


JetWings

September 2018 • Vol 18 • Issue 9

JEWELS OF THE NORTHEAST

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OF FAITH AND FROLIC

The annual Indra Jatra festival in Kathmandu is a display of belief, rituals, and tradition.

TEXT AMI BHAT

Walk into Nepal's Kathmandu Durbar Square in September and you will find yourself engulfed in a colourful frenzy. In one corner, near the Kumari Ghar, a group of men is focused on decorating three wooden chariots while on the other end, a long wooden pole, brought all the way from Bhaktapur, about 15 km away, is being set aside. The perpetually beautiful Kumari Ghar is further bedecked with flowers and the idol of Sweta Bhairava is being decorated for the rituals. It is time for the annual eight-day festival of Indra Jatra.



This spread: Crowds throng the Kathmandu Durbar Square during the annual Indra Jatra festival.

Jet Airways operates daily direct flights to Kathmandu from Mumbai and New Delhi.

FESTIVALS

A part of the festival of Yenya, Indra Jatra is the biggest religious street festival of Nepal. During this festival, the living goddess of Nepal – Kumari – tours the town to bless her followers. Every corner of the ancient Kathmandu Durbar Square is enlivened with rituals that breathe life into the relics of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, making it possibly the best time to visit Kathmandu.

RELIVING THE LEGEND

A beloved son, Lord Indra descended to Earth in search of the rare Parijata flower for his mother. Unfortunately, the locals mistook him for a petty thief and hung him on a pole as punishment. Worried about his absence, his mother came down looking for him and found him in this state. After revealing her identity, Lord Indra was released and he returned to his heavenly abode. The Indra Jatra festival, over eight days, celebrates the Lord's descent and blessings in the form of rain that the mother bestowed on them. Over the course of the duration of the festival, you can relive the legend.



Clockwise from above: Devotees offer prayers at the Square; Locals line up the streets with butter lamps to honour their ancestors; Indra Jatra is marked with traditional music and masked dance performances.



RITUALS AND CELEBRATIONS

The Yenya celebrations begin with Yosin Thanegu, the erection of the linga – a tall pole meant to represent the staff to which Lord Indra was tied – in Kathmandu Durbar Square.

Close to all the major temples of the square are raised poles with elaborate idols of Lord Indra. The atmosphere is filled with the heady fragrance of the burning butter lamps and incense sticks in every corner. A strong urge to join the locals might grip you as you see them offer obeisance to their forefathers, and whisper a prayer for the deceased. A contagious spirit emanating from the devotees permeates the festive air.

As the evening descends, the crowd starts scrambling for the best spot in the square. The line-up of the traditional platoon fuels the energy of the crowd, for they are the ones leading the Kumari Jatra. Rhythmic steps of the traditional mask dancers entertain you as you wait for a glimpse of Kumari. Running past the dancers, a costumed white elephant runs through the crowd, frantically looking for the lost Lord Indra. While you watch his antics in the Pulu Kisi dance, the fire of an air gun signals the start of the Kumari Jatra – the chariot festival of Kumari – the latter half of the Yenya festival.

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FESTIVALS



HONOURING THE LIVING GODDESS

The first of the hand-drawn chariots in the Kumari Jatra carries human representations of Lord Ganesha. Close behind is Lord Bhairava, who is finally followed by the Kumari's chariot.

An adolescent girl said to be the embodiment of Goddess Taleju, the living goddess of Nepal – Kumari – has been a popular topic of interest. According to a legend, agitated by the unwarranted advances of King Jaya Prakash Malla, Goddess Taleju stopped visiting him. Deeply regretting his mistake, the King requested her to return. The goddess finally agreed to 'reside' in a virgin girl, who becomes the Kumari.

Selected after rigorous tests from the Newari community, the Kumari is revered by all strands of the Nepali society. People travel from all over the country to seek her blessings. Her indifference is preferred, for it is said that if she makes eye contact with you and reacts with a smile or tears, it bodes misfortune.

The child goddess continues her reign until she attains puberty or bleeds from a wound. To protect her from any injury, she is confined to her home. While any Hindu can visit her at her intricate abode, she is allowed to step out only once a year – during



Above: Local girls dressed as Kumari, the living goddess of Nepal.

Below: Chariot processions are the highlight of the festival.

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FESTIVALS



Clockwise from left: The food items in the samaya baji represent prosperity, fortune, wealth, and longevity; Onlookers watching the festivities; The Kathmandu Durbar Square comprises various Hindu and Buddhist temples.



the Indra Jatra festival. Naturally, the Kumari Jatra becomes an important part of the festival, riding high on emotion and faith.

OFFERINGS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The festive fervour of Indra Jatra continues long after Kumari has completed her tour for the day. Dancers masked as deities and demons, along with wandering musicians re-enact mythical wars and put up performances at the Durbar Square. Elaborate food offerings – *samaya baji* – are distributed to visitors and devotees. Small earthen bowls of the traditional *raksi* are poured as accompaniments to the festive meal.

After an eventful evening, the crowd slowly disperses only to return the next morning for more rituals. The warm and affable locals introduce their culture to you – inviting you to not only witness but also be a part of the spirit of Indra Jatra! ■



Indra Jatra 2018

This year, the Indra Jatra festival will commence on September 24.

The festival can be witnessed in the Kathmandu Durbar Square. During the day, you will need to pay an entry fee to visit the Durbar Square and view its relics.

The Kumari Jatra usually begins at 4.00 p.m. It is advisable to reach early at the Kathmandu Durbar Square to secure a vantage point to watch the procession.



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QUICK FACTS

CURRENCY
1 Indian rupee = 1.60 Nepalese rupees (approx.)

UPCOMING EVENT
September 15: Explore the world of art, music, games, and books at Comic Con Nepal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Log on to www.wefconline.org

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VASTU CORRECTIONS WITHOUT DEMOLITION

FOR INDUSTRIES, OFFICES AND HOUSES

Internationally Renowned Vastu Expert Mr. Vimal Jhaharia, along with his son Mr. Vikas Jhaharia, has created a revolution in the field of Vastu Shastra. Their expertise in providing "Vastu Remedies without Demolition" has earned them the faith and praise of millions of people in more than 40 western countries across the globe.

Mr. Vimal Jhaharia and Mr. Vikas Jhaharia (MBA from Australia) have delivered many lectures, conducted workshops, seminars and have widely traveled and provided consultancy on major projects already in operation without any changes or modifications. They are currently providing consultancy in USA, UK, Australia, Canada, China, Hongkong, Singapore, Thailand, South Africa, UAE, South America, etc.

Both of them have been felicitated several times for their outstanding knowledge on Vastu and have also won several awards of national and international repute.



Vimal Jhaharia with son Vikas

Here is an extract of a small interview with them with their client testimonials:

What exactly is your famous Vastu Shankha Yantra? And how cost effective is it?

Vastu Shankha Yantra is a divine gift from our Holi Guruj, the Great Himalayan Yogi, Swami Murghanandji. It is an original conch shell, filled with metallic elements and charged (Pran-pratishthi) with positive energies and is used to rectify vastu defects without any kind of alterations or demolition. It is used in different ways in different places to rectify any kind of land defects, vastu defects or energy defects without any modifications.

It saves a lot of time and money as it is used to create positive energy in places having major Vastu defects without wasting the looks and beauty of the place.

Does the Vastu Shankha Yantra Really works in Prosperity in factories and industries?

Yes, We have a big list of successful clients including Businessmen, Entrepreneurs, Doctors, Scientists, Professionals, Architects, Interior Designers, etc giving testimonials on our website.

Endorsing the Vastu Shank Yantra is Industrialist Mr. Sushil from New Delhi. He says, "My son and I are running a factory but were not getting the desired results. We came to know about Vimalji and Vikasji through one of

their articles in the Inflight Magazine. Upon showing them the factory we immediately realised our North was blocked and all the heavy machineries were placed along the north wall. We then got the vastu shankha yantras placed at certain places on Mr. Jhaharia's recommendation and within a few days sales started increasing many folds. We then showed them our second factory and we got the same astonishing results. Now, every new factory of ours is made under their able guidance and we also recommend them to all our friends and relatives."

Can Vastu Shankha yantra also help in selling a piece of property?

Yes, we do a lot of builders and developers and also individuals whose properties have been stuck from a long time and not getting sold because of some or the other vastu defect.

Vouching for the success is Mr. Satish from Bangalore who was trying to sell his 4 acres property for 2 years. When we saw the property we saw it had multiple corners and it was not a proper rectangle or a square. We then positively charged this property by placing our vastu shankha yantras in various corners to correct the magnetic field of the property and hence creating positive energy in the atmosphere. It was fruitfully sold of within no time giving Satishji the desired results and money.



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Vimal Ji & Vikas Ji Awarded the most popular Vastu Consultants in the world by Bollywood Diva Sunny Leone

What is Vastu?

In the universe everything is constructed by the five elements. The principal of Vastu Shastra are also based on these five basic elements. These five elements are called the 'Panchmahabhuta'.

The guideline associated with various directions.



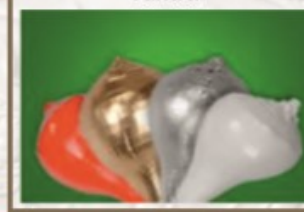
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