ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

National Policy on Archaeological Exploration and Excavation

PREAMBLE

With the establishment of the Asiatic Society in Kolkata on 15 January 1784 under the stewardship of Sir William Jones, field studies of antiquarian remains in India were placed on a firm footing. In the ensuing 75 years scores of discoveries involving cave and structural temples, Buddhist stupas and other monuments, and other antiquarian remains were reported from the length and breadth of the subcontinent. To be sure, all these discoveries were made by highly motivated amateurs, most of them forming part of the colonial administrative set-up. Some of the more important among these discoveries include the discovery of the Amaravati stupa and preparation of what is regarded as the first site map in world archaeology by Colin Mackenzie in 1817, the recovery of Roman coins from several places in South India, the reporting of megalithic tombs from the Malabar region by John Babington in 1823, the decipherment of Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts by James Prinsep and others in 1830s, James Fergusson's pioneering surveys of ancient Indian temple architecture between 1827 and 1841 and Meadows Taylor's systematic recording and excavation of megalithic stone-circles in the Deccan in 1840's using the method of stratigraphy.

Against the background of interest generated in archaeological sites and of the need to protect them, the colonial government established the Archaeological Department in 1861 and appointed General Alexander Cunningham as its Head because he had already acquired first-hand knowledge of many important historical sites of Northern India since 1930's. Cunningham's annual surveys of historical sites of northern India for the next 20 years form the first major chapter in the history of Indian archaeology and the reports on his discoveries, using the words of Lord Curzon, still serve as 'a noble mine of information'.

Likewise, during the same period the geologist Robert Bruce Foote reported numerous Stone Age and other sites from southern India and laid strong foundations for prehistory. At the same time pioneering discoveries of rock-art sites were made by A.C. Carllyle in Mirzapur area.

The discovery of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa and their excavations by John Marshall and his Indian colleagues such as R.D. Banerji and D.R. Sahni in the first quarter of 20th century not only brought to light a new Bronze Age civilization in the Old World but introduced horizontal excavation in the Indian context. This work also heralded the emergence of protohistory. Major exploration programmes were undertaken by Aurel Stein, N.G. Majumdar and other workers.

During his four-year tenure (1944-48) as the Director General, Mortimer Wheeler not only trained about 100 young workers from both government departments and universities in scientific excavation in the field schools he conducted at Taxila but adopted these methods in his own excavations at Arikamedu, Brahmagiri and Harappa. During the pre-Independence period princely states like Mysore, Hyderabad and Baroda and university departments at Pune and Kolkata also undertook in a limited way excavations and explorations in their respective areas.

In the post-Independence period the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) continued its exploration and excavation programmes in prehistory, protohistory and historical archaeology under the leadership of A. Ghosh, B.B. Lal, B.K. Thapar, M.N. Deshpande and other senior archaeologists. Also a major salvage excavation was undertaken at the early historical site of Nagarjunakonda in 1950s and expert field teams were deputed to Egypt, West Asia and South-east Asia for assisting local archaeologists in restoration work. University and State Departments also made very significant contributions to field archaeology. H.D. Sankalia, G.R. Sharma and B. Subbarao are some among the key figures from universities who shaped post-Independence archaeology. Following R.N. Mehta's Pioneering Work at Champaner, other sites such as Viyayanagara (Hampi), Fatehpur Sikri, Daultabad and Lal Kot were excavated and these placed medieval archaeology on a sound footing. Several foreign institutions also undertook major field investigations in different parts of the country. The results of all these excavations and explorations have been regularly reported in *Indian Archaeology – A Review* and in some cases also published as independent reports (see list of major sites in Annexure-A).

Explorations and Excavations still form the major research component of field archaeology in India. These are guided by certain rules and regulations framed by the Government from time to time. The following pages will briefly review the situation and, wherever necessary, fresh guidelines will be recommended. Considering the fact that archaeological sites are now under a serious threat due to developmental projects of various kinds initiated by both governmental and non-governmental agencies, priority areas will be suggested for future explorations and excavations.

2. LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Illegal diggings for treasure hunting and destruction of archaeological sites and remains attracted attention of the Government from early times. Bengal Regulations XIX was framed in 1810, followed by Madras Regulations VII in 1817. Then *Treasure Trove Act 1878* was brought into force. This was followed by the promulgation of other acts on preservation of ancient monuments and sites and also of antiquities viz. *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958* and *AMASR Rules 1959* and *Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972* and *AAT Rules 1973*.

The Central Government through the *AMASR Act, 1958* empowered the Archaeological Survey of India to regulate archaeological excavations in the country. The Sections 21, 22, 23 and 24 of this Act empower an archaeological officer or an officer authorized by him in this behalf or any person holding a license granted in this behalf under this Act, after giving notice in writing to the Collector and the owner, to enter upon and make excavations in any protected area (section 21). The archaeological officer can also carry out excavations in unprotected area (section 22). The Central Government is empowered to acquire antiquities found during any excavation work (section 23). The State Governments require approval of the Central Government to undertake any excavation or other field operations for archaeological purposes in any area, which is not a protected area (section 24).

Proposals for excavation by universities and learned institutions are required to be routed through the concerned State Governments and Rule 26 (chapter IV) of the *AMASR Rules 1959* empowers the Central Government to depute an archaeological officer to inspect the excavation or operation while it is in progress and render such advice as he deems necessary. Forms II, III, IV and V of the said Rules are concerned respectively with following aspects:

(i)   Applications for license to excavate in a Protected Area;
(ii)   License for Excavations in a Protected Area;
(iii)   Report on Antiquities excavated in a Protected Area; and
(iv)   Report on Antiquities excavated by an Archaeological Officer.

3. UNESCO RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in its meeting at New Delhi on 5 December 1956, adopted the *Recommendation on International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavations.* It was considered that, though the regulation of Excavation is first and foremost for the domestic jurisdiction of each country, this principle should be brought harmony with principles of liberally understood and widely accepted international co-operation. Archaeological Excavations were defined for the purpose of the Recommendation as "any research aimed at the discovery of objects of archaeological character, whether such research involves digging of the ground or systematic exploration of its surface or is carried out on the bed or in the sub-soil of inland or territorial waters of a Member State". For protection of the archaeological heritage, the Recommendation for each Member State is to make archaeological explorations and excavations subject to prior authorization by the competent authority and impose penalties for any infringement of the regulations. In order to provide for benefit from improved techniques and advance in archaeological scholarship in future, the Recommendations suggest that in case of larger sites, insofar as the nature of the land permits, well-defined 'witness' areas might be left unexcavated in several places to allow for future verification of the stratigraphy and archaeological features of the site. It also suggests that Member States should encourage planning of excavations by joint missions of scientists from their own countries and of archaeologists representing foreign institutions or international missions. It is also enjoined upon the excavator to publish the results of his work within the period stipulated in the deed, or, in cases lacking such stipulations, within a reasonable period. The authorities should also prevent photographic or other reproduction of unpublished archaeological material. The above Recommendations of the UNESCO (also known as *Delhi Declaration*), have been accepted by the Member States including India.

4. SUGGESTED PRIORITY AREAS IN FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS

The archaeological research comprises Exploration and Excavation along with allied studies such as geo-archaeology, palaeo-environment, paleontology, palaeobotany, ancient metallurgy as. As defined in Wheeler Report 1965 Exploration and Excavation are closely complementary activities. For every excavation careful objective oriented exploration is a pre-requisite.

The Exploration comprises the discovery and recording of ancient sites and remains still visible on the surface of the ground while excavation unearths the archaeological remains embedded below the surface of the earth. The explorations include village-to-village exploration, problem oriented exploration, salvage exploration, under water exploration and occasional exploration on the information received from the public, media and other sources.

The Excavation comprises debris clearance, salvage operation, problem oriented excavations - trial excavation, small scale excavation, and large scale excavation.

The various programmes of exploration and excavation undertaken in the country since the establishment of the Asiatic Society have given us a good picture of the richness of India's archaeological record stretching back to more than a million years. As desired by Mortimer Wheeler at the end of his tenure in concept paper entitled "Archaeological Fieldwork in India", "Planning Ahead", *Ancient India*, No. 5, (1949), Indian archaeology since Independence has achieved remarkable success in the construction of regional time-tables of cultures. We have a fairly good knowledge of the broad cultural contents and chronological limits of these frameworks.

But we need to avoid complacence. The frameworks are still by and large skeletal and need to be filled up with flesh and blood. We need to complement classificatory and descriptive accounts with culture process-oriented studies. Secondly, our existing knowledge is confined to a small portion of the total archaeological record of the country. There are many and vast stretches of the landscape which are yet to be brought under archaeological investigations. There are good indications that these landscape patches too have remains of the Stone Age, protohistoric, historical and mediaeval periods. This gap in the spatial coverage of fieldwork particularly stares us in the face in the context of threats to archaeological sites arising from various developmental projects initiated or being planned in different parts of the country. The vast number of sites destroyed under the Upper Krishna and Narmada Sarovar irrigation projects constitute a painful example. A two-fold effort is required for attending to this situation: a) changes in research strategies; and b) identification of problem-oriented research projects covering various time-periods.

A) Changes in Research Strategies

1. There is a clear need to rise above the level of cataloguing and classificatory studies of archaeological sites and recognize the cultural processes responsible for them. In other words, culture process approach is called for, which treats human cultures as systemic and functioning entities. The processual perspective advocates the adoption of a regional approach to the archaeological record, as against the one-site or big-site approach of earlier periods. The emphasis now is on the identification of all kinds and sizes of sites from the point of view of formation processes. Understanding of the distribution pattern of sites against the background of seasonality of climate and resources of the landscape results in the reconstruction of past cultures as settlement systems.

2. Settlement system approach to the past calls for a close integration of cultural and environmental data. Reconstruction of palaeoenvironments requires the close application of various geo- and biological sciences. While adopting these approaches one has to keep in mind the tremendous geographical diversity that exists in India – in rainfall, vegetation, soils, topography, etc. This could have generated tremendous cultural diversity. We clearly need to rise above the level of treating various cultural phases as uniform or unvarying all-India level entities.

3. Since the landscape is undergoing rapid transformation due to the initiation of various developmental projects, it should be made obligatory on the part of all agencies involved in field studies to give priority to these areas while planning their research projects.

4. Revival of village-to-village survey needs immediate attention. Also changes should be made in the existing antiquarian laws to introduce contract archaeology or Culture Resource Management (CRM).

5. Scientific dating of sites including rock art sites needs to be taken up on a larger scale.

6. Ethnographic recording of the rich diversity that exists in the living hunter-gatherer and agropastoral groups of various parts of the country will provide many useful analogies for reconstructing past cultural processes.
7. Careful strategic planning of excavation for a period of years, so far as possible on a regional or even an all –India basis. More intensive explorations coupled with excavations are called for particularly in outlying areas like Kashmir and North-east India and Southern tip of India.
8. While planning field projects support and advice may be sought from the Ministry of Environment, Ministries of Rural Development and Agriculture, Geological Survey and Anthropological Survey.
9. Since present day archaeological investigations comprise a lot of scientific studies closer collaboration with the Universities, IIT's and other scientific institutions is highly required. It will address the archaeological problems related to scientific studies and develop these institutes as well as ASI with the required expertise.
10. Full use of students-assistance should be ensured to create expertise in Exploration and Excavation.
11. Public education about local archaeological sites should highlight the pluralistic character of our heritage and promote what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru called scientific temper of mind among our people. As Mahatma Gandhi desired, people should be made to realize that they are the trustees of heritage.
12. Time bound execution of research projects and timely publication of reports.

B) Problem-oriented Research Projects

Keeping in view the research strategies suggested above, there is a need to formulate well planned long-term, specific, problem-oriented research projects covering various time-periods of our past.

1. Prehistory: The following topics deserve attention:
- Understanding internal evolution with the Lower Palaeolithic.
- Transition from the Lower to Middle Palaeolithic, Middle to Upper Palaeolithic.
- Genesis of the Mesolithic and regional variability.
- Explorations in Kashmir Valley, North-east India, Southern Karnataka, southern Tamil Nadu and other unexplored areas.
- Focussed research in Siwalik Hills, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Central India, Chota Nagpur Plateau, Kurnool and Cuddapah basins, Kortallayar basin, Bhima and Kaladgi basins, and the Deccan uplands to reconstruct Stone Age settlement systems and their regional identities.

2. Protohistory: The suggested topics include the following:
- Intensive surveys in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana for location small and big sites and recognizing regional variability in the Late Harappan.
- Ascertaining the genesis and evolution within the Harappan culture.
- Culture process oriented studies of early farming cultures of Ganga valley.
- Recognizing sub-regional of diversity within the major agropastoral Neolithic-Chalcolithic cultures of the country spanning 4th and 2nd millennia BC – in terms of differences in material culture equipment, animals domesticated, crops raised and other aspects.
- Use of symbolic approaches for the recognizing perceptions of early agropastoral groups *vis-à-vis* other human groups, plants, animals and natural features like hills, caves and water sources.

- Transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic – Chalcolithic stage.
- Transitions from Neolithic-Chalcolithic stage to Iron Age.
- Investigation of habitation sites of the Iron Age.
- Inferring aspects of socio-economic organization from study of distribution pattern of megalithic tombs on large sites.
- Ancient quarrying and mining activities.
- Ancient metallurgy.
- Projects dealing with ancient plant and animal remains.
- Studies of ancient human skeletal remains, using palaeopathology, DNA and other techniques.
- Rock art sites and their geographical and cultural contexts; interpretive studies of motifs depicted.

3. Historical Period:
- Factors responsible for Second Urbanization.
- Regional diversity in the emergence of Second Urbanization.
- Regional approach to the archaeological record of historical period; construction of regional culture-sequences.
- Archaeology of the coastal tracts.
- Investigation of habitation sites, temples and other monuments.
- Quarries and workshops of ancient art.
- Architectural and epigraphically surveys.
- Projects for understanding India's cultural contacts with areas on the west and the east.
- Projects concerning archaeology of ancient trade routes.
- Correlation of literary traditions with archaeological data.
- Agro-archaeology – tracing the history of cropping from seed analysis discovering modes of hoe and plough use as well as determine seed-yield ratios.
- Hydro-archaeology – examination of old river-courses, silt accumulations, exploration of old canals, wells, ponds and modes of water-left and irrigation.
- Industrial archaeology – Study of mechanical devices, old tools, machines and machine parts of historical and early historical period.
- Marine archaeology – study of coast-lines, rise and fall of water-levels, ships, sailing regimes etc.
- Salvage Archaeology or Operation – Salvage operation is required to understand the cultural impact assessment of the sites which are under threat from various development schemes like construction of dams/railway tracks/roads, irrigation, development of industries, urban or agricultural development, jungle clearance and land reclamation so that the documentation of archaeological remains is necessary before being lost to posterity.

4. Medieval Period:
- Regional approach to the study of medieval sites; construction of regional culture-sequences.
- Investigations of habitation sites including excavation for reconstructing lifeways of people, e.g. Maratha period in Deccan.

5. Colonial Period:
- Study of early colonial settlements and factories in the emergence and expansion of colonial powers.

- Colonial art and architecture.
- Colonial settlements and cemeteries.
- Under Water Archaeology.

5. GUIDELINES FOR UNDERTAKING EXPLORATIONS

It has already been pointed out that, despite explorations undertaken over the last two centuries and a quarter, much of the Indian landscape still remains *terra incognita* from the point of view of antiquarian remains. While emphasizing the richness of the Indian archaeological record, Wheeler remarked in his book *My Archaeological Mission to India and Pakistan* (1976): "Go to any living village in India and you will find beneath it layer upon layer of vestiges of ancient civilization". No meaningful picture of our past can ever be attempted without having a reliable knowledge of at least a major portion of this record scattered on the landscape.

It has also been mentioned earlier that this archaeological record, consisting of secular and religious monuments, epigraphical and numismatic materials, rock art sites, and archaeological sites yielding a variety of objects ranging from ceramics to simple ornaments of bone and stone, human skeletal remains, and botanical and archaeozoological remains, has in recent times come under a serious threat due to the initiation of many major developmental projects of various kinds. There is, therefore, an urgent need to promote explorations on an extensive scale as to facilitate recording of new sites.

Against this background the following steps need to be taken:
- The ASI should allot adequate funds to all its circles for reintroducing village-to-village survey in their respective regions.
- State Departments of Archaeology should also be persuaded to take up village-to-village survey.
- University departments and other research institutions should also be persuaded to recommend to students regional or site level explorations topics for Ph.D., M. Phil. and M.A. dissertations. It is not necessary to obtain prior permission for such projects which may also involve ascertaining the nature and extent of archaeological deposit. The universities will send to ASI detailed reports on these exploration schemes.
- Amendment of existing antiquarian rules to make it obligatory on the part of agencies responsible for developmental projects to have the archaeological material of the land patch properly recorded by an accredited institution before commencing actual project work.
- Village/Mandal Panchayats should be encouraged to report findings of antiquarian remains in their respective revenue limits.
- Air-photography should be employed for marking the features of ploughed out banks, filled-in ditches, street-plans, fortifications and such other buried ghosts of landscape which are difficult to be recognized on the ground.

6. PUBLICATION OF EXPLOARTION REPORTS

Reports on all Explorations should be prepared regularly and rendered yearly in a state fit for publication to the Director General.

7. GUIDELINES FOR GRANTING PERMISSION FOR EXCAVATION BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

A) Complete information

The applicants must supply complete information in the proforma as prescribed in Annexure 'B'. Proposals with incomplete information will be returned to the applicants, after the preliminary scrutiny, indicating the missing information. If the revised proposals are not received before the next meeting of the Standing Committee (SC) of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology (CABA), they may not be considered for approval for that particular season.

B) Proposal from institutions

The application made on behalf of an institution shall be signed by the Head of the institution.

In the case of universities, the proposal made by the Professors or other staff and not signed by the Vice Chancellor / Registrar of the University will not be considered for approval.

C) Separate proposals

Separate proposals must be submitted for excavations at different sites. Proposals mentioning more than one site will be summarily rejected.

D) Location of the site

Complete location with maps and details of the site including name of ancient mound, name of locality - village/town, taluka, district and state along with geo-coordinates should be mentioned. A proposal with sketchy location is liable to be summarily rejected.

E) Previous exploration and excavation

Excavation should be taken only if necessary and as the last step in the process of field study. It is, therefore, very important to study the site in detail using nondestructive methods, before carrying out excavation.

The importance of the site could be assessed by the nature of antiquities found in previous explorations and excavations. Excavations on the sites will not be permitted unless the potentiality of site is known earlier through detailed explorations or any excavation conducted earlier.

However, salvage excavation at any particular site in view of its likely destruction and important findings or chance discoveries may be permitted as an exception.

F) Purpose of excavation

Every excavation should have a specific purpose. If the purpose can be understood by other means without excavation, priority should be accorded to them. Emphasis should be given to problem-oriented investigations.

G) Area of excavation

No blanket permission to excavate in any area can be granted and it is essential that the area of excavation be clearly defined. The applicant should study the site in detail and identify the area of excavation before putting up the proposal. A detailed plan of the site showing in red outlines the extent of the proposed excavation or operation should be attached with the proposal.

H) Duration of excavation

For successful completion and achieving the goal of any excavation, it is necessary that the excavation be planned in detail. Proposed duration of the excavation or operation and date of commencement of the excavation should be decided keeping in view the availability of funds and other factors. Applicant should adhere to the time schedule mentioned in the proposal, unless there are unavoidable reasons to make changes in the given time-schedule. In that case, the applicant must inform the changed schedule to the authorities of Central Government as well as State Government in advance.

It will help to prepare a national calendar for excavations that will facilitate archaeologists, archaeological officers, researchers and students to visit various excavation sites.

I) Funds for excavation

Applicants not having sufficient funds to meet the required expenditure on the proposed excavation or operation would not be given approval for excavation. Besides fieldwork-sufficient funds should also be earmarked for preparation of excavation report.

Institutions having limited funds are advised to concentrate their resources at a few specific sites and carryout systematic work with detailed scientific studies, such as absolute dating and analyses of soil samples and plant material and animal zones. They may apply to the Archaeological Survey of India for matching grant if funds are not sufficient to carry out work for a particular season.

J) Director of excavation

Excavation at any site shall be conducted under the supervision of one Director only.

The excavation will not be approved merely on the basis of the status of the Director. He shall have enough experience to handle the entire excavation project.

The Director of excavation should have participated in at least five excavations and actually worked in the excavations for a reasonably long period of time. In exceptional cases the Standing Committee may waive this condition and record the reasons thereof in writing. Barring exceptional circumstances, which are to be recorded in writing, Director of the excavation shall not be changed.

Any proposal for excavation which does not mention the details of previous excavations carried out by the Director and the stage of publication of previous report(s) of his excavation(s) may not be approved.

K) Equipments and staff

The applicant should have sufficient trained staff and instruments required for the proposed excavation. Applicants not having sufficient photographic, surveying and other equipments shall not be permitted to excavate.

L) Collaboration

Collaboration between various institutions specializing in various fields of archaeology and science should be encouraged. Role of various collaborative agencies should be well defined.

In the case of collaboration with foreign agency, it would be the responsibility of Indian collaborator to act as Director of excavation and to ensure that the excavated material is kept in safe custody in the Indian institution, and the provisions of the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958* are implemented. The foreign expert would be a collaborator or the Co-Director to assist the Director of the Excavation Project.

No archaeological samples shall be sent outside the country for scientific analysis or dating without the approval of the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.

(M) Publication of excavation reports

No excavation is complete till its report is published and made available to public. Publication of excavation report is an integral and the most important part of any excavation.

The time schedule to be given to the Project Directors for writing and submission of Excavation Reports will be as follows:

(a) Brief reporting in respective Indian Archaeology: A Review - ANNUALLY.
(b) Interim Report of the work done in each season comprising relevant section drawings, stratigraphy, important findings with illustrations. – ANNUALLY.
(c) Excavation report after the conclusion of the excavation as per Wheeler Committee Report 1965 – comprising the facts of the excavation, the plan of a site, its stratigraphy, the relationship of buildings and objects to the culture or cultures, a brief definition of these cultures in the light of present knowledge, a precise account of the work done. SIX MONTHS.

The reports will be in pdf format (printable) comprising Black & White images may be with a maximum resolution of 300 dpi, and the colour images with 600 dpi.

The published material under the above reports has to be available for the Scholars/Researchers/Students/Public to utilize the data for their knowledge and research work.

Those who have not followed above time schedule may not be permitted to take up any other excavation till their previous report(s) are submitted for publication.

Priority has to be given to clear up the back log of the reports on work already done.

(O) Other Relevant Information

Any other relevant information furnished by the applicant may be considered for approval of the proposal.

(P) Approval of the State Governments

Proposal for any excavation by the University or learned institution would not be considered for approval without the approval of the concerned state government.

(Q) Recommendations to be recorded

All the proposals will be signed by the Standing Committee of the CABA and its recommendations and decisions will be recorded.

(R) Decisions to be conveyed

Decisions of the Standing Committee shall be conveyed to all the applicants.

(S) Number of Excavations

Director of any excavation shall not be allowed to take up more than TWO excavations in a field season.

Limited excavations would help in utilizing the staff, equipments and funds to carry out systematic excavation with detailed analysis. This in turn would bring better results and help in faster preparation of reports.

8. CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

' The Archaeological Survey of India should attach young Indian archaeologists for foreign/ or Indian mission working in the archaeology of other countries with which India had cultural relationship in the past, for example, West Asia, Central Asia, South East Asia, China and Africa. It would help towards developing specialization in archaeology of those countries. In the same way, archaeologists of those countries may be provided facilities to participate in the excavation and other field works in India. Such participation would *inter-alia* put Indian achievements in a wider context.'

9. PREPARATION OF CATALOGUES OF ANTIQUITIES

Archaeological Survey of India, State Departments of Archaeology, Universities and other organizations have in their possession vast collection of objects and antiquities of various kinds obtained from explorations and excavations. In order to facilitate their use by other scholars for research/reference purposes and also to document them for purpose of future record, it is necessary to prepare catalogues or registers of these objects. The following suggestions are made in this regard:

- The institutions responsible for explorations/excavations and holding the collections in their possession shall prepare period and site-wise registers or catalogues of all finds.
- For this purpose funds may be made availability by the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities.
- These catalogues shall be completed in a period of five years. They should be published, as they will have tremendous value from both documentation and research points of view.

List of Some Important Excavated/Explored Archaeological Sites in India

(A) Prehistoric Sites

Pallavaram, Gudiyam, Poondi, Attirampakkam, Vadamadurai, Nellore, Amridhamanglam, Yigacaripalem, Kovalli, Devapur, Sanganakallu, Peddarachapalli, Hunsgi, Yediyapur, Isampur, Lakhmapur, Jwalapuram, Wajjal, Yerragondapalem, Billa Surgam, Muchchatla Chintamani Gavi, Hagargundge, Nagarjunakonda, Giddalur, Nandipakkam (in Southern India).

Mahadeo Piparia, Maheshwar, Adamgarh, Bhimbetka, Anagwadi, Gangapur, Nevasa, Patne, Bori, Morgoon, Kandivli, Mula-Mutha, Karwi, Lodhwara, Manikpur, Lalitpur, Khyad, Mandsaur, Chirki, Lahchura, Rehli, Ghagra, Harat, Aslana, Mariado, Bariari, Ramchandra Hill, Durendi, Sitapur, Shahdol, Sidhi, Bilaspur, Hoshangabad, Narasinghpur, Chandil, Chaibasa, Ghatsila, Sini, Choli, Khatki Mata, Kalegaon, Paithan, Bhadne, Boregaon Nandur, Ambejogai, Deva-Kachar, Burman Ghat, Sihra, Ghatsemtra, Hasrai, Gonchi, Mori (in Central India and Deccan).

Bhutia, Hajra-Kheri, Beawar, Champakheri, Vedul-Lachervu Rampura, Warsora, Goda, Chittaurgarh, Tilwara, Bagor, Langhnaj Tarasang, Ambakut, Jogpura (in Western India).

Paisara, Bhimbandh, Susunia, Daphabum, Kangsbati, Dhekulia, Pratappur, Marvania (in Eastern India).

Pahalgam, Banganga, Nalagarh, Sirsa, Markanda, Dera, Kharauni, Chandi Mandir, Guler, Jurro, Pinyani, Terra, Moh, Jagatpur, Nandi, Mananu, Paltha, Bhangarh, Nanakanthur, Chikalia, Nabharagarh, Khadki, Anangpur, Basauli, Lekhania, Sarai Nahar Rai (in Northern India).

Besides these, a large number of sites and group of sites on river valleys and hilly ranges throughout the country have been investigated.

(B) Neolithic Sites

Kupgal, Sauganakallu, Nagarjunakonda, Jalahalli, Banahalli, Sawyerpuram, Maski, Piklihal, Utnur, T. Narsipur, Tekkalakotta, Hallur, Kodekal, Budihal, Paiyampalli, T. Kallupatti, Brahmagiri (in Southern India).

Eran, Basoda, Besnagar, Amakheda, Pipalia, Lorka, Nayakheda, Nandura, Maheshwar, Navdatoli, Pipalda, Badada, Chikalda, Khedi, Bagor, Kuchai, Adamgarh, Pachmarhi, Langhnaj, Marve, Yerangal (in Central and Western India).

Baidpur, Chirand, Sonepur, Oriup, Pandu Rajar Dhibi, Ban Asuria, Kachinda, Kankradara, Barkola, Bangarh, Tamluk, Chakradharpur, Chitra, Abri, Rengchengiri, Ringigiri, Selbalgiri, Rokimi, Karami, Siromi, Lazimi, Itumi, Deojali Hading, Samtaru (in Eastern India).

Mahagra, Koldihwa, Damdama, Jhusi, Toxwa, Lahuradewa, Sohgaura, Malpur, Burzahom, Gofkral, Kanispur (in Northern India).

(C) Chalcolithic and Harappan Sites

Kallur, Patpad, Pusalpadu, Singanapalli, Banahalli, Kesarapalle, Maski, Piklihal, Brahmagiri, Sanganakallu, Tekkalakotta, Hallur, T. Narsipur, Hemmige (in Southern India).

Gungeria, Lothal, Surkotada, Dholavira, Kalibangan, Ropar, Sanghol, Banawali, Dhalewan, Baror, Chak 86, Rakhigarhi, Desalpur, Prabhas Patan, Somnath, Junikuran, Khinsara, Mehgam, Telod, Bhagatrav, Malwan, Rangpur, Nageshwar, Vagad, Bagasra, Nagwara, Loteshwar, Santhuli, Padri, Kuntasi, Rozdi, Ratanpura, Navdatoli, Chandoli, Malwa, Jorwe, Kayatha, Daimabad, Savalda, Prakash, Bahal, Inamgaon, Nagda, Eran, Tekwada (in Central and Western India and Deccan).

Lal Qila, Mitathal, Ahar, Balathal, Gilund, Ojiyana, Siswal, Noh, Atranjikhera, Kalibangan, Banawali, Baror, Bhirrana, Rakhigarhi, Bara, Ropar, Sanghol, Kunal, Tarkhanwala Dera, Lahuradewa, Imlidih, Sohgaura, Narahan, Alamgirpur, Manda, Daulatpur, Bhagwanpura, Katpalon, Dher Majra, Kotla Nihangkhan, Nagar, Dadheri, Saipai, Bahadrabad, Rajpur Parsu, Hastinapur, Jodhpura, Hulas, Sothi, Ambkheri, Bargaon, Sinauli, Farmana, Chak-86, Koldihwa, Khajuri, Kakoria, Jhusi, Hetimpur, Mahadaha, Damdama, Waina, Khairadih (in Northern India).

Sonepur, Chirand, Parihati, Pandu Rajar Dhibi, Haraipur, Mahisdal, Bharatpur, Kotasur, Hattiga, Barabelun, Mangalkot (in Eastern India).

(D) Iron Age, Megalithic and Historical Sites

Arikamedu, Chandravalli, Sengamedu, Hallur, Tekwada, Adichanallur, Sanur, Kunnattur, Takalghat, Paiyampalli, Katia, Halingali, Sankavaram, Pallavaram, Brahmgiri, Savandurg, Feroke, Maski, Jadigenahalli, Heggadevanakote, Kudige, Terdal, T.Narsipur, Machad, Pazhayannur, Porkalam, Banavasi, Udayavara, Sannathi, Hampi, Vadgaon-Madhavpur, Kanchipuram, Vasavasamudram, Karur, Tirukkampuliyur, Alagarai, Uraiyur, Kaveripattinam, Korkai, Nattamedu, Ganganose (in Southern India);

Junapani, Mahurjhari, Takalghat, Khapa, Naikund, Khaiwara, Dharanikota, Nagarjunakonda, Amaravati, Lam, Pochampad, Raigir, Yelleswaram, Ujjain, Vidisa, Besnagar, Tripuri, Eran, Paithan, Ter, Kolhapur, Paunar, Bhokardan, Kesarapalle, Salihundam, Prakash, Paunar, Brahmapuri, Guntapalli, Jaggayyapeta, Ghantasala, Alluru, Bhattiprolu, Kottur, Vengi (in Central India and Deccan).

Shamlaji, Nagara, Kamrej, Bharuch, Veraval, Hathab, Somnath, Akota, Vadnagar, Devnimori, Champaner, Patan, Junagarh (in Western India).

Chandraketugarh, Tamluk, Sisupalgarh, Sonpur, Chechar, Vaisali, Rajgir, Campa, Chirand, Kumrahar, Pandu Rajar Dhibi, Boral, Harinarayanpur, Haripur, Deulpota, Atghara, Nalanda, Ghorakatora, Juaffardih, Antichak, Bangarh, Rakshasidanga, Rajbadidanga, Chiruti, Ambari, Suryapahar, Bhishmakanagar, Boxanagar, Shyamsunder Tila, Barabati Fort, Udaygiri, Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Langudi Hill, Khiching, Bandh, Chowdwar, Churangadh (in Eastern India).

Ahichchhatra, Alamgirpur, Allahpur, Hastinapur, Khalaua, Mathura, Ropar, Sravasti, Noh, Kampil, Jakhera, Ayodhya, Kausambi, Sringaverapura, Bhardwaj Ashram, Piprahwa and Ganwaria, Rajghat, Bhita, Siswania, Sankisa, Muhammadnagar, Harnol, Orai, Lalkot, Salimgarh, Purana Qila, Tughlaqabad, Adilabad, Mandoli, Bhorgarh, Jhatikra, Ahar, Chandravat, Burzahom, Kanispur, Semthan, Ambaran, Guru Baba-Ka-Tibba, Jafarchak, Gofkral, Fatehpur Sikri, Kokoria, Lathiya, Nindaur, Bhitari, Mason, Sohgaura, Kananj, Hulaskhera, Sanchankot, Agiabir, Prahladpur, Bairat, Jodhpura, Nagari, Rang Mahal, Agroha, Kashipur, Kusinagara, Sarnath, Virabhadara (in Northern India).