

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1295
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9.12.2021

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS BY ASI

1295. **SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the exclusive units responsible for major archaeological excavations in the country have been assigned ancient sites for detailed investigations during 2021-22;
- (b) if so, the details with respect of each of all such dedicated units under ASI; and
- (c) the ancient sites that were investigated by each of such dedicated units during 2020-21 and major findings, if any?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) Excavation Branches in ASI have been created to take up major excavations in the & country. For field season 2021-22, excavation at Vadnagar, district Mehsana, Vihar,
- (b) district Gandhinagar, Gujarat and Warangal Fort, district Warangal, Telangana are considered. Applications for other excavations are under assessment.
- (c) The details are at Annexure-I.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1295 FOR 9.12.2021

TABLE MENTIONING THE DETAILS OF EXCAVATION PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY THE EXCAVATION BRANCHES OF ASI DURING 2020-21

Sl. No	Name of the Office	Name of the Site	Findings/Outcomes
1.	Excavation Branch-I, Nagpur	I. Kalibangan, district Hanumangarh, Rajasthan II. Eran, district Sagar, Madhya Pradesh	The project basically aimed at preservation of the site through filling of excavated trenches and rain gullies, and excavation outside the fortified area. During the course of excavation, common antiquities like terracotta bangle pieces, steatite beads and sling balls are recovered. During the excavation remains of a stone foundation of a structure has exposed and artifactual findings includes copper coin, arrow head, terracotta disc, sling ball, lamp stand, spouted vessels, red slip ware and other pottery, bone, etc.
2.	Excavation Branch-III, Patna	Sitagarha, district Hazaribag, Jharkhand	Buddhist site of Early Medieval period dated to 9 th to 11 th 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, detached architectural members of structure, plain stone slabs along with hopscotch and wheel, iron nail, stone sling ball, terracotta dabber, spindle whorls, bead, etc.
3.	Excavation Branch-IV, Bhubaneswar	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.
4.	Excavation Branch-V, Vadodara	Vadnagar, district Mehsana, Gujarat	The excavations revealed continuous occupation from 3 rd 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.
