

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2269
ANSWERED ON 12.03.2026

CONSERVATION OF JAIN RELIGIOUS SITE

2269#. SHRI NAVEEN JAIN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is implementing any special plan or guidelines for conservation of Khandagiri–Udaygiri Jain religious site and for integrated management of facilities for devotees, that houses ancient Jain idols and religious activities;
- (b) whether Government is considering to provide free or separate entry arrangements for Jain devotees in the temple area; and
- (c) whether any proposal is under consideration for overall development of the site, keeping in view its religious significance and its potential for pilgrimage tourism and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The conservation and preservation work of the Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites under Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) are being attended to as per National Conservation Policy and Archaeological Works Code including for Khandagiri& Udayagiri, Bhubaneswar. Various visitor's amenities have been provided at the site of ancient caves on Udaygiri and Khandagiri Hills like Cultural Notice Board (in English, Hindi, Regional & QR Code based), Protection Notice Board, Toilet (Female, Male, & Divyang), Benches, Ramp, Wheelchair, Drinking Water, Parking, Clock Room, CCTV surveillance, Souvenir/ Publication counter, Cafeteria, and Garbage Bin.
- (b) The ASI has already provided separate access to the Jain devotees for visiting Parasnath temple situated at the top of the Khandagiri Hills, Bhubaneswar in the month of Dec-2025.
- (c) Ministry of Tourism under its scheme called the “National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)” provides Financial Assistance to the State Government and Union Territories Administration for development of Tourism Infrastructure at the Pre-Identified Pilgrimage destinations/ Heritage Cities. The process of identification adheres to the scheme's guidelines and involves consultation with the relevant State/UT, encompassing several factors. These factors include the prioritization of previously sanctioned projects for the concerned State/UT, the assessment of pending Utilization Certificates in relation to previously released CFA, and the availability of funds. Under the Scheme, projects are sanctioned for creation and augmentation of tourism infrastructure and basic amenities such as approach roads, parking, public conveniences, drinking water facilities, illumination, landscaping, signages and other pilgrim amenities. However, no project for development of Khandagiri Caves and Udayagiri Caves has been sanctioned under the Scheme so far.
