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Newsletter, November 2021
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Front: Varaha, 11th-12th century CE
Back: Devi Annapurna, 18th century CE
MESSAGE

Dated: 20-12-2021

It is a sheer pleasure for me to share this delightful news with the readers that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is bringing out its first volume of Newsletter.

This newsletter shall highlight the key achievements and efforts of the ASI in the form of a monthly newsletter. In this month, the organisation had two more feathers added to its cap, one of which is the retrieval of several invaluable antiquities from overseas including the famous Devi Annapurna statue which was unlawfully taken out from the pious land of Varanasi a century ago. The other worth appreciating news is India’s election for the fourth time as a member of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

I wish team ASI all the very best for their future endeavors.

(G. Kishan Reddy)
Archaeological Survey of India has been the sentinel of the Nation’s heritage for generations and shall continue to do so unabatedly. Accruing upon its accomplishments is this Newsletter, being brought out to spread awareness about the remarkable works being done by this organisation, to espouse its achievements, and portray the ancient past in a brilliant edition filled with news, activities, information, etc.

Ours is a glorious Nation, as has been elucidated through scriptures and technological advancements, examples of which are visible at every nook and corner of the country and beyond the boundaries, in terms of colossal monuments and exquisitely crafted antiquarian objects.

It is upon us Indians, to delve into an interminable thirst for knowing about this country, through various means, and pass on the knowledge to the coming generations, to fill the existing void, that was the cause of disruption of the social fabric that had once bound the country as a whole, and caused much harm to our sense of ancient history, as we know it today.

With this note, I wish the ASI team all success.

(Meenakshi Lekhi)
संदेश

मुझे यह व्यक्त करते हुए अत्यंत हर्ष हो रहा है कि भारतीय पुरातत्त्व सर्वेक्षण के प्रथम मासिक समाचार पत्र का शुभारंभ इस अंक से हो रहा है। अपने 150 वर्ष के स्वर्णिम कार्यकाल में भारतीय पुरातत्त्व सर्वेक्षण ने अनंतित उपलब्धियों की मिसाल कायम की है जो हमारे राष्ट्र की गौरवमय संस्कृति एवं गरीबामय इतिहास का बोध सर्वांगीण करती है।

यह समाचार पत्र भारतीय पुरातत्त्व सर्वेक्षण द्वारा किये जाने वाले विभिन्न कार्यों को आम जनता के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करेगा। इस संस्था का यह नवीन कदम अत्यंत प्रशंसनीय है। समाचार पत्र के इस अंक में माननीय प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा काशी से चोरी हुई मूर्तियों की मूर्ति को कनाडा से भारत लाने की जानकारी एवं भारत का यूरोप में समिति सदस्य के रूप में पुनः नामांकित होना अति विशेष है।

आशा करता हूँ कि यह समाचार पत्र भारत में हो रही पुरातत्त्विक गतिविधियों से सभी को अवगत कराएगा। मैं भारतीय पुरातत्त्व सर्वेक्षण को इस उपलब्धि के लिये हार्दिक शुभकामनायें प्रेषित करता हूँ।

(अर्जुन राम मेघवाल)
MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to announce the release of the first volume of Archaeological Survey of India’s virtual newsletter. It is indeed a wonderful idea to present an overview of the activities and works done by the ASI. I feel it was a much-required step considering a gamut of projects being looked after by this prestigious organization. Moreover, this newsletter is being circulated digitally which is the need of time.

The current edition of the newsletter shares some of the significant activities carried out by the ASI during World Heritage Week. Major achievements of the organization like the repatriation of antiquities from Canada and India’s foothold in the world heritage committee are worth applauding. Such achievements have uplifted the vision of India worldwide.

I appreciate this initiative taken by the ASI and wish them all the best.

(Govind Mohan)
MESSAGE

Dated: 22.12.2021

It is a great pleasure to announce that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is bringing forth its Newsletter. I hope the ASI Newsletter would be a window for the public into the organisation’s key activities, achievements and programs for the month.

This Newsletter is intended to briefly touch upon the various endeavours being undertaken by the ASI throughout the country, ongoing new projects and programmes, archaeological activities of interest such as explorations and excavations. It is also proposed to bring to the purview of the common people the routine work of ASI which is equally critical in management and conservation of archaeological sites and monuments.

I am sure that the Newsletter will allow a glimpse into one of the oldest organisations of India while generating more curiosity among the people to learn more about our rich archaeological heritage.

Happy reading!

V.Vidyavathi
Director General
EDITORIAL

For the last 150 years, since the government started a department for archaeology in the year 1871, the Archaeological Survey of India has been working towards the search, study and preservation of cultural heritage in the country. Its contribution in this field is evident by public perception where ‘Archaeology in India’ is synonymous with the ‘Archaeological Survey of India’.

Responsibilities associated with cultural heritage, i.e. monuments, archaeological sites and antiquities, are so complex and enormous that they are beyond the comprehension of not only the public but also scholars. This creates a vital responsibility for the dissemination of information for public awareness.

The need for regular publications to provide timely information about activities conducted by the organisation had always been felt. This resulted in the publication of Annual Reports from 1902 and Indian Archaeology - A Review from 1954. In this ‘Age of Information Technology’, even one year’s time is too long, when information is being circulated in real time. Hence, this monthly newsletter will not only share information but would also make people aware of the expertise available and utilised for the search, study, and preservation of cultural heritage.

It is needless to mention that such a venture would not have been possible without support and encouragement from all seniors and cooperation of colleagues in the organisation. We trust, in days to come, it will become a reliable source of dissemination of authentic news on Archaeology in India.

(Prof. Alok Tripathi)
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Excavation at Adichanallur

Thiruchirappalli Circle commenced an excavation at Adichanallur in District Toothukudi, Tamil Nadu, in the month of October 2021, which continued during the month of November. This excavation is being conducted by Dr T. Arun Raj, as part of development of Iconic site. So far, various sizes of black and red ware, and red ware urn burials along with associated materials have been unearthed from the site.

The urn burial site of Adichanallur was discovered way back in 1876. The site spread over 114 acres is located along a barren quartzite ridge on the southern bank of Thamirabararni river. It was excavated between 1889 and 1905 by Alexander Rea followed by Dr T. Sathya Murthy from 2004 to 2006.
Excavations

Excavation at Vadnagar

During this month, excavation at Vadnagar was undertaken at different locations amongst which excavation at north-eastern corner of the town locally known as Ambaghat is a major focus of the excavation and the other is a small-scale excavation on the south-western corner of Ambaji-Kotha lake. The third location is Vihar.

This excavation is being carried-out in an area around 4000 sq m under the direction of Dr Abhijit Ambekar. The objective of this excavation is to convert the excavated site into an experiential museum showcasing the continuous habitation of 2500 years of Vadnagar. Along with this, a long stretch of around 180 m of fortification wall is under simultaneous exposition.

In continuation of previous season’s work, excavation at Ambaghat which is located on north-eastern corner of the fortified town, has reached to the depth of 12.40 m where remaining portion of the circular structure is being exposed.

Further, circular structure made of bricks have been exposed; besides remains of fallen brick side wall.
Excavations

During the previous season of excavation, four oval terracotta sealings measuring 3.3 x 2.1 cm were discovered. The legend on the sealing is in the Brahmi script of around 3rd-4th century CE which reads नमस्सर्व्वज्ञाय (namassarvvajnay). Here, the word सर्व्वज्ञ (sarvvajna) is used to denote Buddha as is evident from the inscription on relic casket found in the excavation from Devnimori. One more similar sealing was also reported from the excavation during this month.

Among the antiquities, varieties of shell bangle fragments, along with debitage (sawn apex, columella, body parts of shell), beads (glass, terracotta, shell and semi-precious stone), coins (copper, lead and silver), coin moulds, terracotta figurines, terracotta face pendant, terracotta wheel, iron objects and ceramic assemblage have been discovered.


7. Vadnagar: Decorated toy-cart wheels (source: Excavation Branch, Vadodara)
Excavations

A long peripheral wall has been exposed on the south-western bank of Ambaji-Kotha lake located near Anaj Godown, Vadnagar. It has east-west orientation, 90-100 cm in width and so far traced up to the length of 60 m.

The structure indicates two phases datable to 1st-4th century CE. Similarly, faint traces of set of brick walls have also been noticed within the compound wall of Anaj Godown.

The excavation at Vihar, Taluka Mansa, District Gandhinagar revealed south-western corner of a massive platform-like structure having 84 brick courses.

So far, on plan, it measures 20 x 8 m. A structure of earlier phase was also observed here. The excavation work is still in progress.
Inscription at Biswanath Chariali

Guwahati Circle carried-out inspections cum surveys in the north-eastern part of India, where a new discovery is made at the archaeological site, Biswanath Chariali of District Biswanath in Assam.

While inspecting the site, a new inscription on a boulder was discovered. It was observed that the boulder remains submerged during most of the year but got exposed during the winter season. Further studies on the inscription is in progress.

Epigraphy

Epigraphists of Epigraphy Branch, Lucknow studied four inscriptions discovered in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The inscriptions were copied for detailed study.

Inscription at Panchmukhi Shivalinga - The engraved inscription on the Panchmukhi Shivalinga located at Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh dates back to 1219 CE. It is in Nagari characters of local dialect and records the gift of the image by Sri Mathu Subhaka.

Two Inscriptions at Ganeshkhid - Two inscriptions copied from the site of Ganeshkhid, District Ahmadnagar, Maharashtra were observed to be written in Sanskrit and Marathi languages having Nagari characters. Amongst these, one which dates back to samvat 1693 is engraved upside down on a stone used for the construction of Sri Bolenath Ganapati temple. It records the construction of the temple on the occasion of Vijayadasami by Sevaka. The second inscription is engraved on the right-side wall of the main entrance door of the same temple. It dates back to samvat 1650 and records the obeisance of Lord Ganesha, and establishment of the temple.
Epigraphy

**Inscription at Satagata** - Inscription copied by the Epigraphy Branch, Lucknow from Satagata, District Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh is datable to 1369 CE. It is engraved on a broken stone and is fixed on the road side near Vishnu temple. Language of the inscription is Sanskrit carved in Nagari character, which probably records the installation of a Hero stone by *Dhamora*, in the presence of the villagers in Chanderi region.

Epigraphists of Epigraphy Branch, Mysuru during the fieldwork examined an inscription in Andhra Pradesh.

**Inscription at Guduru** - An inscription at Guduru, District Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh is written in Kannada language and datable to 13th century CE. It records the installation of the god Nagesvara at Ponnakalla by Nagarjuna and registers the gift to the same god by the pontiff Brahmananda.
Structural Conservation

Mehtab Bagh, Agra

Steps and railings have been provided at Mehtab Bagh, Agra by the Agra Circle. Foundation of the structure was stabilised and flooring of red sand stone was provided at the site.

Suryapahar Ruins, Goalpara

Access for general public has been provided at Suryapahar Ruins at Goalpara by the Guwahati Circle. To ease the approach, staircase and grills were added at the site.

11-12. Suryapahar Ruins: Before (left) and after (right) conservation (source: Guwahati Circle)

Sivadol, Gaurisagar

The ancient structure at Sivadol, Gaurisagar was conserved and restored by the conservation team of Guwahati Circle.

Fort, Dimapur

The remains of the fort at Dimapur were stabilised by providing appropriate measures like plastering and brick works.

Ruins, Singri Hill

The paved way to reach the ruins at Singri Hill was provided.

13-14. Ruins at Singri: Before (left); and after (right) conservation (source: Guwahati Circle)
Scientific Preservation

Dharamrajika Stupa, Sarnath

Preservation works of votive stupas around Dharamrajika stupa at Sarnath, Varanasi were carried-out by the Science Branch, Patna.

Votive Stupa, Kolhua

Preservation works of votive stupa at archaeological site, Kolhua, District Muzaffarpur in Bihar were re-initiated by the Science Branch, Patna.
Scientific Preservation

Chandrashekhar Temple, Kapilash

Conservation and preservation work is in progress at Chandrashekhar temple, Kapilash, Dhenkanal, Odisha. The work is being taken-up by the Science Branch, Bhubaneshwar.

Ajanta Caves

Science Branch, Ajanta caves and Conservation Research Laboratory Aurangabad have conducted a number of conservation works at Ajanta caves during this month. In cave no. 2, cell no. 6 and 7, fixing and filleting of plaster was done. Consolidation and mending of sculptures in cave no. 4 was completed.

As part of preventive conservation measures, the relative humidity and temperature in cave no. 1, 2, 16 and 17 were recorded; dust and dirt were removed and fumigation was done in cave no. 1 and 2.
Scientific Preservation

Duladev Temple, Khajuraho

Preservation work of exteriors of the Duladev Temple, Khajuraho, District Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh was initiated by the team of Science Branch, Indore.

The incrustations consisting of dried microvegetation, dust, dirt and other deposits, etc. were removed. The work is under progress and about 40% work is completed till this month.
Preservation of the National Flag at Fort St. George Museum, Chennai

Conservation and preservation of the first Indian national flag hoisted on 15 August 1947 at Fort St. George, Chennai commenced by the Science Branch on 10 November. The flag was displayed in a wooden showcase at Fort St. George Museum, Chennai. It measures 3.60 X 2.40 m (12 X 8 ft) and is made of silk.

The team of experts from ASI, IGCAR, Silk Board, etc. assessed the condition of the flag. The preliminary analysis to identify the composition of the material, thread counts, thickness measurements, fragility, etc. using microscopic and other non-destructive analytical techniques was carried-out by the team. Suitable methodology was devised by the team and the work is under progress.

21-22. Fort St. George Museum, Chennai: Scientific Preservation of the National flag
(source: Science Branch, Indore)
Training

Training sessions in modelling of objects and surveys were conducted at Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology in November. Sh. Rajender Singh, Modeller taught students to make different models of seals and other objects from clay and plaster of Paris.

Surveyors Sh. Kewal Singh and Sh. Kamlesh taught survey techniques using total station survey instrument to the students in practical sessions. Students showed keen interest during the sessions.

23-24. Training session in modelling of object (source: PDDUIA, Noida)

25. Training session in surveying (source: PDDUIA, Noida)
Repatriation of Antiquities

Archaeological Survey of India has retrieved 118 antiquities from abroad from the year 1976, till date. 63 objects, that were identified as antiquities, in an earlier visit of an ASI team to the USA, were brought back to the country in November.

Two recent significant retrievals apart from this colossal lot were the sculpture of Navaneetha Krishna, and, the statue of Devi Annapurna, which were also successfully brought back to the country recently, and placed in their respective provenances.

26. ASI headquarters: Archaeologists examining the retrieved antiquities; 27. Lakshmi; 28. Head of a female deity (source: ASI)
Handing-over of Devi Annapurna

Archaeological Survey of India handed-over the sculpture of Devi Annapurna to Government of Uttar Pradesh on 11 November. It was repatriated by Govt. of India from Ottawa, Canada.

The ceremony was held at National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi. It was attended by Sh. G. Kishan Reddy, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region; Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs; Sh. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs along with other cabinet ministers and dignitaries.
India in World Heritage Committee

In 23rd General Assembly election, after garnering higher votes on 26th November, India has been successfully elected as a member of the World Heritage Committee for the period 2021-25.

India is a signatory to the World Heritage Convention, 1972 and is consistently striving to preserve and protect World Heritage Properties for posterity while being committed to uphold the statutes of the Convention.

India has ratified the UNESCO World Heritage Convention 1972, in November 1977 and served as a member of the World Heritage Committee thrice during the periods 1985-91, 2001-07 and 2011-15. India has been playing an active role to promote the ideals and objectives of World Heritage Convention in letter and spirit.

A delegation of Archaeological Survey of India under chairpersonship of Director-General, ASI had been deputed to Paris to assist office of the Permanent Delegation of India, UNESCO in the election of India as member to the World Heritage Committee.
World Heritage Week

World Heritage Week (19-25 November) was celebrated with great enthusiasm and zeal across museums, monuments and sites by various circles of the Archaeological Survey of India.

Different types of activities like drawing and essay competitions, photo exhibitions, heritage walks, virtual lectures, etc. were organised for creating awareness amongst masses.

Amaravati Circle

Photo exhibition showcasing ‘World Heritage Properties of India’ was organised in the open area of the monument namely ‘Four - storeyed rock-cut Hindu temple’, locally known as Undavalli Caves, District Guntur.

During the week, an essay competition was conducted for high school students. Prizes and certificates were distributed to the winners.

Bhubaneshwar Circle

A photo exhibition on world heritage monuments was showcased in front of Sun Temple at Konark. Valedictory functions were also organised at Khandagiri and Udayagiri Caves, Jagamara, Bhubaneswar, District Khurda, Odisha.
**World Heritage Week**

**Chennai Circle**

Chennai Circle in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu organised World Heritage Week celebration at Vaikunthaperumal Temple, Kanchipuram.

During the week long celebration, local public and students from various schools and colleges were invited to see an exhibition on World Heritage monuments in India. Programmes like essay and clay modelling competitions, cultural events, etc. were also organised during this week.

**Dehradun Circle**

World Heritage week at Dehradun Circle was celebrated at the Ancient Shiva Temple, Lakhamandal, Dehradun. Students of local Government schools and colleges actively participated in various activities like essay writing, drawing, speech and quiz competitions.
World Heritage Week

Dharwad Circle

Various programmes like photo exhibitions, quiz competition, cultural events, etc. were organised by the Dharwad Circle during the World Heritage Week. A painting competition was organised at the monument Durga Temple, Aihole.

World Heritage Week

Guwahati Circle

Drawing competition for school students was planned on the occasion of World Heritage Week. This event was organised in the premises of ASI Museum, Sri Suryapahar, Goalpara.

Hampi Circle

Hampi Circle organised a photo exhibition on the theme of “World Heritage Sites in India with special emphasis on Hampi Circle Monuments” in the premises of Archaeological Site Museum, Hampi. The Rangoli competition was a highlighting part of the World Heritage Week celebration. Online quiz, essay and drawing competitions, cleanliness drive, etc. were also a part of the week long events.
**World Heritage Week**

**Jaipur Circle**

Jaipur Circle celebrated World Heritage Week at Bhangarh. During this week, quiz and drawing competitions, heritage walk, etc. were organised. A baby care room was also inaugurated at Ranthambore Fort.

**Meerut Circle**

During the World Heritage Week, activities like essay and drawing competitions for children from the nearby schools were organised at the site of Ahichchhatra in Bareilly.

The competitions were followed by verbal sessions with children to create awareness and responsiveness towards heritage. A photo exhibition was also organised.
World Heritage Week

Nagpur Circle

To celebrate World Heritage Week, Nagpur Circle organised a photo exhibition on World Heritage Monuments in the premises of Old High Court Building, Nagpur.

49. Nagpur: Photo exhibition (source: Nagpur Circle)

Patna Circle

A series of events were organised by the Patna Circle during the World Heritage Week. A photo exhibition on World Heritage properties (Cultural) in India was displayed in the gardens of Kumhrar.

Students of nearby middle school were invited to participate in sit-and-draw competition.

50. Kumhrar: Photo exhibition; 51. Drawing competition (source: Patna Circle)
World Heritage Week

Ranchi Circle

A photo exhibition was mounted by the Ranchi Circle during the World Heritage Week at Lalit Oraon Town Hall, Gumla. The event was followed by a series of cultural programmes performed by the school students and NCC unit of Gumla. During the week, around 3000 students of various schools and colleges visited the photo exhibition and made notes on historical monuments.

Shimla Circle

A photo exhibition highlighting Protected Monuments across India was organised by Shimla Circle near the ASI Museum, Kangra Fort.

As part of the celebration, a heritage walk was also organised involving students and teachers. The participants undertook a guided tour of the Kangra Fort and ASI Museum, which is located inside the fort.

About 20 students and 10 teachers participated in the heritage walk, adhering to precautionary measures and essential protocols related to COVID-19.
World Heritage Week

Sarnath Circle

The World Heritage Week at Sarnath Circle was celebrated by organising a photo exhibition on ‘Excavated Antiquities from Sarnath, Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh) and Vadnagar (Gujarat)’.

Thrissur Circle

During the inaugural function of World Heritage Week, a cultural performance called “Poothanum-Thira” by the team of Pranavam Sasi who is a Folklore Academy Award Winner was organised. It is a traditional ritual folk dance performed in the temples of Kerala especially in the Palakkad region. Other activities like heritage walks at Palakkad fort, photo exhibition at St. Angelo fort, Kannur were also organised by Thrissur Circle.
Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Jhansi Fort on the occasion of birth anniversary of Rani Laxmibai on 19 November. Prime Minister arrived at the fort, accompanied by three Chiefs of Armed Forces and Defence Secretary, and walked to the highest point in the fort, where national flag flies on an imposing post. After inaugurating a plaque on Shourya-Sthal he interacted with NCC cadets.

The fort which is a ‘protected monument’ and maintained by the ASI, was tastefully lit on this occasion. A Light and Sound show was also organised inside the fort. Large images of ancient monuments were also displayed along the fort wall.

In a programme organised in the precincts of the fort, he laid the foundation stone for Defence Industrial Corridor, and multiple initiatives were dedicated to the nation at the ‘Rashtra Raksha Samparpan Parv’.

56. Jhansi Fort: Hon’ble Prime Minister (source: ASI)
Visits of Dignitaries

**Lucknow Circle**

Hon’ble Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region, Sh. G. Kishan Reddy during his visit to Lucknow reviewed status of ongoing projects under different institutions under ministry of culture and tourism. Review meeting moderated by ADG, ASI was attended by Superintending Archaeologists of Lucknow, Jhansi, Agra and Sarnath Circles on 3 November.

![57. Lucknow: ASI officers with Hon’ble Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region (source: Lucknow Circle)](image)

**Patna Circle**

Hon’ble Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi visited Excavated Remains of Nalanda Mahavihara on 9 November. She went around the World Heritage property and was briefed about the history, conservation, the architectural scheme of the Mahavihara, and the proposed plan for further improvement of facilities for visitors.

![58-59. Nalanda: Visit of Hon’ble Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs (source: Patna Circle)](image)
Visits of Dignitaries

Ranchi Circle

Hon’ble Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region, Sh. G. Kishan Reddy, visited Ranchi Circle on 15 November. He held a detailed discussion with officers and officials of the circle and reviewed the status of ongoing works.

![Image of Ranchi Circle visit](image)

60. Ranchi: Hon’ble Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region with ASI officers (source: Ranchi Circle)

Sarnath Circle

Hon’ble Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi visited ASI Museum, Sarnath on 17 November. Museum in-charge took her around all the galleries and briefed her regarding the impressive collection in the earliest museum under the ASI. It is the first museum under ASI, which was opened for public in 1910.

![Image of Sarnath Circle visit](image)

61-62. Sarnath: Visit of Hon’ble Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs (source: Sarnath Circle)
Officers and officials of the ASI, besides their field and office responsibilities, also actively participate in academic activities, such as conference and seminars, delivering lectures for students and public. During the month following archaeologists and epigraphists presented papers and delivered lectures -

Prof. Alok Tripathi, Additional Director-General (Archaeology) delivered a lecture on “Heritage: What and for What” on 21 November, in online lecture series organised by Bihar Museum, Patna during World Heritage Week

Prof. Alok Tripathi, Additional Director-General (Archaeology) delivered a lecture on “Heritage and Role of Public” on 21 November, in online lecture series organised by Mumbai Circle, Mumbai during World Heritage Week

Prof. Alok Tripathi, Additional Director-General (Archaeology) delivered a lecture on “Underwater Archaeology and Recent Findings in Indian Context” on 25 November, in fourteen days National E-Workshop on Multiple Dimensions of Ancient Indian Culture organised by D.A.V.P.G. College, Varanasi

Prof. Alok Tripathi, Additional Director-General (Archaeology) delivered a lecture on “Legislation and Convention to Museum and Heritage” on 28 November organised by Kolkata Centre for Creativity, Kolkata, West Bengal

Dr T. Sreelakshmi, Director (Archaeology), presented a paper titled “Imprecatory Verses in the Inscriptions Reflecting Socio Religious Aspect in Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh” in the 40th Annual Conference of the Place Names Society of India organised on 25-26 November at Kalyan, Maharashtra

Dr Praveen Singh, Superintending Archaeologist, Jaipur Circle delivered an online talk titled “Need of New Approach for Excavated, Protected, Unprotected Sites Apart from World Heritage Sites” on 19 November at Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur
Dr Goutami Bhattacharya, Superintending Archaeologist, Patna Circle delivered a lecture titled “Recent Phase of Excavations at Kesariya (2018-19) and its New Architectural Features” on 24 November in the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Patna University.

Dr Rajendra Dehuri, Deputy Superintending Archaeologist, Excavation Branch, Patna presented a paper titled “Sitagarha: A Recently Excavated Site, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand” on 22 November at Kumhrar.

Md. Shahnawaz Alam, Assistant Superintending Epigraphist, Epigraphy Branch, Nagpur presented a paper titled “Persian Epigraph from Shrine of Hazrat Zarzari Bakhsh at Khuldabad” in the 46th Annual Congress of the Epigraphical Society of India on 25-26 November at Kalyan, Maharashtra.


Md. Tarique Rasool, Assistant Epigraphist, Epigraphy Branch, Nagpur presented a paper titled “Omar Khayyam as Imprinted on Persian Inscriptions in India” in the 46th Annual Congress of the Epigraphical Society of India on 25-26 November at Kalyan, Maharashtra.

Md. Ajmal, Assistant Epigraphist, Epigraphy Branch, Nagpur presented a paper titled “An Epitaphic Record of Nawab Family of Tonk” in the 46th Annual Congress of the Epigraphical Society of India on 25-26 November at Kalyan, Maharashtra.
From time-to-time, the offices of ASI releases publications like brochures, booklets and pamphlets to educate public regrading the rich heritage of India.

During this month, the Tiruchirrapalli Circle published a brochure titled *A Glimpse of Selected Monuments in Pudukottai District*. It was released during the World Heritage week. The two-fold brochure highlights some of the famous monuments located in District Pudukottai like rock-cut Shiva temple in Malayadipatti; Sundareshwar temple in Tirukattalai, etc.

The brochure includes historical background and architectural features of the selected monuments along with exclusive photographs.

To create awareness among masses towards the protected monuments in Jharkhand, the Ranchi Circle of ASI published a booklet in Hindi titled *Jharkhand ke Rashtriya Sanrakshit Smarak*.

This booklet was released this month as part of World Heritage week celebration. Being in Hindi, the booklet became a showstopper amongst general public after its release.

It includes detailed description on the thirteen protected monuments located in different districts of Jharkhand. Some of the popular monuments mentioned in the booklet are temples of Haradih in Ranchi, Jamma Masjid in Sahibganj, etc.

The description on monuments include location, historical background, architectural features, photographs, etc.
Publication

Kolkata Circle of ASI published a booklet *Jewish Monuments in Kolkata.*

The booklet highlights some of the exclusive Jewish monuments located in Kolkata such as Maghen David Synagogue at Canning Street, Beth-El-Synagogue at Pollock Street, etc.

This fifteen page booklet beautifully explains about the history and architecture of the Jewish monuments located in Kolkata along with the photographs, etc.


Prof. Alok Tripathi, ADG (Archaeology) supervised Dissertation entitled “The Temples of Chandella Period in Bundelkhand” submitted by Shri Satyam Dubey in partial fulfillment of Post-Graduate Diploma in Archaeology at Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology, ASI, Greater Noida
Meetings

A three-day review meeting with the Regional Directors, head of offices of Circles and Branches was held in ASI headquarters from 8th to 10th November.

Field officers made presentation on various technical and financial aspects in the presence of Director-General, Additional Director-Generals, Joint Director-Generals and Directors.
The winter session of Parliament commenced on 29 November. During the current session, Hon’ble Minister for Culture replied seven unstarred questions in Loksabha, pertaining to activities of ASI.

### Questions in Parliament

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### Farewell

**Dr S. Arun Kumar Reddy**

Dr S. Arun Kumar Reddy joined the ASI as Assistant Archaeologist in 2019. During last two years, while working in the Monuments Section of ASI, he was instrumental in fulfilling many important assignments. On his selection as Research Officer in *Janapada Sampada* Division of the Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts (IGNCA), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Culture, he was relieved to join higher position.
Farewell

**Sh. Arun Kumar**

Sh. Arun Kumar working as Junior Administrative Officer had joined ASI in November 1983. After serving the organisation for 38 long years he retired this month. He was initially selected as a Lower Division Clerk at Delhi Circle. Since then he worked in the Excavation Branch II, Horticulture Division V and Horticulture Division II as LDC. Subsequently he was promoted to the level of Upper Division Clerk. Prior to his retirement while working in the Monuments Section of ASI Headquarters he efficiently handled Court matter. Last year, in 2020S, he was promoted to the post of JAO.

**Sh. Ramesh Kumar**

Sh. Ramesh Kumar working as Multi Tasking Staff, had joined ASI in 1985. After serving the organisation for 36 years, he retired this month. While his posting in Dharohar Bhawan, he performed his duties with utmost sincerity and made sure that the office premises are secured after everyone else has left the office.

**Smt. Darshana Devi**

Smt. Darshana Devi working as Multi Tasking Staff retired this month. After serving the organization for 17 years, she took voluntary retirement from the government service at the age of 56 because of her health issues.
Welfare of employees is given the priority in the organisation. ASI has been organising meetings of Departmental Promotion Committees to consider eligible candidates for promotion to higher posts. Orders promoting following officers were issued during this month.

**Assistant Superintending Horticulturist (08.11.2021)**

- Satya Prakash

**Senior Horticulture Assistant (08.11.2021)**

- Omkar Vishwath Garud
- Yogesh Kumar Paliwal
- Nikhil Jyoti Das
- Deependra Kumar
- Vineet Agrawal

- Dharmendra Singh
- Mithun Sureshrao Chalakh
- Binod Chayengia
- Balasingam G

**Deputy Superintending Archaeological Engineers (23.11.2021)**

- A.K. Gupta
- K.P. Rajan
- Devendra Kumar Richhariya
- S. Jilani Basha
- K. Chandrakanth
- N.B.D. Kempegowda
- Somla Naik

- M. Sambasiva Kumar
- N. Thejesvi
- C.R. Das
- Jagdeep Singh
- Raja Narain
- D.C. Sharma

**Deputy Superintending Archaeologist (23.11.2021)**

- Manoj Kumar Dwivedi
- Samir Diwan
- Ramesh Kumar Singh
- Kamal Kant Verma

- Rahul Ramesh Bhosle
- Gajanan Laxmanarao Katade
- Sunita Tewatia
Promotions

Assistant Superintending Archaeological Engineers (23.11.2021)

Dilip Kumar
Fiaz Ahmed Shah
Gowhar Ahmed Khan
Mahesh Chand Sharma
Suresh Kumar Kumhawat
Amarnath Gupta
Ashok Kumar Meena
Ratan Lal Jitarwal
Pankaj Tiwari
D.S. Danve
Gaddam Srinivasulu
A. Bhanu Prakash Varma
Pentapati Srinivasa Rao
Sheikh Mohib-ur-Rahman
Arun Prasad
Promod Bhinge
A.J. Parmar
A. Satyam
Ramesh Kumar
Rahul Tiwari
Milind Angaitkar
Sudipta Sen
Anurag Sharma
P.D.R. Shinde
Siddharth H. Verma
Ponnappalli VNCM Eswar
Bhanu Partap Singh
Sandeep Jaiswal
T. Saravanan
Shailendra Anand Kamble
Neeraj Tiwari
Chitranjan Kumar
Ram Kishore Meena
Abhijit Deka
Pankaj Kumar Das
C. Baranidharan
M.P. Kiran Kumar
M. Varadaraj Suresh
S.L. Parmar
H. Mahendrabhai Sutaria
H.K.B. Hukare
Vinoj Kumar M.T.
Mohd. Imran
Archana Kaul
Rakesh Chandan Shende
Obituary

Sh. Ram Pyare Yadav, MTS who served as a dedicated accomplish to many senior officers like Sh. M. C. Joshi, Sh. K. N. Shrivastava, Sh. R. C. Agrarwal, Sh. A. K. Sinha and many others during his tenure as attendant at Monuments, Administration and Planning Sections has left for his heavenly abode. Sh. Ram Pyare served as a daily wage labour since 1992 and was later elevated to the post of MTS in 2002.

Sh. Yadav was suffering from jaundice. He kept fighting with the disease for a very long time, but, sadly passed away on 30th November, 2021.