

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2214#
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2026

CONSERVATION AND PROMOTION OF HISTORICAL FORTS

2214# DR. JYOTI NAGNATH WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the action plan prepared by the Ministry for archaeological conservation and international promotion of 12 historical forts in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu that have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List under the 'Maratha Military Landscapes';
- (b) whether Government proposes to develop modern infrastructure, accessible approach roads and world-class civic amenities for tourists visiting these global heritage sites; and
- (c) the details of the special budgetary provisions made in the current financial year for restoration and security of these forts under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)?

ANSWER

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

- (a) All 12 forts of the Maratha Military Landscapes of India are jointly managed by the Central and State authorities under established legal frameworks. Eight forts, namely Shivneri Fort, Lohagad, Raigad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg and Gingee Fort, are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, with conservation guided by the National Conservation Policy, 2014. The remaining four forts, namely Salher Fort, Rajgad, Khanderi Fort and Pratapgad, are protected under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960 and are managed by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra.

Action Plans for each component have been prepared under the overarching management framework with reference to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property. Overall management is overseen by the State Level Apex Advisory Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, and District Level Committees chaired by the respective District Collectors. Based on the survey and condition assessment of the 12 forts, specific action plans have been framed to undertake conservation, infrastructure development, visitor management,

interpretation, landscape, mobility and risk management works in phases over the next 5–6 years. These action plans are reflected in the Site Management Plans of all the 12 forts.

- (b) Visitor amenities and infrastructure at the concerned forts are provided in accordance with the approved management plans and conservation programmes. The details of the available visitor amenities are given at **Annexure-I**.
- (c) Budgetary provisions for conservation, scientific preservation and visitor amenities are made under the approved Annual Conservation Programme and other approved projects of ASI. During the current financial year, budgetary provision has been made for visitor amenities and infrastructure at Gingee Fort. Conservation works are carried out under the approved programme. Further, under the National Culture Fund, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed on 28.02.2025 among the Archaeological Survey of India, Shipping Corporation of India and National Culture Fund for construction of public toilets and drinking water facility at Vijaydurg Fort through CSR support. The details are given at **Annexure-II**.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2214# FOR 06.08.2026.**

The details of the available visitor amenities

Sl. No.	Name of the Monument/Site	Visitor Amenities Available
1	Gingee Fort, Villupuram	Cultural Notice Board (English, Hindi, Regional & QR Code based), Protection Notice Board, Directional Signage, Wheelchair, First Aid, Baby Care Room, Toilet (Female, Male & Divyang), Benches, Garbage Bin, Drinking Water, E-Cart, Parking, Cafeteria
2	Fort of Raigad, Raigad	Cultural Notice Board (English, Hindi, Regional & QR Code based), Protection Notice Board, Directional Signage, Ramp, Wheelchair, First Aid, CCTV, Baby Care Room, Toilet (Female & Male), Benches, Garbage Bin, Drinking Water, Souvenir/Publication Counter, Audio Guide, Wi-Fi, Cloak Room
3	Vijaydurg Fort, Ratnagiri	Cultural Notice Board (English, Hindi & Regional), Protection Notice Board, Directional Signage, Benches, Garbage Bin, Souvenir/Publication Counter, Audio Guide, Wi-Fi, First Aid
4	Sindhudurg Fort, Malvan	Cultural Notice Board (English, Hindi & Regional), Protection Notice Board, Directional Signage, Benches, Ramp, Wheelchair, Garbage Bin, Souvenir/Publication Counter, First Aid
5	Panhala Fort, Kolhapur	Cultural Notice Board (English, Hindi & Regional), Protection Notice Board, Directional Signage, Benches, Garbage Bin
6	Shivneri Fort, Junnar	Toilet (Female & Male), Benches, Garbage Bin, Drinking Water
7	Suvarnadurg Fort, Ratnagiri	Protection Notice Board, First Aid
8	Lohagad Fort, Pune	Drinking Water, Pathway, Benches, CCTV Camera, Dustbin, Protection Notice Board, Booking Office

Annexure –II

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2214# FOR 06.08.2026.**

Sl. No.	Work/Project	Budgetary Provision
1	Providing Visitor Amenities and Infrastructure at Gingee Fort (Minor & Lower Fort)	₹90.00 lakh
2	Construction/setting up of Public Toilets and Drinking Water Facility at Vijaydurg Fort under the Memorandum of Agreement among ASI, Shipping Corporation of India and National Culture Fund (CSR Project)	₹60.00 lakh (CSR support by Shipping Corporation of India through National Culture Fund)
