

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1618**  
ANSWERED ON- 13/03/2025

**PRESERVATION AND PUBLIC DISPLAY OF CHANDRAKETUGARH ARTEFACTS**

1618. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of artefacts belonging to Chandraketugarh that have been smuggled abroad, particularly to the USA and the number which have been successfully brought back to India;
- (b) whether around 35 Chandraketugarh antiques handed over by the USA are currently in Delhi and the reasons for not transferring them to West Bengal;
- (c) whether the Ministry plans to transfer these 2000-year-old artefacts to the Indian Museum, Kolkata, for public display and the timeline for this transfer; and
- (d) the steps being taken to ensure the proper preservation, promotion and accessibility of Chandraketugarh artefacts for academic research and public viewing?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) A total number of 655 of antiquities have so far been retrieved from foreign countries, out of which 588 are from USA. No specific mention of the Chandraketugarh is available in the list of the retrieved antiquities.
- (b)&(c) Specific provenance of any retrieved antiquity has not been established to Chandraketugarh.
- (d) All the objects retrieved from foreign countries are kept in safe custody. A few selected antiquities are displayed for public at the Gallery of Confiscated and Retrieved Antiquities at PuranaQila, New Delhi. Some of the retrieved antiquities are also given for display to the National Museum, New Delhi; Parliament of India; and Indian Institute of Heritage, Noida.

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