



PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF  
SRI LANKA

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF  
NATIONAL IMPORTANCE  
ACT, No. 16 OF 1990

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[Certified on 20th April, 1990]

*Printed on the Orders of Government*

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*Archaeological sites of National Importance*  
Act, No. 16 of 1990

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L.D.—O 2/89

AN ACT TO DECLARE CERTAIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES, SITES, AND REMAINS, ANTIQUITIES, ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND RECORDS AS BEING OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Archaeological sites of National Importance Act, No. 16 of 1990. Short title.

2. (1) The archaeological activities, sites and remains described in the First Schedule to this act are hereby declared, for the purpose of the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution, to be of national importance. Archaeological sites &c. of national importance.

(2) The Minister may, by Order published in the *Gazette*, declare any other archaeological activities, sites and remains not described in the First Schedule to this Act, or any antiquities to be of national importance.

(3) (a) Every Order made under subsection (2) shall come into force on the date of its publication in the *Gazette* and shall be brought before Parliament within a period of one month from the date of the publication of such Order in the *Gazette*, or if no meeting of Parliament is held within such period, at the first meeting of Parliament held after that period, with a motion that such Order be approved.

(b) Any Order made under subsection (2) which Parliament refuses to approve shall, with effect from the date of such refusal, be deemed to be revoked but without prejudice to the validity of anything done thereunder. Notification of the date on which any such Order is deemed to be revoked shall be published in the *Gazette*.

3. (1) The ancient and historical monuments described in the Second Schedule to this Act are hereby declared, for the purposes of the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution, to be of national importance. Ancient and historical monuments and records of national importance.

(2) The Minister may, by Order published in the *Gazette*, declare any other ancient and historical monument not described in the Second Schedule to this Act, or any ancient and historical record to be of national importance.

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Act, No. 16 of 1990**

(3) (a) Every Order made under subsection (2) shall come into force on the date of its publication in the *Gazette* and shall be brought before Parliament within a period of one month from the date of the publication of such Order in the *Gazette*, or if no meeting of parliament is held within such period, at the first meeting of Parliament held after that period, with a motion that such Order be approved.

(b) Any Order made under subsection (2) which Parliament refuses to approve shall, with effect from the date of such refusal, be deemed to be revoked but without prejudice to the validity of anything done thereunder. Notification of the date on which any such Order is deemed to be revoked shall be published in the *Gazette*.

**4. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.**

Sinhala  
text to  
prevail.  
in case of  
inconsistency

[Section 2(1)]

**FIRST SCHEDULE**

**PART I**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND REMAINS**

Any Archaeological reserve under the Antiquities Ordinance (Chapter 188) and any site or remain found therein.

**PART II**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES**

1. Exploration and excavation, of objects, inscriptions, monuments and sites of historical value and the recording of such findings.
2. Conservation, protection and display of ancient monuments and other property of historical value and their layout and environs.
3. Conduct of research into ancient and historical monuments and into material culture of the historic and pre-historic period, and the publication of any findings.
4. Administration of the Antiquities Ordinance.
5. Conduct of research into inscriptions, their translation and publication.
6. Establishment and maintenance of Archaeological Museums.
7. Providing service to visitors at archaeological sites and museums.
8. The preparation of the Register of Ancient Monuments.

[Section 3(1)]

**SECOND SCHEDULE**

**ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS**

Any ancient monument within the meaning of the Antiquities Ordinance (Chapter 188).