



# Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra

## Why in News

Recently, the Vice President greeted the people on the eve of [Rath Yatra of Jagannath Puri in Odisha](#).

## Key Points

### ▪ 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 Anantavarman 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**

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