



Devotees Take Out Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra

Why in News?

Recently, The grand [Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath Swami Ji](#) was organized in Allahabad under the auspices of the Shri Jagannath Swami Rath Yatra Committee Kydganj.

Key Points

- The **Rath Yatra** commenced from the **Shri Jagannath Temple** situated on **Triveni Marg** in **Kydganj**.
 - In addition to the Nandi Ghosh Rath of Lord Jagannath, the chariots of Garuda Dev, Badri Vishal, Lord Ram, and Lord Dwarkadhish were also part of the procession.
 - Tableaus depicting Radha Krishna, Narsingh Avatar, and Damodar Leela were also included in the Rath Yatra.
- **Jagannath Rath Yatra** is an **annual Hindu festival that celebrates** the journey of **Lord Jagannath**, his elder brother **Lord Balabhadra**, and his younger sister **Goddess Subhadra** from their **home temple in Puri, Odisha** to their aunt's temple in Gundicha, about three kilometres away.
 - The **legend behind the festival** is that once, Goddess Subhadra expressed her desire to visit her aunt's place in Gundicha.
 - To fulfill her wish, **Lord Jagannath and Lord Balabhadra decided to accompany her on a chariot ride**. This event is commemorated every year by taking the deities on a similar journey.
- The festival dates **back to at least the 12th century CE, when the Jagannath temple was built by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva**. However, some sources suggest that the festival was already in practice since ancient times.
- The festival is also known as **Festival of Chariots**, as the deities are carried on **three massive wooden chariots that are pulled by devotees with ropes**.
- It begins on the **second day of the bright fortnight of the month of Ashadha (June-July)** and **lasts for nine days**.

Jagannath Puri Temple

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- It is one of the most impressive monuments of the **Indian State Odisha**.
 - This temple is known as the **“White Pagoda”** and is a part of **Char Dham pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram)**.
- It is a **splendid example of Kalinga architecture**, which is characterised by **curvilinear towers, intricate carvings and ornate sculptures**.
 - The temple complex is surrounded by a high wall with four gates facing the four cardinal directions.
 - The main temple consists of four structures: **the vimana (sanctum), the jagamohana (assembly hall), the nata-mandira (festival hall) and the bhoga-mandapa (offering hall)**.
- 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.