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For Immediate Release

## The Metropolitan Museum of Art to Return Sculpture of Goddess to India

(New York, April 5, 2018)—The Metropolitan Museum of Art has offered the return of a *Durga Mahishasuramardini*, an exceptional medieval stone sculpture of the Hindu goddess, to the Archaeological Service of India.

The *Durga* was once enshrined in the Chakravarteeswara temple at Baijnath, a medieval capital in Northern India. It was donated to the Museum in 2015. Museum staff recognized it from the cover of K. P. Nautiyal's *The Archaeology of Kumann (including Dehradun)*, a 1969 publication, and contacted the Archaeological Service in 2017. It is expected the sculpture will be returned to Delhi this summer.

Commented The Metropolitan Museum of Art: "The Museum is committed to the responsible acquisition of archaeological art, and applies rigorous provenance standards to new acquisitions. The return of this object to India is part of a long standing effort to deepen our relationship and foster further collaboration with our colleagues and scholarly institutions in India."

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