



Jagannath Rath Yatra

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/jagannath-rath-yatra

The annual Lord Jagannath rath yatra began from the Jagannath temple, Puri on 4th July.

- The festival is celebrated on the second day of Shukla Paksha of Ashadh, the third month, according to the traditional Oriya calendar.
- The Rath Yatra (Chariot Festival) is 9 day-long event during which 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.
- The festival honours the Lord Jagannath's visit along with his siblings to the temple of Queen Gundicha, the place of their aunt's house where they revel in a nine day stay.
- **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.
- There are four gates to the temple- Eastern 'Singhdwara' which is the main gate with two crouching lions, Southern 'Ashwadwara', Western 'Vyaghradwara 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.**