

Antiquities

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About:

Antiquities returned:

- Vishnu and Lakshmi with Garuda, dating to the 11th century C.E., which was allegedly stolen from a temple in Central India.
- A Chola-era Sambandar bronze idol, a Chola-era Devi idol in stone, bronze idols of Vinayaga, Narasimha with Lakshmi, a wooden idol of Muruga and wooden chauri bearers are other items that had been taken from Tamil Nadu.

Antiquities:

- “Antiquity” is an article or object that is at least 100 years old.
- It could be a coin, sculpture, painting or epigraph, or any object or article taken from a building or a cave, or anything that illustrates the science, art, crafts or customs or religion or literature of a bygone age, or anything of historical interest.
- If it is a manuscript or record of any scientific, historical, literary or aesthetic value, it should be at least 75 years’ old.

- An art treasure is a human work of art, other than an antiquity, declared to be a treasure by the Centre for its artistic value after the artist's death.
- Antiquities in India are governed by **The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 which falls within the purview of the Archaeological Survey of India ("ASI"), Union Ministry of Culture.**

Possession of an antiquity:

- Possession of an unregistered antiquity is a punishable offence under law.
- **Section 14(3)** of the Act makes it mandatory for "every person who owns, controls or is in possession of any antiquity" to register it before a registering officer within 15 days of its coming into his control or possession and obtain a certificate of registration.
- Antiquities can be sold, but only by a licensed person. However, Section 3 of the Act prohibits export of an antiquity by anyone other than the Centre or its agencies.

Punishment:

- A jail term of **six months**, or with fine, or both. Besides, the antiquity is also liable to be confiscated.

Source : [The Hindu](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/antiquities/>

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