

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *199
ANSWERED ON 18.12.2025**

PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS IN TAMIL NADU

***199. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to preserve and protect archaeological monuments in Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate funds to centrally protected monuments in the State;
- (c) whether Government has taken any measures to include more archaeological monuments like Vellore fort as UNESCO World Heritage Monument and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether NGOs and cultural research organisations would be involved under PPP model in protection of monuments in the State and if so, the details thereof and the details of monuments brought under this scheme?

ANSWER

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

- (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.
- to
- (d)

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *199 FOR 18.12.2025.**

(a) There are 412 centrally protected monuments/sites under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in the State of Tamil Nadu. Conservation and preservation of these monuments/sites is continuous process and is taken up as per the requirement and availability of resources subject to the National Policy for Conservation. All monuments/sites are in a good state of preservation. Government provides sufficient funds for conservation and preservation of all centrally protected monuments/sites which are under the jurisdiction of ASI in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) Any site to be declared as a World Heritage Monument need to be first included in the Tentative List of the World Heritage on the basis of Outstanding Universal Values integrity and authenticity criterion specified as per the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. As of now, there is no proposal to include the Vellore Fort in the Tentative List.

(d) Government has set up National Culture Fund (NCF) as a Trust on 28th November, 1996 under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890 with a view to mobilize extra resources through Public Private Partnerships towards promoting, protecting and preserving cultural heritage of the country as a whole including Tamil Nadu.

Adopt A Heritage 2.0 program for protected monuments of national importance, was launched in September, 2023 to create a framework for engaging with private/public sector companies and NGOs/ Trusts/ Societies, etc., to develop/provide a group of amenities at protected monuments to enhance visitors' experience and make them visitor-friendly. As of date, a total of 29 MoUs have been executed in the country, the details of which are given in Annexure-I.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *199 FOR 18.12.2025

The details of MoUs materialized under Adopt A Heritage 2.0 Program

S. No.	Name of Monument	Entity	State
1.	Agra Fort, Agra (UP)	Ease My Trip Foundation	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Delhi	Sabhyata Foundation	Delhi
3.	Safdarjung Tomb, Delhi	Sabhyata Foundation	Delhi
4.	Western Group of Temples, Khajuraho	Ease My Trip Foundation	Madhya Pradesh
5.	Kailasanatha temple, Kanchipuram (TN)	Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited (CIFCL)	Tamil Nadu
6.	Sun temple, Konark, Puri (Odisha)	Ease My Trip Foundation	Odisha
7.	Elephanta Caves, Raigarh (Maharashtra)	Mahesh Enterprises and Infra India Private Limited	Maharashtra
8.	Upper Fort Aguada, Goa	Drishti Lifesaving Pvt Ltd	Goa
9.	Purana Qila, Delhi	Sabhyata Foundation	Delhi
10.	Qutub Minar, Delhi	Ease My Trip Foundation	Delhi
11.	Humanyun's Tomb, Delhi	Sabhyata Foundation	Delhi
12.	Jantar Mantar	Powerlinks Transmission Ltd	Delhi
13.	Group of Monuments, Hauz Khas	Tata Power Trading Pvt Ltd	Delhi
14.	Ugrasen ki Baoli	Zee Aakash	Delhi
15.	Delhi Gate	Redtape Ltd	Delhi
16.	Kashmere Gate and Mori Gate	Redtape Ltd	Delhi
17.	Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka	HEG Ltd	Madhya Pradesh
18.	Ajmeri Gate	Redtape Ltd	Delhi
19.	Madrasa Mahmud Gawan	Shaheen Group of Institutions	Karnataka
20.	Kamalapur Museum	JSW Foundation	Karnataka
21.	Tomb of Khan-i-Khana	Inter Globe Aviation Pvt Ltd (Indigo)	Delhi
22.	Tomb of Najaf Khan	Sawasdee Projects Pvt Ltd	Delhi
23.	Padma and Rani Talabs at Ranthambore Fort	Bisleri International Pvt Ltd	Rajasthan
24.	Baori Abaneri	Bisleri International Pvt Ltd	Rajasthan
25.	Baori Neemrana	Bisleri International Pvt Ltd	Rajasthan
26.	Budha Budhi pond at Kalinjar Fort	Bisleri International Pvt Ltd	Uttar Pradesh
27.	Development of audio guides at 18 monuments	Resbird Technologies	Multiple states
28.	Red Fort	Dalmia Bharat Limited	Delhi
29.	Aga Khan Palace	DCB Bank	Maharashtra
