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## Natesa: Pratihara Style of Rajasthan

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### Why in News

**Natesa**, a rare sandstone idol from the 9<sup>th</sup> 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-8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> 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**