



# Construction of Rath Yatra Chariots Allowed

## Why in News

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has allowed the construction of chariots for the annual Rath Yatra at Jagannath Puri in Odisha.

- It has also said that the complete segregation of the construction site should be ensured and **social-distancing norms be followed.**
- The Rath Yatra is expected to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020.

## 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 Saradhā 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 be constructed in the 12<sup>th</sup> 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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