

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**LOK SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1666  
ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

**CONSERVATION OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN DWARKA**

1666. DR. BHOLA SINGH

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details alongwith key objectives of the ongoing underwater archaeological explorations off the coast of Dwarka;
- (b) the details of advanced technologies and methods being used to ensure accurate preservation of discovered artifacts;
- (c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to protect India's underwater cultural heritage from illegal excavation and environmental threats; and
- (d) whether the Government has plans to open these sites for academic research and heritage tourism and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Ongoing underwater archaeological explorations off the coast of Dwarka and Bet Dwarka were started in February 2025 by the Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW) of Archaeological Survey of India. The underwater archaeological survey was carried-out in the area near Gomti creek.

The objectives of the ongoing fieldwork at Dwarka are to search, document, and study submerged archaeological remains besides imparting training to archaeologists. It also includes scientific analysis of sediments, marine deposits, and underwater archaeological finds to ascertain their antiquity.

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- (b) Present fieldworks carried-out by the UAW include use of diving apparatus, survey boats, and underwater digital cameras for search and documentation.
- (c) Ancient monuments and archaeological sites in India, whether on land or underwater, are governed as per the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- (d) Research conducted by UAW on submerged archaeological sites and monuments in Indian waters, also results in increase of heritage tourism.

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