

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2276#
ANSWERED ON 20/03/2025

INDO-U.S. CULTURAL PROPERTY AGREEMENT

**2276# SHRI BRIJ LAL:
SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of looted or stolen artifacts expected to be repatriated under Indo-U.S. cultural property agreement to prevent illicit trade of antiquities;
- (b) the timeline for their return;
- (c) whether Government plans to collaborate with international organizations or other nations to further strengthen India's efforts in recovering stolen antiquities;
- (d) whether the agreement includes provisions for enhancing bilateral co-operation in heritage conservation, museum exchanges or technical training in cultural preservation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a)&(b) Cultural Property Agreement (CPA) has been signed with the United States of America (USA) to prevent smuggling of Indian antiquities. Agreement, being preventive in nature has no timelines or target numbers. So far, 588 antiquities have been repatriated from USA, out of which 297 received in 2024.
- (c) India collaborates with different International organizations including UNESCO and INTERPOL as per requirement.
- (d)&(e) The CPA has provision for fostering cooperation and mutual understanding in the matters of technical assistance, illicit trade and pillage of cultural property.
