



CENTRE FOR INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEM

"TEMPLES" THE ANCIENT SCHOOLS

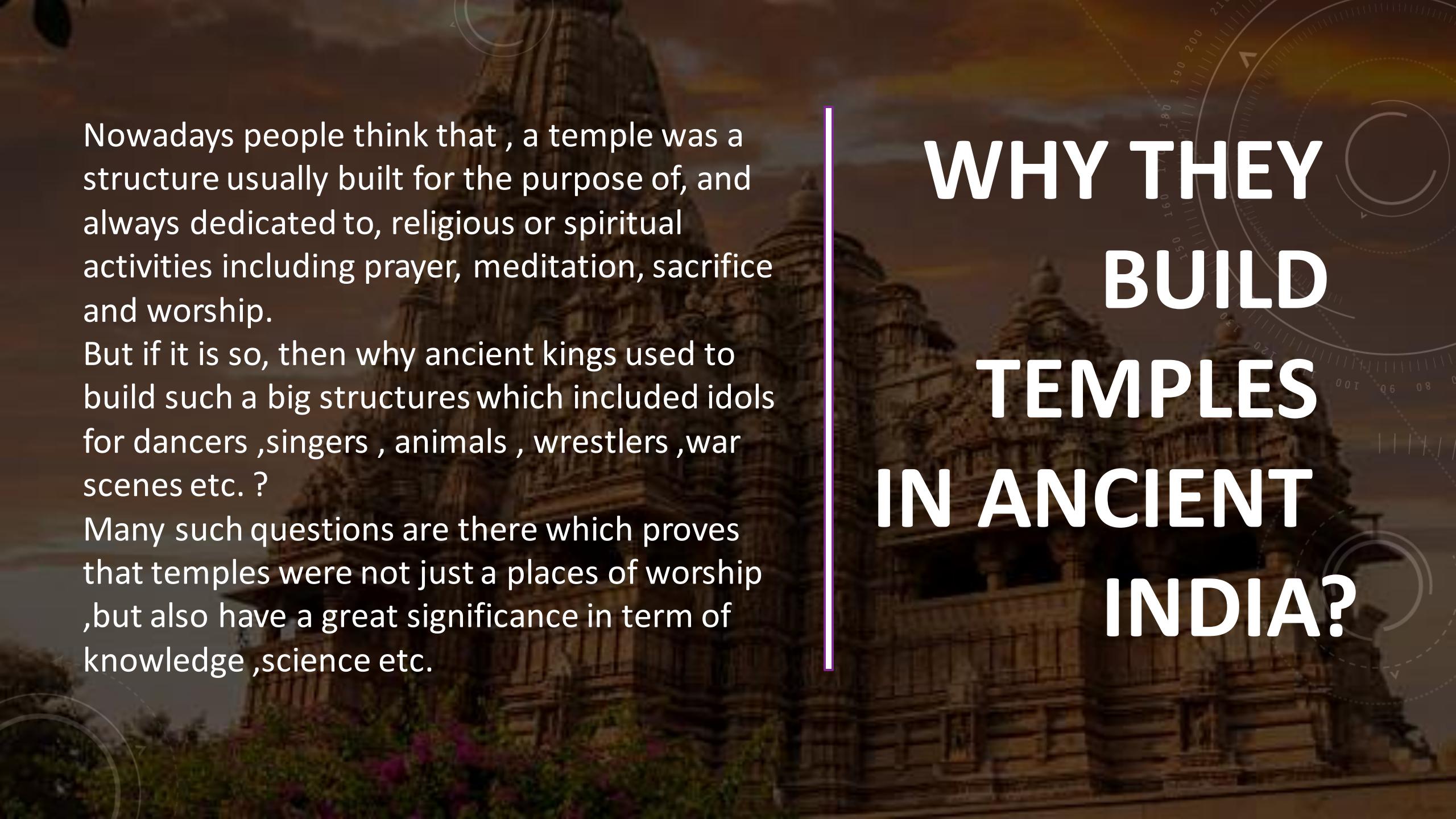
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WHY THEY BUILD TEMPLES IN ANCIENT INDIA?

Nowadays people think that , a temple was a structure usually built for the purpose of, and always dedicated to, religious or spiritual activities including prayer, meditation, sacrifice and worship.

But if it is so, then why ancient kings used to build such a big structures which included idols for dancers ,singers , animals , wrestlers ,war scenes etc. ?

Many such questions are there which proves that temples were not just a places of worship ,but also have a great significance in term of knowledge ,science etc.

THEN WHAT WAS THE ACTUAL REASON OF BUILDING A TEMPLE?

No doubt temples were the place where we can worship our god and dieties, but it is not the only objective of building such a giant structures , spending lot of money and years.

Actually, temples were originally build for giving the knowledge of science, art ,astrology ,engineering etc. They act as a school or a museum which conserve the art and scientific knowledge in different forms like stone idols .

This project is the collection of our research and part of knowledge which we gain about temples.

In this project we tried to prove our point with the help of Konark Sun Temple of Odisha.

KONARK SUN TEMPLE

Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century CE (year 1250) Sun temple at konark is about 35 kilometres (22 mi) northeast from Puri city on the coastline in Puri district, Odisha, India. The temple is attributed to king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty about 1250 CE.

Dedicated to the Hindu Sun God Surya, what remains of the temple complex has the appearance of a 100-foot (30 m) high chariot with immense wheels and horses, all carved from stone. Once over 200 feet (61 m) high, much of the temple is now in ruins, in particular the large shikara tower over the sanctuary; at one time this rose much higher than the mandapa that remains. The structures and elements that have survived are famed for their intricate artwork, iconography, and themes, including erotic kama and mithuna scenes. Also called the *Surya Devalaya*, it is a classic illustration of the Odisha style of Architecture or Kalinga architecture.

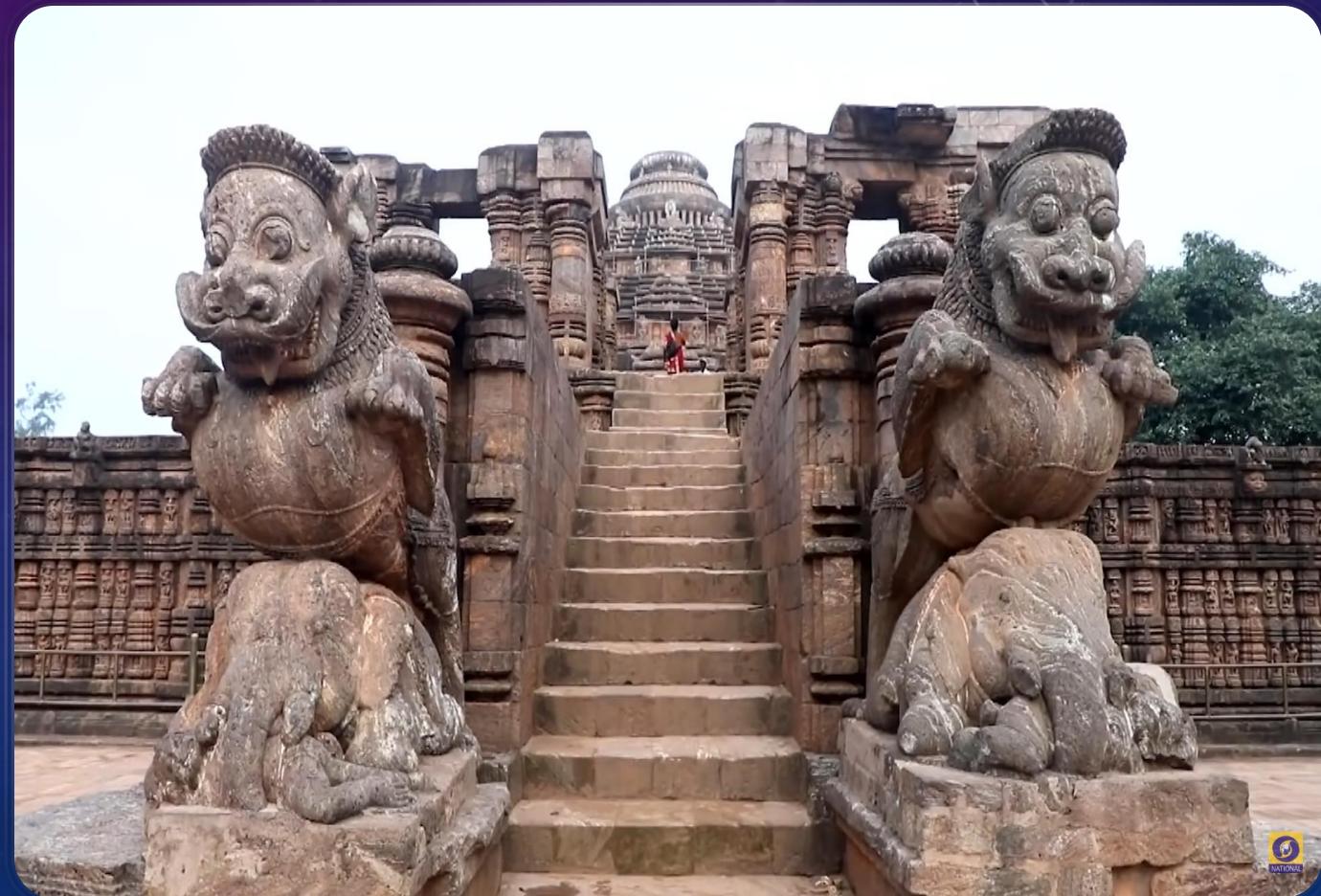
ENGINEERING MARVEL – SUN TEMPLE

- This temple is fully made up of only stones .
- Stones are connected with each other with the help of molten metal strips ,which makes it still standing as it is .
- The way they constructed It before 750 years ago is still an engineering marvel ,in sense of strength ,science as well as beauty .

LETS ENTER IN THE KONARK SUN TEMPLE

As we can see in our left ,this is the main entrance of sun temple. Here we can see that a elephant is crushing a man ,and over which lion is crushing the elephant.

Here elephant represent wealth and lion represent ego or power which depicts a harsh reality of human life that the man is always destroyed by its wealth and ego.



WHAT WE SEE WHEN WE REACH UPTO THE STAIRS

- When we reach upto stairs we see a gaint temple which is build in the form of a chariot or rath .
- This chariot represent chariot of sun god as depicted in old hindu historic texts.
- This chariot consist of a big temple which contains three idol of sun god (morning sun with smiling face ,noon sun with no emotion face and evening sun with sad face) ,24 wheels (representing 24 hours of the day) and 7 horses pulling the chariot as mentioned in hindu texts which represent seven days according to historians.
- But when asked from locals ,we can get the information that these seven horses actually was colored in seven different colours, which represent the seven colours of spectrum of light.
- The interesting thing is that this temples was build several hundred year before the discovery of spectrum of light.



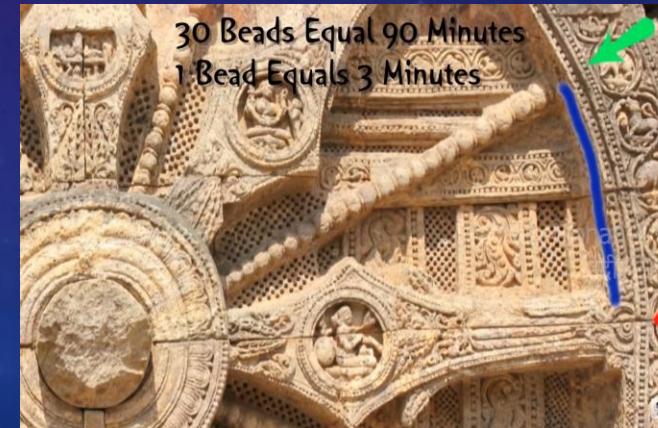
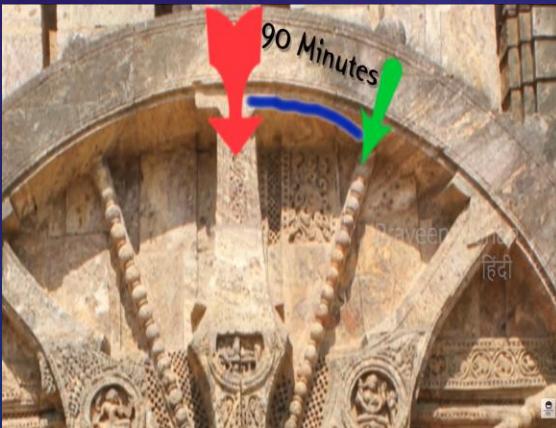
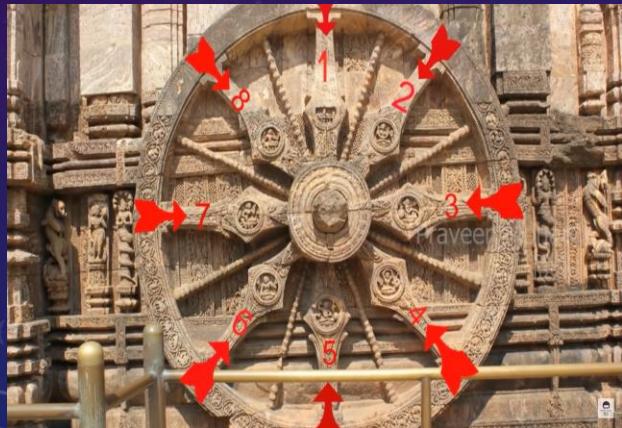
THE INCREDIBLE WHEELS

- There are total 24 wheels of this chariot representing 24 hours in a day.
- But there is something much more interesting about these wheels . That is ,these wheels can show exact time upto a minute ,with the help of sunlight throughout the day.



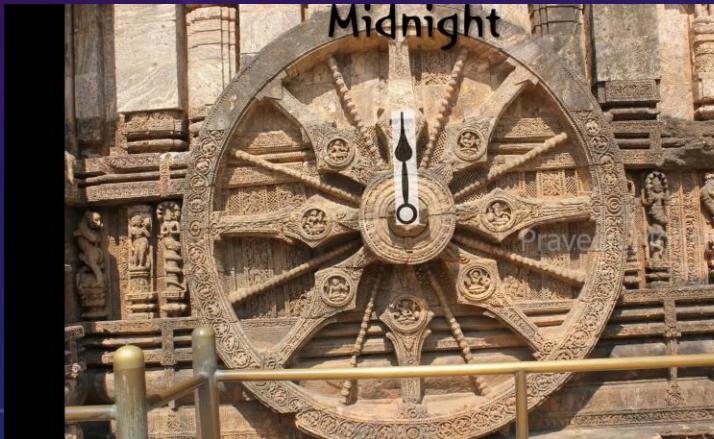
HOW TO SEE TIME USING THESE WHEELS

Radius of these wheels is around 3 m ,whose circumference is divided in 8 equal parts(each part of 3 hours) with help of strips in the wheel ,which is furthur devided in two equal part which smaller strip (each part 90 minutes) ,which is continued by 30 beads(each of 3 minutes),which can be further divided in 3 parts each representing a minute.



HOW TO SEE TIME USING THESE WHEELS CONTINUED

- The topmost strip represent time of midnight ,so the leftmost strip represent 6 AM.
- Now if we put our finger or a rod at the tail of animal at the center of wheel(as shown in image 3)the bead where the image is forming can show us exact time upto minute.
- Mainly two wheel can be used during day time one upto noon and other after noon.
- We can also use these wheel to determine see the time at night using moons light .



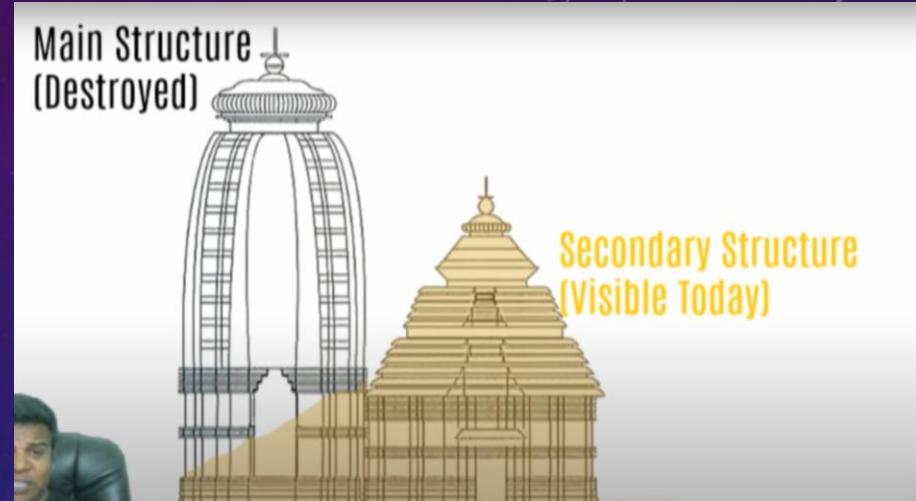
DETERMINATION OF SEASONS

- On these wheels there many small carving which represent different seasons, like blooming flowers and leaves represent spring whereas monkeys mating pictures represent winter .
- We can also see a woman seems to be just woke up, and is stretching her body (at right images) shows its morning time.
- Also there are total 24 wheels , is other 22 wheels also have some scientific significance? Nobody knows ,our knowledge of ancient science is limited .Even we can't get upto 1 % of it.



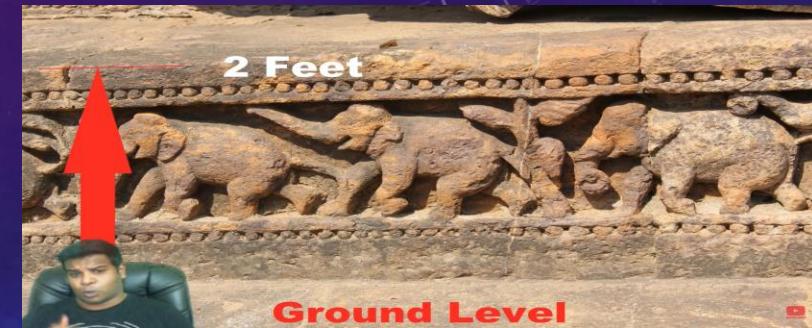
LETS CLIMB THE CHARIOT OR RATH

- When we reach to the main temple we can see that the temple is almost destroyed by invaders and now only outer walls is present ,which are also vary poor in condition .
- But still there are many attractive and knowledgeable things we can see on outer walls .
- The outer walls is fully carved and covered with the idols of animals ,dancers, wrestlers , erotic idols and idols of gods at the top .
- These idols and carvings can be divided in groups with the height and age group as shown in the picture.



LEVEL 1 : AN ANCIENT ANIMAL PLANET

- The first level of the division which was done in previous slide is for age group below 5 years . It consists of carvings of animals for childrens .
- It is like a animal planet or a national geography channel for the childrens who visited that temple.
- Lowest layer contains carvings of elephants ,birds and other animals.



LEVEL 2 : THE DANCING AND SINGING CLASSES

- Level 2 is build for the age group 6 to 10 years.
- This is the best period for entering the field of art like dancing and singing.
- Layer two contains enormous amount of idols of dancers and singers.
- There are 128 position images of the local classical dance form of the region - "Odishi"



LEVEL 3: KNOWLEDGE OF GAMES

- At the age of 11 to 15 ,a child always want to play games .
- That's why the third layer contains idols depicting games like wrestling, tug of war etc.



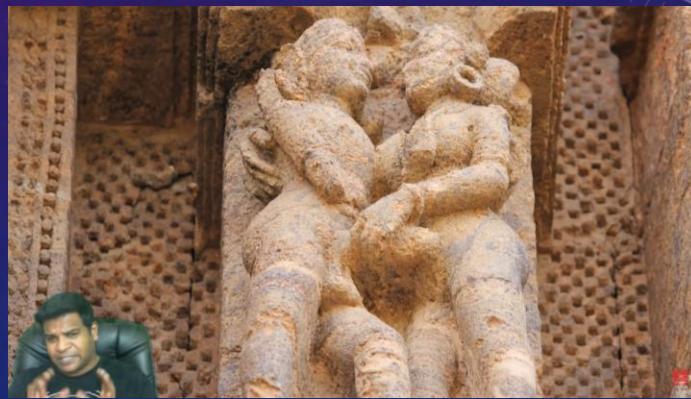
LEVEL 4 : AGE GROUP 15 TO 20 YEARS

- This is the best time to give the knowledge of army ,horseriding ,administration and law.
- We can see many carvings of horseriding,adminstration and many other such carvings at this level.



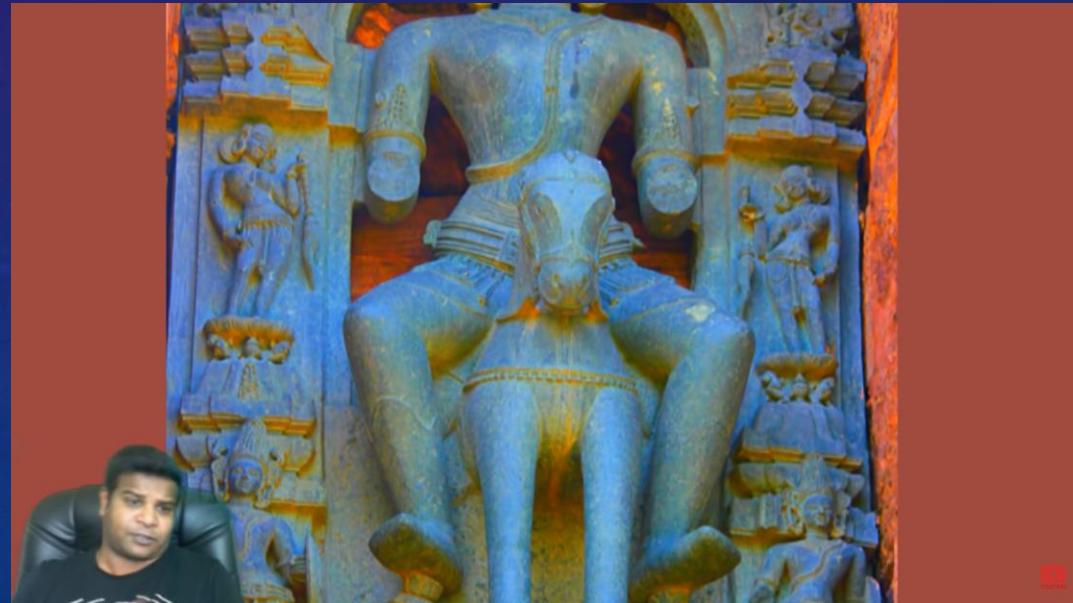
LEVEL 5 : SEX EDUCATION AND REPRODUCTION

- It is only india where knowledge of reproduction were given in the temples.
- There are many erotic carving showing fashion at that time and sex positions at level 5 for the age group of 20 to 25 years.
- These positions are made according to ancient indian text kamshastra.
- There also a strange carving of a women standing on fire just after giving birth to a child. This ritual is still followed by local tribe in that region after delivery of child. They believe it protect them infection and by this they become ready to work just after a day of delivery of child.



LEVEL 6 : GODS (AGE OF 25 +)

- As we go above 5th level we can see idols of gods and heavenly bodies.
- This shows that god is supreme of everything and a person who can overcome the lust and attraction from the erotic idols of level 5 can only see the god.
- They want to tell us that after the age of 30 ,a soul should start to focus on supreme god.



OTHER INCREDIBLE CARVINGS

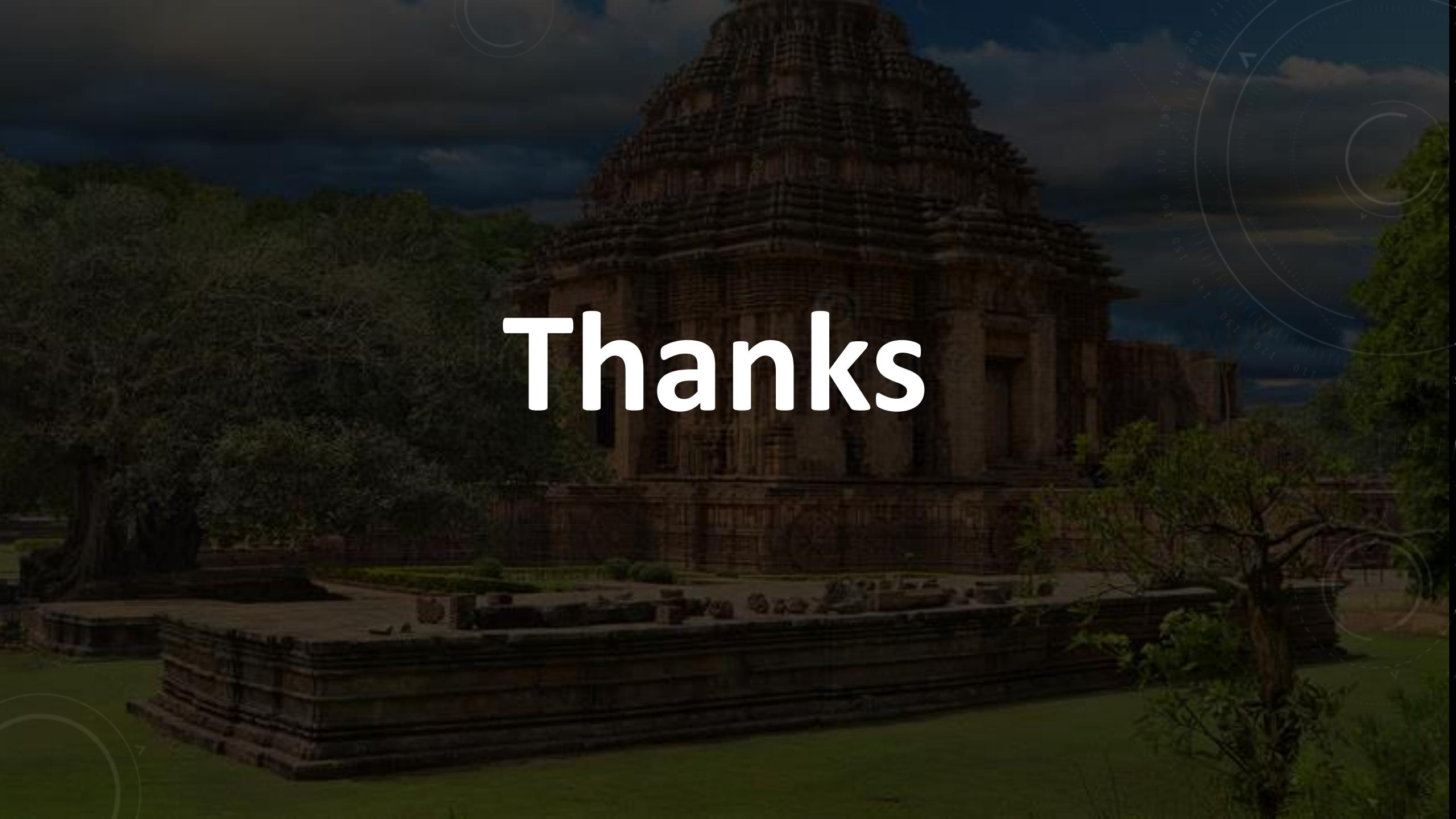


CONCLUSION

As stated earlier ,it is very unfortunate that invaders destory most of our temples , books and other resources, but still we have a great collection of knowledge in form of temples and ancient books.

At the present we cannot decode these information fully but still we should work on these things.

We can conclude that temples were and are the great source of knowledge whether it is about religious aspect or social .



Thanks