



**Kalahandi**, a district of Orissa, India, was known as *Mahakantara* (Great Forest) in ancient India. It is also known as *Karunda Mandal*, which means treasure of precious stones like *Karandam* (*Manik*), Garnet (red stone), Beruz, *Neelam* (blue stone), and Alexandra etc. **Kalahandi**, the epitome of rich artistic and cultural heritage with its exquisite natural flora and fauna, the colorful and musical festivals with its heart thrilling beats and sounds, the dense green forests, natural perennial rivers and fountains attract the minds of the travelers across the world and brings a poetic sensation to all the travelers for a transformation from dialectical materialistic mind set to a spiritual, ethical, and traditional approach towards the place.



Kalahandi was a feudatory of erstwhile *Kalinga-Utkala* Empire of Gajapati rulers of Orissa. Maharaja Pratap Keshari Deo, the Ex-Maharaja of Kalahandi, in one of his articles expressed his view that the historical significance of naming Kalahandi as *Karunda Mandala* is based on the availability of Corundum in this region. *Maa Manikeswari* (the Goddess of Manikya), the clan deity of the Naga kings of Kalahandi may have also necessitated the adoption of the name.

### KALAHANDI UTSAV

**Kalahandi Utsav** is a great fair of Kalahandi District of Orissa. It is a platform to encourage, motivate and show case the art, culture, music, drama, literature, handy crafts and to place the strength globally. The Utsav starts from the first day of **Makar Sankranti** and continues for four days at District head quarter Bhawanipatna and Sub-division Dharamgarh simultaneously. Artists from Kalahandi as well as across India every year



participate in this Utsav.

**Kalahandi Utsav** was initiated by **Mr. P.K. Jena**, esteemed Ex-collector of Kalahandi in the year 1996. Then it was organized at Sub-division level at Dharamgarh by Ex-Sub- Collector **Mr. V. Karthikeya Pandian** in 2003.

### **KALAHANDI UTSAV GHUMURA- 2010**

The final function of the mega annual cultural event of Kalahandi - **Kalahandi Utsav Ghumura- 2010** organised by Zilla Sanskruti Parishad - is scheduled to be held from **January 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>** at Lalbahadur stadium of Bhawanipatna and simultaneously in the Sub-divisional head quarter at Dharamgarh.



Artists from all across the State and country will perform a series of folk dances. These include *Raibani* martial art dance from West Bengal, *Mewasi* from Gujarat, *Bodo* dance from Assam, *Chau* from Saraikala and Mayurbhanj, *Ghodanach* from Sakhigopal, *Sabda Nrutya* from Kumbhari, *Pasunrutya* from Bhanjangan besides *Ghumra*, *Singhbadya*, *Ghodar* dance forms from Kalahandi.

Apart from these, *Pallishree Mela*, KBK Craft Mela, Food Mela and agriculture fair will be organized in 258 stalls at the Lalbahadur stadium. Volley ball tournament among youths of KBK Districts, *Kabi Sammelani* and a seminar will also be held. On the eve of the *Utsav*, the *Ghumura* dance marathon will be organised.



At Dharamgarh, besides cultural shows the major attraction will be an exhibition *Namaste Kalahandi* showcasing culture, heritage, and literature and development aspects of Kalahandi.

## SPECIAL ATTRACTION

“Ghumura”, an Orissa folk dance form, looks similar to the “Dollu Kunita” of Karnataka. The performance of this war dance from Kalahandi district of Orissa has many features that resemble our folk art. The only difference is in the attire and the drums. The performer sings, plays the drum and dances to the drum’s tunes. The songs usually are inspired from lord Krishna.



## ACCOMODATION

**Hotel Sagar Sangam,**  
Satyam Cinema Road, Bhawanipatna  
Ph.232200

**Hotel Mid Town,**  
Near Town Hall, Bhawanipatna Ph.232777/ 232999  
FAX-230561

**Hotel Bhagirathy,**  
Jail Road, Bhawanipatna.  
Ph.235111/235200  
FAX-232190E.Mail: pramodkhamari@rediffmail.com

**Rabi Lodge,**  
Near Gandhi Chowk,  
Bhawanipatna  
Ph.233330

## HOW TO REACH



### **BY TRAIN**

❖ Nearest Railway Station Kesinga, which is 35 k.m. fssar from Bhawanipatna.



### **BY BUS**

❖ OSRTC and Private Buses are Available.

### For more information contact:

Zilla Sanskruti Parishad  
Kalahandi