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Editor's Note

From its incipience as a community of archaeologists willing to share their experiences and opportunities by means of a Facebook Page to an educational research group dedicated to churn out researchers who can take the world of heritage by its horns and make a headway with whatever they see in a museum or find at the edge of their trowels, Speaking Archaeologically has always aspired to be a platform where the focus is on sites, objects and monuments that have failed to receive the attention of the mainstream course of history. The fifth volume of the Speaking Archaeologically Journal is yet another step towards just that. With this volume, our idea is to talk about sites that can thrive best with a little more focus if the right kind of funding can be acquired.

CSR for heritage has been proposed as a possible solution for several archaeological sites for quite some time now. However, in a country like India, where better opportunities, social welfare and providing state of the art health services is a welcome area for corporate social responsibility, heritage, more often than not, takes a back seat. For this purpose, thus, the thrust area of this volume is CSR for Vulnerable sites and monuments. In the previous issues, we have tried to focus on concepts of archaeotourism, rescue archaeology as well as current issues in archaeological research. Therefore, the transition of focus to CSR for Heritage Sites was just as natural as it was gradual for the Editorial Board.

Another important focus of this volume was to discuss the changes in archaeological studies owing to the new developments in technology. The intersection of the digital with the physical aspects of research have already enhanced the way in which archaeologists now deal with material remains of the past societies and people and talking about these changes, therefore, and how they can affect archaeological research is very much the need of the hour. While we received many abstracts that triggered off some truly enlightening discussions in the Editorial Team, the two thoroughly researched papers that seemed to practically analyse this best have been featured in the journal.

The last section of the journal brings in two case study papers which highlight alternative approaches to archaeological questions: the first on how myths are significant for archaeological research; and the second on how the archaeological background of family jewellery can be traced using tools of object analysis and ethnoarchaeology. Although vastly different from the previous sections, these papers tie up this volume together, bringing our theme of nouvelle approaches to archaeological sites and objects to a complete circle.

Shriya Gautam