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HINDU "CHARIOT" FESTIVAL.

The Chariot Festival, one of the most sacred of Hindu rites, swells the tiny village of Puris with more than half a million pilgrims. They come to earn admission to heaven by pulling the great temple - throne of Juggernaut, God of the people, through the streets to the deity's country house a mile away.

Legend has it that pilgrims once threw themselves under the chariot's wheels as a living sacrifice, but to devout Hindus this would be sacrilege in a festival sacred to Vishnu, the Preserver.