



## Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra

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### Why in News

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Recently, the Vice President greeted the people on the eve of **Rath Yatra of Jagannath Puri in Odisha**.

### Key Points

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- **Jagannath Rath Yatra**
  - Ratha Jatra, also **called as Chariot Festival**, is a Hindu festival **associated with Lord Jagannath held at Puri, Odisha**.
  - The festival is celebrated on the **2<sup>nd</sup> day of Shukla Paksha of Ashadh**, the third month, according to the traditional Oriya calendar.
  - It is a **9 day-long event** and **marks the return of Lord Krishna to Vrindavan** with his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra to Gundicha Temple via Mausī Maa Temple (maternal aunt's home) near Saradha Bali, Puri.
  - During the festival, the **three holy chariots** carrying idols of Lord Jagannath, his brother Balaram (Balabhadra) and sister Subhadra are **pulled by thousands of devotees from India and abroad**.

- **Jagannath Temple**

- The temple is believed to have been constructed in the **12<sup>th</sup> century by King Anatarman Chodaganga Deva** of the **Eastern Ganga Dynasty**.
- Jagannath Puri temple is called '**Yamanika Tirtha**' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.
- This temple was called the "**White Pagoda**" and is a **part of Char Dham pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram)**.
- There are **four gates to the temple**- Eastern 'Singhdwara' which is the main gate with two crouching lions, Southern 'Ashwadwara', Western 'Vyaghra Dwara' and Northern 'Hastidwara'.
  - There is a **carving of each form at each gate**.
- In front of the entrance stands the **Aruna stambha or sun pillar**, which was originally at the **Sun Temple in Konark**.



**Other Important Monuments of Odisha:**

- **Konark Sun Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site)**
- **Lingaraj Temple**
- **Tara Tarini Temple**
- **Udaygiri and Khandagiri Caves**

**Source: PIB**