



Shree Purusottama Dham otherwise known as ShreeKshetra is one among the Four -Dhams (four divine abodes) in the holy land of India and Shree Jagannath temple in ShriKshetra, Puri in Odisha is considered unparalleled so far as the spiritual and cultural tradition of the world is concerned. Many puranic as well as spiritual treatises, stone-inscriptions, copper plates, ancient palm-leaf manuscripts etc. have given vivid description about the fame and glory of Purusottam Kshetra.

Since the appearance of deities in their wooden manifestation at the sacred Purusottam Kshetra, the kings of ancient Udra, Kalinga, Utkal



## Ratna Bhandar of Shree Jagannath

*Susanta Kumar Dash  
Dr. Bhaskar Mishra*

have directly involved themselves for undertaking the worship and rituals of the four deities. It is known from archival sources, copper plates, *madala panji* (temple chronicles) and other historical sources that right from the kings of Keshari dynasty and Ganga dynasty to the whole regime of Surya Vamshi dynasty ruled by king Kapilendra Dev, Purusottam Dev, Prataprudra Dev and Rama Chandra Dev (Ist), the founder of Bhoi dynasty and many other kings had donated huge amount of wealth and jewellery to the Bhandara of ShreeMandir. Documentary evidence says that in the past, kings and maharajas from the different parts of the country including

king of Nepal and his courtiers had donated large quantity of gold, silver, various gem stones, kasturi (musk), rare shalagrams (Vishnu sila or aniconic representation of Lord Vishnu) to Shree Jagannath. Especially the rarest of rare gem stones, include different types of valuable diamond, *neelam* (sapphire), *moti* (pearl), *manikya* (ruby), *pokharaj*, (yellow sapphire), *prabala* (coral) etc. The Ratna Bhandar of Shree Mandir was enriched with huge quantity of gold, jewellery etc. towards the end of 14<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.

According to the description in Purna Chandra Bhashakosha (an Odia dictionary)



Bhandar refers to a place for accumulating or treasuring wealth. It is a place where articles / commodities are treasured in huge quantity. Bhandara ghar—a room where wealth gets accumulated / where different types of valuable things are stored.

According to the said dictionary, a room where different types of wealth, jewellery & highly valued objects etc. are stored is called “Ratna Bhandar”. It can otherwise be called as the Fabulous Treasury of Shree Jagannath temple or the Divine Jewel House of Lord Jagannath.

As regards the origin of jewels it has been mentioned in the puranic scriptures that Gods could not kill the demon “Bala”. So Gods pretentiously started conducting a yajna. They approached “Bala” and pampered him to make a promise for offering his own body as a sacrificial animal in the yajna. He agreed to the request of Gods and sacrificed himself. Soon after Lord Indra hit his head like thunder and as a result, animated jewels were created in the thunder-smashed head of the demon. The jewels were named as “Vajra” by God. Hence “Vajra” is regarded as another name of jewel. Another version of the tale narrates that by offering his body as a sacrificial animal, the demon “Bala” in return secured a place in the heavenly abode, and his body and mortal remains while being transported to the heaven, most of it fell down on the earth which were found metamorphosed to jewels. Diamonds, Topaz and Sapphire were created out of the places where his bone, skin and bile fell respectively.

Generally jewels are of 35 types. Out of these 9 are considered important / Maharatna. Other than jewels the inferior metals of that category are considered as lesser jewels (such as Kachamani, Sphatika or Marmar).

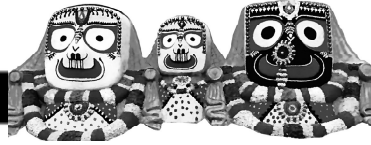
The types of jewels are as follows :

1. Vajra 2. Markat 3. Padmaraga (Topaz)
4. Mouktika (Pearl) 5. Indranila (Bluegem)
6. Mahanala 7. Vaidurya (Cat’s eye or Lehsunia)
8. Chandrakanta (Moon-stone) 9. Suryakanta (Sun-stone) 10. Sphatika (Crystal) 11. Karketan
12. Pushparaga (Yellow sapphire or Topaz)
13. Rajapata or Rajaparjyanka 14. Rajamaya
15. Sougandhika (Padaparadscha Sapphire or Padmarag) 16. Gandha 17. Sankha
18. Brahmamaya 19. Gomeda (Hessonite Garret)
20. Rudraksha 21. Bhallataka (Cashew-nut-shaped Gem) 22. Dhulee 23. Tutwaka 24. Shisa
25. Pillu 26. Prabalaka (Coral) 27. GiriVajra
28. Bhujangamani 29. Tittibha 30. Pinda
31. Bhramar 32. Utpala 33. Gandha Shasyaka
34. Jyotiyak 35. Bhagya.

There are nine sovereign jewels (*maharatnas*). These are other wise known as “Navaratna”. The Maharatna / Navaratna are as follows :

1. Diamond 2. Pearl 3. Coral 4. Yellow stone / Onyx 5. Sapphire / Bluegem 6. Cat’s eye / Lapis Lazuli 7. Topaz 8. Emerald / Samaragdus 9. Ruby / Rubinus.

In holy texts, Ratnas (jewels) have been described as auspicious & beneficial. It has been advised that kings should put on *jayaratna* jewels, studded with gold. In *Garuda Puran* elaborate description has been made about the quality, type, value etc. of different types of jewels. It is pertinent to mention that the word Ratna is used as prefix to some goods and articles. These are as such; Ratna Deepa, Ratna Mali / Ratna Alankar (jewellery) / Ratna Vedi (bejeweled platform) / Ratna Mudrika (diamond ring / Ratna Khachita (gem-studded) / Ratna Bhandar. As per description in holy text, Lord Vishnu Himself is fond of ornaments and jewels.



As the wooden manifestation of deities are worshipped as Lord Maha Vishnu since ancient times, large varieties of ornaments studded with jewels are used in daily rituals, festive occasions and Veshas of Mahaprabhu in Shreemandir.

Various gold ornaments inlaid with diamond, gem, pearl, ruby, lapis lazuli are used during different Veshas of Mahaprabhu. During rest of the times these ornaments are kept in the iron chest (*sindhuka-vault*) in Ratna Bhandar. According to the Record-of-Rights of Shreemandir, these rarest of the rare jewellery are kept in the outer as well as inner chamber of Ratna Bhandar. Usually the ornaments and jewels which are not used by the deities are preserved in the inner Ratna Bhandar.

It has been mentioned in the Gazetteer of Puri district that the wealth and jewellery donated by the Hindu Kings and other benevolent devotees have enriched the Ratna Bhandar. The kings of Keshari Dynasty had constructed different temples in Purusottam Kshetra and they had also donated small quantity of gold as well as landed property for the smooth conduct of rituals and festivals of the said temples. It is learnt from the Raja Bhoga history of *Madala Panji* that the famous king of Ganga Dynasty, Ananga Bhima Dev had donated 47, 88,000 *madha* (half-tola) (one tola is 11.66 grams) of gold to the state ex-chequer after conquering different States. Out of the said quantity of gold, he had donated 2,50,000 *madha* of golds towards the making of gold ornaments of Lord Shree Jagannath and 10,000 *madha* of gold to Ratna Bhandar.

Similarly, King Raja Raja Dev had donated 2377 *Bati* (one bati is 20 acres) of Land to Lord Shree Jagannath and 10,000 *madha* (or 5000 tola) of gold to Ratna Bhandar. Prior to

him Kings of Ganga Dynasty had arranged large extent of landed property for the worship and execution of rituals of Mahaprabhu as well as for the need of the management of the temple. It is clear from the above discussion that the foundation of Ratna Bhandar became stronger during the period of King Ananga Bhima Dev, the renowned king of Ganga Dynasty. From this period, during certain festivals, the four deities used to appear being adorned with different gold ornaments studded with jewels. After the festivals are over these jewellery are kept in the Ratna Bhandar. The culminating point of this arrangement was achieved during the reign of Gajapati King Kapilendra Dev who was the founder of Surya dynasty. By reposing incessant devotion, love and faith in the national deity of Utkal, Lord Jagannath, he had completely surrendered himself before His lotus feet and acknowledged himself as His *Rout* (servant). He had also donated a large quantity of wealth and jewellery to the Ratna Bhandar of Shree Mandir. It is learnt from a stone inscription near the Jaya- Vijaya Doorway that the Gajapati King Kapilendra Dev while paying a visit to Lord Jagannath during his 31<sup>st</sup> regnal year (*Anka*) of his dynasty had donated the entire wealth and jewels he had brought with him after conquering the southern states. Some new ornaments including gold and silver utensils for the deities were crafted and prepared out of his wealth, from his southern victory. All these were kept in the Ratna Bhandar. Some Ministers and high ranking officers during the reign of Kapilendra Dev, made voluntary donations of wealth and jewellery to Lord Jagannath while remaining present in the Jaga Mohan. It has been reported that in 1466 A.D. King Kapilendra Dev with the blessings of goddess Maa Jayadurga after conquering the southern states had brought large quantities of wealth and jewellery on the back of 16 elephants. He dedicated all these wealth and



jewellery to the deities in the Shree Mandir and thereafter as per the request of Tadau Karan Servitor, 138 types of gold ornaments studded with jewels were crafted out of the said wealth and jewellery that he had brought from the south. As per legend, gold adornments (Sunavesha) of the deities on the chariot, were introduced during the reign of Kapilendra Dev. Similarly Purusottamdev during his royal visit to Shree Mandir had donated a bejewelled cot studded with ivory, a bejewelled pot, a bejewelled parasol, a fly whisk and a mop- all with bejewelled hilts.

According to the tradition of Shree Mandir, Kings, Zamindars and benevolent devotees who came from different parts of India and also from Nepal used to donate different types of gold and silver ornaments as well as coins, valuable gem stones and silken sarees (Pata Vastra) during their scheduled visit to Shree Mandir. By 1560 A.D, the Ratna Bhandar of Shree Mandir enriched with valuable treasures and jewels was at par with Ratna Bhandars of other famous temples and had earned its distinct identity. In 1893 A.D. Man Mohan Chakravathy had opined that the ornaments made as per the wish of King Kapilendra Dev during 1466 A.D. are still being used by the deities.

Having developed jealousy and animosity against the richness of the India- famous Shree Jagannath Temple, some heart -chilling attacks on the shrine and loot of the Ratna Bhandar were made. History records how often times in the past, the famous sacred shrine of Shree Jagannath and the secret Store house or the divine treasury, filled with gems and jewellery were subjected to plunder by external forces.

After Odisha came under the reign of British rule in 1805, Charles Grome, the-then Collector of Puri prepared a detailed list of wealth

/ treasure / jewellery kept in the Ratna Bhandar. During that time the list of gold ornaments included Mayur Chandrika (in the shape of peacock feather), Mayur Pankha, Chandra (moon), Surya (sun), Mukuta (large crown), Kiapatra (pandanus leaf shaped) Kundal (hanging ear ring), Alaka, Rahurekha, Shree Bhujra (divine hand), Nali, Bahuti, Sunachakra (golden disc), Nakuasi (nose ornament), Kamar Jhumpa (waist belt), Padma Pada (Lotus feet), Bagha-nakha (tiger nail shaped), Padma Mala (Lotus shaped necklace), Sevati Mala (crysathemum shaped necklace), Parijat Mala (erythrina Indica { a flower of coral tree} shaped necklace), Keli Kadamba Mala (nauclea kadamba shaped necklace), Kanthi mala, Upachar Padaka, Baju Bandha (Bracelet), Suna Benta (golden hilt), Suna mayurchula, Suna chhanchuni (golden broom), Suna beta (golden cane), Jibhi (golden tongue), Tabija (armlet), Suna Jumpha, Suna Naka phashia (golden nose ring), Suna Kanthi (golden beads), Bhanga Suna Gahana (obsolete gold ornaments), Mudi (finger ring), Suna Pia Badi (gold plated stick), Karna phula, Naka Chana (nose top), Chita, Sira Pencha (sarpech or aigrette), Pana Bata (betel container) Gara (bell metal vessel), Thali (disc), Rupa Sankha (silver conch), Para (pigeon shaped), Phula (floral design), Dipa Rukha (Lamp stand), Panadani (betel case), Pankha Benta, Pilli Saja (Dipa Danda), Chua Dani, Chhata Benta (haft of an umbrella), Kansa Darpana Benta (handle of bell metal mirror shape), Rupa Chhauni Khata (silver plated bed), Waist silver chain (silver girdle) for Shree Jagannath, Pana Bata (betel container) having the image of Dasaavatar (ten incarnations), silver crown (15nos.), Silver Flute etc.

Besides the said ornaments, the following jewellery of deity Madan Mohan Dev were also available in the Bhandar.



(1) ear rings ( 10 pairs) (2) kundal 2 nos. (3) padma mala (Lotus shaped necklace) 4 nos. (4) Sevati mala, 3 nos. (5) chhapa sari mala 1 no. (6) different types of necklaces 43 nos. (7) baju bandha (arm let) 6 nos. (8) padak 5 nos. (9) kankana (bracelet) 2 nos. (10) khadu (bangles) 2 nos. (11) alaka (head ornament) 2 nos. (12) nakuashi (nose ornaments) 10 nos. (13) notha (nose ornaments) 2 nos. (14) mudi (ring) 5 nos. (15) mukuta ( crown) 2 nos. (16) khanda (sword) 2 nos. (17) katari ( bill hook) 1 no. (18) dhanu (bow ) 1 no. (19) shara (arrow) 2 nos. (20) jhumpa 9 nos. Different types of golden idols 7 (nos) & silver idols (11 nos.), Pashana (1 no). One south-coiling conch, one Ramavisekha mohar (the gold seal of Sri Rama's Coronations) and one singha jatia tanka (lion- faced coin).

It is worth mentioning that 1000 Ramabhisheka gold coins which were donated by king Rama Chandra Dev (Ist) were not found in the Ratna Bhandar. These were plundered from the Ratna Bhandar during several attacks made on the temple. Besides some of the gold coins have gone missing while these were taken for repair. Only a single coin is still preserved as a mark of memento in the Ratna Bhandar. For the last time in 1978 when the list of ornaments was prepared, the fact of availability of this Ramabhisheka coin came to light. According to the report of the-then Collector, Puri in 1805 there were 128 gold coins, 1297 silver currencies, 106 copper paise, 24 ancient gold currencies including 1333 types of cotton sarees, silk sarees, dhotis and attires were available in the Ratna Bhandar. It is conjectured that during different Veshas of the deities these specially woven silken fabrics were used.

The State Government before taking over the management of Shree Mandir Administration

in 1960, the Shree Jagannath Temple (Administration) Act 1952 was in force. For observance of rituals and worship in the temple, a Record of Rights was prepared. As per the provisions of this Act, Sri Laxman Panda in the rank of a district judge was engaged for preparation of the R-o-R. In the 4<sup>th</sup> part of the R-o-R, a detailed report on the Ratna Bhandar is mentioned. This report says that Ratna Bhandar consists of two chambers. The first chamber is known as outer Bhandar and the rear chamber is well known as inner Bhandar. 150 types of jewellery are stored in the outer Bhandar. These include 3 nos. of *Haridakanthi mali*, *suna shreebhuj*a (golden hands) and *suna payar* (golden feet) having 120 *tola* weight (*tola* or *bhari*, a measure of 11.66 gms). Besides, 3 gold *kirita*s (crown) having 610 *tola*, 434 *tola* and 275 *tola* each are also available in the Ratna Bhandar and these are meant for Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra respectively. Other than these ornaments, various types of jewellery are also available in the Ratna Bhandar. In the inner Bhandar 180 types of ornaments are available which include 74 varieties of pure gold ornaments. The weight of some of the ornaments is more than 100 *tola*. In addition to these ornaments, diamond pieces, ruby, blue gem, emerald, pearl, many rarest of the rare jewel stones, jewellery are stored in the Ratna Bhandar. Other than the above, 146 types of silver utensils and ornaments are also available. The weight of some of the items is more than 500 *tola*. It is worth mentioning that one *tola* is slightly higher than 11 gms because half *tola* is equivalent to 5.83 gms.

According to the prevailing practice out of the three keys of outer Ratna Bhandar, one is retained with the King Gajapati of Puri and two other keys remain in the custody of Shree Mandir



Administration and Bhandar Mekap. Similarly as per Shree Jagannath Temple Act, 1955, two locks of the inner Ratna Bhandar (double lock keys) after being sealed with wax, the keys are kept under the custody of the Managing Committee of the temple. In the 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph of the first part of the report given by the Special Officer, Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri in 1954 there is a mention about Ratna Bhandar on the heading "Property of Jagannath Mahaprabhu". The extract of the report is given below :

"The detailed account regarding availability of jewellery and gemstones of Lord Jagannath at that time has found place at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annexure of the report given by Charles Grome in 1805. Besides this, Patajoshi Mohapatra had also shown a lot of records and documents wherein the detailed accounts of jewellery and gem stones have been reflected. Such account was prepared at the time of change in Government or during the change of kings. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the report he has mentioned that whatever jewels and treasures the pilgrims donate, are kept in the storehouse (Bhandar). It has been mentioned at the 41<sup>st</sup> Chapter of the report that in order to prevent theft, the security guards of the store house, the Bhandar Mekaps were frisked at the time of entry into and exit from the Bhandar. Valuable gem stones are kept under the safe custody of Paricha servitors. In the 46<sup>th</sup> part of the report it has been mentioned that if any unclaimed property found existing in Puri Kshetra can be appropriated for use in the temple."

Further it has been mentioned in the report submitted by Sri Laxman Panda, Special Officer that "many valuable items and items for current use are kept in the Ratna Bhandar. People also called it the 'Jewel House' or Bauna Koti Bhandar or a store house containing valuables worth fifty two crores of rupees. Some also call

it an inexhaustible store house which never becomes empty even after elaborate use. As said earlier, for crafting of the ornaments for the deities, Ananga Bhima Dev had donated a huge quantity of gold and gemstones. As per the prevailing rules and practice, all the gemstones, gold and silken fabrics donated by the pilgrims are kept in this store (Bhandar). As a result of which it can be easily guessed the growing richness of the Bhandar. The kings of Odisha ever assumed their responsibility for the upkeep of the Bhandar which contains enormous wealth; hence in 1926, when King Rama Chandra Dev remained in charge of the temple the following practice was prevalent :

The Ratna Bhandar was sealed with three locks. The inner Bhandar was fastened with two locks. The key of one of the locks was kept with the Superintendent of the temple and the other key was with the Bhandar Nayak or the chief storekeeper. The key of outer Bhandar was kept with the Bhandar Mekap.

The Bhandar Nayak was both the Representative of the Servitors and Nayak of Chhatisha Nijog, the Superintendent was the Manager of the Temple and Bhandar Mekap was an employee of the temple. Since three keys of Ratna Bhandar were entrusted to three different persons, there was no reason to doubt any one of them.

List of articles reflecting all valuables in the Bhandar were prepared regularly and after verification and counting a copy of such list was retained by the Bhandar Nayak. In 1803 when the British Government took over, a list was prepared in 1905, of course prior to this, other lists were also in existence. A final list was, however prepared at the time of appointment of Sri Raj Kishore Das as Manager of the temple.



A book named *Shree Jagannath Mandir Ratna Bhandar Talika* which was printed in the Satyabadi Press at Cuttack reveals that the detailed list of gold, silver and jewellery available in Ratna Bhandar were prepared in 1926. The said list after being certified by the then king was sealed and handed over to the Record Room of the Collectorate. From that period till 1978 a detailed / full-fledged list of availability of articles in the Ratna Bhandar was not prepared. As per the recommendation of the "Shree Jagannath Temple Administration Development Committee" which was formed under the Chairmanship of Sri Sankar Dayal Sharma, His Excellency the-then Governor and also as per the direction of State Government, a detailed list of jewellery and other articles kept in the outer and inner Ratna Bhandar was prepared. At that time six members including the Administrator of the Temple were kept in charge of preparation of the list. Those included were Sri Bhimsen Gochhikar, Member, Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee, Shri Narasingha Das Mohapatra, Addl. Superintendent of Police, Puri, Shri Sachikanta Tripathy nominated Member on behalf of Collector, Puri and Shri Prahallad Ratha, Administrator, Shree Jagannath Temple. The inventory and preparation of list started on 13.05.1978 and was completed on 23.07.1978. Hence, the preparation of the detailed list took 71 days. As mentioned in the list / brochure of 1978, the weight of 367 types of gold ornaments which were in inner Ratna Bhandar was 4364 *bhari* (each *Bhari* is equivalent to 11.66 gm. approximately). Similarly the weight of 231 types of silver ornaments and ritual-related materials weigh 14878 *bhari* and six *anna* (each *anna* is one-sixteenth part of a *bhari*). On the other hand, the weight of 79 types of gold ornaments kept in the outer Bhandar is of 8175 *bhari* and the weight

of 33 kinds of silver materials is 4671 *bhari*. Besides this, in the *Chalanti Bhandar* (store house for every day use) wherein 8 types of gold ornaments weighing 299 *bhari* and one *ana* and 23 types of silver materials weighing 2603 *bhari* 8 *ana* have been kept for meeting the festive ritual needs of the deities.

It is worth-mentioning that 3 categories of jewellery are kept in the Ratna Bhandar. The first category includes the jewellery that are available in the inner Ratna Bhandar are no more in use now. The 2<sup>nd</sup> category of jewellery which are kept in the outer Bhandar are used for different *Veshas* of the deities during festival times. The 3<sup>rd</sup> category of jewellery and worship materials are kept in the *Chalanti Bhandar* to meet the ritualistic need. Accordingly the said 3 categories include 454 types of gold and jewel-studded ornaments weighing 12838 *bhari* 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  and 293 types of silver materials weighing 21153 *bhari*. Out of different gold and jewel-studded ornaments stored in the inner and outer Bhandar, the gold arms, gold feet, crown, gold nose ring (*nakuasi*) studded with jewels, gold *champa kadhi mali*, *karamangia kanthi mala*, *marichia kanthi mala*, *odhiani*, *chhecha kanthi mala*, *Chandra jhumpi*, gold-crown of Madan Mohan, *upachar padaka*, *chhecha sorisia mali*, gold brace-let, gold chain and gold ear rings studded with jewels, gold bael leaf-shaped chain, tiny pitcher – shaped gold necklace (*Jhoba*), gold crown, amulet shaped beaded necklace (*tabiza mali*), *ratna jadita alaka* (head ornament), *ratna jadita suna Chandra jhoti* (gem-studded gold crescent moon-shaped ear ring), *panapatra mali* (betel leaf shaped necklace), *tulasi patra mali* (basil leaf shaped gold necklace), *Gadu*, *chhati*, *pana diba*, silver disc, etc. (Page 33 to 34 not mentioned)."



It is revealed from the RoR of Shree Mandir that out of the gold ornaments studded with diamond and jewels available in the inner Bhandar, 16 diamond pieces are in the pendant, 204 diamond pieces in the jewelled chain, 125 smaller diamond pieces in the other two jewelled chains, 40 diamond pieces in a chain and 16 diamond pieces are fixed in the locket of the said chain, 39 very small diamond pieces in the jewelled chain having enamelled *minakari* art work, 2 small diamond pieces in the *palia* and 12 diamond pieces are also in the locket of the same *palia*. Similarly in the three – pieced 13 jewel studded *sripecha*, 49, 52, 53, 28, 64, 83, 81, 194, 30, 26, 47, 46 and 18 diamond pieces are found to have been fixed respectively.

Elsewhere in the inner store many valuable jewels are found. Besides a solid diamond weighing 10 *bharies*, 11 pieces of *nayak* diamond in a necklace with betel leaf-shaped beads in the jewelled *chita* small and big sized diamond buds, shark –faced bangles, *alaka* studded with diamond, other ornaments like *chandra –jumphi*, armlets and sarpech or aigrette (ear ornaments) are also found studded with diamonds.

Similarly in the outer Bhandar golden hair studded with jewels, a *chita* weighing 125 *bharis* studded with jewel, with one Brahma Jyoti, (diamond in the middle) meant for Lord Jagannath are available. In the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> *bedha* (layer) of the *chita*, 16, 24 and 34 pieces of diamond respectively are found studded. Likewise in the studded jewel *chita* of Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, diamonds and emerald each at the middle are fixed. For assessment of Ratna Bhandar one goldsmith (*jahuri*) was called from Tirupati. But after making an assessment of only 26 ornaments, he

refrained himself from the assessment work. According to him because of insufficient sun light in the Inner Jewel House (Bhandar) it was not possible to carry out the assessment work. Without doing any work for the last 4 days, he simply sat idle on the backside of the bejewelled plat-form.

When asked by some of the servitors, he replied that Shree Jagannath is really Param Brahma. Had it not been true, Mahaprabhu would not have put on a gold crown studded with the rarest of the rare Brahma Jyoti Diamond on His forehead. Citing an example he stated - “if the said rare diamond is worn from one Vishuba Samkranti to another Vishuba Samkranti any material or stone will melt”. Possibly for the said reason the gold *chita* studded with Brahma Jyoti Diamond does not remain on the crown of Lord Jagannath through out the year. As per temple tradition from one Snana Purnima (full moon) day of lunar month *Jyestha* to the eve of *Sravana Amabasya* (new moon) this diamond is not seen on the forehead of Lord Jagannath. As per temple tradition this rarest and unparalleled gold *chita* studded with jewel and diamond does not remain on the forehead of the deities for about 45 days in a year.

In 1978 a detailed list of gold ornaments and other materials of Ratna Bhandar was prepared. In 1984 some valuable jewellery of the deities were taken out from the inner Bhandar for repair. Thereafter the inner Ratna Bhandar has never been opened.

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Susanta Kumar Dash, Special Secretary, GA & PG Deptt., Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Dr. Bhaskar Mishra, Former OSD, Law Deptt., Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

