

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.21
ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025

DOCUMENTATION OF INDIAN LANGUAGES, SCRIPTS AND FOLKLORE

†21. SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH OLA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of number of monuments currently protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);
- (b) whether the Government has initiated any sustainable cultural projects under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any policy for the preservation of digital heritage;
- (d) whether the Government has initiated any national project for the documentation of Indian languages, scripts and folklore;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government is taking any steps towards the preservation and inclusion of the havelis of the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan in the World Heritage List; and
- (g) if so, the details of the steps taken so far, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) There are 3685 protected monuments and archaeological sites and remains declared under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 as of national importance, in the country.
- (b) Ministry of Culture has initiated some cultural initiatives under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav namely:- (i) Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar, (ii) Unsung Heroes, (iii) Digital District Repository (DDR) (iv) Har Ghar Tiranga, (v) Unity in Creativity (vi) Kalanjali Events and (vii) Vibrant Villages Programme and (viii) Meri Maati Mera Desh.
- (c) For the preservation of digital heritage, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA's) follows international metadata standards, ensures long-term digital preservation, and maintains specialized repositories, including Vedic heritage, folk traditions, manuscripts and rare audiovisual materials.
- (d) Ministry of Culture has initiated a national project called Gyan Bharatam to preserve, digitize & disseminate the country's vast manuscript heritage. Further, IGNCA has implemented
- (e) National Cultural Audiovisual Archives (NCAA), a Digital Repository for long-term preservation of linguistic, oral and folk-performance.
- (f)& The havelis of the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan are not protected monuments under the
- (g) jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India. At present, no proposal for inclusion of the Shekhawati havelis in the UNESCO's Tentative List.
