

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *197
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8.3.2021

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION IN MADHYA PRADESH

*197. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:

Will the **Minister of Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of places across the country where archaeological excavation work is being carried out;
- (b) the outcome of the said work along with the State-wise details thereof including Madhya Pradesh;
- (c) whether there are many ancient temples of Gupta period in Mahakoshal region of Madhya Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some relics like sculptures, columns, utensils and other artifacts have been recovered during excavation work carried out recently near Chaunsath Yogini Temple in Jabalpur which shows that there was an organized/systematic settlement at the said place during the Stone Age till 12th and 13th Centuries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

- (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.
- to
- (e)

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY PART (A) TO (E) OF THE LOK SABHA
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- (a) The excavations carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India at present is & at Annexure I.
- (b)
- (c) Following three temples of Gupta period in Mahakoshal region of Madhya Pradesh are protected by the ASI:
- i. Temple of Somnath and ruins of several temples, district Katani,
 - ii. Ruined temple near the sources of the Ken river, district Katani
 - iii. The whole site of Kankali Devi Temple including the Devi temple and Ruined temple close to them, district Katani
- (d) Yes, Sir.
- (e) ASI is carrying out excavation at archaeological site of Tewar, located at a distance of nearly 8 km from Chaunsath Yogini Temple Bhedaghat. The artifactual findings mainly includes sandstone sculptures and architectural fragments, brick remains, copper coins and rings, terracotta (*amlaka* shaped), glass and stone beads, terracotta and glass bangles, iron implements, sling balls and hopscotch. The architectural findings mainly consist of a brick wall and sandstone columns which are yet to be exposed fully as the project is ongoing.

ANNEXURE - I

TABLE SHOWING ONGOING EXCAVATION PROGRAMME BY ASI DURING THE CURRENT FIELD SEASON (OCTOBER TO SEPTEMBER) 2020-21 AND OUTCOME

SI No	Name of the site	Outcome/Objective of Excavation on the site
1.	Kalibangan, district Hanumangarh, Rajasthan	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.
2.	Eran, district Sagar, Madhya Pradesh	Objective of the proposed work is to know and confirm the stratigraphy of the sites starting from Palaeolithic to 12 th CE and the details of town planning as well as settlement patterns of different periods and phases. 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.
3.	Tewar (Tripuri), district Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	Objective of the proposed work is to know the stratigraphy of the ancient site starting from Mesolithic to 12 th CE and the settlement patterns of once capital of Kalchuri dynasty 8 th to 12 th CE. During the course of excavation many antiquities are found viz., remains of sculptures, hopscotch, terracotta balls, Iron nails, copper coins Terracotta beads, implements of Iron and terracotta figurine, in ceramics red ware, black ware, red slipped ware with shapes of handi, bowl, spouted pot, small pot, big jar, etc.; structural remains consist of brick wall and structure of sandstone columns.
4.	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, disjoined piece of temple, plain stone slabs along with hopscotch and wheel, iron nail, stone sling ball, terracotta dabber, spindle whorls, bead, etc.
5.	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.
6.	Vadnagar, district Mehsana, Gujarat	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.
7.	Halebidu, district Hassan, Karnataka	The excavation has revealed remains of a Jain basadi (Jain Temple). The important antiquarian includes plumb bob (soapstone), polisher (stone), toy cart wheel (stone), areca-nut shaped bead (terracotta), hop-scotch (fashioned out of pot sherd), etc. Many sculptures and architectural part of the <i>shikara</i> were also recovered.
