



Orissa, the beautiful coastal State of India, holds forth about her rich and intriguing traditions of art and culture in various fairs & festivals. Each festival represents a unique essence of the State's extraordinary heritage. Characterised by hilarious celebrations, each of these festival accompanies Orissa's unique ways of life, culture and artistic creation. These festivals are about reveling and rejoicing in the colourful facets of life often expressed in their beliefs, art, craft, dance, music, literary works and even cuisine. Even the venues of these festivals are marvelous for enjoying and experiencing the culture of the State. It is about discovering the majesty of life. Among such various festivals *Ekamra Utsav* plays an important role in festival calendar of Orissa.



Ekamra Utsav is a 15days long ceremony normally takes place in the month of January in the city of Bhubaneswar, capital of Orissa. During this period numbers of dance music, martial art programmes are arranged by Department of Tourism,

Government of Orissa. *Mukteswar* Dance Festival is a part of it. This festival takes place in the premises of *Mukteswar-Parsurameswar* Temple at Bhubaneswar.

Mukteswar Temple at a Glance

An important landmark to the architectural development in Orissa, the *Mukteswar* Temple is depicted as one of jewels of Orissa for its delicate sculptures and elegant looks. Its major highlights consist of the exquisite carvings that depict ascetics in different meditative pose. God *Jagamohan* and *Shiva* are worshipped here. The decorated *torana* archway in front of the *Jagamohana* is a masterpiece dating from about 900 AD. A small well, locally known as *Marichi Kund*, (water pot) lies immediately beyond the sinister of the enclosure, the water of which is believed to cure infertility of women. The temple is located just off Lewis Road in the older southern part of the Bhubaneswar City.



Mukteswar Dance Festival

Mukteswar Dance Festival has a legend behind it. Once upon a time this



temple was acting as a transition point between the early and later phases of *Kalinga* School of Architecture. For this reason the dance festival has been named after the said temple. This year the festival is all set to commence on from 14th

January to 16th January in the periphery of *Mukteswar-Parsurameswar*

Temple. The highlight of the festivity of *Mukteswar* Dance Festival is held on the courtyards of this famed temple. This is the festival where the eminent exponents of Odissi dance enliven the stage with their magical performances.

This festival meant for promoting Bhubaneswar as a major destination for cultural tourism. This festival will be an exclusive festival showing *Odissi* in solo, Duet and also in group dance forms. *Odissi*



dance in many forms like *mangala charana*, *avinaya* will be presented by the artists from all corners of India. Eminent dancers will be presenting various *Mudras* and *Vangis* of *Odissi*.

Besides, classical songs in chorus are other attractions of this festival. This festival should not be missed by people who have interest in traditional dance form of India and even who have eagerness to know the culture of Orissa.

How to Reach

By Air:



Nearest airport for *Mukteswar* Temple is Biju Pattnaik Airport located in 4 Kms. distances. The major domestic carriers are like Indian, Jet, Sahara, and Deccan operate regular flights from New Delhi, Kolkata, Visakhapatnam, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Mumbai.

By Rail:



The nearest railway station is Bhubaneswar Railway Station and the distance from Railway Station to *Mukteswar* Temple is 4 Kms.

For more railway query click on to <http://www.trainenquiry.com>

By Road:



Interstate bus services operate daily between Kolkata and Puri via Bhubaneswar and Tatanagar (Jamshedpur). Besides Intracity bus service, Auto Rickshaws are also available all time.

Schedule of the Event

Venue: Mukteswar Temple Complex

Inauguration by lighting of the lamp- 6.00-6.05p.m.

Music & Dance Recital- 6.05-8.30p.m.

DATE	CHORUS (SHIVA VANDANA)	SOLO ODISSI	DUET ODISSI	GROUP ODISSI
14.01.10	Guru Ramahari Das	Rajashri Praharaj Bhubaneswar	Saswati Garai & Ayona, Kolkata	Tridhara, Bhubaneswar
15.01.10	Shri Shantanu Mohapatra	Sonali Mohapatra Bhubaneswar	Meena Sahoo & Ipsita Behoora	Abarta Bhubaneswar Guru Naba Mishra
16.01.10	Shri Lakshmikant Palit	Dipti Routray, Bhubaneswar	Janhabi Behera & Biswajit Das Bhubaneswar	Smitalay, Mumbai Guru Jhelum Paraniape

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Published in State Portal of Orissa (<http://orissa.gov.in>)

Content contributed by Luminous Infoways Pvt.Ltd., CSP to State and National Portal