

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *9

ANSWERED ON 29.01.2026

RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION OF INDIAN MUSEUM

***9. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of restoration project for the Sudder Diwani Adawlut building within the Indian Museum complex, including the timeline for completion and the measures being taken to preserve its historical integrity;
- (b) the current status of establishment and operationalization of the Conservation and Preservation Laboratory at the Indian Museum, including the details of its capabilities and the number of artifacts treated annually; and
- (c) the sanctioned strength of staff at the Indian Museum, the number of current vacancies, and the steps being taken to address the manpower shortage?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE & TOURISM
(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a)to(c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *9 FOR REPLY ON 29.01.2026 REGARDING RESTORATION AND MODERNIZATION OF INDIAN MUSEUM ASKED BY SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA.

- (a) A condition survey of the Sudder Diwani Adawlut (present administrative building of the Indian Museum) has been conducted by IIT Madras through CPWD (Civil), and the report, along with the detailed estimate, has been submitted in November 2024. Upon receiving approval from the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC) of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, the tender will be floated by CPWD (Civil) for the renovation and restoration of the respective heritage building, subject to approvals at the appropriate level, in accordance with the applicable procedures. The restoration work, once commenced, will require around two years for completion, subject to procedural and technical considerations.
- (b) Indian Museum intends to construct a new Conservation and Preservation Laboratory equipped with modern tools and equipment for the treatment and preservation of artworks from its collection, by demolishing the old, abandoned Line Quarter buildings located on the eastern side of the Indian Museum campus. As the museum premises are classified as a Grade-I heritage complex, any modification or new construction requires prior approval of the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC) of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. Accordingly, a Conservation Architect has been engaged by CPWD to assess the present structural condition of the existing buildings and to coordinate with the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC) for obtaining the requisite statutory approvals, as per prescribed norms, for the proposed construction. The proposed conservation lab will have expert conservators who will annually work on approx 5000 artefacts from the museum's collection.
- (c) Sanctioned strength and current vacancies at Indian Museum are as under:

Sanctioned Strength	Total Filled Posts	Total Vacant Posts
138	58	80

Recruitment to essential posts has been initiated as per existing provisions, keeping in view the functional requirements of the institution.
