

Murugan idol stolen from Pallava-era temple traced to U.S.

The stone idol was stolen in 2000 from a Shiva temple at Thachur in Kallakurichi district; Idol Wing CID working on bringing it back to India

R. Sivaraman
CHENNAI

The Idol Wing CID, with the assistance of Homeland Security Investigations, U.S., has traced a stone idol of Lord Murugan, which was stolen from a 7th Century Pallava-era temple at Thachur in Kallakurichi district and smuggled into the United States.

Additional Director-General of Police (ADGP), Idol Wing, Shailesh Kumar Yadav, told *The Hindu* that the Idol Wing CID launched an investigation on a complaint preferred by S. Periyasamy. According to the complainant, the ancient Shiva temple had 13 stone idols of various deities. Much of the temple was destroyed during invasions by Malik Kafur and other Mughal kings. Portions of the structure had disintegrated, and were buried. However, some of the idols were lying on the ground. In 1998, the villagers resumed worship of the idols in the dilapidated temple. The idol of Lord Murugan was stolen from there in 2000. However, no complaint was lodged at the time.

On hearing about the recovery and restitution of three idols which had been stolen from Adhikesava Pe-



The stone idol of Lord Murugan, which was stolen from a Shiva temple in Thachur and smuggled into the United States.

The Idol Wing CID conducted the probe with the assistance of Homeland Security Investigations, U.S.

rumal Temple in Ulundurpet, Mr. Periyasamy lodged a complaint on August 3 and urged the Idol Wing to trace the idol stolen from the temple in Thachur.

On the orders of Mr. Yadav, a team took up the investigation. The officers visited the temple and inquired with the villagers. They perused a book called *Thadayam*, which provided clues about the temple and the idols.

Mr. Yadav said: "After conducting a search online, analysing the information from the old case files and comparing the photograph of the Murugan idol with a list of idols confiscated by Homeland Security Investigations, U.S., we were able to trace the idol that was stolen from the temple. A thorough investigation is being conducted with the help of Homeland Security Investigations, and action will be taken to retrieve the stone idol of Lord Murugan by filing a request under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with the U.S. through the Union Ministries of Home and External Affairs."

Chandrayaan-3 lander undergoes deboosting

The lander is slowed down to move it to lower orbit; ISRO plans to carry out second such operation tomorrow; the lander will have the capability to soft land at a specified lunar site and deploy the rover; the lander and the rover have a mission life of one lunar day, which is 14 earth days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the lander module of India's third moon mission Chandrayaan-3 got separated from the propulsion module, it successfully underwent a deboosting operation on Friday.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said that the lander module successfully underwent a deboosting operation that reduced its orbit to 113 km x 157 km.

The space agency plans to carry out the second deboosting operation on August 20.

"The second deboosting operation is scheduled for

August 20, 2023, around 0200 hrs. IST," it said after the first deboosting operation. The lander is expected to touch down on the moon surface on August 23, 2023 at 5.47 p.m.

On August 17, after 44 days of travel, the propulsion module and the lander module successfully separated and embarked on their respective journeys.

"Thanks for the ride, mate! said the lander module. Lander module is successfully separated from the propulsion module. Lander is set to descend to a slightly lower orbit upon a deboosting operation planned for tomorrow around 1600 Hrs., IST," the



Inching closer: The lander module successfully underwent a deboosting operation that reduced its orbit. ISRO

space agency posted on social media platform X after the successful separation.

The lander will have the capability to soft land at a specified lunar site and de-

ploy the rover, which will carry out in-situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface during the course of its mobility.

The lander and the ro-

ver have scientific payloads to carry out experiments on the lunar surface.

The main function of the propulsion module is to carry the lander module from launch vehicle injection till final lunar 100 km circular polar orbit and separate the lander module from the propulsion module.

The propulsion module also has one scientific payload as a value addition which will be operated post-separation of the lander module. The payload will be operational for a period of three to six months. The lander and the rover have a mission life of one lunar day (14 earth days). Meanwhile, ISRO on Fri-

day released two videos of the moon, which were captured by Chandrayaan-3.

The first video shows the moon captured by the Lander Position Detection Camera (LPDC) on August 15, and in the second one the Lander Imager (LI) Camera-1 has taken a video of the moon just after the separation of the lander module from the propulsion module on August 17.

This is the third video released by the ISRO after the launch of the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

On August 6 it shared its first video of the moon as viewed by Chandrayaan-3 during Lunar Orbit Insertion, which happened on August 5.

Esha and Shiva clinch mixed air pistol gold

The Indian pair beats Tarhan and Dikec of Turkey in the match for the yellow metal; the other mixed team of Divya and Sarabjot placed 22nd

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Esha Singh and Shiva Narwal won the mixed air pistol gold to put India second on the medals table in the World Championship in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Friday.

The Indian pair beat Sevvat Tarhan and Yusuf Dikec of Turkey 16-10 in the match for the gold medal. Earlier, Esha and Shiva had topped the qualification with 583 out of 600 in a strong field of 65 teams.

It was the second medal for Shiva, following the team bronze earlier.

China won the mixed air rifle gold defeating Iran 16-2. Overall, the Chinese were on top of the medals



All smiles: Esha and Shiva proudly display their medals.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

table with five gold and two bronze.

The last round of men's qualification and the final for the top-six will be held on Saturday.

The results: 10m air pistol mixed team: 1. India (Esha Singh, Shiva Narwal) 16 (583); 2. Turkey (Sevvat Tarhan, Yusuf

Dikec) 10 (581); 3. China (Jiang Ranxin, Zhang Bowen) 17 (580); 4. Iran (Haniyeh Rostamiyan, Sajjad Lafmejani) 7 (580); 22. India-1 (T.S. Divya, Sarabjot Singh) 574.

10m air rifle mixed team: 1. China 16 (632.7); 2. Iran 2 (632.5); 3. France 17 (631.4); 4. Israel 9 (631.4); 9. India-2 (Mehuli Ghosh, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar) 630.2; 17. India-1 (Ramita Jindal, Divyansh Singh Panwar) 628.3.

Digital innovations in healthcare must be for public good: PM

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
GANDHINAGAR

Innovations in digital healthcare should be opened up for the public good, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, urging G-20 Health Ministers to avoid duplication in funding and facilitate the equitable availability of technology.

"The Global Initiative on Digital Health... will allow countries in the Global South to close the gap in healthcare delivery. It will take us one step closer to our goal of achieving universal health coverage," Mr. Modi said, as part of his address at the ongoing meeting of G-20 Health Ministers in Gujarat's capital.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded the world that health should be at the centre of our decisions, Mr. Modi said, adding that it



Narendra Modi

had also made clear the value of international cooperation, whether in medicine and vaccine deliveries, or in bringing people back home.

Calling resilience one of the biggest lessons during the pandemic, Mr. Modi said that global health systems should be resilient. "We must be ready to prevent, prepare, and respond to the next health emergency," he said.

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Digital innovations must be for public good: PM



G-20 Health Ministers meet, in Gandhinagar, on Friday. PTI

He warned that anti-microbial resistance is a grave risk to global public health and all pharmaceutical advancements so far. With regard to tuberculosis, he said that India was well on its way to achieve elimination ahead of the global target of 2030.

Holistic approach

"In India, we are following a holistic and inclusive approach," Mr. Modi said, adding that India is expanding health infrastructure, promoting traditional systems of medicine, and providing affordable healthcare to all.

The Prime Minister also noted that India believes that holistic health and wellness can help enhance everyone's resilience. The establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat is an important step in this direction and the WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, which is being held alongside the G-20 Health Ministers' meeting will intensify efforts to harness its potential, he said, adding that there should be a joint effort to build a global repository of traditional medicine.

Underlining that health and environment are organically linked, the Prime Minister said that clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient nutrition, and secure shelter were major factors of health. To be healthy is to have one's mind and body in a state of harmony and balance, meaning that health is the very foundation of life, Mr. Modi said.

He welcomed dignitaries on behalf of 21 lakh doctors, 35 lakh nurses, 13 lakh paramedics, 16 lakh pharmacists and many others involved in the healthcare sector in India.