

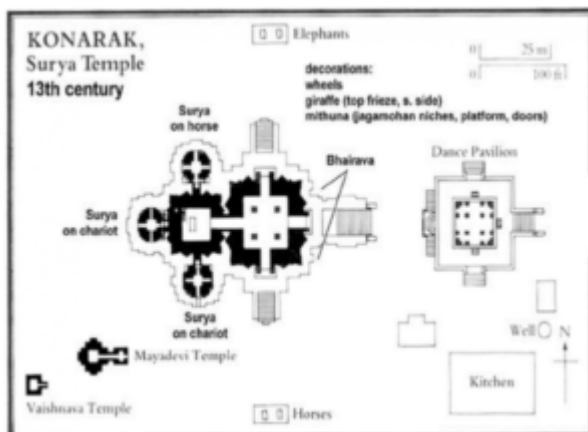
# Konark Sun temple

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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