

gardens have been set up on both the sides from which flowers are collected for the daily worship of the deities. The shrines of Chakranarayana, Sidheswara, Mahabir Hanuman, and Dhableswar-Mahadeva are located in this area. On the northern side, the Niladri Vihar has been constructed which depicts the popular legends on Jagannath through models and paintings.

#### Hastidwara

The Hastidwara or the Elephant Gate had on each side a colossal figure of elephant, which is said to have been disfigured during the Muslim inroads. Subsequently, these figures were repaired and plastered with mortar and placed at the northern gate of the inner enclosure (Kurma Bedha).

The inner enclosure is approached by thirteen flights of steps made of khondalite, from the northern gateway of the outer enclosure. The deities of Lokanath, Uttarani, Lakshmi-Nrusimha, Baraha, and Sitala have been installed in the outer enclosure. There is also the sacred Suna-Kuan (ସୁନା କୁଆଁ ) from which 108 pitchers of water are taken for the ceremonial bath of Lord Jagannath during the Snana Yatra. On the western side of the outer enclosure, near the gate of the Kurma Bedha, stands a banian tree; and on a raised platform, the famous Koili Baikuntha or Kaivalya Baikuntha. During the Nabakalebara, the images of Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra are being constructed here.

#### Kurma Bedha

In the inner enclosure, i.e., the Kurma Bedha, several deities have been installed surrounding the main temple. Towards the eastern side there is a covered path leading to the Bhogamandapa from the kitchen through which the *suaras* bring *bhoga* to the temple. At the south-east of the covered path there is the shrine of the Agniswara Mahadeva who is supposed to guard and supervise the kitchen. In the eastern and southern side of the inner enclosure are the shrines of Satyanarayan, Batagopala, Sarbamangala, Balamukunda, Batabihari-Jagannath, Sweta Ganga and the famous fig tree 'Kalpabata'.

In front of the southern side of the main temple stands the structure called Muktimandapa, which is also known as Brahmasava. It is a rectangular building, 38 feet square, with a plain high plinth and a pyramidal roof supported on sixteen massive chlorite pillars. It is said to have been erected by Prataparudra Deva in 1525 A. D. Its roof was renewed about the middle of 18th century by Sridhara Pattanayak in the reign of Virakishore Deva. On the floor of this *mandapa*, the Sanyasis of Sankara Matha and sixteen pandits belonging to the sixteen *sasans* established by the kings of Orissa, are allowed to sit and take part in learned discourses. Any dispute arising out of religious matters with regard to the worship of Jagannath is referred to this council of learned men, and their verdict is final.