

Antiquities and Art Treasure Act-1972

An Act to regulate the export trade in antiquities and art treasures, to provide for the prevention of smuggling of, and fraudulent dealings in antiquities, to provide for the compulsory acquisition of antiquities and art treasures for preservation in public places and to provide for certain other matters connected therewith or incidental or ancillary thereto.

1. Short title, extent to commencement-(1) This Act may be called “The Antiquities and Art Treasure Act, 1972.
2. It extends to the whole of India.
3. It shall come into force on such date as the Central Govt. may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act shall be construed as a reference to the coming into force of that provision
 - (a) 5-4-1976 is appointed as date of enforcement of the Act throughout India (except the State of Sikkim)-Gaz of Ind, 5-4-1976 Pt II S.3 (i) Ext p 977 (GSR 279 (E).

Definition—(1) in this Act unless the context otherwise requires,-

(a) “antiquity” includes-

- (I)
 - (i) any coin, sculpture, painting, epigraph or other work of art or craftsmanship
 - (ii) any article object or thing detached from a building or cave
 - (iii) any article, object or thing illustrative of science, art, crafts, literature, religion customs morals or politics in bygone ages.
 - (iv) any article object or thing of historical interest
 - (v) any article object or thing declared by the Central Govt. by notification in the official Gazette, to be an antiquity for the purposes of this ActWhich has not been in existence for not less than one hundred years and

(II) Any manuscript record or other document which of scientific historical, literary or aesthetic value and which has been in existence for not less than seventyfive years

(b) “art treasure” means any human work of art, not being an antiquity, declared by the Central Govt. by notification in the official Gazette, to be an art treasure for the purpose of this Act having regard to its artistic or aesthetic value.

Provided that no declaration under this clause shall be made in respect of any such work of art so long as the author thereof is alive

(c) “export” means taking out of India to a place outside India

- (d) “licensing officer” means an officer appointed as such under section 6.
- (e) “registering officer” means an officer appointed as such under section 15
- (f) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act
- (2) Any reference in this Act to any law which is not in force in any area shall in relation to that area be construed as a reference to the corresponding law, if any, in force in that area.

(For further details see “Antiquities and Art Treasure Act-1972”)
