

**MINUTES OF THE 33rd MEETING OF THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF
ARCHAEOLOGY, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA HELD AT HALL
NO. 4, VIGYAN BHAWAN, NEW DELHI ON 31st DECEMBER, 2007**

The 33rd meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, Archaeological Survey of India, was held at Hall No. 4, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 31st December, 2007 under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Ambika Soni, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism and Culture. The following were present on the dais:

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|----|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Ambika Soni
Hon'ble Minister for Tourism and Culture
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi 110011 | Chairman |
| 2. | Shri Abhijit Sengupta
Secretary (Culture), GOI
Department of Culture, Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi 110011 | Member |
| 3. | Smt. Anshu Vaish
Director General
Archaeological Survey of India
Janpath, New Delhi 110011 | Member |
| 4. | Shri Vijay S Madan
Additional Director General
Archaeological Survey of India
Janpath, New Delhi 110011 | Member |
| 5. | Shri R.C. Mishra
Joint Secretary (Culture), GOI
Department of Culture, Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi 110011 | Member |
| 6. | Dr. R.S. Fonia
Director (Explorations & Excavations)
Archaeological Survey of India
Janpath, New Delhi 110011 | Member Secretary |

2. The names of the CABA members, who attended the meeting, are given at Annexure I.
3. Ms. Anshu Vaish, Director General, welcomed the members of the CABA.
4. Dr. R.S. Fonia, Member Secretary and Director (Explorations & Excavation), ASI, read out a text to condole the sad demise Shri M.C. Joshi, former

Director General, ASI and Dr. S.P. Gupta of the Indian Archaeological Society who had been associated with the Archaeological Survey of India and former members of CABA.

The members observed a two minute silence in honour of the departed soul.

The obituary remarks are enclosed at **Annexure II**.

5. **Ms. Anshu Vaish, Director General, ASI presented the activities and achievements of ASI in the year 2006-07.** She welcomed all the members of CABA and gave a brief introduction of ASI, its field offices, activities and functions.

The DG informed the members that Red Fort, Delhi has been inscribed on the World Heritage List recently and the handing over of the plaque to mark this inscription was recently held on 29th November, 2007. Majuli Island in Assam and Kalka – Shimla Railway will be proposed for consideration of the World Heritage Committee in 2008.

The budget allocation for ASI for 2007-08 is about Rs. 300 crores, out of which a third is under plan allocation and two-thirds are under non-plan. The ASI also contributes to the government exchequer through ticketing of its monuments. In 2006-07, ASI contributed about Rs. 63 crores through ticketing, which was nearly a 9% increase over the previous year. The number of visitors to the ASI monuments is also increasing. In 2006-07, the total number of visitors was 277 lakhs, out of which 255 lakhs were domestic visitors and 22 lakhs were foreign visitors.

The ASI has undertaken the conservation and preservation of Ta Prohm Temple, Cambodia and an agreement was signed with the Royal Government of Cambodia in 2002. The total estimate of the conservation works is nearly Rs. 20 crores which will be carried out in 10 years. So far detailed scientific studies pertaining to soil, foundation, structural engineering, hydrology and tree diagnostics have been carried out. Ta Prohm is a complex conservation project and ASI feels proud to deal with this challenge.

The DG expressed concern that the survival of cultural heritage is threatened by large developmental projects, construction of roads, dams, airports, SEZs, etc. International norms require cultural impact assessment studies in the proposed project area to assess the existence and importance of archaeological sites in the area. Excavation and salvage operations are then carried out as necessary. ASI has initiated steps to make it mandatory for cultural and archaeological impact studies along the lines of environmental impact assessment. ASI has also initiated action to amend the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959 to address issues like rapid urbanisation and growing awareness of heritage, and bring

the Rules in tune with the changing times, new technologies, etc.

Once the draft amendment is ready, it will be circulated among the members of the CABA for their comments.

6. **Shri Abhijit Sengupta, Secretary (Culture)** welcomed the Hon'ble Minister and all the members of the CABA. He noted the wide representation of scholars, academicians and scientists among the members of the CABA and expressed his hope that the deliberations will promote archaeological studies and research in the country.

He drew the attention of the members to the fact that the first meeting of the CABA was held in 1945 and the first issue of '*Indian Archaeology – A Review*' was published in 1953-54 on the occasion of 10th meeting of CABA. An exhibition on the archaeological finds of the time was also organised on the occasion. He hoped that the practice of organising such exhibitions, highlighting important archaeological discoveries, to coincide with the CABA meeting would be revived by ASI.

The ASI has recently signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur for collaborations in the area of application of sciences in archaeology. Under this collaboration, the ASI has deputed its officers for undergoing training in select subjects like, "Plane Surveying and GPS", "Geographical Information System" and "Archaeo-materials". The ASI, in collaboration with the Civil Engineering Department of IIT, Kanpur has also undertaken a project on "Terrain Mapping and Archaeoscientific Investigations of Ahichchhatra, district Bareilly, U.P." IIT, Kanpur has planned to setup a Centre for Archaeological Sciences and Technology with facilities for dating labs, archaeo-materials investigations, GIS, GPS, GPR facilities, neutron activation analysis, scanning electron microscope and so on. Secretary (Culture) felt that the ASI should actively participate in this venture which will help in capacity building of ASI officers and facilitate research in various fields of archaeology.

The archaeological legislations were enacted quite some time ago and it is time to make suitable amendments keeping in view the various changes that have occurred since their enactment. He appreciated ASI's steps towards the amendment of existing Rules.

He noted that in the area of conservation, traditional methodologies are being used in conjunction with modern technology. The ASI has a pool of such traditional technologies which should be identified and documented for future conservation works. He urged the ASI to bring out manuals on the different conservation methodologies and techniques for each region, as they have their own building materials and construction techniques. This will help all future conservation efforts and ensure faithfulness towards the traditional

conservation norms.

Secretary (Culture) informed the CABA that adequate care is being taken for allotment of funds to the ASI to carry out its various activities. He concluded by wishing the members fruitful deliberations.

7. **The Minister for Tourism & Culture**, at the outset, observed that the various meetings of the CABA have helped a great deal in the functioning of ASI and also in regard to the larger concerns addressed by the archaeologists. The Minister thanked the members for attending the meeting at short notice. She urged the ASI to take up the matter with the States whose representatives did not attend the meeting.

The Minister noted that the subject of archaeology has been an important topic of discussion in various Parliamentary Consultative Committee and Standing Committee meetings. She noted that many elected representatives, ministers and NGOs approach ASI for the protection of the archaeological finds from their region and upgradation of tourist infrastructure. This increased sensitivity was visible among all sections of the society.

Even though the monuments and sites protected by the Central and State Governments number over 7000, there are still hundreds of monuments and sites that need the attention of the government. The Minister expressed the need for strengthening of ASI and creating a country-wide database of heritage in the country. Keeping this background in view, the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities was launched in March, 2007.

The Mission is entrusted with the task to document the monuments and antiquities spread across the country and to establish a GIS based database of our monuments, sites and antiquities. The government is considering establishment of a National Heritage Sites Commission, a statutory body, to go into greater detail on the conservation and preservation of all monuments including unprotected sites.

The Minister emphasised the importance of a system that is transparent, just and responsible to preserve our heritage. In this connection, forthcoming amendments in the archaeological legislations are necessary and important.

The Minister also noted that several countries have requested India for extending help in the preservation and conservation of their heritage and quoted examples of Cambodia, Indonesia and Singapore in this context.

The state of site museums needs further improvement and the Minister noted that the invaluable antiquities and archaeological finds are not being properly displayed due to want of space and proper security. She

congratulated ASI on the various steps taken in the proper security of monuments and sites. She also congratulated the efforts of an ASI officer who initiated steps to organise a pledge and oath ceremony for schoolchildren for the protection of heritage. She urged that such sensitising activities and programmes are necessary to involve the general public in the preservation of our heritage.

The Minister commended the efforts of ASI in the area of world heritage nominations and bringing Hampi out of the endangered list of world heritage properties. She also cited the examples of Fatehpur Sikri, Mahabalipuram and Mahabodhi Temple complex, where successful rehabilitation of commercial establishments has been accomplished.

The Minister shared with CABA members the ever increasing number of tourists to India and the monetary benefits that accrue through tourism. She underscored the need for harmonizing the heritage preservation with tourism promotion.

The Minister stressed on the importance of public-private partnership for conserving heritage. She specially mentioned the National Culture Fund, which invites contributions from the corporate houses and involves them in the preservation and conservation of monuments. She felt glad that many corporate houses are coming forward in this direction and are willing to contribute. She urged the members of CABA in encouraging greater private participation to help AI's efforts.

The Minister urged that planning and preparation for the celebration of the 150th year of founding of ASI (in 2011) should begin soon.

The Minister hoped for fruitful discussions and extended new year greetings to all the members.

- 8. The minutes of meeting of the Standing Committee of CABA held in the year 2006 and 2007 were confirmed.**
- 9. SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED FROM CABA MEMBERS WERE TAKEN UP FOR DISCUSSION AND THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE:**

ANTIQUITIES

- 1.1. The antiquities and sculptures collected during village to village survey and presently lying in different Circles may be stored in**

Central Antiquities Collection for study of scholars

A.K. Sharma

The Central Antiquity Collection (CAC) has been established with the aim to store and preserve representative collections of antiquities from the excavations carried out all over India. Through the Mission, documentation of all the antiquities of CAC has also been proposed. Once the job is completed, this data will be available to scholars.

1.2. The State Department of Archaeology should be empowered for registration of antiquities in Arunachal Pradesh

Tage Tada

The member was not present and hence the suggestion was not taken up for discussion.

EXCAVATION

2.1. The negatives of the excavation may get chemically treated and stored in air conditioned repositories to prevent damage.

A.K. Sharma

The members were informed that the digitisation of nearly 10,000 glass negatives from the Headquarter Office has been already completed. Further, the digitisation of 20,000 black & white negatives has also been completed and a database has been created. The work on the remaining negatives will be taken up in a phased manner. Necessary steps have already been taken for proper storage of these negatives in a dust-free environment.

2.2. The State Departments of Archaeology may be given encouragement for diversification of excavation at different sites.

A.K. Sharma

The member was informed that if proposals are received from State Departments of Archaeology, they will be considered accordingly.

2.3. Excavation at some important northeast India needs to be carried out.

A.K. Sharma

The member was informed that the ASI has recently posted a Deputy Superintending Archaeologist under the Guwahati Circle exclusively for carrying out exploration and excavation in the Northeast. Further, if

any proposals are received from any agency for conducting excavation in the Northeast, that will be encouraged.

- 2.4. ASI may advise every agency carrying out excavation to submit their report on excavation / exploration every year, before the members of CABA.**

Sita Ram Ray

The members were informed that the ASI has taken every possible step to impress upon the agencies that undertake excavations the need to submit their reports and publish them. While inviting application proposals for exploration & excavation, this point is stressed. Further, the ASI has also proposed amendment of the format for submitting excavation proposals to specifically include report writing. The Hon'ble Minister urged that 'Indian Archaeology – A Review' should be updated and 'Ancient India' revived so that the brief reports of the excavations of various agencies can be brought out. Further, the Minister also suggested that if reports are not submitted by an excavator, no further permission should be given to him / her.

- 2.5. A committee may be constituted by ASI to look into the criticisms raised on the ASI's report on Ayodhya Excavation.**

Shireen Moosvi

As the matter is *sub-judice* in the Special Full Bench of the Allahabad High Court, the issue was not discussed.

MONUMENTS

- 3.1 Tourist facilities at Red Fort need improvement.**

Sharad Singh, Dept. of Tourism

The member was not present and hence the suggestion was not taken up for discussion.

- 3.2 The illumination and lighting of ASI monuments in NCT of Delhi should be improved in view of Commonwealth Games 2010.**

Sharad Singh, Dept. of Tourism

The member was not present and hence the suggestion was not taken up for discussion.

- 3.3 Appropriate measures should be taken for creation and**

improvement of Public conveniences at ASI monuments all over the country.

Sharad Singh, Dept. of Tourism

The member was not present and hence the suggestion was not taken up for discussion.

3.4 Possibility of Public Private partnership for management of monuments may be explored

Sharad Singh, Dept. of Tourism

The member was not present and hence the suggestion was not taken up for discussion.

3.5 ASI should explore financial support from various public / private sectors for maintenance and operation of SEL shows at ASI monuments

Sharad Singh, Dept. of Tourism

The member was not present and hence the suggestion was not taken up for discussion.

3.6 ASI officers should be given magisterial / police powers in view of the threat to monuments

Shireen Moosvi

The member was informed that in view of constitutional provisions governing the powers of the Central and State Governments, this suggestion cannot be considered. However, ASI will intensify efforts towards the removal of encroachments.

3.7 In the absence of proper perspective plan and status reports of each monument, it has been observed that the important monuments are being over conserved whereas other monuments located in remote areas are neglected. This could be checked if there is any in-built monitoring mechanism.

K.N. Dikshit

A suitable mechanism will be evolved in ASI for this purpose.

3.8 The aims and objectives of Heritage Commission vis-à-vis ASI and role of National Mission for Monuments and Antiquities.

K.N. Dikshit

The National Heritage Sites Commission is being formed through a

statute to look into the various issues concerning heritage preservation. It was clarified that the Commission's canvas would be wider than the ASI and the Mission as it would cover natural heritage as well. Besides, it could put in place provisions to regulate architecture and modern structures in heritage areas.

- 3.9 Central Assistance / fund for Historical / Archaeological heritage purpose needs to be granted to the state with a direction to execute as per archaeological parameter**

Tage Tada

The member was not present and hence the suggestion was not taken up for discussion.

- 3.10 Central Govt. needs to be scrutinized whether the estimate proposal for renovation, preservation, protection, improvement etc. Of historical and archaeological heritage of the state should come through the nodal department and work is executed after proper consultation, coordination with the state archaeology so that no destruction is done to the historical, archaeological heritage**

Tage Tada

The member was not present and hence the suggestion was not taken up for discussion.

- 3.11 To renovate and development of the sites under ASI protection in Arunachal Pradesh, it is proposed for collaboration with state archaeology with certain funding by the ASI**

Tage Tada

The member was not present and hence the suggestion was not taken up for discussion.

- 3.12 The method of bringing into protection a large mass grave found in Arunachal Pradesh recently, numbering nearly 1000 in number and dating back to Second World War**

Tage Tada

The member was not present and hence the suggestion was not taken up for discussion.

- 3.13 The mound of Moghalmari be declared as a protected monument, and financial support, if required, be given to the Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta to carry out the major excavation and post-excavation conservation works at the site of**

Moghaluari.

Ramkrishna Chatterjee

The ASI will look into the matter of assessing the importance of the site for declaring it as a protected site. If any proposal for financial support is received from the Department of Archaeology, University of Kolkata it will be considered.

- 3.14 The ASI can take steps to introduce computing and information technology and develop IT infrastructure in coordination with NIC for managing its monuments and circle offices throughout the country.**

B.M. Khanduri

The ASI has already initiated steps in this regard. The ASI now has a vibrant website. A complete database of monuments and antiquities is to be created by the National Mission.

- 3.15 Some more important monuments should also be undertaken (by ASI) for protection and the (Dehradun) circle also be strengthen in its conservation staff**

B.M. Khanduri

The member was informed that necessary steps will be taken for filling up of the vacant posts in the Dehradun Circle. It was also informed that ASI alone cannot protect all the important monuments and the State government should also come forward in this regard.

MUSEUMS

- 4.1 A Prehistoric and Ceramic Museum may be established in Old High Court Building at Nagpur**

A.K. Sharma

The member was informed that the matter will be considered and a suitable decision will be taken.

- 4.2 The technical arrangements that are made to give the archaeologists posted in Site Museums for professional guidance in the absence of Museum Branch in the Survey. Most of the Museums are without technical heads and lack proper security**

K.N. Dikshit

The cadre review in respect of posts of Assistant Archaeologists is already underway in ASI. A proper mechanism will be evolved to train

archaeologists posted in site museums.

PUBLICATION

- 5.1 ASI may extend technical support to K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna for updating the publications of archaeological interest.**

Sita Ram Ray

It was intimated that if any specific proposal is received from K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, the matter will be considered. In principle, ASI has no difficulty in extending such technical support.

- 5.2 ASI updates its Epigraphical publications like Epigraphia Indica (Sanskrit and Dravidian) and EIC (Arabic and Persian) which are in arrears by properly expanding qualified staff to explore and edit inscriptions.**

Shireen Moosvi

Necessary steps have been taken for filling up of the technical posts in the Epigraphy Branch. The ASI also agreed to a suggestion to set up a sub-committee of CABA to advise and suggest measures upgradation of the Epigraphy Branch.

ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1 The status of the filling up of the senior posts in ASI which are lying vacant and why steps are not taken in advance to fill up these posts.**

K.N. Dikshit

ASI clarified that necessary steps have been taken for filling up of senior posts in the ASI.

- 6.2 Steps taken by the Archaeological Survey of India to frame a transfer policy of all the categories of officers and non-gazetted technical staff**

K.N. Dikshit

The ASI has no separate transfer policy and at present follows the transfer policy of the Government of India.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 7.1 ASI should bring out archaeological atlas of South Asia arranged by periods with accurate mapping, adequate texts and references**

Shireen Moosvi

The Government of India has recently launched a National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities, which will bring out an archaeological atlas of India. ASI will consider including the entire South Asian region in this atlas.

- 7.2 ASI should publish catalogue of animals bone and plant remains through documentation projects with the help of ZSI and Botanical authorities**

Shireen Moosvi

At present the ASI has not considered bringing out any catalogue on animal bones and plant remains. However, the suggestion will be considered, perhaps within the National Mission's mandate.

- 7.3 ASI will be celebrating its hundred and fifty years very soon. To work out a detailed programme a central committee and four or five Regional Committees may be formed who would be required to submit within six months from their formation work plans for implementation in National and Regional Levels.**

Subroto Chakrabarti

The ASI will take necessary action in this regard.

ANNEXURE – I

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE CABA WHO ATTENDED THE 33RD MEETING OF THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHAEOLOGY

1. Smt. Ambika Soni,
Minister for Tourism and Culture,
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110011
2. Shri Abhijit Sengupta,
Secretary (Culture),
Government of India,
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 011.
3. Smt. Anshu Vaish,
Director General,
Archaeological Survey of India,
Janpath, New Delhi-110011.
4. Shri Vijay S. Madan,
Addl. Director General,
Archaeological Survey of India,
Janpath, New Delhi 110011
5. Shri R.C. Mishra,
Joint Secretary,
Government of India,
Department of Culture,
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi 110011
6. Dr. R.R.S. Chauhan,
Nominee of Director General,
National Museum,
Janpath, New Delhi 110011.
7. Dr. V.R. Rao,
Director-in-Charge,
Anthropological Survey of India,
27 Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Calcutta-700016
8. Shri Vidit Ratna,
Town & Country Planner,
Town and Country Planning Organization, Ministry
of Urban Development, E-Block, Delhi Vikas
Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002.

9. Prof. Ranjit Mitra,
Director,
School of Planning and Architecture,
4, Block B, I.P. Estate,
New Delhi-110002.
10. Dr. R.C. Aggarwal,
Nominee of Chairman, INTACH,
71, Lothi Estate,
New Delhi-110003.
11. Prof. Ramakrishna Chatterji,
Nominee of the General Secretary,
Asiatic Society, 1, Park Street,
Kolkata-700 016 (W.B.)
12. Sh. K.N. Dikshit,
Nominee of Secretary,
Indian Archaeological Society,
B-17, Qutab Institutional Area,
South of IIT, New Delhi.
13. Prof. Ashvini Agarwal,
Punjab University,
Deptt. of Ancient Indian History
Culture & Archaeology,
Art Block-II, Chandigarh-160014.
14. Prof. Shireen Moosvi,
Aligarh Muslim University,
Aligarh (U.P.).
15. Prof. Subrata Chakraborty,
Vidya Bhawan,
Visva-Bharti, Santiniketan-731235, (W.B.)
16. Prof. B.M. Khanduri,
HNB Garhwal University,
Srinagar, Garhwal- 246174
(Uttarakhand)
17. Dr. Krishna Murthy,
2977/1-B, 'RASHMI',
5th Main Road, Vani Vilas Puram,
Mysore-570 002, (Karnataka.)

18. Prof. R.K. Dubey,
Deptt. of Materials & Metallurgical Engineering,
Indian Institute of Technology,
Kanpur (U.P.).
19. Shri B.M. Pande,
Y-81, Hauz Khas,
New Delhi.
20. Dr. K.K. Thapliyal,
Former Prof. & Head,
B-1, 18/1, Sector-K,
Aliganj, Lucknow-226024 (U.P.).
21. Prof. Suraj Bhan,
Former Professor of Archaeology,
1817 H.B. Colony, Sector 1,
Rohtak (Haryana).
22. Prof. Sitaram Roy,
Former Professor of Archaeology,
Government of Bihar,
295, Nehru Nagar, P.O. Pataliputra,
Patna -13, (Bihar)
23. Dr. M.S. Nagaraja Rao,
Former Director General, ASI,
15, Gangotri Layout,
1st Stage, Mysore-570 009.
24. Shri R.C. Tripathi,
Former Director General, ASI,
A-1055, Indira Nagar,
Lucknow-226 016.
25. Shri J.P. Joshi,
Former Director General, ASI,
134, Venus Apartments,
Inder Enclave, Rohtak Road,
New Delhi-110087.

STATE GOVERNMENT NOMINEES

26. Dr. H.N. Dutta,
Director Archaeology,
Government of Assam,
Directorate of Archaeology,
Ambari, Guwahati -781001(Assam)
27. Shri. A.K. Sharma,
Nominee of Govt. of Chattisgarh,
Raipur, (Chattisgarh)
28. The Secretary.
Archaeology & Archives
Secretariat, Porvorim Bordez,
Panaji – 403501 (Goa)
29. Shri Y.S.Rawat, Director,
Nominee of Government of Gujarat,
Department of Culture & Tourism, Sachivalaya,
Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
30. Shri M. Acharya,
Director,
State Deptt. of Archaeology & Museums,
S.C.O. No.9, Sector-5,
Panchkula, (Haryana)
31. Shri. V.A. Machaknur,,
Government of Karnataka,
Kannada & Culture Department,
5th floor, Multistoried Building,
Bangalore-560001, (Karnataka)
32. Shri. Pankaj Rag, IAS,
Director, Archaeology,
Archives and Museums,
Govt. of Madhya Pradesh,
Banganga Road, Bhopal (M.P.).
33. Shri P. Bharat Singh, IAS,
The Secretary,
Government of Manipur,
Art and Cultural Department,
Imphal-795001, (Manipur).

34. Shri K. K. Rishi,
Archaeological Officer-cum-Curator,
Department of Archaeology, Museum & Archives,
Plot No.3, Sec. 38, (Chandigarh)
35. Shri R.K. Babar,
Deputy Secretary,
Department of Art and Culture,
Government of Rajasthan,
Jaipur (Rajasthan).
36. Shri. Rakesh Tewari,
Director,
State Archaeology Department,
Government of Uttar Pradesh,
Roshandoula Kothi,
Kesarbagh, Lucknow (U.P.).
37. Shri S.K. Gupta, PRO,
Govt. of Uttarakhand,
Tourism and Culture Department,
Sachivalaya,
Dehradun 248001, (Uttarakhand)
38. Sh. Vidya Nand Singh,
Director,
Govt. Museum and Art Gallery,
Chandigarh Administration,
Sector 10-C,
Chandigarh-160011.
39. Shri R.S. Fonia,
Director (EE) & Member Secretary

OBITUARY REMARKS

Shri Munish Chandra Joshi
(1935 – 2007)

Shri Munish Chandra Joshi was born on 30th March, 1935 at Haldwani in Uttarakhand. Joshi had his early education in Nainital. He passed Master of Arts in History with distinction from the Lucknow University in 1956. The same year, he joined the Archaeological Survey of India. After holding different positions in ASI, he was appointed as the Director General of ASI. In 1993, he retired from ASI and joined the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) as its Member Secretary and served in this position till 2000. While in ASI, he carried out archaeological investigations in different parts of the country and made an in depth study of monuments and museum collections. He had also carried out excavations at Purana Qila and Mathura.

Joshi was also associated with several Indian and foreign universities as a distinguished scholar and visiting professor. Joshi has published over 200 research papers covering almost every aspect of Indian art, architecture, archaeology, history and culture, epigraphy, numismatics, iconography, iconology, painting, rites and rituals, myths and traditions, tantra, social systems, Sufism, etc. conservation of monuments, astrology, gems and jewellery, etc. – there was hardly any area which did not come under his purview.

Munish Chandra Joshi passed away on 1st January, 2007.

Dr. S.P. Gupta
(1931 – 2007)

Dr. Swarajya Prakash Gupta, was born on 22nd December, 1931 at Allahabad. He earned his degrees of Master of Arts and L.L.B. from Allahabad University, Ph.D. from Delhi University and D.Litt. from Magadh University.

After completing his studies, Gupta joined the Archaeological Survey of India at Nagarjunakonda and later in the Atlas Branch of ASI at Nagpur as Exploration Assistant. Then, he served National Museum, New Delhi as Deputy Keeper and later rose to the rank of Assistant Director. Gupta was a distinguished Art Historian, Museologist and a scholar in Harappan Archaeology.

Gupta became the Director of the Allahabad Museum where he served for a period of two years. Gupta after his retirement took keen interest in the development of Indian Archaeological Society and also established Centre for Research and Training in History, Archaeology and Palaeo-Environments and Indraprastha Museum of Art and Archaeology in the present premises of Indian Archaeological Society, Delhi.

Gupta wrote several books on Indian Art and Archaeology and also edited several books on Indology and Art History.

S.P. Gupta passed away on 3rd October, 2007.