

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4942
ANSWERED ON-23.03.2026

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS AT POOMPUHAR

4942. KM. SUDHA R:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the recent underwater archaeological explorations at Poompuhar (Kaveripoompattinam) in Mayiladuthurai district of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the details of any preliminary findings on ancient trade routes, shipwrecks or its history;
- (c) the details of budgetary allocations provided by the Government for the Poompuhar excavations and related archaeological projects in Tamil Nadu during the last five years and whether additional funds have been sought or approved following the announcement of deep-sea explorations;
- (d) whether the Government plans to integrate these findings with broader cultural preservation efforts; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the measures to promote it in the Cauvery delta region?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) The Central Government has issued permission for exploration at Poompuhar to Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu in 2025, and the report on the work conducted by State Department is not submitted as yet.
- (c) Tamil Nadu Government has allocated amount of Rs. 14.91 lakhs in 2025-26 for Poompuhar excavations and related archaeological projects.
- (d) and (e) Tamil Nadu Government has proposed an Archaeological museum (Navaai Museum) for broader culture preservation.
