

# Excavations at Lathiya (Ghazipur District, Uttar Pradesh): 2009-10

B. R. MANI, I. D. DWIVEDI, S. K. MANJUL AND ARWIN MANJUL

## ABSTRACT

The centrally-protected site of Lathiya in Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh was first noticed by Alexander Cunningham in 1871-72. It was excavated only in 2009-10 by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the direction of B. R. Mani, the then Joint Director-General, and under the supervision of Sanjay Kumar Manjul and I. D. Dwivedi. They were assisted by Arvin Manjul, Sujeet Nayan, Jalaj Kumar Tiwari, Ashish Kumar, Neetesh Saxena, S. P. Gupta, O. P. Pandey, Raman Kumar, Dhananjay Kumar and Ram Naresh Yadav from the ASI; Excavation Branch III, Patna; Ajay Srivastav and S. K. Jha from the Archaeological Museum, Sarnath; and Kishan Singh, Rakesh Chander, Kewal Singh and Dadan Kumar from the ASI headquarters in New Delhi. The main objective of the excavation was to understand the relationship between the monolithic pillar at the site and cultural assemblage, or the nature of the structure, if any, with which it could be associated. The site itself is known as Lathiya or Latiya, which derives from the *laṭa* or *lāṭhī* (pillar or stick) installed there. The excavations have brought to light remains of four Early Gupta period temples, besides coins, terracotta figurines and other important artefacts.

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