



Time Capsules

Why in News

The Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has denied reports about placing of a time capsule under the ground at Ram Temple construction site in Ayodhya.

- The Time Capsule, also known as **Kaal Patra**, was supposed to contain the history of Ayodhya and Rama Janma Bhoomi Movement.

Key Points //



Time Capsule at IIT Kanpur

- Time Capsule is a **container** of any size or shape, which **accommodates documents**, photos and artefacts typical **of the current era** and is **buried underground**, for **future generations to unearth**.
- To ensure that the capsules do not decay they are **built using special engineering techniques**

like **steel or aluminium encasing, vacuuming, use of acid-free paper**, etc.

- The time capsules mostly **have a scheduled time for reopening**, and are supposed to be buried again after opening, with people of the future adding their own contributions to the time capsule.
- The **International Time Capsule Society (ITCS)**, based in the USA and formed in 1990, is **now defunct** but continues estimating the number of time capsules in the world.
 - As per its database, there are **10,000-15,000 times capsules worldwide**.

Famous Time Capsules in the World

- **Samuel Adams and Paul Revere Time Capsule:** It is the **oldest known time capsule** from 1795 (USA).
- **The "Century Safe":** The **world's first planned time capsule** was established at Philadelphia Centennial Exposition (USA) in 1876. It was opened and resealed in 1976.
- **The Crypt of Civilization in Georgia:** It was built around 1940 at Oglethorpe University in Brookhaven, Georgia and is scheduled for opening in the year 8113 AD. It is a project to preserve all human knowledge and was the brainchild of **Thornwell Jacobs**, also known as **father of time capsules**.
- **The Voyager and Voyager II Spacecraft:** They are currently circling on the **edge of our solar system**. These capsules were created by NASA to be seen by future generations.

Time Capsules In India

- **Outside the Red Fort:** This was placed underground in 1972 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was dug out by the subsequent government in 1977. It raised a **controversy** as it was said to glorify Gandhi Nehru family in Indian History.
- **At IIT Kanpur Campus:** This time capsule was buried on 6th March, 2010 containing details on IIT Kanpur in the form of documents, photographs, and films.
- **At The Alexandra Girls' English Institution, Mumbai:** It was set up in the 19th century and is scheduled to be opened in 2062. It contains information on the school.
- **At Jalandhar's Lovely Public University:** It was buried in January 2019 and contains 100 items that represent modern-day technology in India.

Significance

- Time Capsules are intended as a **method of communication with future** people.
- They are also supposed to help future **archaeologists, anthropologists, or historians** in knowing about the past human civilisation.

Criticism

- Most intentional time capsules are filled with a **lopsided view of history**. They are often **politically motivated** and **glorify** the people who planted them.
- They can not be regarded as facts and are **not very reliable**. The information in time capsules has to be verified with other sources of information.
- Many time capsules which have been unearthed were filled with **junk telling little** about the people of the time.

[Source: IE](#)