



Orissa is a divine landmass on the coastal plains of Eastern India. It is a place where the artisans and craftsmen through their neat hands make beautiful crafts. This state is well known for its exquisite handicrafts. Orissa glorifies its tradition through a dazzling array of products like *patta* paintings, applique work. Palm-leaf etching, stone sculpture, terracotta, silver filigree etc. In order to encourage and re-establish this traditional art and crafts of Orissa, the Orissa Tourism every year organizes many festivals or *melas*. **Toshali National Crafts Mela** is one among them. This is the only *Mela* which witnesses artisans from all over India with nationally acclaimed reputation. This is an annual fair that lasts for 12-13 days, held in the city of Bhubaneswar every year.



Objectives of Toshali National Craft Mela:



- To provide opportunity to the artists not only from India but also artists from other SAARC countries.
- To introduce crafts and craftsmen directly to the buyers.
- To identify, nurture and preserve languishing crafts of the country and save its posterity.

- To educate and introduce patrons about the fascinating technique and skills involved in creation of craft.

Special Attractions:

Craftsmen from all over India showcase their best collections here. The range of Indian articles varies from the famous Cane Craft of North east, *Chiki* wood-craft from Kashmir, Oxidized jewellery, *Bandhni* print works from Gujarat and Rajasthan, *Kantha* from Tripura, *Kanjivaram* from South, *Terracotta* work and *Pattachitra* of



Orissa etc. Other crafts such as: live demonstration of handloom weaving, workshop and on-hand training on stone sculpture, sand art, painting and sketching etc. are also presented in this craft festival.



Another attraction of this festival is mouthwatering food varieties which includes multi cuisine food items of various places.

Cultural Activities:

Vibrant folk dance, tribal music and harmonious classical dance are an integral part of the Toshali National Crafts Mela. It comprises of resonate of Odissi dance, Chaiti Ghoda - a festival dance of the fishing folk and Chhow - a volatile and acrobatic dance-form of Orissa, Classical music by the great artists etc. Overall it is a never to miss life-time experience for the real art lovers.



Toshali National Craft Mela, 2009:



This year Orissa is going to celebrate 4th Toshali National Craft Mela at Janta Maidan, Bhubaneswar from 15th-27th December. Everyday the Mela will be continued from 2.00pm to 11.00PM. The *Mela* is going to be organized by Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of Orissa in association with Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, DC Handicrafts, DC Handlooms and Song & Drama Division.

The *Mela* will be inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Orissa Shri Naveen Patnaik at 6.00 PM. The other guests of this occasion will be Shri Debi Prasad Mishra Hon'ble Minister, Tourism & Culture and Higher Education Shri Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Hon'ble MP, Bhubaneswar Shri Bhagirathi Badajena, Hon'ble MLA, Bhubaneswar North Shri Bijaya Kumar Mohanty, Hon'ble MLA, Bhubaneswar Central Shri Ashok Chandra Panda, Hon'ble MLA, Ekamra, Bhubaneswar Shri Ananta Narayan Jena, Hon'ble Mayor, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation.

Orissa Tourism

Paryatan Bhavan, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar-751014, Orissa,

Tel: (0674) 2430764, 2432177

Fax: (0674)2430887

Email : ortour@orissatourism.gov.in

otdc@ortel.net

Websites: www.orissatourism.gov.in

www.panthanivas.com

www.visitorissa.org



Scenic • Serene • Sublime