

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3058
ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

UNDERWATER EXPLORATION IN DWARKA

3058 SHRI NARHARI AMIN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the specific objectives the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) aims to achieve with its current underwater explorations in Dwarka;
- (b) whether Government has allocated a dedicated budget for the renewed Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW)
- (c) if so, the total financial outlay; and
- (d) the steps being taken to integrate modern technologies such as remote sensing and underwater drones in the ongoing exploration activities?

ANSWER

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

(a) The objectives of the ongoing underwater explorations off the coast of Dwarka and Bet Dwarka are to search, document, and study submerged archaeological remains besides imparting training to archaeologists. It also aims to ascertain the antiquity of the recovered objects through scientific analysis of sediments, archaeological and marine deposits.

(b) and (c) Different branches and field offices of the Archaeological Survey of India including the Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW) are allotted the dedicated fund for archaeological research and fieldwork. The UAW also carries out different activities including fieldwork and research through the budget allocated during the financial year. Initially an amount of Rs.10 lakhs has been allotted for the current fieldwork.

(d) The UAW carries out systematic archaeological exploration and investigations utilizing modern techniques including the remote sensing tools as per the need and requirement. The modern technology for diving, search and documentation is also being utilized in ongoing fieldwork.
