

PREVENTION OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF ANTIQUITIES

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Six theft cases have been reported from the Monuments of National Importance. Recovery have been made in four cases. (Annexure I). FIR was lodged in all the cases. None of them has been reported to have moved abroad. No valuation by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has been done regarding the above antiquities.

The Government takes necessary steps towards the prevention of illicit trafficking of cultural property. Besides regular watch and ward staff, Private Security Guards and Central Industrial Security Force have been deployed as per requirement at monuments, sites and museums. Whenever any theft of antiquity is reported; FIR is lodged and 'Look Out Notice' is issued to the law enforcement agencies including Custom Exit Channels to keep vigil to trace stolen antiquity and prevent its export. Efforts are being made to raise awareness towards preserving cultural heritage.

ANNEXURE-I

Details Of Stolen Antiquities from the Monuments of National Importance During the Last Five Years

S.No.	State	Name of Monuments/Sites (from where the antiquities were stolen and location)	Name of object stolen	Year of theft	Status
	Andhra Pradesh	Golingeswara group of Temples, Biccavolu, District East Godawari.	Nandi sculpture	2021	Recovered
	Uttarakhand	Bhairav Temple, Mrityunjay Temple Complex, Dwarahat, District Almora.	Shiva Linga	2021	Recovered
	Jharkhand	Sitagarha Archaeological Excavation Site, District Hazaribagh.	Two sculptures of Buddha in bhumisparsha mudra	2021	Recovered

	Karnataka	Ganpati Amma Shrine of Lakshminarasimha Temple, Marehalli, District Mandya.	Stone idol of Ganpati	2022	-
	Bihar	Village Dattina, P.S Vikram, District Patna.	Image of Vishnu	2022	-
	Tamil Nadu	Parthasarathi and Krishna Temples, Parthivapuram, Vilavancode, District Kanyakumari.	Idol of Vishnu	2024	Recovered

This information was given by Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in a written reply in Rajya Sabha today.

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