

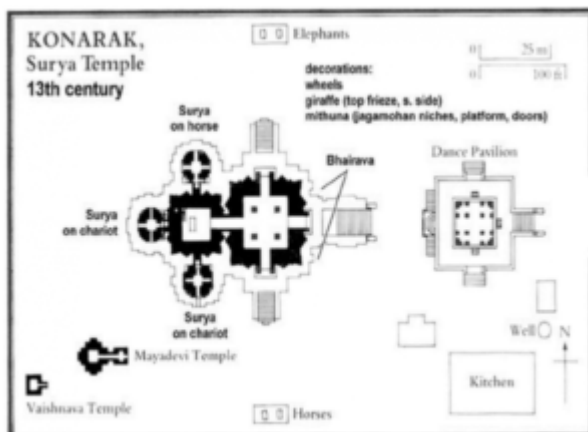
Konark Sun temple

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In news- The Archaeological Survey of India is working on a preliminary roadmap to safely remove sand from the interiors of Odisha's Sun Temple, which was filled up by the British 118 years ago to prevent it from collapsing.

Sun Temple of Konark-

- It is a masterpiece of Odisha's medieval architecture and one of India's most famous Brahman sanctuaries.
- It is also known as the **Black Pagoda** (due to its dark color).
- It was used as a navigational landmark by ancient sailors to Odisha.
- It is located in the eastern State of Odisha near the sacred city of Puri and is dedicated to the Sun God or Surya.
- It is attributed to king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty about 1250 CE.
- The temple is a monumental representation of the sun **God Surya's chariot**.
- There are two rows of 12 wheels on each side of the Konark sun temple, which represent either 24 hours or 12 months.
- The seven horses are said to symbolize the seven days of the week.



- The temple was declared a world heritage by UNESCO in 1984.
- The Konark is the third link of Odisha's Golden Triangle, first link being Jagannath Puri and the second link being Bhubaneswar (Capital city of Odisha).
- The Sun Temple is the culmination of Odisha style of Architecture or **Kalinga architecture**, with all its defining elements in complete and perfect form.
- It is oriented towards the east so that the first rays of the sunrise strike the main entrance.
- The temple, **built from Khondalite rocks**, was originally constructed at the mouth of the river Chandrabhaga, but the waterline has receded since then.
- The Konark Sun Temple complex has ruins of many subsidiary shrines and monuments around the main temple. Some of these include: **Mayadevi Temple**, Vaishnava Temple, Kitchen, Well 1 and Well 2.
- It is a major pilgrimage site for Hindus, who gather here every year for the Chandrabhaga Mela around the month of February.
- Konark Sun Temple is **depicted on the reverse side of the Indian currency note of 10 rupees** to signify its importance to Indian cultural heritage.

Some of the important Sun temples in India-

- Sun Temple at Unao in Madhya Pradesh
- Sun Temple in Ranchi, Jharkhand
- Katarmal Surya Temple, Almora District, Uttarakhand
- Surya Pahar Temple, Assam
- Martand Surya Temple, Anantnag, J&K
- Dakshinaarka Sun Temple, Gaya
- Suryanar Temple also called as Suryanar Kovil Temple, Kumbakonam
- Surya Narayana Temple, Arasavalli, Andhra Pradesh