

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2428
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

HERITAGE SITE FOR INCLUSION IN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

2428. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN:

Will the Minister of **CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of new heritage sites being proposed for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List and the timelines set for this process;
- (b) whether the Government has any new grant schemes or special funds for allocation to support the restoration and preservation of community heritage sites across the country; and
- (c) the manner in which the Government is strengthening and promoting local museums and cultural centres to enhance public outreach?

ANSWER

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

- (a) This year, the nomination dossier titled Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for the 2025–26 nomination cycle. As per the Operational Guidelines, 2024, only one property can be submitted for the inscription process in any given cycle. The nomination process takes approximately 1.5 years from the date of submission of the dossier, after following the process of inscription as laid down in Operational Guidelines, 2024.
- (b) No Sir, there is no specific grant scheme or special fund allocated to support the restoration and preservation of community heritage sites. However, all monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India are in a good state of preservation. Conservation work is carried out using the allocated budget, based on availability and requirement.
- (c) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) maintains 52 site museums, including those in remote areas, and is adopting digital technologies to enhance visitor experiences. It also undertakes outreach programs to raise awareness and engagement, especially among youth, for the preservation of cultural heritage. Ministry also gives grants under Museum Grant Scheme for local museums.
