

Guidelines For Cultural Heritage

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules define the power of central government as follows “Categorisation and classification in respect of ancient monuments or archaeological sites and remains declared as of national importance. The Central Government shall, on the recommendation of the Authority, prescribe categories in respect of ancient monuments or archaeological sites and remains declared as of national importance under sections 3 and 4, and while prescribing such categories it shall have regard to the historical, archaeological and architectural value and such other factors as may be relevant for the purpose of such categorisation.”

“The Central Government shall, on the recommendation of the Authority, classify all the ancient monuments or archaeological sites and remains declared as of national importance under sections 3 and 4, in accordance with the categories prescribed under sub-section (1) and thereafter make the same available to the public and exhibit the same on its website and also in such other manner as it may deem fit.”

This Act provides for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance and for the regulation of archaeological excavations and for the protection of sculptures, carvings and other like objects. According to this Act, areas within the radii of 100m from the “Protected Monument” are designated as “Prohibited Areas” and from and from 200m are designated as “Controlled / Regulated Areas”.

No development activity (including building, mining, excavating, blasting) is permitted in the “prohibited areas”. Development activities likely to damage the protected monument are not permitted in the “controlled/regulated areas” without prior permission from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) if the site/remains/ monuments are protected by ASI or the State Directorate of Archaeology. No archaeological monument/site found along the proposed alignment except Rock Cut Caves. Hence the provisions of this Act will be applicable for this Project.

Guidelines for the chance findings of Cultural, Heritage and Archaeological Monument

This act may also be applicable due to any chance finding of artefact during the construction. In such a case following guidelines are to be followed;

- All the staff and labours must be aware by the contractor and SPMU regarding the importance of Cultural, Heritage and Archaeological Monuments.
- The person or group of persons who first time find or see such an entity must inform the senior staff on the site.
- The senior staff must stop the work immediately and protect the site/structure/entity by barricading etc.
- The senior staff must inform immediately to the nearest office of the ASI for investigating the further.

The ASI officials will examine and determine the importance of such a finding and will take the further necessary action accordingly.