



drishti

Natesa: Pratihara Style of Rajasthan

 [drishtias.com/printpdf/natesa-pratihara-style-of-rajasthan](https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/natesa-pratihara-style-of-rajasthan)

Why in News

Natesa, a rare sandstone idol from the 9th century (**Pratihara Style of Rajasthan**) has been retrieved after 22 years by Rajasthan police.



Key Points

- **Description:** The Natesa icon, currently at the Indian High Commission, London, was originally from the **Ghateswar Temple, Baroli, Rajasthan**.
 - It was **smuggled out of the country** in 1998.
 - A few archaeologists behind the '**India Pride Project**' have also taken consistent efforts for the **restitution of the Natesa** icon.

India Pride Project: It is a **group of art enthusiasts who use social media** to identify stolen religious artefacts from Indian temples and secure their return.

- **Features:** The sandstone Natesa figure **stands tall at almost 4 ft.** in a rare and brilliant depiction of Shiva.

A beautiful depiction of **Nandi is shown behind the right leg** of the Natesa icon.

- **Significance:** The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Ministry of Culture should use this restitution as a much-needed impetus to go after thousands of artefacts stolen since the 1960s.

Pratihara Style

- It is a **famous temple architecture** belonging to the **Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty** of Rajasthan.
- They ruled much of Northern India from the mid-8th to the 11th century.
- **Significant Rulers:** Nagabhata II, Mihir Bhoj, Mahendra Pal I
- **Style:** The architecture is known for their sculptures, carved panels and open pavilion style temples belonging to **Nagara Style of temple Architecture.**
- They used most common sandstones for idols that have various shades of red, caused by iron oxide (rust).
- The greatest development of their style of building is at **Khajuraho**, Madhya Pradesh, now a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.**

Source: TH