



Puri Heritage Corridor Project

Why in News

The **Odisha Government** is expected to soon lay the foundation stone of the **Puri heritage corridor**, which is being developed at a cost of Rs 800 crore.

- The project is a part of the **Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme** for developing Puri as a world-class heritage city.

Key Points

▪ About:

- Conceived in 2016, the Puri Heritage Corridor Project was unveiled in December 2019 to transform the holy town of Puri into an international place of heritage.
- The project **includes redeveloping major portions of the holy town** and in the vicinity of the **Jagannath temple** for visitors and tourists.
- The project **will include** Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) building redevelopment, a 600-capacity Srimandir reception centre, Jagannath cultural centre, Badadanda heritage streetscape, beachfront development, Puri lake, Musa river revival plan, etc..

▪ Jagannath Temple: //



◦ Construction:

- It is believed to have been constructed **in the 12th century by King Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.**

◦ Mythology:

- Jagannath Puri temple is called '**Yamanika Tirtha**' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death, has been nullified due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.

◦ Architecture:

- 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.
 - **Festival:** The World famous **Rath Yatra (Car Festival)** & Bahuda Yatra.
- **Other Important Monuments in Odisha:**
 - **Konark Sun Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site)**
 - **Tara Tarini Temple**
 - **Lingaraj Temple**
 - Udaygiri and Khandagiri Caves

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