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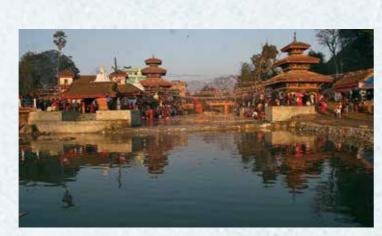
Jya Punhi (MAY-JUNE)

The Panauti jatra (Jya Punhi in Newari) is a chariot festival, held at the end of the monsoon season each year. The chariot of the Indreswor Mahadev, Bhadrakali, Unmatta Bhairav and Brahmayani gods from the temples are taken around the city in temple carts, it is held by the old durbar Square. Folk of people surrounding village participate the festival.



Makar Mela

Beside the Roshi and Punyawoti River in Panauti, it is believed that there is also a third river, the Lilawoti, visible only to a chosen few and said to flow into the others from the Gorakhnath Shrine. The confluence of the three rivers is a sacred pilgrimage site where a month long fair known as Makar Mela is held once every 12 years. During this celebration thousands of devotees visit Panauti to cleanse themselves in the sacred river.



Harisiddhi Naach

The first of these events, which is linked to Jaladyah, the god of Harisiddhi village, is performed every twelve years at least theoretically by jyapus (agriculturist) dancer from Harisiddhi (Lalitpur district) in Panauti.



Sankata Jatra (MARCH-APRIL)

On the day of Fagu Purnima, the Jatra starts from the Sankata temple in Panauti in the morning and circumambulates with the goods of various monasteries and again reaches the same temple and ends after the distribution of prasad.

It is customary to celebrate Jatra by wishing for family happiness, peace, and prosperity as well as reconciliation and relief from the crisis. In Sankata Jatra, the Holi festival is celebrated by offering abir to each other and exchanging happiness. The Jatra is also called Abeer Jatra.



Navadurga Festival (MID APRIL)

Mask dances are celebrated for three days every year performed by the Navadurga Gana people from Bhaktapur.



Ghantakarna (JULY/AUG)

It is also called 'Gathe mangal' [an evil deity]. This is regarded as an opening ceremony for many Newari festivals ahead. People put iron rings on their fingers and hammer iron nails into door lintels to drive away evil spirits.



participate in festival.

Gai Jatra (AUG) Regarded as the festival of the cow, this is an eight-day long celebration to commemorate people dead ralatives. People who have had a death in the family within the past year bring a cow (either real or someone in a costume) to



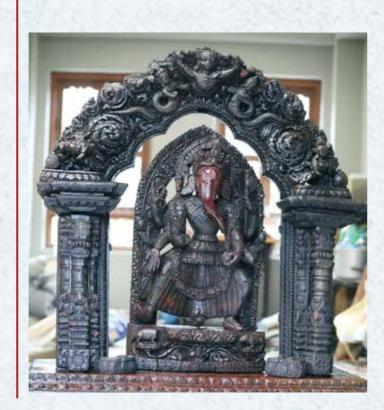
Saki Mana Punhi (SEPT)

Akchhyaya Tritiya (MAY)

This festival is celebrated by Newari girls

between 7-13 years old for two days at the Triveni Ghat area. Hundreds of Newar girls take part in this festival. This occasion is also known as marriage with a wood apple fruit 'Bel Bibaha'.

A festival dedicated to Lord Ganesh to request his blessings for prosperity in business and for good luck.



Namobuddha Festival (SEPT)

It is celebrated as Namobuddha festival (Namobuddha place is where Prince Mahasatva offered his body to a starving tiger with her five cubs) is marked by musical events. Various Aju dyah (Dipankara) and Ajima (Tara) Buddhist Statues are carried and worshhipped within the city. It is the only Buddhist festival in Panauti. It is performed during Panchadan (The five gift), in the rainy season.



Ghode Jatra (SEPT)

Kwondyo Puja is celebrated during Ghode jatra festival in Panauti city. Pahan means "guest" and pasa mean "friend" in Nepal Bhasa. Charhe means "fourteenth day of the lunar fortnight" when the festival commences. It starts on the 14th day of the dark fortnight of Chillā, the fifth month in the lunar Nepal Era calendar. Inviting friends and relatives to one's home and honoring them with a feast is one of the highlights of the festival. Pahan Charhe is held according to the lunar calendar, so the dates are changeable.



Devi Nach (Mask Dance) (oct/Nov)

The dances called Devi pyakhan, originally created to protect the city from Cholera have gone missing for a long time. They were revived in 1998. The Mask dance, which originated from Panauti is performed on the Dasain festival. They are linked with the cult of Astamatrika and includes eight masked characters, Bhairav, Mahakali, Varahi, Kumari, Ganesh, Maheswori, Bramhayani and Indrayani. The gods and goddesses are accompanied by skeleton (Kavan), facetious supernatural creatures (Khyah) which are often hairy, and ghost (Vetah).



Yomari Punhi and Dhanya Purnima (NOV/DEC)

Across Nepal, people are now harvesting their rice crops (Dhaan). The Full moon that falls in December will see a celebration to mark the completion of their hard work. We shall all be thankful (Dhanya). The word for "thank you" in Nepali - dhanyabaad, probably comes from Dhaan - rice and being grateful. The rice harvest and its celebration fall on Dhanya Purnima - our very own Nepali version of thanks-giving. Legend has it that Kuber the bearer of wealth visits homes during this day.



Madhav Narayan Festival (JAN/FEB)

This festival is celebrated to worship Madhab Narayan (the lord of preservation) from Sankhu coming every year in Panauti for taking a holy bath. Many people take a fast for a month in this ritual. There is also temple or Madhav Narayan in Bhaktapur, near the Nyatapola. One of the most important religious monuments of this town Some devotees from this locality also move to Panauti.



Kumari Festival

The cult of the little goddess Kumari, is an ancient Hindu tantric ritual, Kumari puja. It has a flourished and magnified in Newari culture. These little girls identified with goddess Taleju, are symbol of divine feminine energy. They are worshipped by the whole population, especially during the Dasain Festival in autumn.



