

Archaeological excavations and explorations during the current field season

180. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether approval for major exploration and excavation programme at ancient sites had been granted to ASI by Standing Committee of Central Advisory Board of Archaeology (CABA) during the current field season;
- (b) if so, the details of such sites, including the archaeological potential; and
- (c) the total budget allocated during 2019-2020 for taking up the explorations and excavations and the amount spent between October, 2019 to February, 2020;
- (d) the number of ancient sites that are under excavation during the current field season; and
- (e) whether summary progress reports in each case has been uploaded on the official website of ASI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI PRAHALAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) Total allocation: ₹360.00 lakhs; Expenditure incurred: ₹ 154.60 lakhs.

(d) Seven (7).

(e) The progress reports are not uploaded on the ASI website. However, they are periodically published in the Indian Archaeology- A review.

Statement

Approval for exploration and excavation programme by the Standing Committee (SC) of Central Advisory Board for Archaeology (CABA) to ASI during the field season (October to September) 2019-20

Excavation

Sl. No	Name of the site	Details of the site
1.	Kalibangan, district Hanumangarh, Rajasthan	Harappan Period, the project basically aimed at filling of excavated trenches and rain gullies and preservation of the site.
2.	Purana Qila, New Delhi	Continuous occupation from 6th cen. BCE onwards.

Sl. No	Name of the site	Details of the site
3.	Sitagarha, district Hazaribagh, Jharkhand	Buddhist site of Early Medieval period dated to 9th to 11th cen. CE; findings includes structural stupa complex made of brick, fragment of Buddha image, panel of miniature Buddha images, fragment of plaque depicting Jataka story, fragment of Chhatravali, miniature stupa made out of black schist, disjoined piece of temple, plain stone slabs along with hopscotch and wheel, iron nail, stone sling ball, terracotta dabber, spindle whorls, bead, etc.
4.	Langudi Hills, district Jajpur, Odisha	Early historical period; findings include brick wall & structure, circular stupa, ceramics consists of black and grey ware; antiquities includes terracotta sling ball and pendant, hopscotch, iron arrow-head, chisel and stone medallion triangular seal of ivory with Brahmi characters, etc.
5.	Vadnagar, district Mehsana, Gujarat	Continuous occupation from 3rd cen. BCE onwards to modern times; excavation carried out at different locations at the site such as Sharmistha lake, Amba ghat, etc. excavation findings include various ceramics type along with artifacts viz., shell bangle, cowrie, beads, pendant, hopscotch and wheel, iron nail, stone sling ball, bone dice, coin, terracotta gamesman, etc.
6.	Gottiprolu, district Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore, Andhra Pradesh	Early historical period; findings include brick structures, roof tiles, iron nails, ceramics of various types sculptures of Vishnu,
7.	Halebidu, district Hassan, Karnataka	Temple remains of the Hoyasala period dated to 9th to 13th cen. CE.
8.	Nagwa, district Sidhi and Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh	Medieval period brick temple remains.

Sl. No	Name of the site	Details of the site
9.	Thed (Ther) Mound, Sirsa Haryana	Early historical period; findings include fortification, brick walls, ceramics of various types, terracotta balls, terracotta mould, etc.
10.	Rajpat Mound (Gosanimari), District Cooch Behar, West Bengal	Early Medieval to modern period occupation dated 11th to 19th cen. CE.
11.	Masol, District Mohali, Punjab	Pre-historic site; findings include variety of fossils of the Plio-Pleistocene fossiliferous layers such as fresh water species, reptiles, carnivores and many herbivorous of different size.

Exploration

1.	Along the dried-up bed of river Saraswati up to a distance of 5 Km on both sides of river from district Kaithal to district Sirsa (upto Haryana-Rajasthan border)	Exploration was carried out in districts of Yamunanagar, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Patiala, Jind, Sangroor Fatehabad (partially) and 580 villages were surveyed out of which 91 villages yielded antiquarian remains.
2.	Poonch, district Poonch, (UT of Jammu and Kashmir)	Early historical sites and remains.

Exploration of ancient sites and monuments in North-Eastern region

181. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the ancient sites or monuments under the protection of the Central and the State Governments in North East India;

(b) whether any special drive has been taken up by ASI in the last three years to identify ancient sites and monuments in North East India for declaration as of national importance;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and