

Jagannath Temple

Published on: July 13, 2025

Prelim - Art and Culture

- The Jagannath temple dedicated to Lord Jaganath, a form of Vishnu God in Hinduism.
- It is located in Puri, Odisha.
- The temple built in the 12th Century AD
- The main temple built by King Indradyumna of Avanti.
- Other than the main temple, remaining structure inside the compound started to build by Anantavarman Chodaganga, the first king of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.
- The entire temple complex is enclosed within two concentric walls, the *Kuruma Bheda* (Inner wall) and the *Meghnad Pachira* (Wall). The main entrance to the temple is through *Singhadwara* located on the Eastern front of the temple.
- The main temple is constructed in such a way that no shadow of the temple falls on the ground at any time of the day.
- The Nilachakra – Or the Blue wheel perched on top of the temple is made of eight metals or *asta dhatu*.
- The Aruna stambha- the 33 ft monolith structure pillar in front of the Singhadwar or the main entrance of the temple was originally located at the Sun Temple, Konark.
- Another unique feature of the temple is that the idols of the holy trinity are carved out of wood rather than stone or metal idols.
- Temple rituals are based on *Oddiyana Tantras* which are the refined versions of *Mahayana Tantras* as well as *Shabari Tantras* which are evolved from Tantric Buddhism and tribal beliefs respectively.