



Konark Wheel Shines at G-20 Summit Venue

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

The [18th G20 Summit](#) was held in New Delhi, for the first time on 9th -10th September 2023, under the theme '**One Earth, One Family, One Future**'.

- The venue of the summit was the **Bharat Mandapam Convention Centre in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**. As part of showcasing India's cultural diversity and heritage, a wall depicting the [mural](#) of the **historic Konark Wheel of Odisha's Sun Temple** is placed as the backdrop for welcoming world leaders at the summit venue.

What are the Key Facts About Konark Sun Temple?

▪ About:

- The Konark Sun Temple is a **13th-century CE** [Sun temple at Konark](#), on the coastline in Puri district, Odisha, India.
- The temple is attributed to **King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty about 1250 CE**.
- Dedicated to the **Hindu Sun God Surya**, the temple complex has the appearance of a **100-foot-high chariot with immense wheels and horses, all carved from stone**.
- The temple is also a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) and a major pilgrimage site for Hindus and is depicted on the reverse side of the Indian currency note of 10 rupees.
- The Sun Temple is the **culmination of Kalinga temple architecture**.
- The temple was also called the "**Black Pagoda**" by European sailors as early as 1676 because it looked like a great tiered tower that appeared black. Similarly, the Jagannath Temple in Puri was called the "[White Pagoda](#)."

▪ Key Features:

- The temple represents a chariot of the **Sun God, with twelve pairs of wheels drawn by seven horses evoking its movement across the heavens**.
 - The wheels have **24 spokes that symbolize the 24 hours in a day**. The **wheels also function as sundials**, as the shadows cast by the spokes indicate the time of the day.
- The temple comprises several distinct and well-organized spatial units.
 - The [vimana \(principal sanctuary\)](#) was surmounted by a high tower with a **shikhara (crowning cap) also known as Rekha deul**, which was razed in the 19th century.
 - To the east, the **jahamogana (audience hall or Mandap)** dominates the ruins with its pyramidal mass.
 - Farther to the east, the **natmandir (dance hall)**, today unroofed, rises on a high platform.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. The Nagara, the Dravida and the Vesara are the (2012)

- (a) three main racial groups of the Indian subcontinent
- (b) three main linguistic divisions into which the languages of India can be classified
- (c) three main styles of Indian temple architecture
- (d) three main musical Gharanas prevalent in India

Ans: (c)

Mains

Q. Indian philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. **(2020)**

Q Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. **(2018)**

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