

THE ANTIQUITIES AND ART TREASURES ACT, 1972.

The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 was enacted with an objective to control the export business of antiquities and sculptures, to avoid smuggling and fraudulent commercial activities in the antiques, to necessarily acquire antiquities and sculpture for conservation and for other issues related with the subject. The Act was supplemented with the Antiquities and Art Treasures Rules 1973.

The Act defines the term '**Antiquity**' as any sculpture, coin, epigraphs of images, other crafts and art or piece of writing, things or articles separated from caves or structures or the articles, things etc which represents science, expertise, literature, tradition, religion and political affairs from the bygone ages. It further includes articles or things of historical importance, the objects affirmed by the Central government as antiquities which are in existence for hundred or more years and any scripts or documents of historical or scientific value which existed for seventy five years and more.

The Act prohibits any person for conducting of business like selling or offering to sell any antiquity except in accordance with the terms and conditions of '**License**' issued under the Act. The Licensing Officer of Kolkata Circle, Archaeological Survey of India is authorized to issue license for carrying on the business of antiquities. Kolkata Circle has two authorized license holders:

1. **Shri Khudiram Das, 30, Nutanpara, P.O.- Khagra, P.S.- Behrampur, Dist.- Murshidabad, Pin- 742103, West Bengal.**
2. **Shri Sandip Singhvi, Ambika Tower, 40 Dobson Road, P.S. Golabari, Dist. Howrah, Pin Code-711101, West Bengal.**

Registration is an important exercise to preserve the antiquities in national interest. The Act provides the list of antiquities that are to be registered. The provisions as regards registration are applicable to dealers in antiquity as well.

Inventorization and documentation are the two most important aspects of the registration. The Central government is empowered under the Act to appoint Registering officers for issuing the **certificate of registration**. The **Registering Officer** of Kolkata Circle is Shri Goutam Halдар having jurisdiction over the State of West Bengal Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The Director General shall be the authority competent to issue permit for the export of any antiquity and art treasure. To regulate export of antiquities through international exit points, the responsibility of enforcing the legislation rests largely with the Custom Authorities. For this purpose a Deputy Superintending Archaeologist (Customs) has been assigned the duty of examining any object being sent for export. Apart from the Deputy Superintending Archaeologist the Expert Advisory Committee has been formed for the issue of **Antiquity/Non-Antiquity** certificate to help the Customs in the easy discharge of their duties.