



## Solarisation of Konark Sun Temple

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### Why in News

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The Government of India has launched **a scheme for 100% solarisation of Konark sun temple and Konark town in Odisha.**

The scheme will **meet all energy requirements of Konark town with solar energy.**

### Key Points

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- **Objective:**
  - To take forward the Prime Minister's vision to develop the historical Sun temple town of Konark in Odisha as '**Surya Nagri**'.
  - To convey a message of synergy between the modern use of solar energy and the ancient Sun Temple and the importance of promoting solar energy.
- **Plan:** It envisages **setting up of the 10-MW grid** connected solar project and various solar off-grid applications such as solar trees, solar drinking water kiosks and off-grid solar power plants with battery storage.
- **Funding:** 100% **Central Financial assistance (CFA)** support of around Rs. 25 crore through the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- **Implementation Agency:** Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency.

## Konark Temple



- Konark was built by **King Narasimhadeva I** of the **Ganga Dynasty** (1238-1264AD) in the **13<sup>th</sup> century** and is located in Eastern Odisha near the sacred city of **Puri**.
- The temple is designed in the shape of a **colossal chariot**. It is **dedicated to the sun God**.
  - There are two rows of 12 wheels on each side of the Konark sun temple.
  - The seven horses are said to symbolize the seven days of the week.
- The temple was used as a navigational point by European sailors. They referred to it as the **'Black Pagoda'** due to its dark colour and its magnetic power that drew ships into the shore and caused shipwrecks.
- It is the culmination of **Odisha temple architecture**.
- It was declared a **UNESCO world heritage site** in 1984.

**Source:PIB**