



**Ministry of External Affairs**  
Government of India

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## QUESTION NO.656 IMPACT OF WITHDRAWAL OF USA FROM UNESCO ON INDIA

December 21, 2017

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.656  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2017

### IMPACT OF WITHDRAWAL OF USA FROM UNESCO ON INDIA

656. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of impact on India, post withdrawal of United States of America (USA) from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); and

(b) whether India has taken any steps to preserve the financial stability and overall integrity of UNESCO, after the withdrawal and if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)

(a) & (b) On 12th October 2017, the United States of America notified the UNESCO Director General Ms. Irina Bokova of their decision to withdraw from the Organisation and to establish a permanent observer mission to UNESCO. The United States of America also indicated its desire to remain engaged with UNESCO as a non-member observer state Pursuant to Article II (6) of the UNESCO Constitution, U.S. withdrawal will take effect on 31st December 2018. The United States will remain a full member of UNESCO till 31st December 2018.

India has been fulfilling its role and obligations, including in terms of payment of its dues, as a member of UNESCO. We would continue with our cooperation with UNESCO and its member States towards effective functioning of the organization. India has been a member of the Executive board of UNESCO from the time of its inception and has been elected for the 2017-2021 term. India is also a member of UNESCO's 24-member Intergovernmental Committee for safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). In the last two years, the Committee has inscribed "Yoga" and "Kumbh Mela" in

the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. UNESCO World Heritage Committee inscribed "Nalanda Mahavira" and "Historic city of Ahmedabad" in its July 2016 and July 2017 sessions respectively.

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