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Do you know?

The Stone wheels at Konark Sun temple serve as massive Sundials. People still use it today to tell time. It has 8 major spokes that divide 24 hours into 8 equal parts, which means that the time between two major spokes is 3 hours.



There are 8 minor spokes as well. Each minor spoke runs exactly in the middle of 2 major spokes. This means that the minor spoke divides the 3 hours in half, so the time between a major spoke and a minor spoke is an hour and half or 90 minutes.

The edge of the wheel has a lot of beads. There are 30 beads between a minor and a major spoke. So, the 90 minutes are further divided by 30 beads. This means that each bead carries a value of 3 minutes.

The beads are large enough, so you can also see if the shadow falls in the center of the bead or on one of the ends of the bead. This way we can further calculate time accurately to the minute.

Massive Sundials of The Konark Sun Temple were built in 1250 CE during the reign of the Eastern Ganga King Narsimhadeva I, from stone in the form of a giant ornamented chariot dedicated to the Sun god, Surya.

In Hindu Vedic iconography Surya is represented as rising in the east and traveling rapidly across the sky in a chariot drawn by seven horses.

The Konark temple presents this iconography on a grand scale.

It has 24 elaborately carved stone wheels which are nearly 12 feet (3.7 m) in diameter and are pulled by a set of seven horses. When viewed from inland during the dawn and sunrise, the chariot-shaped temple appears to emerge from the depths of the blue sea carrying the sun.