

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1315
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025

PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF JAIN HERITAGE

1315. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by Government to preserve and promote Jain heritage, foster research, enhance global understanding of Jainism and support community engagement
- (b) the specific steps for digitizing Jain manuscripts, sharing knowledge of Jain traditions and customs and promoting interdisciplinary research on Jain literature;
- (c) the details of Government's plans to preserve the religious and cultural heritage of the minority Jain community; and
- (d) whether Government has any proposal to constitute a National Board for Preservation of Jain Culture and if so, the time by when it is likely to be done?

ANSWER

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

- (a) There are 3685 monuments and archaeological sites and remains including Jain sites declared as of national importance under the care and maintenance of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

The Government under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) has taken significant initiatives for the preservation of Jain heritage and scholarly research. Two major projects have been sanctioned:

1. Centre for Jain Manuscriptology at Gujarat University.
2. Centre for Jain Studies at Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV), Indore.

These projects aim to serve as national-level institutions for conservation, academic research, and promotion of Jainism as a rich religious, cultural, and philosophical tradition.

In addition, the Government is organizing a centenary celebration of Acharya Vidyanand Ji Maharaj, a revered Jain spiritual leader and social reformer. The year-long celebration will feature cultural, literary, educational, and spiritual programmes across the country, aimed at honouring his life, legacy, and message of spiritual wisdom and social reform.

- (b) The Gyan Bharatam Mission aims to digitization of one Crore Manuscripts including the Jain heritage. Further, The Centre for Jain Manuscriptology at Gujarat University focuses on digitising ancient Jain manuscripts, while the Centre at DAVV, Indore will offer academic programs, host research, and promote interdisciplinary studies across fields such as philosophy, science, art, and environment rooted in Jain literature.
- (c) ASI conducts periodic inspections of the protected monuments and areas to assess the conservation status and requirements. Conservation of the monuments are done as per the need and also considering the availability of resources, following the National Conservation Policy in order to ensure authenticity and integrity of the monuments.
- (d) At present there is no such proposal with ASI under consideration.
