

Lingaraj Temple



Lingaraj Temple, built in 11th century AD, is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is considered as the largest temple of the city Bhubaneswar (Odisha).

Features

- ✓ It is believed to have been built by the Somvanshi King Yayati I.
- ✓ It is built in red stone and is a classic example of Kalinga style of architecture.
- ✓ The temple is divided into four sections - Garbha Griha (sanctum sanctorum), Yajna Shala (the hall for prayers), Bhoga Mandap (the hall of offering) and Natya Shala (hall of dance).
- ✓ The sprawling temple complex has one hundred and fifty subsidiary shrines.
- ✓ Lingaraj is referred to as 'Swayambhu' – self-originated Shivling.
- ✓ Another important aspect of the temple is that it signifies the syncretisation of Shaivism and Vaishnavism sects in Odisha.
- ✓ Perhaps the rising cult of Lord Jagannath (considered an incarnation of Lord Vishnu) which coincided with the completion of the Lingaraja Temple had a role to play.
- ✓ The presiding deity in the Temple is known as Hari-Hara; Hari denotes Lord Vishnu and Hara meaning Lord Shiva.
- ✓ The temple is out of bounds for non-Hindus.
- ✓ The other attraction of the temple is the Bindusagar Lake, located in the north side of the temple.
- ✓ On the western banks of Bindusagar, lies the garden of Ekamra Van named after the Hindu mythological texts where Bhubaneswar the capital city of Odisha was referred as Ekamra Van or a forest of a single mango tree.