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**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA FOR GIFTING OF A RELIC OF ST.
QUEEN KETEVAN BY THE PEOPLE OF INDIA TO THE PEOPLE OF GEORGIA**

The Government of Republic of India represented by the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as "**the Donor**") and the Government of Georgia represented by the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Tbilisi (hereinafter referred to as "**the Recipient**");

Recalling the friendly and cordial ties between India and Georgia;

Recalling that St. Queen Ketevan who was a historical figure and martyred in Persia in 1624 C.E., and was subsequently canonized by Patriarch Zachary of Georgia;

Whereas after her death, some remains of her mortal body were brought to India in 1627 C.E. and interred in the St. Augustine Church complex in Goa;

And Whereas in the year 2005 C.E., excavations in the St. Augustine Church complex in Goa unearthed remains that were subsequently scientifically identified and accepted as relics of St. Queen Ketevan, (hereinafter referred to as the "**Holy Relics**");

And Whereas keeping in mind the great historical, spiritual and religious significance of these relics, and upon a request from Georgia, as a good will gesture, India has agreed to gift **one Holy Relic** to the people of Georgia.

The Parties agree hereto AS UNDER

Article 1

The purpose of this Agreement is to handover as a gift from the people of India to the people of Georgia, **one Holy Relic** (being more particularly described in **Annexure -I** of this Agreement), , which is to be kept on display for the benefit of the people of Georgia as per the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

Article 2

(i) The Archaeological Survey of India ("**ASI**") is the Nodal agency on the side of the Donor to co-ordinate, supervise and pack the Holy Relic for gifting to the Recipient at a place in the Recipient's country, on such date as may be agreed between the Donor and the Recipient.

(ii) The packing of the Holy Relic shall be carried out in a special sealed humidity control case, to ensure that there is no damage to the relic on account of humidity or other pollution related contamination.

(iii) The ASI shall carry out the packing of the Holy Relic in India. Similarly, the unpacking of the Holy Relic shall take place in Georgia by the person/organization so nominated by the Recipient. The Recipient shall inform the Donor, date and time of unpacking. Unpacking shall take place under the supervision and to the satisfaction of the Donor's representatives, present at the time of the unpacking.

(iv) The Donor shall transport the Holy Relic safely from India to Georgia through air to Tbilisi. The Recipient shall ensure its acceptance at the Tbilisi airport. The Recipient and the Donor shall ensure that all necessary clearances including customs clearance and insurance, if any, are obtained before handing over the Holy Relic and requisite documentations are in place to ensure smooth transport of the Holy Relic from India to Georgia.

(v) A formal handing over ceremony shall take place, on a date and venue to be decided for that purpose by the Recipient and the Donor side as per mutual convenience.

Article 3

(i) The Recipient shall put the Holy Relic on display at the Georgian National Museum, Tbilisi, Georgia, or any other place deemed appropriate by the Recipient, in order to ensure that the people of Georgia can view the Holy Relic.

(ii) It is the responsibility of the Recipient to make adequate arrangements for the security and the safety of the Holy Relic wherever it is put on display.

(iii) The Recipient agrees that the citizens of India shall be allowed free entry, on production of passport, into any place where the Holy Relic is put on public display by the Recipient.

(iv) The Recipient agrees that wherever the Holy Relic is put on display in Georgia, the Recipient shall ensure that a properly sized placard will be put adjacent to the display with the following information in English and

Georgian language

"This Holy Relic of St. Queen Ketevan discovered in Goa, India, is a gift from the People of India to the People of Georgia to celebrate the historical, religious, educational, cultural, and emotional ties between the people of these two great nations"

Article 4

- (i) The Donor shall provide copies of all archival, archaeological, historical and other materials, including all scientific reports related to the Holy Relic to the Recipient before sending it to Georgia.
- (ii) At the time of the unpacking of the Holy Relic, as referred to in Article 2 above, the Recipient shall carry out an inspection of the Holy Relic, with reference to the Annexure –I and other materials referred to in Article 4 (i) and provide a written confirmation of receipt to this effect.

Article 5

- (i) Both the Donor and Recipient agree to conclude Cultural Exchange Programmes in order to enhance bilateral relationship between both the countries.
- (ii) Both the Donor and Recipient agree to start a Cultural event at an interval of every three years, respectively, in both countries. Cultural events will include organizing seminar on history, archaeology, culture, cuisine, demonstration of classical dance forms, photo exhibitions, etc. All the expenses of cultural event will be borne by the host country. However, travelling and insurance is to be borne by the Sending country.
- (iii) Research work may be undertaken to discover the age old relationship between India and Georgia under such Cultural Exchange Programmes. Both the countries will fund it equally.
- (iv) Both the parties agree to explore additional ways to strengthen the

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cultural relationship between both the countries.

Article 6

In case of any dispute or difference in implementing or interpreting this Agreement, it shall be resolved through mutual negotiation and consultation.

Article 7

This Agreement shall commence on the date of its signature.

IN WITNESS OF THE ABOVE, the duly authorized representatives of the parties have signed this agreement on this 8 day of July, 2021 in English and Georgian languages, both text being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall survive.



Anil Tiwari

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