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Title: Need for excavation by Archaeological Survey of India in Malda, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur districts, West Bengal.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, Malda, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur districts of West Bengal are the rich treasures of ancient history which could only be revealed through comprehensive Archaeological Survey's work and excavation. Signs of the Golden age of 'Pundara Vardhana' and 'Varendra Bhoomi' spread over the undivided districts of Dinajpur and Malda writ large in the areas like Raiganj, Rasakhoa, Asuragarh, Baje Bindol, Bangarh, Tapan, Fakirdighi, Gouri, Hemtabad, Kasba-Mahaso, Karandighi, Mahipaldighi, Panchanagar, Patiraj and Radhikapur of Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur, comprising of Raiganj, Kaliaganj, Itahar, Kushmandi, Karandighi etc. In early thirties, Calcutta University undertook excavations at Bangarh which found to be very fruitful. The areas in and around Raiganj or for that matter other areas in the twin district are left in wilderness.

I am confident that the Archaeological Survey of India shall respond to my appeal through the Ministry of Human Resource Development to find a treasure of our ancient history not only of the era of Pal Dynasty but also it might reveal history of the early ages, which might promote tourism in the North Bengal in this area. I appeal through the Ministry of Human Resource Development to advise ASI to do the needful.

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