

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & MUSEUMS

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Introduction – Main Functions

The Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan performs various functions at the national and international levels as listed below:

A. International Role

- i) Implementation of UNESCO Conventions;
 - a) protection of world cultural and natural heritage;
 - b) prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property; and
 - c) protection of cultural property in the event of conflict.
- ii) Implementation of UNESCO Recommendations on Archaeology Excavations.
- iii) Coordination with International Bodies such as World Heritage Committee and Inter-Government Committee for Restitution of Cultural Property.
- iv) Cooperation with International Organizations like ICOM, ICOMOS, ICCROM, ISESCO, etc.
- v) Securing International assistance and mobilizing world's opinion for protection of cultural heritage of Pakistan, renovating museums, establishments of scientific institutions and to mount international exhibitions of the cultural heritage of Pakistan.

B. National Role

- i) Preservation and conservation of historical monuments and archaeological sites.
- ii) Pursuance of a uniform national policy of field researches such as archaeological exploration and excavation being carried out by the Federal Department of Archaeology and Pakistani Universities.
- iii) To collaborate with foreign archaeological missions working at various sites in Pakistan and to regulate their activities under a uniform policy adopted by the Federal Government.
- iv) To exercise control over dealing in the export of antiquities and works of art and to regulate chance discoveries and control over movement of cultural property.
- v) Establishment and maintenance of museums, development of historic house museums and archaeological gardens.
- vi) Study of Epigraphic and Numismatic records.
- vii) Treatment and Restoration of Antiquities.
- viii) Administration of Antiquities Act, 1975.

Since the inception of Pakistan, the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan has achieved great successes in protection, preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of Pakistan. Some of the important achievements are enumerated below:

- i) Protection of 392 sites and monuments.
- ii) Declaration of 10 historic buildings as National Monuments.
- iii) Inscription of seven important archeological sites and monuments on World Heritage List.
- iv) Establishment of two Circle Offices and five Sub-Regional Offices.
- v) Establishment of 12 Museums.
- vi) Establishment of Planning and Development Branch, Publication Branch, Epigraphy Branch, Antiquity Trade Control Branch.

- vii) Enactment of the Antiquities Act, 1975 and other relevant Rules for an effective control of archaeological research activities, protection of cultural assets and other related activities.
- viii) Extensive archaeological excavation at large number of archaeological sites.
- ix) Promotion of archaeological researches.
- x) Establishment of National Fund for Cultural Heritage.

Missions working in Pakistan

The following foreign missions are engaged in archaeological research work in Pakistan in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology and Museums:

- i) French Archaeological Mission headed by Dr. Roland Besenval at Shahi Tump, Turbat, Balochistan.
- ii) French Archaeological Mission headed by Dr. Ute Franke Vogt at Nal, Kalat Division, Balochistan.
- iii) French Archaeological Mission led by Dr. Jarrige.
- iv) The Institute for Africa and the East (IsIAO), Italy led by Dr. Callieri Pierfrancesco, in Swat.
- v) Korean Archaeological Mission led by Prof. Moon Myring Dae, of Art History Research Institute of Korea.
- vi) USA (HARP) led by Dr. Richard H. Meadow in Harappa, Punjab.
- vii) USA Mission under the leadership of Dr. Lois Flam, at Ghazi Shah, Dadu, Sindh.
- viii) Tokyo National Museum, Japan led by Mr. Yasuhiro Nishioka, in Hazara Division, NWFP.