Jagannath Temple

Why in News

Recently, the **Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA)** announced that devotees don't need to produce their Covid-19 **negative report** for getting entry into the shrine in Puri from January 21.

- **At present** devotees entering the temple **have to show Covid-19 negative reports.**
- The temple **opened to the public from 3rd January** after remaining closed for nine months in the wake of the **pandemic.**

Key Points

- The temple is believed to be constructed in the **12th century by King Anatavarman 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.**

Source:TH

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