

The following is a description of the temple and its accessory structures.

#### The Sun Pillar

In front of the entrance to the eastern gateway there is the beautiful Sun Pillar (*Aruna Stambha*), which originally stood before the temple of the Sun at Konarak and was shifted here by the Marathas. The Sun Pillar is a monolithic shaft of chlorite with sixteen sides. It is 25 feet, and 2 inches\* in height, 2 feet in diameter, and 6 feet and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in circumference. It stands on an exquisitely carved pedestal (made of chlorite) of 7 feet 9 inches square and 6 feet high, and has a capital on the top  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, over which squats the praying *Aruna*. The capital is formed of two rings surmounted by a series of lotus petals. The measurements thus give a total height of 33 feet 8 inches from the ground to the top of the capital. In its present situation the pillar is about two centuries old, but its execution dates from the early part of the 13th century.

#### Enclosures

The temple has two big concentric walls and four gates both in outer and inner walls. The outer wall of the temple is known as Meghanada Prachira (665 ft.  $\times$  640 ft.) and the inner wall is known as Kurma Bedha (420 ft.  $\times$  315 ft.). The height of the outer wall varies from 20 ft. to 24 ft. with serrated battlement on its top. The loftiness of the walls proves that the temple had served the purpose of a fort. This is corroborated by the fact that at the time of the Muslim invasion the civilians as well as the soldiers took shelter inside the compound when certain portions of it were damaged. There is no historical evidence to prove when the outer and the inner walls were constructed. But from the Madala Panji and the local tradition it is known that these were built not earlier than the 15th century A. D.

#### The Gates

In the temple of Jagannath there are four gates both in outer and inner enclosures. The eastern entrance of the outer enclosure is called Simhadwara or the Lion Gate. The entrances on the southern, western and northern sides of the outer enclosure are known as Aswadwara, Vyaghradwara, and Hastidwara respectively. They are also called as Purbadwara, Dakhinadwara, Paschimadwara, and Uttaradwara according to their directions. Worshipping the gates also forms a part of the daily ritualistic service of the temple. The eastern gate is beautifully ornamented. *Navagraha* reliefs are carved on the architraves of all the gates.

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1 foot = 0.3048 metre.

1 inch = 0.0254 metre.