

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1331
ANSWERED ON-28.07.2025

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS AT DWARKA AND BEYT DWARKA

1331. SMT. POONAMBEN HEMATBHAI MAADAM:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has initiated a new round of underwater and onshore archaeological explorations at Dwarka and Beyt Dwarka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a dedicated fund has been allocated to the Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW) for archaeological research and exploration in Dwarka and Beyt Dwarka;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any plans to expand and strengthen underwater archaeological research across the nation; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes Sir. The Underwater Archaeology Wing (UAW) of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had carried out scientific investigations at Dwarka from 2005 to 2007. Underwater and onshore archaeological explorations at Dwarka and Beyt Dwarka have again started since February 2025.

(b) The team of UAW started initial offshore exploration at Dwarka in February 2025, followed by onshore exploration at Beyt Dwarka in March 2025. Besides imparting training to more archaeologists in ASI, procurement of equipments like Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), underwater cameras, high quality life jackets and diving suits to be used for the purpose has been taken up.

(c) and (d) Required funds are provided to UAW.

2024-2025: 10 lakhs

2025-2026: 50 lakhs

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(e) and (f) Yes Sir. To expand and strengthen underwater archaeological research across the nation, two training programmes were organized for officers/ officials of ASI in March 2025 and for employees of State Archaeology Departments and Indian Universities in July 2025. A module for training course for the students and scholars has also been prepared.
