

Regarding need to conserve and protect the historical monuments and sites in West Bengal-Laid

SUSHRI MAHUA MOITRA (KRISHNANAGAR): The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is charged with the protection, preservation and promotion of 3685 monuments and sites, of which 135 belong to West Bengal. However, its role in West Bengal is not up to the level. The Kolkata circle of the ASI saw its allocation decline by over 60%, from Rs. 10.16 crore to Rs. 3.95 crore from 2022-23 to 2024-25, while the Raiganj circle saw its allocation cut by 46%. In fact, a recent RTI reply revealed that at least six districts in West Bengal received no maintenance funds in 2022 and 2023, despite increase in footfall and revenue. For instance, between 2020-21 and 2023-24, the conservation and maintenance expenditure on the Dutch Cemetery, Kalikapur declined by around 72%, that on the Tomb of Sujauddin at Rosniganj by around 50% and that on the Palpara temple in Nadia by 21%. This heritage monuments and sites in West Bengal need to be taken care of by the Central Government. I urge the Government to protect these irreplaceable historical treasures.