



Centre Withdrew Draft Heritage Bylaws on Jagannath Temple

Why in News

The Centre has **withdrawn the draft heritage bylaws issued by the [National Monuments Authority \(NMA\)](#)** for Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha.

- The **Odisha Government is demanding withdrawal of the bylaws for temples in Ekamra Kshetra** area of Bhubaneswar as well.

Key Points

▪ Draft Heritage Bylaws:

◦ Background:

- The **government in 2010 formed the National Monuments Authority** under the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010**.
- NMA's **primary role was to prepare heritage bylaws** for the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) listed structures**.

◦ Meaning:

- The **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act 2010** mandates that **monument-specific heritage bylaws** be prepared **to regulate construction activity** near ASI-protected monuments.
- The draft heritage bylaws **need to be approved by Parliament**.

▪ The Case of Odisha:

- The State government considered that the **byelaws would have hampered the grand infrastructure development planned** around 12th century Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri.
- Similar heritage bylaws have been **drafted for two temples** in Bhubaneswar - the **13th century Vaishnava temple of Ananta Basudev** and **Shiva temple of Brahmeswar**, both in the **Ekamra Kshetra** area.

- In 2020, the state government **planned a beautification project** around the area spread across 1,126 acre and develop it into a major tourist attraction.

▪ Jagannath Temple:



- **Construction:**

- It is believed to be constructed in the 12th century by **King Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.**

- **Mythology:**

- Jagannath Puri temple is called '**Yamanika Tirtha**' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death, has been nullified due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.

- **Architecture:**

- This temple was called the "**White Pagoda**" and is **a part of Char Dham** pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram).
- There are **four gates to the temple**- Eastern 'Singhdwara' which is the main gate with two crouching lions, Southern 'Ashwadwara', Western 'Vyaghra Dwara' and Northern 'Hastidwara'. There is **a carving of each form at each gate.**
- In front of the entrance **stands the Aruna stambha or sun pillar**, which was **originally at the Sun Temple in Konark.**

- **Festival:** The World famous [Rath Yatra \(Car Festival\)](#) & Bahuda Yatra.

- **Other Important Monuments in Odisha:**

- [Konark Sun Temple](#) (UNESCO World Heritage Site).
- [Tara Tarini Temple.](#)
- **Lingaraj Temple.**
- **Udaygiri and Khandagiri Caves.**

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010

- **Objective:**

- To preserve, conserve, protect and maintain all ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains declared of national importance, and their surrounding areas up to a distance of 300 meters (or more as may be specified in certain cases) in all directions.

- **Provisions:**

- **No construction or reconstruction is permitted in the prohibited area** (an area up to a distance of 100 meters in all directions from the nearest protected limit of nearby protected monument or protected area declared as of national importance), but repair or renovation is considered.
- In the **regulated area** (an area up to a distance of 200 meters in all directions from the prohibited area of any protected monument and protected area declared as of national importance), **repair/renovation/construction/reconstruction are considered.**
- All **applications** for construction related work in the prohibited and regulated areas are to be **submitted to the Competent Authorities (CA)** and then to **National Monuments**

Authority (NMA) for consideration.

- NMA functions under the **Ministry of Culture**.

[Source: TH](#)

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