

## The Gallery on Lost & Confiscated Items, Purana Qila Museum

### Overview of Major Highlights

Inside the historical structure of Purana Qila, The Central Antiquity Collection Section 'The Gallery on Lost and Confiscated Items' was inaugurated by 'The Current Minister of Culture - Prahlad Singh Patel'. The Gallery is an artwork of rareness which comes under the authorization of ASI and covers approximately 4000 Sq.Ft of the total land. This Museum is curated and designed by using the collective ideas of the Expression Ad Agency and Tagbin.

Authority: ASI

Location: Purana Qila

Project Execution Year: 2019

Area: 4,000 sq.ft

### The Requirement of such Kind a Museum

Antiquity theft is a big business. The 1950s and '60s saw a large number of illegally exported Indian antiques find their way to international art galleries and museums, especially in the US. According to UNESCO, the idols and artefacts stolen out of India was around 50,000 till 1989. The 1972 Antiquities and Art Treasures Act (amended in 1976), banned export of any sort of archaeological object and imposed stricter vigilance on individual ownership. Since then, there has been a concentrated effort to retrieve

### The Current Status of stolen Indian antiquities. Lost and Confiscated Items

A variety of retrieved artifacts are housed at The Central Antiquity Collection Section within the Purana Qila Monument Complex, where a Gallery on Lost and Confiscated Items is designated to showcase the artifacts recovered and identified by the CBI and Enforcement Directorate. The fabrication of the Gallery is an unbeatable exhibition using the right interactive and attractive mediums. The gallery presents a wide range of antiquities from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BCE to 19th Century CE. The Display lays attention on the importance of cultural heritage and focuses on the intrinsic aesthetic qualities and iconography of the artefacts. New technological mediums are used to help visitors grasp hold of the spirit behind the perseverance of the ancient antiques of a costly value. The collection uncovers and connects the audience with the historical significance of different stone kinds, wood sculptures, coins, paintings, metal tools and architectural fragments.

### Move inside the cage of sculptures as does a train:

India's heritage is an emotion which binds the entire nation together. Its history coming from different regions and traditions. Unfolding rich cultural heritage and centuries of revolutionary customs.

In the capital city of India, breathes an ancient fort built in 16th century CE – named Purana quila. The fort marks the throne of Mughal emperor – Humayun.

Inside corridors of this fort is the museum on 'lost and confiscated items'. Expected to attract huge number of visitors from the world. A marvelous journey that takes us to a gallery of treasured sculptures, paintings and idols. These lost items has many stories to tell.

Walkthrough important sculptures, artifacts and paintings inside the gallery which were once stolen and sold in foreign countries:-

- The gallery has a lion sculpture sitting on its entrance, embarking its religious prominence from south India - Sculpture of lion is from south India.
- As we walk ahead, a big panel illustrate story about different sculptures and their elicit trade. Certain overhead arches in the gallery are in fact left intact, preserving gallery's historical importance. That's how along with the lost items, the gallery restores certain patches of its old architecture.
- Form standing female figure flaunting ample jewelry on her body to nayika are some important and elegant portrayal stories kept inside the magnificent glass-boxes.
- A personification of the sacred river standing with children by her side, introducing dynasty of medieval India is an antique stone sculpture of Ganga retrieved and showcased inside the museum for deities. Also find sculptures from dynasty of ancient Karnataka.
- The 1972 antiques and art treasures act amended in 1976 banned export of all kinds' archaeological objects and imposed strict vigilance on their individual ownership. Find these sculptures placed on both the sides of this lengthy cave.
- This marble sculpture of Bhrahma-Bhramani was stolen from an open air museum at Rani-ki-Vav in patan, Gujarat 2001 and got retrieved by ASI in 2012 from London.
- Find antiques attributing to godly aesthetics like the varaha, lady playing flute, narasimha & venu gopal from ancient medieval period preserves godly antiques of ancient importance.
- The tremendously popular and beloved idol of Hindu god – Lord Vishnu will be worshipped as quickly as you will reach the center of the museum. Idol of Vishnu - popular and beloved god of Hindus.
- Weapons made of iron, bronze and other prevalent metals prevalent are displayed inside a big glass box, reflecting their importance since times immemorial. It also displays exhibition of weapons from times immemorial.

### [Straightaway from the Experts Column](#)

The designing of the museum is an acknowledgement of history as well as the projection of India's Cultural consciousness. Mohit Gupta, the Founder and CEO of Expression Ad Agency has favorably remarked "*The return of historical objects is a part of the restoration of India's pride, though there is no platform which displays the recovered artifacts , the Gallery on lost and confiscated items is therefore designed to educate people about its lost heritage using proper mediums*". Speaking of the same values, Saurav Bhaik, The CEO of Tagbin said "*The Gallery provides a holistic understanding of the historical status of the smuggled artefacts or objects. Our team of designers and engineers have incorporated creative narratives and established a detailed and original context about the recovered artifacts*".