



Conservation Plan for Konark Temple

Why in News

The Union Government has decided to restore and preserve the nearly 800-year-old Konark Sun Temple, Odisha.

- Earlier, the monument had entered into controversy over allegations that the stone carvings on the outer surface were being replaced with plain blocks of stones causing irreplaceable loss to the uniqueness of the temple.

Key Points

- Konark was built by King **Narasimhadeva I (1238-1264AD)** in the **13th century** and is located in Eastern Odisha near the sacred city of **Puri**.
 - King Narasimhadeva I was a famous ruler of the **Ganga Dynasty** and with his accession to the throne, the Ganga Dynasty **reached its zenith**.
- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site (1984)**.



- Dedicated to the **Sun God**, Konark is the **culmination of Odisha temple architecture**, and one of the most outstanding monuments of religious architecture in the world.
- Its scale, refinement and conception represent the strength and stability of the **Ganga Dynasty** as well as the value systems of the historic milieu.
- The entire temple was designed in the shape of a **colossal chariot** with 7 horses and **24 wheels**, carrying the sun god, Surya, across the heavens.
 - 'Konarka', the place bears a name composed of two world elements : **KONA** meaning **corner** and **ARKA** meaning the **Sun**.
 - The Sun god worshipped in **Ark Kshetra** is also called Konark.
 - In '**Brahma Purana**' the Sun God in Ark-kshetra has been described as Konaditya.
 - **Surya** has been a **popular deity** in India since the **Vedic period**.

Source:TH

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