# The Divine Pran Pratishtha of Lord Jagannath at Emami Paper Mills, Balasore Odisha

**Emami Group**, one of the highly respected business conglomerates in India has built a brand new Jagannath Temple, at Balagopalpur, Balasore, Odisha.  The *Pran Pratishta* ceremony of the divine idol of **Lord Jagannath**  at this new temple constructed by  Emami Group in the divine presence of Shri Jagannath Sai Mohapatra Dwaitapati, the Head Priest of Puri's Jagannath Temple  being held between 27th – 30th November, 2015.

The temple located close to the newsprint and coated board manufacturing unit of Emami Paper Mills Limited, is the outcome of the spiritual vision **of Sri R S Agarwal and Sri R S Goenka**. Their spiritual passion started taking the shape of a reality when they met noted architect and sculptor **Padma Vibhushan Sri Raghunath Mohapatra** in 2009.

This Temple, a one of its kind in architectural magnificence in Northern Odisha as well as in the country, is built on approx. 3 acres of land and is designed by Padma Vibhushan Raghunath Mohapatra.  The Temple houses  idols of Lord Jagannath and other deities. Shri Mohapatra, is an eminent sculptor of stone carving and an authority of Hindu temple design. He belongs to the family of sculptors who had carved the Sun Temple at Konark and the 12th century Sri Jagannath Temple at Puri.

**The Temple Campus**

There are five temples inside the campus besides a well-designed Kalyan Mandap. While the temple of Lord Jagannath has been built in an area of 4,300 sqft, the temples of Lord Shiva, Maa Bimala, Goddess Laxmi, Lord Ganesh and Sankat Mochan Hanuman have been built in an area of 380 square feet each.

The three idols of Jagannath (3.1 feet), Balabhadra (3.2 feet) and Subhadra (2.8 feet) are installed on the Ratna Mandap inside the sanctum sanctorum and regular puja to be conducted by priests from Puri every day and a variety of traditional bhoga would be available for devotees. Important festivals will be celebrated at the temple premises and traditional anna-bhog is to be offered to devotees.

**Temple Architecture**

Built in sand-stone, the architecture of this temple follows the classical pattern of the Sri Jagannath temple of Puri where the main tower, rises above the inner sanctum that houses the deities and a subsidiary tower rising above ante-hall. In front of the main temple there is Aruna Stambha. It appears as if the temple is built on the wheels of a big chariot.

The temple consists of four structures - the Vimana or Bada Deula sanctum sanctorum, the Jagamohan or Mukhasala (the porch), the Natamandir (the audience hall) and the Bhogamandap (the hall for residuary offerings) built in a row in an axial alignment in east-west direction. The temple faces the east. Navagraha figures adorn the upper architraves.

The temple complex is surrounded by a rectangular wall (Meghanada Prachira) and the main entrance faces the rising sun. There are four gates on all four sides in both the walls. The main gate is called the Simha Dvara or the lions gate, because of the two huge statues of lions in its front.

The temple complex covers four exclusive blocks. The main temple is about 61 feet high and is built on elevated ground of 22 rising steps making it look more impressive. There is a wheel on top of the Jagannath Temple made of an alloy of eight metals (asta-dhatu). It is called the Nila Chakra (Blue Wheel). The temple complex also annexes a kitchen complex and living rooms for the priests.

**Paintings on the Roofs and Side Walls of the Temple**

The roofs and inner walls of the temple have been painted with the exquisite art of Pattachitras of the popular themes like Krishna Lila - enactment of Jagannath as Lord Krishna displaying his powers as a child, Dasabatara - the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu and different forms of lord Jagannath. Pattachitra style of painting is one of the oldest and most popular art forms of Odisha. Pattachitra is manifested by rich colourful application, creative motifs and designs, and portrayal of simple themes, mostly mythological in depiction.

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