

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO- \*290**  
ANSWERED ON- 27/03/2025

RETURN OF 297 ANTIQUITIES FROM USA

**\*290. SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the manner in which antiquities from USA will be displayed or utilized to educate the public about their culture and historical value;
- (b) the steps the Ministry is taking to prevent the illicit trafficking of cultural artifacts from India in the future;
- (c) whether there are any similar ongoing efforts with other countries for the repatriation of Indian artifacts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) in respect of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. \*290 for reply on 27.03.2025 regarding Return of 297 Antiquities from USA asked by Shri KesridevsinhJhala**

- (a) The Archaeological Survey of India has established a special gallery for the display of repatriated antiquities at PuranaQila, New Delhi. Such antiquities are also loaned to institutions like the National Museum; Parliament of India; Indian Institute of Heritage etc. for the research and education purposes and to sensitize the public. Apart from this, temporary exhibitions are also organized to display the repatriated antiquities.
- (b) The Archaeological Survey of India is committed for protection of monuments, sites and antiquities under its jurisdiction. Besides regular watch and ward staff, Private Security Guards and Central Industrial Security Force are deployed as per requirement. Whenever any theft of antiquity is reported, FIR is lodged in concerned police station and 'Look Out Notice' is issued to law enforcement agencies including Custom-Exit Channels to keep vigil to trace stolen antiquity and prevent its illegal export.  
A Cultural Property Agreement (CPA) has been signed with the United States of America (USA) in 2024 to prevent smuggling of Indian antiquities.
- (c)&(d) India is negotiating for repatriation of antiquities with different countries like Singapore, Australia, Germany, United Kingdom and Netherlands etc.

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