

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.506
ANSWERED ON 24/07/2025

RETRIEVAL OF ANTIQUITIES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

506# SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:
SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA:
DR. DINESH SHARMA:
SHRI SUBHASH BARALA:
DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE:
SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:
SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:
DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:
SHRI AMAR PAL MAURYA:
SHRI NARHARI AMIN:
SHRI JAGGESH:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the number of antiquities brought back to India from foreign countries by Government so far;
- (b) whether Government has initiated any special projects for conservation and development of heritage sites across the country;
- (c) if so, the State-wise and site-wise details of these projects;
- (d) whether any special initiatives or schemes are being implemented for digitization of cultural heritage of India; and
- (e) if so, the details of these efforts, especially with reference to the number of heritage assets digitized and measures taken for public access?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) A total of 655 antiquities have been retrieved from foreign countries since 1976.
- (b)&(c) No such special projects for conservation and development of heritage sites has been initiated. However, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) takes up conservation and maintenance work of 3,685 ancient monuments and archaeological sites of national

importance including provision of amenities like drinking water, toilet blocks, pathways and landscaping etc. across the country. Maintenance of these monuments and sites is a continuous process and is taken up as per the need and availability of resources.

- (d)&(e) The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA), established in 2007, has documented and published data for 11,406 Built Heritage and Sites, and 12,41,349 Antiquities. The data has been published at the NMMA website: <https://nmma.nic.in>.
