



India-US Cultural Property Agreement

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Recently, India and the US signed the **first-ever Cultural Property Agreement (CPA)** to combat the illegal trafficking of cultural artefacts and ensure the return of antiquarian objects to their place of origin.

- The agreement aligns with the [Article 9 of the 1970 UNESCO Convention](#) on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.
- The CPA restricts the importation into the US of **certain archaeological and ethnological material ranging from 1.7 million years ago through 1947**. The list of such items restricted for import will be promulgated by the Government of the US.
 - The US **shall offer to return to India any object or material on the Designate List forfeited** to the Government of the US.
 - Similar agreements exist between the US and countries like Algeria, Cambodia, China, Egypt, and Italy.
- The agreement is the result of year-long bilateral discussions initiated during the G20 meetings. Under [India's G20 Presidency](#), the focus on protecting cultural property has been a top priority.
 - The [Kashi Culture Pathway](#) and the [New Delhi Leaders' Declaration \(NDLD\) in 2023](#) underscored the commitment to fighting illicit trafficking.
- It marks a shift in the global development strategy, emphasising **culture as a standalone goal in the post-2030 development framework**.

Read More: [G20 Culture Ministerial Meeting and B20 Summit 2023](#)

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