

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 523
ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026

PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS

523. SHRI RATANJIT PRATAP NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total financial outlays sanctioned for preservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments in Kushinagar district;
- (b) the progress of excavation and conservation works executed at the Mahaparinirvana temple and Ramabhar stupa sites in Uttar Pradesh
- (c) the structural safety assessments conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India to protect these ancient heritage structures
- (d) the details of modern tourist amenities, including digital interpretation centres developed at these historical locations; and
- (e) the steps taken to prevent illegal encroachments around protected archaeological zones within the district?

ANSWER

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

- (a) There are 132 Centrally Protected Monuments under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in Sarnath Circle including 10 monuments in Kushinagar district. The fund allotted for these monuments in the financial year 2025-26 is Rs.10,21,00,000/-.
- (b) No excavation work has been carried out at Mahaparinirvana Temple and Ramabhar Stupa in Kushinagar UP. However, the day to day maintenance/upkeeping works are being executed on regular basis and both the sites are in good state of conservation.
- (c) The structural safety of centrally protected monuments is regularly monitored through periodic inspection by ASI officials and technical experts. Based on the condition assessment carried out during these inspections, necessary conservation, repair and maintenance works are undertaken from time to time in accordance with established conservation principles. As a result, the monuments are maintained in a safe and stable condition.
- (d) Modern visitor amenities available at these historical locations include pathway with tactile strips, ramps, cultural notice boards, signages, interpretations centres, departmental publication counters, drinking water, toilets, seating arrangements and other basic amenities. These facilities are maintained and upgraded from time to time to enhance the visitor's experience.
- (e) Regular watch and ward staff and private security personnel have been deployed for the safety and security of selected monuments/sites. If any case of encroachment or illegal construction noticed, the offender is served a notice followed by a direction to the District Collector/Magistrate to remove such encroachment under the provision of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959 framed thereunder. Assistance in containing and removing encroachments is also sought from the respective State Government/Police authorities from time to time.
