



The 10 Rs. Treasure trove!

Remember as a child when we were told that centipedes (*paisa keeda*) hide treasure underneath them, how we would fanatically go digging

our backyards in search of that treasure? Few of us were even lucky to dig up a coin or two!! But did you know as per the Indian Treasure Trove Act, 1878 if one discovers anything of value exceeding Rs.10 hidden under the soil, then one must report it. If one fails to report, he is liable for punishment of imprisonment upto 1 year or fine or both.

Section 4 prescribes the Procedure on finding Treasure - Whenever any treasure exceeding in amount or value ten rupees is found, the finder shall, as soon as practicable, give to the Collector notice in writing

- (a) Of the nature and amount or approximate value of such treasure;
- (b) Of the place in which it was found;
- (c) Of the date of the finding:

And either deposit the treasure in the nearest Government Treasury, or give the Collector such security as the Collector thinks fit, to produce the treasure at such time and place as he may from time to time require.

This is because; according to the archaic 1878 law, anything you stumble upon is the property of Her Majesty, the Queen! Even after 72 years of independence the sun surely never sets on the British Empire, not as per our laws at least. In fact, if you can daringly take the law into your own hands, skip the notice to the Collector and courier all your treasure-trove findings directly to Her Majesty; A Personal touch works wonders with royalty we hear.

Wondering what happened to the 'finders keepers' logic?

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