



**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY
AND ANCIENT HISTORY**

THE MAHARAJA SAYAJIRAO UNIVERSITY OF BARODA



The Department of Archaeology and Ancient History has a history of more than six decades. Founded in 1950 as a part of the Department of History, the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History obtained independent status under the prolific Prof. B. Subbarao. The aim of the department is to make the study of Archaeology inter-disciplinary. The department while focusing on research on its research in western India has achieved both national and international stature.

The Department of Archaeology and Ancient History has the distinction of being one of the few in the country to offer archaeology as a subject at the Under Graduate level. Foundation and advanced level courses are offered in Archaeology, Ancient History and Anthropology. The department utilises various mechanism for further generation of knowledge, such as field expeditions, practical and the writing of a semester projects and dissertation, particularly at the Post-Graduate level. The department has the required skills among its teaching staff to be able to do justice to a diverse range of courses

Research undertaken by the department has contributed to the development of the discipline of Archaeology in the country. The department, through its regular exploration and excavation programs has been able to cover practically the whole of Gujarat, and have an excellent picture of varied periods within Gujarat through prehistoric, proto-historic, early historic and medieval, ethnographic studies. As the department is actively engaged in field expeditions, which also forms a part of the post-graduate course, complete infrastructure is available in the form of technical staff and field and camp equipment



Prof. B. Subbarao & the
Former President of India
Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan



Excavation at Bagasra,
plotting the Harappan shell
workshop



Conserving Copper chisel from Shikarpur

The Department of Archaeology and Ancient History has been able to consistently publish research in the form of articles, monographs, and books (total 19 numbers). The publications which have achieved widespread recognition written by the faculty members are; the Personality of India by B. Subbarao, The Formative Stages of Indian Civilization by S.C. Malik. The Prehistory and Palaeogeography of the Great Indian Desert by B. Allchin, A. Goudie, K.T.M. Hegde & Prof Ajith Prasad. Protohistory Studies by V.H Sonawane & K.K.Bhan. Medieval Archaeology by R.N. Mehta

Apart from exploration and excavation, which have provided information on the ancient land use pattern and settlement history, the data generated has fuelled analytical research necessary to provide a more concrete picture of human antiquity. Thus the studies revolving around certain materials have enabled a historical understanding of the ancient technologies of bead making, shell working, metal working (involving zinc, copper and iron) as well as the manufacturing of ceramic and lithic artefacts. Well equipped laboratories as the infrastructure to facilitate research, conservation and preservation of archaeological materials, documentation, material studies etc. Are our strength. Laboratories are equipped with instruments such as particle size analyser, atomic absorption spectrophotometer and polarising microscopes. The department has laboratories for chemical analysis, zoo-archaeology, artefact documentation, conservation and preservation. The department also boasts of a laboratory completely dedicated to ceramic petrology, which is the only one of its kind in the country. This department also is well connected with Local Area Network. Basic facilities for the processing of photographic materials are available for the use at the site as well as to facilitate teaching.



Ceramic Petrology Lab



Bio-Anthropology Lab



Lord Buddha's Ashes
and the Casket

Apart from publishing the results of its own research, the department aims at building up a collection of books related to Archaeology and affiliated disciplines and have a separate library. With an aim to disseminate knowledge relating to human antiquity and cultural development at formal and informal levels, the department conducts extension activities through museum, especially for schools within Vadodara. Our noteworthy collections are, Harappan unicorn seals, holy relics of Lord Buddha and the complete casket, Toramana Copper plates, Terracotta Buddha Images and other antiquities. Many of these antiquities were lent to many national and international exhibitions such as Festival India at USA, Gupta Art at Paris etc.

Research at the departmental and individual levels include studies related to Protection of Heritage Sites in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, Palaeo-environment and Human Adaptations of Prehistoric Period; understanding of the Regional Elements of Chalcolithic Gujarat; Artifact Analyses and interpretation through Conventional, Ethnographic, Experimental and Scientific Methods; Development of Urbanism in South Asia, Buddhist Archaeology; and Studies on Epigraphic, Palaeographic, Numismatic, Art and Architectural Sources. Ongoing research projects funded by UGC-UKIERI, UGC SAP, DST, ASI, Government of Gujarat, Wenner-Gren Foundation, National Geographic Society and Humanities Foundation. Notable national & international collaborations with British Museum, ASI, GHF, Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Gujarat, U.S. Department of State. Universities of Wisconsin-Madison, Durham, Exeter, Liverpool, London, IMFCSIC Barcelona, Stone Age Institute, Indiana University. IISER Mohali, RIHN, Allahabad,





Buddha from
Devnimori

Previous collaborations with Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Pennsylvania, Bradford, Sterling, Stanford, Kelaniya., RIHN, Kyoto, and Sultanate of Oman British Museum Research Laboratory

Department staff have benefitted from exchange programmes to foreign universities through Ford Foundation, Global Heritage Fund, Council for American Overseas Research Centre, Ancient India and Iran Trust, Charles Wallace Foundation, Arts and Humanities Council, British Council and from several other Foreign and Indian universities and institutions

Faculty Members and their respective areas of specialisations are as follows.

Prof. Sushmita Sen: Early Historic Archaeology, Numismatics, Epigraphy and Palaeography, Art & Architecture, Heritage and Cultural Studies of Ancient India.

Dr. Vrushab Mahesh: Harappan Studies, Early Historic Archaeology, Numismatics, Art & Architecture, Socio-Cultural History of the Indian sub-continent

Dr. Urmi Ghosh Biswas: Rock Art Studies, Cognitive Archaeology, Historical Archaeology, Art & Architecture

Mr. Devara Anil Kumar: Palaeolithic Archaeology, Lithic Technology., Luminescence Chronology, Modern Human Dispersals, Palaeo-Climatic Reconstruction



Harappan Seal



Toramana
Copper Plate
Inscription

We offer Bachelor of Arts in Indian History, Culture & Archaeology (3-year taught course with field trips & other study tours). It covers courses in Archaeology of India, Southeast Asia, Early Cities of Indian Civilizations, Introductory Courses in Ancient Indian History, Religion, Society, Philosophy, Art and Architecture (field trips and other study tours).

We also offer a Master of Arts in Indian History Culture & Archaeology covering courses in Archaeological methods and theory, Indian Archaeology, Art Architecture and Iconography, Epigraphy, Palaeography and Numismatics, Human Diversity, Experimental and Ethno-archaeology, Bronze Age Civilizations, Art and Craft (2-year taught course with practical training and other study tours)

The department also offers a Doctorate in Philosophy (Ph.D.) program.

Contact for Information:

Head, The Department of Archaeology and Ancient History.

Ph No. 0265-2792436

Email id: head-archaeology@msubaroda.ac.in



**The Department of Archaeology and Ancient History
Faculty of Arts
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
Vadodara-390002**