

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†1714
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

PROMOTION OF RESEARCH IN INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANCIENT SCRIPTS

†1714. SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to collaborate with State Governments to organize competitions or initiatives to enhance research on India's ancient history and scripts, particularly focusing on Maharashtra's archaeological sites, such as the Harappan-era settlement in Daimabad;
- (b) if so, the details of such initiatives, including funding, institutional collaborations, and public engagement and whether similar research efforts are planned for Maharashtra, particularly in historically significant regions like Sangli, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking steps to incentivize research and innovation in Indian archaeology and ancient languages, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government plans to establish a national research grant or challenge fund to support scholars, linguists and technology experts in deciphering ancient scripts, particularly in States like Maharashtra, which has a strong tradition of historical research and conservation?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) carries out exploration, excavation and study of archaeological remains all over the country. At present there is no such proposal to organise such competitions.
- (c) & (d) The Indian Institute of Heritage has recently created department of Archaeology and Paleography, Epigraphy & Numismatics and offering Post Graduate Degree in it. Post Graduate Diploma in Archaeology by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology (PDUIA), ASI also includes Epigraphy as one of the paper.

Besides, PDUIA also conducts short term training programme in Epigraphy and Numismatics for in-service personals.