

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2311
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2025

INCLUSION OF HERITAGE SITES AND MAJULI ISLAND IN UNESCO LIST

2311. SHRI JAI PRAKASH:
SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recommended any proposal to include heritage sites in the UNESCO list and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the current status of proposals for the inclusion of Majuli Island in the UNESCO World Heritage List;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated and utilised for the conservation of Ahom-era monuments, the Satras of Majuli and other major heritage sites in Assam during the last five years and current year; and
- (d) whether the Government has taken steps to integrate traditional festivals such as Bihu, Hornbill, Sangai, Ambubachi Mela and the Ziro Festival of Music into India's cultural tourism circuit and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) Yes Sir. Archaeological Survey of India, nodal body on behalf of the Government of India for UNESCO World Heritage related matters has recommended Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- (b) The river island of Majuli has been included in the Tentative List of the World Heritage in 2004. As of now, there is no proposal to include the property in the list of World Heritage.
- (c) There are 55 monuments and sites protected in the state of Assam under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India. This includes monuments from Ahom-era and other major monuments.

The details of funds allocated and utilized for the conservation of the monuments in the state of Assam including Ahom-era monuments and other major heritage sites is as follows:

Year	Allocated funds (in Lakhs)	Expenditure (in Lakhs)
2020-21	257.98	257.98
2021-22	292.01	292.01
2022-23	625.55	625.55
2023-24	754.68	754.68
2024-25	379.57	379.57
2025-26 (till 09 th Dec 2025)	303.16	233.16

- (d) Government of India regularly promotes major traditional and cultural festivals of the Northeastern region through its various programmes. The government organises Bihu workshops every year during Rongali Bihu, with around 1,000 participants, to promote and preserve the traditional dance and music of Assam. For Hornbill and Sangai Festivals, Government of India actively participates by sponsoring and involving folk artistes from the region.
