

The India Cultural Society along with Oriya Society celebrated three-day event of consecration and Installation of (Prana pratisthapan mahotsav) of four deities (Chaturdha Murti: Lord Jagannath, Lord Balavadra, Devi Suvadra & Lord Sudarshan); and The Ratha Yatra (chariot festival)

On July 2nd, 3rd & 4th 2006,(Ashad Sud Chat, Sud Satam ane Sud Aatham) for three days it was a large congregation of devotees at Gandhi centre of Wayne New Jersey to be a part of the once-in-a-life time event (for many devotees), the Prana Pratisthapan Mahotsav of Lord Jagannath, with elder brother Lord Balabhadra, younger sister Devi Subhadra & the Illuminating Energy Lord Sudarshan; then again on July 8th for the Ratha yatra (chariot festival), followed by July 12th for the Bahuda Yatra (The returning festival).

All deities, called Daru Brahma (supreme force manifesting in the form of wooden idols) were carved out from the time-honored sanctified Neem Tree (a large tree trunk with all four symbols Shankha, Charka, Gada, and Padma is called DARU), under directions and traditional strictures of the existing Monarch his Highness the Maharaja Shri Shri Divyasingh Deo of the sacred pilgrimage city Puri of Orissa, India. They all were transported from Puri city of Orissa, with customary rituals (sounds of Shankha/ Conk Shell, manjira/ Cymbals, Mardala/ Drum & aloud chanting of Sloka/ Religious verses), and with utmost caution & care they arrived on May 20th at Newark airport then from the airport to Wayne Hindu temple NJ. The ceremony of Pran prtisthapan of Lord Jagannath, also included consecration of four other customary side-deities (parswa-Devi & Devata) Bhudevi, Sridevi, Madanmohan and Madhaba. All parswa-Devi & Devata were made with the blessed alloy of eight metals (Astadhatu).

As per the advice of Royal Priest & Astrologer of Puri Jagannath Temple, Shri Ramesh Chandra Rajguru the installation & consecration ceremony of Lord Jagannath was held in the Hindu temple of Gandhi center at Wayne NJ. Here in the US, there were five priests including two invited priests, collectively performed the auspicious Pooja ceremony, following all customary rituals of the Jagannath-ethnicity.



The head priests Pandit Shri Swami Adyananda Saraswati (Dr.Vishnu Joshi) from the Jagannath temple at Nashville, TN, led the Pooja proceedings with Pandit Shri Bhabani Tripathy from the Jagannath temple at Huntsville, AL, and along with Pandit Shri Arvind Mehta, Pandit Shri Navnit Vora, and Pandit Shri Pitambar Sarangi from New Jersey worked day and night to complete all the customary rituals which usually last for seven days at least, so that the adaptation of divinity (nyasa karma) could be done in privacy on a just moment, and then the consecration and installation of the divinity in the deities (Prana pratistha) could be completed by the auspicious moment (Shubh-muhurta). The customary series of proceedings (Poojas and Havans) were performed in a skillfully decked Fire-sacrificial arena (Yagnashala) by the temple volunteers.

Jagannath swami... nayana-pathnagaami... bhavatum...



The ceremony began on Sunday July 2nd 2006, with peace invocation service (Shanti Patha), purification of the host and hostess (Karta and Kartri suddhi); Fire-Sacrificing of all transgression (Prayaschita Homa), followed by burgeoning service (Ankuraropan Pooja), and worship of nine-planet deities (Nabhagraha Pooja), and the last ritual of the day one was all deities being covered with whole-grains (Dhanyadhivasa).

The eye opening ceremony (Netronmilana) began promptly early morning on Monday the July 3rd 2006, after the anointment of deities with Sandal wood paste & turmeric paste (chandan & haladi during Devadhivasa) the deities were bathed in holy water of the river Ganga (Gangajal during Mahasnan) then brought to the yagnashala. After few ritualistic fire-sacrifices or yagna (homa/havan) the deities were taken in an enclosed room aside for Nyassa-karma-rituals in mid-day. The temple ambiance was filled with delicate aroma of chandan, tulsi and kapur scent & echoes of holy chants. The devotees immersed themselves in bhajan and kirtan of lord Jagannath, while the Nyasa-karma was happening in the enclosed room aside. After installation of Yantra, where deities stay (Yantra Sthapana and Chakra Dhawaja Sthapana), in that hallowed afternoon the deities were brought-in to temple, atop the bejeweled throne (Ratna Singhasan/ Ratna bedi). The sight of deities dressed in silk and magnificent Sunavesa (golden attire) on the Nine-jeweled throne (Nabaratna bedi), was truly mesmerizing... After the Maha-arati in the evening, the devotees had a feast of Maha-Prasad (variety customary Ladoos, Puddings and Khichris cooked in the temple kitchen) as per the traditional Jagannath-culture.

On the following day July the 4th, it was a massive gathering of devotees' from far of places and the tri-state area at the Gandhi center for viewing (Darshan) & flower offering (Pushpanjali). All Lord Jagannath's blessed believers offered various offerings, including as lovely as flowers and fruits and as luxurious as dresses, precious gem-stones and gold ornaments.



The Lord appeared magnificent adorned in golden silk attire (Sunavesa), jewelries, and fragrant garlands. The offered flowers were stringed into beautiful garlands in the premises by some fortunate devotees, while singing prayers (Lord Jagannath bhajans). The prayer hall was enthralling with mantra & Sanskrit sloka orison by the Pundits and Geta Govinda invocation by devotees. The whole temple was filled with nice aroma of dry Maha-prasad, scented flowers and incenses. The oversized kitchen and pantry hall downstairs was filled with altruistic cooks with oodles of keenness & adoration for the Lord, cooking more Mahaprasad. During Maha-Aarti, as the offerings and cooked Maha-prasad were being carried onto the dais (Mandap in front of Ratna-vedi), a number of enthusiastic volunteers managed the devotee-crowd in order to maintain decorum in the prayer hall. After the Maha-Aarti and Blessings, all devotees were directed downstairs' hall to relish the Maha-prasad delightfully, whilst observing an actual footage of annual chariot festival (Rath-yatra) taken on the holy-road (Bada-danda) of Puri (Purushottam Dham).

Jagannatha swami... nayana-pathnagaami... bhavatum...

Wayne Hindu temple at Gandhi center was the place to be present for The Lord Jagannath's Pran Pratishthan-Mahotsav, and to feel the splendor, piety and religious zeal in the atmosphere. July the 4th (Ashad Sud Atham) 2006, marked Lord's (Lord Jaganntha, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra) elegant and attractive deity appearance in the temple as America celebrated Independence Day.

Our thanks to those who traveled from far of places and the tri-state area to visit Gandhi center at Wayne during their holidays; became a part of this huge observance; and were fortunate to get a glance of Mahaprabhu in Sunavesa.

The chariot festival (Ratha Yatra) and returning festival (Bahuda yatra):

The Hindu temple celebrated its first and unique chariot festival (Ratha yatra) on 8th of July 2006 Saturday, at the Gandhi center of Wayne NJ. Even bigger crowd gathered to celebrate *Ratha yatra*, with chief guest honorable Scott T. Rumana Mayor of Wayne NJ. Among all the other invitees were chief of the fire department and chief of the police department of Wayne NJ. Among the crowd, media coverage were the TV Asia's local network and reporters of web news such as IndianEra.com and WorldOrissa.com.

Many devoted volunteers built a chariot for Chaturdha Murti with numerous trips to home improvement stores and relentless efforts to construct a collapsible erect standing structure 14ft high on wheels. The cloth covering was measured in advance and exported from India. The chariot was assembled and festooned outside for the procession.

After all the customary ritualistic activities, (Havan and Ratha Pooja), long established custom says that the emperor of the province (now the king, Puri Maharaja Shri Shri Divyasingh Deo, representative of Lord Jagannath), who has to sweep the floors of chariots (three Rathas built for Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra with a Gold broom, as an emblematic gesture that its our first and foremost duty to serve The Supreme Power, The Lord. Here at Wayne temple the noble chairman Mr. Jotindra Patel did the honor of sweeping the front of chariot with a similar golden broom wringed with Gold bracelet. Mayor Rumana crowned this event by being a part of *Pahandi bije*. He assisted carrying Lord Jagannath to the chariot on his own hands and ecstatically said "Jai Jagannath".



More than five hundred people became sanctified by pulling the holy rope of the chariot. They were bothered by neither the mid-day scorching Sun, nor by the blistering walk on barefoot on top of concrete road; they were contentedly prancing & dancing around with sheer-bliss and the melody of drums, cymbals and chanting of *Harinam samkirtan*.

The Lord received customary daily-offerings at another temple, which was designated as the Aunt Gundicha's temple (Mausi maa mandira or Gundicha Ghara) for eight days, on the 9th day the following Sunday (12th of July) all four of the deities (Chaturdha murti) returned to the main temple during returning festival (Bahuda yatra).

Jagannatna swami... nayana-pathnagaami... bhavatume...

This particular affair of outstaying at another temple (Mausi Gundicha's temple) and receiving all the customary *pooja* rituals there for eight days, then returning back to the main temple (*bahuda yatra*) ritual was unique to this temple at Wayne. Deities with Sunavesa (Golden Attire) were worshiped followed by Bhajan & Maha Arati.

Festivals Celebrated at Lord Jagannath Temple

Makar Sankranti/Pongal
Vasant Panchami/Saraswati puja
Maha Shivaratri
Holi
Ramnavami
Maha Vishuva Sankranti
Hanuman Jayanti
Sri Jagannath Snan Purnima
Sri Jagannath Rath Yatra
Bahuda Yatra/Suna Vesa
Guru Purnima/Asadha Purnima
Sri Balabhadra Janma/Raksha Bandhan
Sri Krishna Janmashtami
Sri Ganesh Chaturthi
Durgasthami
Vijaya Dashami (Dusshera)
Lakshmi Puja/Sharad Purnima
Diwali
Tulsi Bibah/Kartik Purnima
Sri Jagannath Abhisheka (Prathma Ashtami)
Dhanus Sankranti
New Year Abhisheka

Temple Hours

:- Weekdays :-: 08:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. & 05:30 P.M. to 09:00 P.M.

:- Weekends :-: 08:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. & 04:00 P.M. to 09:00 P.M.

Daily Pooja and Aarti: 7:30 P.M