Apart from Panthanivas, Silver City Boat Club in Cuttack and Nimantran, authentic Odia Cuisine restaurant in Bhubaneswar, also served delicacies to their patrons during the 3 days of Raja celebration. 'Pitha on Wheels', an initiative launched by OTDC in 2020 due to the pandemic, saw mobile vans stationed at various places in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack out of which two vans were provided to SHGs. Pitha counters were also set up at the State Museum in Bhubaneswar where people visiting could make their purchase.

CHIEF MINISTER INAUGURATES REVAMPED TARA TARINI TEMPLE



Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the renovated Maa Tara Tarini Temple located atop the Purnagiri Hills on the bank of river Rushikulya in Ganjam district on 18 May 2022. The temple periphery was completely overhauled to beautify and include various public amenities. The existing Singhadwara (lion entrance) has also been revamped to showcase Odisha's unique art and architecture.



The illumination of the temple complex has been upgraded and pilgrim amenities like pathway with drinking water facilities, Prasad Sevan hall, interpretation centre, meditation centre, rest area, food kiosk, public toilet, etc. has been constructed.

After offering his prayers to seek blessings of the the presiding deity Shri Patnaik said, "Odisha has a tradition of Shakti Puja since time immemorial. Worship of Tara Tarini, the presiding deity of Ganjam, has kept the people of the State prosperous and with Her blessings, the temple could be transformed and given a magnificent look."

Interesting facts about the temple:

- The Tara Tarini Temple is one of the major ancient 'Shakti Peethas' in India.
- It is a major pilgrimage centre of the Shakta sect of Hinduism and is worshipped as the 'Sthana Peetha', a manifestation of 'Adi Shakti'
- The temple was set up by a Brahmin unlike other temples built under the patronage of a king or a noble.

TOURISM MINISTER INAUGURATES RESTAURANT AT PANTHANIVAS PURI

THE UPGRADED HOSPITALITY UNIT NOW FEATURES 64 COVER PREMIUM RESTAURANT AND 18 SUITES



The upgraded hospitality unit of Panthanivas Puri, a flagship hotel of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) overlooking the Blue Flag Beach, was inaugurated by Hon'ble Tourism Minister Shri Ashwini Kumar Patra on 27 June 2022.

Owing to its presence in the scenic beach location, Panthanivas Puri has always been a preferred hotel for travellers visiting the holy town of Puri. With an aim to provide improved facilities and services, OTDC has newly developed a modern hospitality unit in the



hotel premises which includes a 64-cover premium restaurant and 18 Suites along with other facilities to ensure guests experience the best of Odia hospitality during their stay. To further augment the existing accommodation capacity, additional rooms shall be constructed in phases within the Panthanivas premises. Last year authentic Odia cuisine restaurant Nim-antran was added, becoming a major draw for both domestic and international tourists visiting the beach town.

24X7 PURE VEG CAFETERIA INAUGURATED AT SWARGADWAR PURI

On the auspicious occasion of Utkal Dibasa, Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) Chairperson Smt. Shreemayee Mishra inaugurated a 24X7 pure vegetarian cafeteria near Swargadwar in Puri on 1 April 2022.

The cafeteria, opened with joint collaboration of OTDC and Puri District Administration, was operationalised to serve those who come to Swargadwar for funeral of their loved ones as well as visitors who come to enjoy at the beach.



CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK LAUNCHES COFFEE TABLE BOOK ON MANGALAJODI



The Magic of Mangalajodi – a coffee table book on Mangalajodi was launched by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik on 21 April 2022 at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar. He eloquently described the destination as “a haven that hosts millions of migratory birds and turns into a paradise for birders and wildlife enthusiasts during winter months every year.”

Shri Patnaik applauded the efforts of avid photographer and birder Shri Avinash Khemka in providing a bird's eye view of Mangalajodi wetland through this Coffee Table Book.

The book features the natural ecosystem of Mangalajodi, a wetland that lies within Chilika Lake – Asia's largest brackish water lagoon and a Ramsar Site of International Importance. Stemming from the conservation success story of Chilika lake & Mangalajodi, the book features a collection of images of the wetland's biodiversity shot over a decade comprising resident and migratory birds that visit the wetland as far as the Arctic Ocean, China, Aral Sea, etc., unique Chilika Buffalo known for their ability to enter deep into the salty wetlands for grazing and quenching thirst and the local community that transformed from being poachers to protectors.

Supported by Odisha Tourism, the coffee table book is published by Song of the Wild, a registered not-for-profit organisation focused on showcasing the natural heritage and beauty of Odisha, conservation of nature and wildlife and creating awareness through the medium of photography. The book has been printed on FSC certified paper from responsibly harvested sources.



Director Tourism **Sachin R Jadhav** addressed the august gathering at Cuttack leg launch of coffee table book 'The Magic of Mangalajodi' by noted photographer Avinash Khemka. Also present were communities engaged in conservation of Mangalajodi wetlands.

ODISHA TOURISM PARTICIPATES IN THE 1ST INCREDIBLE INDIA INTERNATIONAL CRUISE TOURISM CONFERENCE

Odisha Tourism participated in the first Incredible India International Cruise Conference 2022 held on 14th and 15th May 2022 in Mumbai. Tourism Director Shri Sachin R. Jadhav gave a detailed presentation on Odisha's strategic advantages for cruise tourism, both sea and river based while highlighting the focused steps taken by the State Government for development and promotion of this tourism offering.



Odisha is a nature lover's paradise and is blessed with 482 km scenic coastline apart from numerous waterbodies like lakes, rivers. In the panel discussion held on 'Cruise Tourism: Success stories and Destination Development', Shri Jadhav presented insights on the latest initiatives, products and various benefits like fiscal and non-fiscal incentives the State Government



outlined in the Odisha Tourism Policy 2016 which can be availed by investors and tour operators for growth and development of Cruise tourism in the State. Deliberating on the integrated master planning initiatives for destinations like Chilika, Bhitarkanika, Hiraakud, Chandrabhaga, and Satkosia among others, he said that special emphasis is being given to develop infrastructure like jetty, passenger terminals, and other amenities like parking, toilet complex, restaurants, etc. to promote development of cruise tourism.

The delegation from Odisha also had successful G2B and G2G meetings with various stakeholders present at the conference.



ODISHA CM NAVEEN PATNAIK UNVEILS OFFICIAL LOGO OF FIH ODISHA HOCKEY MEN'S WORLD CUP 2023



Odisha Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik unveiled the official logo of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar – Rourkela at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium on 14 April 2022. The prestigious quadrennial tournament is scheduled to be held next year from January 13 to January 29 2023. Hockey India and its official partner Odisha will host the marquee event for the second consecutive time in the country after successfully conducting the event in 2018.

CM FELICITATES THOMAS CUP CHAMPIONS

TEAM PLAYERS RECEIVED ₹10 LAKH CASH AWARD,
SHAWL AND MEMENTO

Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik felicitated Indian men's team members and coach for the spectacular victory in Thomas Cup 2022 on 8 June 2022. India won this coveted cup for the first time in the history of Thomas cup championship since it started in 1948-49. Apart from Hockey and Cricket, this is only third sporting event where India became world champion in a team event.

Chief National Coach Pullela Gopichand, Players Kidambi Srikanth, Dhruv Kapila, Pronoy HS,

Priyanshu Rajawat, Vishnuvardhan Goud, GK Prasad, Arjun MR, Chirag Chandra Sekhar Shetty and Rakkireddy Satwik Sairaj were felicitated at a special function organized at Convention centre in Lok Seva Bhawan. The Chief Minister honored the Chief National Coach Shri Gopichand with a shawl and memento. Each team player received ₹10 lakh Cash Award, Shawl and Memento. The players also presented the Chief Minister with a Team India Jersey autographed by all the players.



Speaking on the State's effort in promoting Badminton, Shri Patnaik said that Odisha is investing hugely in the sport and will be launching a state-of-the-art High Performance Facility at Kalinga Stadium in association with Shri Gopi Chand. 89 other multi-purpose indoor halls are being constructed across the State and these will cater to development of Badminton in the State.

Sports & Youth Services Minister Shri Tushar-kanti Behera delivered the welcome address and Commissioner-cum-Secretary Sports & YS Shri R. Vineel Krishna offered the vote of thanks. Higher Education Minister and President of Odisha Badminton Association Shri Rohit Pujari, Chief Secretary Shri Suresh Mohapatra, Development Commissioner Shri PK Jena, Chairman OMC among others were present at the event.

GLIMPSES OF SOME INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS HELD IN THE STATE



BIJU ADVENTURE PARK OPENS IN GOPALPUR

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik virtually inaugurated Biju Adventure Park, located in the beach town of Gopalpur, on 12 April 2022. The park provides a variety of Adventure Sports and has been constructed in an effort to promote tourism activities and augment local livelihood. Some of the attractions include a 500-Meters To-and-Fro River Crossing Zip Line aimed to give an



adrenaline inducing experience for locals and tourists alike, a 40' High Swing, Air Gun, Bungee Trampoline, children's trampoline, Mickey Mouse Jump Castle, bull ride, Cricket along with adrenaline inducing water sports like Jet Ski, Banana Boat, Kayak, Zodian Boat Rides, Paddle boats, etc.



ONE OF INDIA'S BIGGEST AMUSEMENT PARK TO OPEN IN BHUBANESWAR



Bengaluru-headquartered amusement parks operator Wonderla Holidays is all set to develop one of India's biggest amusement park in Bhubaneswar with an initial investment of ₹115 crores.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS MELA ORGANISED BY ICC WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNCIL



Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Women's Entrepreneurship Council (IWEC) organised India's first ever Women's Business Mela at Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar from 4 May 2022 to 8 May 2022. The event, inaugurated by Hon'ble CM Shri Naveen Patnaik, highlighted the contribution of women entrepreneurs of Odisha. Over 150 stalls were set up by women-led businesses and featured daily business seminars and panel discussions by business leaders, policymakers, influencers from various fields, financial institutions, etc. Tourism Director Shri Sachin R. Jadhav spoke about 'Future of Odisha Tourism: The Way Forward' during a panel discussion here. Supported by Government of Odisha, the event recognised several successful women entrepreneurs of Odisha.

OTDC Chairperson Smt. Shreemayee Mishra felicitated by IWEC for Social Excellence at the Women's Business Mela



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email: info@odishatourism.gov.in or pmu@odishatourism.gov.in



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ODISHA TOURISM IN FOCUS



Senior Officials of the Dept. of Tourism & OTDC led by Shri Sachin R Jadhav, Director Tourism congratulated and extended a warm welcome to Shri Aswini Patra, as the new Tourism Minister on 7 June 2022.



In view of upcoming Rath Yatra Puri District Administration conducted a sensitization program for 300 private lifeguards at Puri beach on 21 June 2021, led by Puri Collector and District Magistrate Shri Samarth Verma and Puri Tourist Officer Shri Saroj K. Pradhan. A special outfit for lifeguards has been designed for easy identification by tourists.



International Yoga Day was celebrated at picturesque locations across Odisha on 21 June 2022. Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister of Heavy Industries Gol, inaugurated #InternationalYogaDay at Blue Flag Beach Puri while Minister for Railways & Information Technology, Gol Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the celebrations at Konark Sun temple and Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti & Tribal Affairs, Gol, Shri Bishweswar Tudu at Kichakeswari Temple, Mayurbhanj respectively.



Odisha Tourism Director Shri Sachin R. Jadhav highlighted the recent initiatives of Odisha Tourism in a panel discussion at the India Today's 'The State of State Conclave' held in Bhubaneswar on 29 April 2022.



In an effort to promote women empowerment and support Women Self Help Groups, automated Oil Making Machine has been provided to Trishakti Mahila Parishad by OTDC.



Odisha Tourism participated in the Hotel Investment Conference South Asia (HICSA) 2022 by Hotelivate on 6th & 7th April 2022 at Grand Hyatt, Mumbai. Discussions were held with leading Hoteliers & potential investors to accelerate investments in the Hospitality Sector in Odisha.



A 30-seater floating restaurant, Simple Bistro, was opened for visitors at Cuttack's most happening destination, Silver City Boat Club on 27 June 2022.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Odisha Tourism was felicitated at SATTE 2022, South Asia's leading travel and tourism exhibition held at India Expo Mart, Delhi on 20 May 2022. Over 50 Countries, 28 State Tourism Boards of India and 1200 exhibitors, including 16 from Odisha participated in the event.



Odisha has been conferred with the Most Promising New Destination award at Travel & Tourism Fair (TTF) held in Chennai on 2 April 2022.



PHILIP YJ YOON

“BHUBANESWAR WAS THE PLACE WHERE I COULD FEEL THE CULTURE AND ATMOSPHERE OF INDIA”

This is my first-time visiting India. I've visited Delhi, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar, and Jharsuguda for business trip, and it felt like I visited a country that is mixed with so many different kinds of cultures and languages. Delhi, the capital city of India, perhaps much bigger than my hometown Seoul, South Korea, and Mumbai, city of Bollywood, were good, but personally, I think Bhubaneswar



was the place where I could feel the culture and atmosphere of India the most. I went on a Heritage walk around Old Town in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, arranged by Odisha Tourism. After visiting various Hindu temples like Mukteswar Temple and Brahmeswara, I personally was most impressed with the Lingaraja Temple. These temples were once destroyed by the Mughal invaders and today only Hindus are allowed to go inside live temples where prayer ceremonies are held. Lingaraja being a live temple I was not able to go inside and explore the



architecture in detail. However, I still could feel its grandeur from the panoramic view of the large temple architecture from a viewing podium constructed during the British Rule of India. This temple, which was built more than 1000 years ago is an antique yet symbol of India, and its grandeur seemed to be remembered for a long time in my head. Although I am not a Hindu, I realized once again the importance and symbolism of religion through this visit. If I have a chance, I would like to go inside and observe carefully.



Other than the temples, I had a chance to experience Odisha's food on this trip. I was introduced to a restaurant called NIMANTRAN, which is run by Odisha Tourism to promote Odia food. I was able to experience various Odia dishes here. As a foreigner who only knew about Indian food such as naan and butter chicken, I felt that Odisha food was lighter and healthier. I really enjoyed Pitha, Mudhi Mutton (Lamb curry with puffed rice) and Chingudi Jhola (Shrimp curry) and Podha Pitha (traditional cheesecake). Also, it was a little interesting to eat rice snacks and find similarity with the Korean snacks made from rice. All the Odia foods I've eaten here were to my taste. It is a restaurant that I would like to recommend if someone visits Bhubaneswar. If I have a chance, it would be good to visit Odisha state again to explore various cities and cultural relics.

Philip YJ Yoon is the Managing Director of South Korean music company DR Music Entertainment



SAMBIT KUMAR MAHAKHUDA

DARINGBADI “THE KASHMIR OF ODISHA”

A trip to Daringbadi, was long overdue. We had been thinking of visiting this gem of Odisha since long. So when our friend wanted to go for a Daringbadi tour, more precisely a road trip, we just could not say no to it. The journey becomes more beautiful when you have childhood friends for company.

Located amidst pine forests and coffee plantations, Daringbadi is a charming hill station in Odisha situated at an altitude of 3000 feet in Kandhamal district of Odisha. We came to know that this hill station was named after one British Officer named Dering;



Our first stop for the day was the Midubanda Waterfall. this waterfall is located a few kilometers away from the main town. There is a fleet of stairs going down all the way to the waterfall. The place is quite a beautiful one.

The pine forest lies on the way to the Midubanda Waterfall, so while returning, we stopped at the forests and went inside to explore. Then we returned to our hotel, had our lunch and then started for the next few places.

You will definitely see the coffee and spice plantations while on your way to Daringbadi. There is also a garden where you will find the coffee and spice plantations. We saw the pepper plants and roamed around for some time in the cool shade of the gardens.



The Emu farm is around 12 km from the Daringbadi town on the way towards Baliguda. There is a small enclosure where few emu birds were kept. Around 1 km from the Emu Farm is the Lovers' Point. I don't think many lovers visit there in the afternoon. At least we were the only ones there when we visited. The road to the Lovers' Point is also a bit rough. But the place is extremely beautiful. The river is flowing by and you can simply sit on the huge rocks and enjoy some quiet time. It is a place to experience the silence of nature, or maybe have a love affair with nature herself! So you should not miss this place on your Daringbadi tour.

The Butterfly Park is located within the Hill View Park and the Hill Top Viewpoint is just opposite that of the Hill View Park.

The Hill View Park has a beautiful and well-maintained garden and a garden of medicinal plants. There is also a display of the Kutia Kondh tribe inside the Hill View Park.



Daringbadi Nature Camp & Belghar Nature Camp offer accommodation options for travelers coming to this part of Odisha. Daringbadi is a perfect getaway for people who are looking for some time off from the mundane city life.

Sambit Kumar Mahkhuda is a Sr Visual Editor and a road tripper by passion



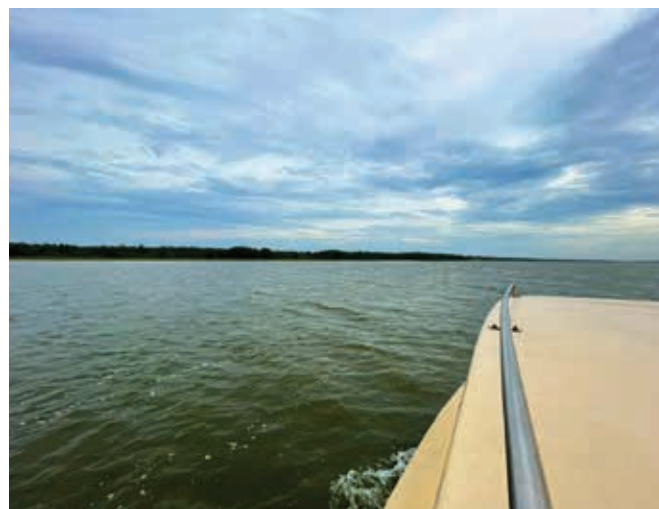
ANSUMAN RATH
OSD, Odisha Tourism

DIFFICULT ROADS OFTEN LEAD TO BEAUTIFUL DESTINATIONS.

“Sometimes when you lose your way, you find yourself.”

- Mandy Hale

Doesn't happen even remotely that your job and your passion are all the more same. Luckily for me, a role in Odisha Tourism has been the biggest blessing of my life. As part of this role, an official assignment took me to one of the most talked about destinations in Odisha, the Tampara Lake in Ganjam. A small detour from the NH216 near Chatrapur, takes you to this beautiful water-body nestled amidst vast expanses of Kewra Plants.



The primary attraction at the Lake is the OTDC Watersports Complex where the Tourists can enjoy a variety of rides, catering to all age groups. As the assignment was something very peculiar, we set sail on an OTDC Speed Boat to which a Banana Boat was tagged onto.



Traversing the breadth of the Tampara Lake in the late afternoons is an altogether different experience. The view of the setting sun lends shimmering lighting effects on the turquoise waters.



As we approach the other side of Lake which is a proposed Ramsar wetland, we saw an ecology bustling with life. Verdant greenery which soothes your eyes & heals your soul, welcome you to this hinterland. I could never believe more on the saying - “The antidote to exhaustion is nature.”

If the excitement wasn't enough, there was more thrill awaiting us. The waters on the lakeside being shallow, we had to find alternate means to reach the land, as the speed boat wouldn't sail. An adventurous way for last-mile connectivity in which we alighted onto the Banana Boat, and then used it as a floater to land up on the other side of Tampara. Exciting. Isn't it?

The next step - Crossing the Forest. With little or no mobile network connectivity and no Google Maps to come to your rescue, this was an adventure in all of its own. We progressed through vast patches of Casuarina, intermittent sand dunes and the chirping sounds of innumerable birds, sometimes losing our way and some-

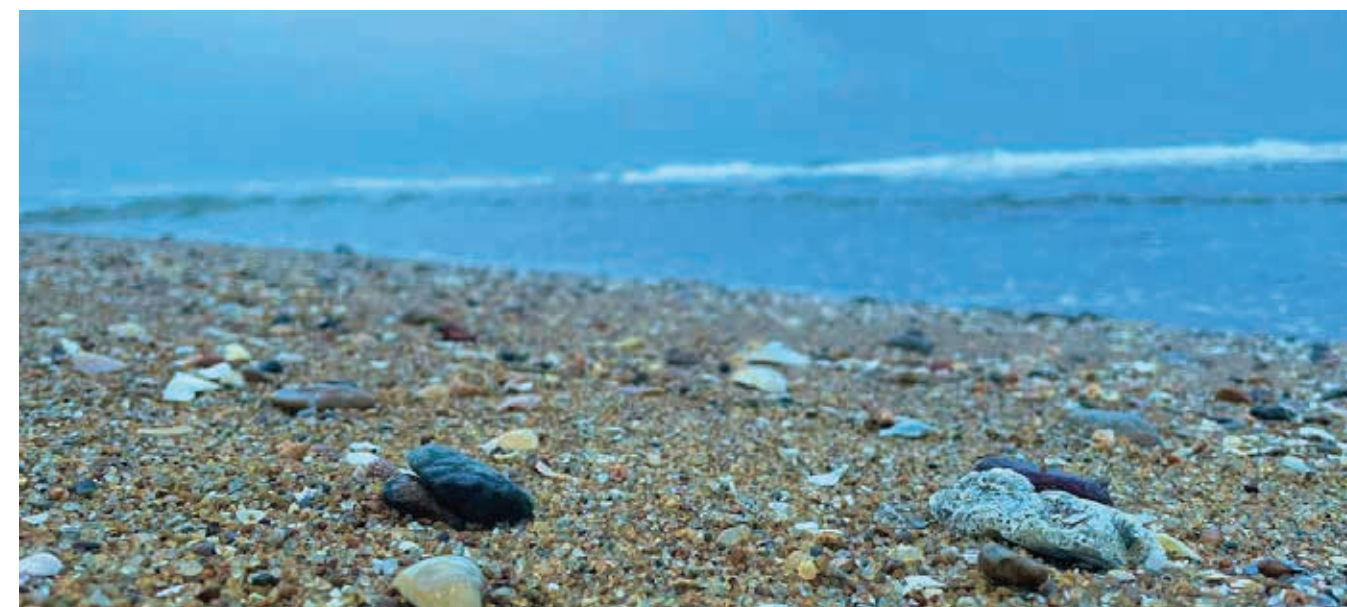


times moving cluelessly. But, nature was in all of its glory along this 3 kilometer trail, pushing us to never give up on the endless wandering. It was all about finding our way to the destination.

Sometimes, it's the journey which teaches you a lot about the destination. Keeping the faith & belief not to give up, this walk for an hour through these unknown lands was all about being patient & calm. Because, good things take time

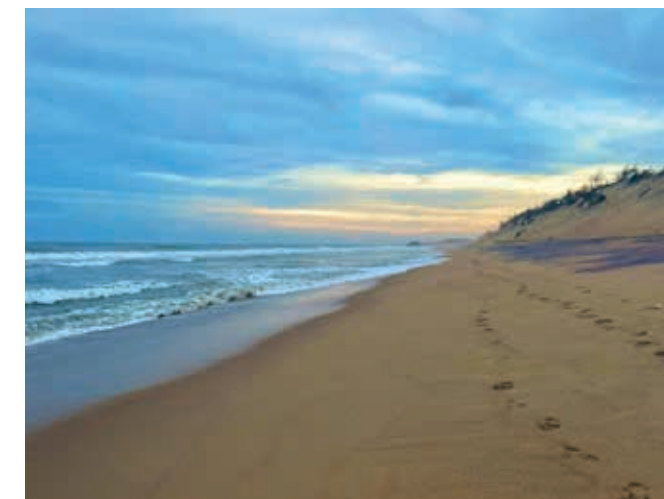
Bumps, hiccups and obstacles. But in the end, we were finally treated by this spectacular view of the mighty Bay of Bengal making every step, every moment of this sojourn count in gold. A new fairytale world beholds in La- La Land. We finally discovered this pristine and unspoiled beach, which shall leave you spellbound by its quaint calmness. Not a soul anywhere, but full of life.

The beautiful contrast between the blueness of water and whiteness of sand was a treat to the eyes. The cool breeze blowing gently added to the serenity of a late evening walk along the shore. We



walked along the coast, watching dusk over the sea - truly one of the most beautiful wonders of nature.

With the dusk setting in, we decided to walk along the sea on a 5 km long trail upto the nearest Arjeepalli Village. To be frank, thanks to being a lazy bum, I was physically drained out due to the heat & humidity, but mentally I was invigorated by the bountiful of nature.



Not everytime does it happen that you want the path to go on and on. This sojourn for me was an experience of a lifetime, the memories of which shall be cherished forever.

May sound clichè but there are some things which money can't buy. Nothing gives you happiness, more than nature. This is my tryst with nature at the Tampara Lake and adjoining Sea Beach.

**Ansuman Rath is an Officer on
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Twitter: @theansumanrath**



ODISHA
INDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET.

Eco Retreat
ODISHA

Coming Soon

Konark | Bhitarkanika | Satkosia | Hirakud | Daringbadi | Putsil | Sonapur

LOOK WHO VISITED



Stone sculptor Padma Vibhushan Sudarshan Sahoo and Chief monk of Aakami Temple Japan, Rev. Ishi Yama visited Dept of Tourism and met Tourism Director Shri Sachin R Jadhav on 3 June 2022.

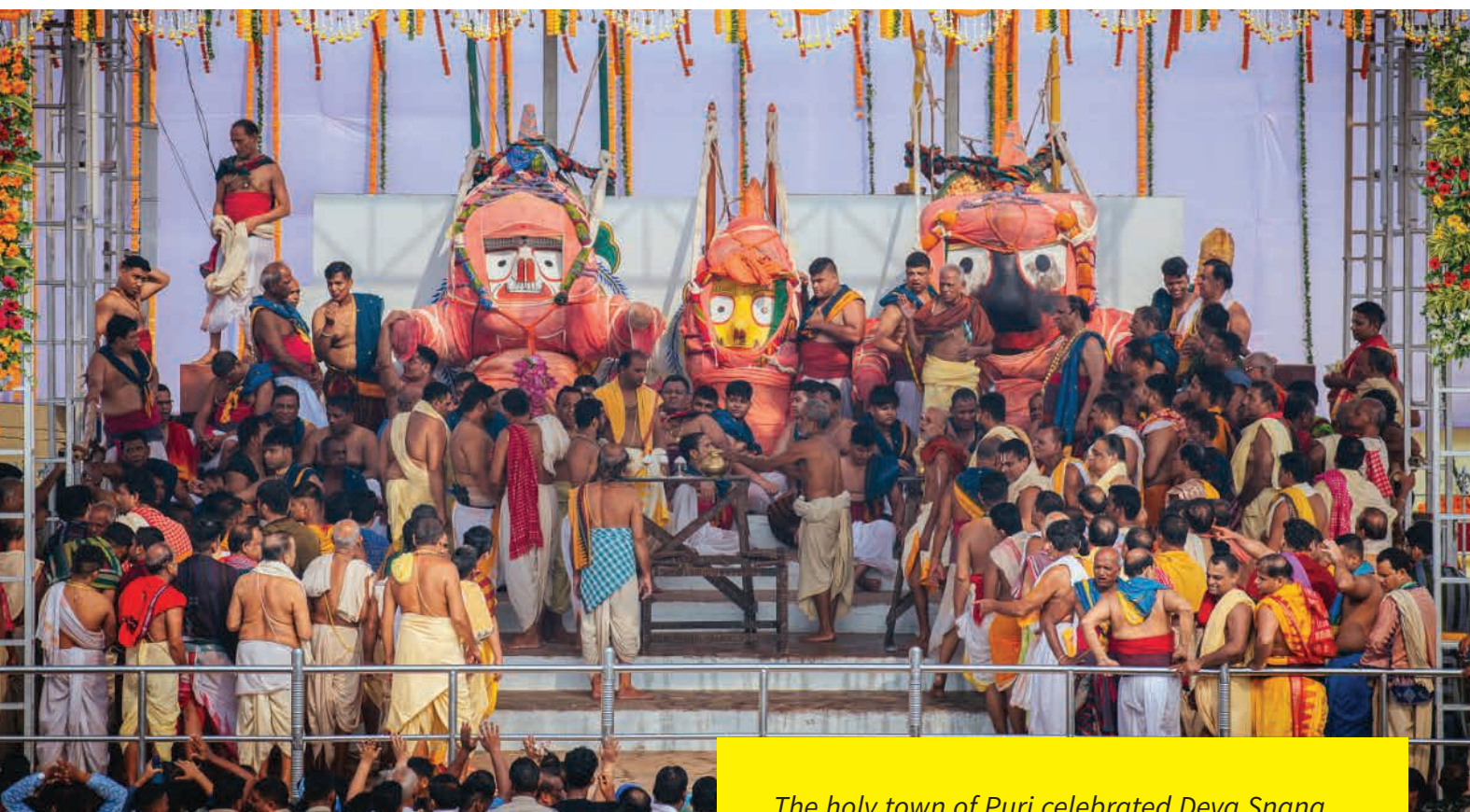


High Commissioner of India to Trinidad & Tobago, Shri Arun Kumar Sahu met Principal Secretary- Tourism Shri Surendra Kumar at Paryatan Bhawan and discussed on possibilities of tourism promotion and tourism trade between Trinidad and Tobago, and Odisha on 25 May 2022.



India's 1st K-Pop Artist Sriya Lenka & Managing Director DR Music Entertainment Philip YJ Yoon visited the Department of Tourism and met Director Tourism Shri Sachin R. Jadhav in 3 June 2022. Odisha Tourism organised a Heritage Walk in Old Town where they explored centuries old ancient Temples and experienced authentic Odia cuisine at Nimantran Restaurant in Bhubaneswar.

SRI JAGANNATH DHAM GEARS UP FOR RATH YATRA 2022



The holy town of Puri celebrated Deva Snana Purnima (annual bathing festival) on 14 June 2022. The divine deities were taken out the day before in a yatra to the Snana Mandap located at the Ananda Bazar of the temple complex. Devotees were allowed to have darshan of Lord Jagannath and his siblings at the Snana Mandap for the first time after 2 years of gap due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Chariot making process for the annual Rath Yatra began on the auspicious occasion of Akshay Tritiya on 3 May 2022. Around 75 carpenters and 80 artisans are engaged for 58 days to ensure the Chariots are ready to be pulled by lakhs of devotees after 2 years of restrictions on 1 July 2022.





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