

**ACHIEVEMENTS/ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHAEOLOGY AND MUSEUMS, HARYANA, FOR THE YEAR 2020-21
AND PROJECT/PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEAR 2021-22.**

Archaeology and Museums Department of Haryana is a premier Department for archaeological research, exploration and protection of cultural heritage of the State. The Department is also involved in setting up State and Zonal museums. The Department also organizes exhibitions from time to time and sells plaster cast replicas of ancient sculptures at very nominal rates so as to acquaint the general public about our ancient archaeological heritage.

The Department has 35 State protected monuments and sites, 5 Zonal Museums and 1 Site Museum. These are being maintained under “The Punjab Ancient Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964.”

This Department has the following 5 plan schemes:-

1. Archaeological Excavation/Exploration Programme.
2. Protection/Preservation and Development of Ancient Monuments/Sites.
3. Preparation of Plaster Casts of Ancient Sculptures and Antiquities.
4. Setting up of State Archaeological Museum.
5. Setting up of Zonal Museums.

Activities and Achievements

During the year 2020-21 scientific clearance work has been conducted by the Department at Kunal in Fatehabad District. Scientific clearance work has revealed the remains of Pre-Harappan were supposed to be one of the earliest remains of Pre-Harappan settlements in India. Archaeological evidences show the indigenous culture prevailing in the area before the emergence of Harappan civilization. A fire altar has been discovered during scientific clearance. It could

have served no other purpose than a ritualistic one. These altars suggest fire worship. Remnants of round fire-pit have been found. It perhaps intended for some specific (perhaps religious) purpose by the community as a whole. Recovered remnants of animals, which suggest a possibility of animal-sacrifice has been performed. It yielded mud brick structures associated with pre harappan and early harappan cultural material such as pottery, beads, bangles, copper objects, terracotta figurine, sling balls, bone objects, shell objects, steatite beads and a Rectangular Tablet made on steatite in this season.

License received from Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, Archaeological Survey of India for the excavation at Dharond Khera, Jind for the year 2020-21.

The department has collected 86 archaeological artifacts from Village, Bhattu (Karankot), Distt. Fatehabad including Ceramics Terracotta figure, beads, bangles, storage jar etc. The artifacts belong to time period ranging from early Medieval to Medieval. One storage jar has recovered from village Khedar, District Hisar.

The department has also collected 22 copper coins from Pataudi Town Distt. Gurugram belonging to late Sultanate period (15th Century AD). 2 copper coins found from State Protected Monument, Buddha Stupa, Kurukshetra.

The department has initiated a project to develop at Bodh Stupa, Kurukshetra through landscaping and beautification of the site. Department has already prepared the design of landscaping and the drawings has been sent to PWD (B&R), Haryana and Forest Department, Haryana for further work. An amount of INR.447.71 lakhs has been deposited in a/c PWD (B&R) Haryana as per submitted estimate.

The department is perusing the maintenance and conservation work at Protected Monument Nahan Kothi through Tourism Department, Haryana. The work is in progress.

The department has also initiated a project entitled Rejuvenation of Jahaj Kothi, Hisar. The matter is under consideration of the State Government.

The department has initiated a project regarding Setting up of heritage corner in different schools of different districts of Haryana to aware students regarding heritage of Haryana. The Concept and display of Heritage Corner is an awareness program for school children, who are future custodians of Heritage of Haryana. It has been approved by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana.

Different replicas of plaster casts materials have been approved by worthy Chief Minister, have been prepared by the Department and which are used to sell to general public time to time in different exhibitions and displays in different Deputy C's offices. During the year 2020-21, 13 replica sold to general public. 39 souvenirs also sold during the year 2020-21.

The department used to participate in the different exhibition to popularize the state's heritage and archaeological wealth.

In respect to the construction of State Archaeological museum at Sector- 5, Panchkula, the Chief Architect of Haryana and PWD (Buildings), Haryana has been ordered to prepare the design of the museum and pursue the construction as per the scope of work respectively

The construction work of the Site Museum and Interpretation Centre at Rakhigarhi by the PWD (B&R) Haryana is at its peak as reported by the PWD in their progress report. 90 percent of the civil work has been completed and rest is in process. The union budget allocation 2020-21 will be utilized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India as approved for the maintenance of 5 iconic sites in

India which includes Rakhigarhi of Haryana state. Government of Haryana has decided that Archaeological Survey of India may take up the existing facility and expand the same from their own budget which will be a part of the INR. 500 crore earmarked in the Union Budget for Rakhigarhi.

The department has initiate a project regarding setting up of a Site Museum at Pre-Harappan Site - Kunal, Distt. Fatehabad. Design has been prepared by the department and sent to Architecture Department, Haryana for finalize the drawing. Construction will be done by PWD (B&R). An amount of INR 34.00 lacs has been deposited in A/c of PWD PWD (B&R), Haryana as per sanctioned estimate

A Table calendar for the year 2021 showcasing has been published.

The department has initiated a project on preparing the drawings (Plan & Elevation) of all State Protected Monuments. Department is also planning to publish this in a form of coffee table book.

The department has completed Plotting of Harappan Sites in Haryana based on published material till today through Haryana Space Application Centre, Hisar. The department is planning to publish it in an atlas form. Textual work is going on.

Project regarding indexing of old Havelies, Baolies, Baradaries and Forts in Haryana is in progress.

The department has release a special cover on 13th November, 2020 at CM Residence themed on Rakhigarhi, 'The Village of Heritage'.

Projects/ Programmes for the year 2021-22

1. Excavation work will be continued at State Protected Site, Dharond Khera, Distt. Jind. Exploration will be carried out in different areas of Haryana.
2. Lal Masjid and BaghaWali Kothi at Dujana, Distt. Jhajjar, Kaithal Fort and SDM Residence, Kaithal, Loharu Fort Distt. Bhiwani, Group of Tombs Tauru, Distt. Nuh, and Chuhi Mal Ki Chhatri, Distt. Nuh, will be taken under State protection. Necessary steps have already been taken to take these sites/monuments under State Protection.
3. Conservation/Maintenance/Restoration and other activities such as exploration, organizing exhibition, publication, and preparation of plaster cast of ancient sculptures will also be continued during the year 2022-23.
4. Setting up of heritage corner in different schools of different districts of Haryana to aware students regarding heritage of Haryana.
5. Digitization of museum artifacts for up gradation of museum activities which will be helpful for students, scholars and researchers.
6. Site Museum at Kunal, Fatehabad to be completed.
7. The department is planning to upgrade Martial Art Museum, Kapal Mochan, and Yamuna Nagar.
8. Department will conduct different workshops for school students as well as for researchers to promote the heritage and culture of Haryana.
9. Department is planning to setup a Museum at Victoria Memorial Hall, Karnal and Nahan Kothi, Panchkula.