



Puri Jagannath Temple's Ratna Bhandar

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Why in News?

Recently, the demand to open the **Ratna Bhandar (treasure room)** of the [Jagannath Temple](#) is growing louder again. The treasure room at the temple has not been unlocked for three decades.

What is Jagannath Temple's Ratna Bhandar?

▪ About:

- The precious ornaments of sibling deities, **Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra**, given by devotees and erstwhile kings over centuries, are stored in the Ratna Bhandar of the **12th century shrine**.
- The Ratna Bhandar consists of two chambers: the **Bhitar Bhandar (inner chamber) and the Bahara Bhandar (outer chamber)**.
 - While the outer chamber is opened regularly to fetch ornaments for the deities during important rituals and festivals, the inner chamber has not been opened in the past **38 years**.

▪ Demands for Opening the Ratna Bhandar:

- The demand to open the Ratna Bhandar has gained momentum due to concerns over the **chamber's structural integrity**.
 - The [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#), the custodian of the temple, requisitioned the chamber for repair and conservation due to apprehensions of cracks in its walls, which could endanger the priceless ornaments stored within.

Jagannath Temple

- The **Jagannath temple** located in **Puri, Odisha** is a sacred temple devoted to **Lord Jagannath** along with his brother **Lord Balabhadra and sister Devi Subhadra**.
 - It was constructed by a famous king of Ganga Dynasty **Ananta Varman Chodaganga Deva** dating back to **12th century**.
 - It is known as the **"White Pagoda"** and one of the **four pilgrimage sites of Char Dham Pilgrimage**.
- It is an outstanding example of **Kalinga architecture**, featuring distinctive curvilinear towers, intricate carvings, and ornate sculptures.
 - It is enclosed by a **high wall with four gates**, each facing a cardinal direction.
- It is also called as **'Yamanika Tirtha'** where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the **power of 'Yama', the god of death**, has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.
- **Associated Major Festivals:** Snana Yatra, Netrotsava, **Rath Yatra**, Sayan Ekadasi.

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