

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 233
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023**

PRESERVATION OF INDIAN CULTURE

233# Dr. KALPANA SAINI :

Will the MINISTER OF CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to preserve and promote Indian culture during the last three years; and
- (b) whether the efforts are being made to increase awareness regarding the preservation of Indian culture, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION**

(G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to parts (a) and (b) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 233 answered on 10.08.2023 asked by Dr. Kalpana Saini, Hon'ble M.P. Rajya Sabha

(a) and (b): Ministry of Culture has taken necessary steps to achieve its mandate i.e preservation and conservation of cultural heritage and promotion of tangible and intangible art and culture through its attached, subordinate and autonomous organisations. Its activities and programmes are accomplished under several broad cultural heads viz. Preservation and conservation of Archaeological sites, Museums and its artefacts, Public Libraries, Promotion and dissemination of Performing Arts, Buddhist and Tibetan studies, International Cultural Relation and construction of cultural complexes etc. The details of major activities organized by Ministry of Culture for preservation and promotion of Indian culture during the last three years are at **Annexure - I**. Further, Ministry of Culture is also administrating various Central Sector Schemes under which financial assistance is provided to individuals/organizations working for promotion and preservation of Art and Culture. The details of financial assistance released and number of individuals/organizations supported under various schemes during the last three years are at **Annexure –II**.

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) and (b) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 233 answered on 10.08.2023 asked by Dr. Kalpana Saini, Hon'ble M.P. Rajya Sabha

The details of major activities organized by Ministry of Culture for preservation and promotion of Indian culture during the last three years

- Hon'ble PM inaugurated the year-long celebrations of 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), Kolkata on 23rd January, 2021. On this occasion, a gazette notification was issued to declare every year 23rd Jan as Parakram Diwas.
- Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), Kolkata inaugurated 'Nirbhik Subhas' ('Irrepressible Subhas') - 'A multimedia exhibition' celebrating the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose - A Permanent Exhibition, a 3D Projection Mapping Show on Netaji, Unveiling of book 'Letters of Netaji' and Release of Commemorative Coin and release of Stamp in the memory of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 23rd January 2021. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India also inaugurated an exhibition related to Netaji's epic fight for freedom on 23rd Jan, 2021 organized by NGMA, Delhi.
- Hon'ble Vice President of India alongwith Hon'ble Prime Minister led the entire Nation in paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi from Gandhi Smriti, the place of Gandhiji's martyrdom on 30th January, 2021 commemorating the 73rd Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister flagged off a symbolic 386- kilometre – 25 day long 'Dandi March' from Sabarmati, Ahmedabad, on March 12, 2021, commemorating the 91st anniversary of historic Dandi March.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' on 12th March, 2021 at Sabarmati Ashram, Gujarat with a 75 week countdown to our 75th Anniversary of Independence, to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.
- Buddha Poonima Diwas was organized on 30th April, 2021 at Indira Gandhi International Stadium, New Delhi. Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the event which was attended by a large number of high level dignitaries.

- Vesak-Buddha Pournima Diwas celebration was organized on 26th May, 2021.
- Asadha Pournima-Dharma Chakra Global Celebration was organized on 24th July, 2021 at Rashtrapati Bhawan. The occasion was graced by the Hon'ble President of India.
- Golden Jubilee anniversary of Chorbit Liberation was celebrated at Turtuk and nearby 4 villages of UT of Ladakh by NZCC, Patiala during 22nd to 25th September, 2021.
- Abhidhamma day and exposition of Holy Buddha Relic from Sri Lanka was organised on 20th October, 2021 at Mahaparinirvana Temple in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh. The event was graced by Hon'ble Prime Minister and attended by a large number of prominent National and International Buddhist Sangha, Ambassadors, Central and State Officials etc.
- National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture launched a major outreach programmes 'Mobile Science Exhibition (MSE)'. Mounted on a specially designed bus, the Mobile Science Exhibition carries several interactive exhibits on a theme related to school curriculum or everyday science. Till February - 2023, these buses have covered 45 aspirational and other districts throughout the country conducting exhibitions in 1372 sites in which 23.46 lakhs students and general public attended the exhibitions. Among the special programmes, Science Demonstration Lectures, Science Film Shows and Astronomy Awareness Programmes were conducted during the Mobile Science Exhibition programme.
- All the Zonal Cultural Centres have organized several programmes since 2020 to commemorate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Jallianwala Bagh incident etc as well as highlight the contribution of & celebrate the Freedom Fighters & Unsung Heroes from the various stages of freedom struggle including the 1857 First war of Independence as well as pre 1857 . Most of these events were held at the original sites/towns with Jan Bhagidari.
- Ministry of Culture is working on a project of Development and creation of certain special facilities for pilgrims of Kedarnath Dham in Kedarnath Trek and Kedar Valley in the State of Uttarakhand at a project cost of Rs 207.30 Crore (for phase-I). The development work of Kedarnath Dham will be completed in two phase.

- Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 has been awarded by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (posthumously) in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 26th March, 2021.
- India successfully inscribed 2 new sites in the UNESCO World Heritage List during 2021: Dholavira and Ramappa Temple.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Park at Ranchi on the occasion of his birth anniversary (15th November 2021).
- Ministry of Culture organized a programme "Lokrang" as a part of celebrations of inauguration of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor by Hon'ble Prime Minister from 22nd to 24th December, 2021 at Assighat Varanasi, U.P.
- Tableau on 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo was displayed by Ministry of Culture during Republic Day Parade celebrated on 26th January, 2022.
- Vande Bharatam Dance Competition Event was organized by the Ministry of Culture on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, under the aegis of Republic Day Celebrations 2022 & 2023 through which 485 dancers were selected to perform at the Republic Day Parade 2022 and 479 dancers were selected to perform at the Republic Day Parade 2023.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya on 14.04.2022 in the Teen Murti complex, New Delhi. The Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya showcases the life, works and contributions by all the Prime Ministers in nation building with state of the art technology and effective modes of communications.
- On the occasion of the 400th Birth Anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended Parkash Purab at Red Fort on 21st April 2022. He addressed the gathering and released a commemorative coin and postage stamp.
- On 16th May 2022, Hon'ble Prime Minister visited Maha Maya Devi Temple(the birthplace of Lord Buddha) at Lumbini, Nepal and laid the foundation stone of India International Centre for Buddhism being constructed by India in Lumbini Monastic Zone. The Ministry of Culture is providing financial support for the construction of the "India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage" in the Lumbini Monastic Zone, Nepal. The project has been approved at a total cost of

Rs.95.99 crores out of which Rs.66.63 crores has already been released to the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC). IBC is the monitoring agency for the project.

- Archaeological Survey of India is working on projects to upgrade and refurbish three prime museums associated with the foot prints of Buddha i.e. at Bodh Gaya (Enlightenment), Sarnath (First Sermon) and Nalanda (Ancient Buddhist University of profound fame).
- Ministry of Culture launched a mobile application – ‘Museums of India’ on 18.05.2022. Around 9 Lakh museum collections have been digitized.
- On the occasion of Mongolian Buddha day (14th June 2022), a special delegation carried the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha to Mongolia for 11-day exposition at the Gandan Monastery. Around 2 lakh Mongolians led by their Hon’ble President paid their obeisance to the Holy relics over the course of the exposition.
- Hon’ble PM inaugurated the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 8th September, 2022 in an event held at Kartavya Path. The 28-foot-tall statue is one of the largest, most lifelike, monolithic, and hand-crafted sculptures in India.
- From the year 2020-21, 04 Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) have been organized in the country viz. from 14th to 28th February, 2021 in West Bengal; from 26th March to 3rd April, 2022 in Andhra Pradesh & Telangana; from 11th to 19th February, 2023 in Maharashtra and from 25th February to 5th March, 2023 in Rajasthan
- To rediscover the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi (Uttar Pradesh), Ministry of Education, Government of India in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture has organized ‘Kashi Tamil Sangamam’ from 17th November to 16th December, 2022 at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh under the banner of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB).
- An exhibition on Women Freedom Fighters was organised in Rampur Raza Library, Rampur on the occasion of birth anniversary of Rani Laxmi Bai from 19th to 29th November, 2022 under celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the closing ceremony of the year long celebrations of the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan in New Delhi on 25th November, 2022. The Hon’ble Prime Minister also released the book ‘Lachit Borphukan - Assam’s hero who halted the Mughals’ on the same occasion.

- The Ministry of Culture organized the 217th Pazhassi Veerathu Raja Day on November 30th, 2022 and celebrated the contributions of Pazhassi Raja in Valliyooravu Temple ground, Mananthadavay.
- On the special occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo, Hon'ble Prime Minister released a commemorative stamp and coin in honour of Sri Aurobindo's memory and his legacy for the future. This was a virtual release at a program held in Puducherry on 13th December, 2022 at the Kamban Kalai Sangam.
- 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' was commenced on 12th March, 2021 which starts a 75 week countdown to our 75th Anniversary of Independence, to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. Under "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav", following major events are organized: -
 - **Shruti Amrut** – Campaign under the theme " Cultural Pride" is a musical fiesta dedicated to honor the memories of unsung heroes. The performances by renowned singers are being organized across the nation from 1st October, 2022 to 5th February, 2023.
 - **Har Ghar Tiranga** - The Hon'ble Prime Minister announced the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign on 22nd July 2022, encouraging people to bring home the National Flag to mark the 75th year of independence. The campaign initiated by the Government of India under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was a success, to say the least, surpassing its target of having 20 crore households hoist the flag from 13th to 15th August 2022, and reaching more than 23 crore households across the Indian subcontinent.
 - **Vitasta**: The ever-flowing legacy of Kashmir is the latest program under this initiative. It envisages celebrating the narratives of Vitasta (Jhelum) across multiple cities of India. First Vitasta event was held in Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu which is the partner state of Jammu and Kashmir under the EBSB Model. The participation of Kashmiri folk artists, showcasing Kashmiri cuisine, art forms, musical traditions were widely appreciated by the local audience. Even the Hon'ble Prime Minister gave a shout out to the programme on social media.
 - **Dhara** is a special initiative under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav dedicated to Indian knowledge system. 'Dhara: An Ode to Indian Knowledge Systems' is the Ministry of Culture's flagship initiative in this direction. It is conceptualized as a series of

lectures and discussions dedicated to specific areas of inquiry highlighting India's civilizational achievements. Launched a year back on 25 February 2022, Dhara embodies that idea of 'continuous flow' of knowledge and wisdom from one age to another, being adopted, questioned and modified over time so that we not only move ahead to the next level of insights across various fields but do so on the back of the work that is already available to us from our past.

- **Frontiers of India** is a special initiative of the ministry of culture under the aegis of azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to give Indians a first-hand experience of life at the border through curated programmes and initiatives. It has different components such as Border Village festival, quiz, travel with youth groups, participation in local cultural activities etc. Trips have already been organized in Ladakh and Rajasthan.
- **Kalanjali** is a weekend program initiative of the ministry of Culture at Central Vista that celebrated art in an interactive and open setting. Started in the last quarter of 2022, the popularity of this programming form at has been increasing. Diverse range of programs including plays, musical concerts, dances etc are highlighting the vibrant culture of India for everyone to see.
- **Uday Amrit:** spiritual organizations have been collaborating with ministry of culture under AKAM and doing programs in yoga, meditation, stress management etc. Har Ghar Dhyana is one of the most successful initiatives under this collaboration and has been adopted by multiple schools, corporates, and civil society organizations. Programs under Amrit Mahostav are not just organized by different ministries and departments. They actively follow as whole of society approach with initiatives such as swachchagrah done in collaboration with Sulabh International, Global Summit 2022 done in collaboration with Brahma Kumaris, Delhi Karnataka Sangha and others.
- As a part of international outreach under AKAM, 'Reimagining Museums in India: A Global Summit', attended by over 3000 delegates from 70 countries and leading museum experts around the world held in February, 2022.
- As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Sangeet Natak Akademi, organized "Amrit Swardhara" – Festival of Dance & Music, 27-29 October, 2021 at Varanasi. The event was inaugurated by Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture.

- Madhavpur Ghed Fair 2023 was organized in Gujarat from 30th March to 3rd April, 2023, as a part of celebration of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" and Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat". The fair is an epitome of the deep cultural and historical relationship that western state of Gujarat shares with the north-eastern states.
- Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam was organised from 17th to 30th April, 2023 in Gujarat jointly by the Ministry of Culture and Government of Gujarat under Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat, with the main purpose of facilitating exchange of history, art and culture between the states of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. This event was organized at 3 locations i.e. Somnath, Dwarka and Kevadia.

ANNEXURE - II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 233 answered on 10.08.2023 asked by Dr. Kalpana Saini, Hon'ble M.P. Rajya Sabha

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Financial year					
		2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023	
		Number of Individuals / Organizations supported	Quantum of financial assistance provided (Rs. In lakh)	Number of Individuals / Organizations supported	Quantum of financial assistance provided (Rs. In lakh)	Number of Individuals / Organizations supported	Quantum of financial assistance provided (Rs. In lakh)
1.	Financial Assistance for Promotion of Guru Shishya Parampara (Repertory Grant)	529	3480.15	573	4248.58	1213	8622.75
2.	Financial Assistance to Cultural Organizations with National Presence (including R.K. Mission, West Bengal)	6	930.46	6	758.24	15	1160.40
3.	Cultural Function and Production Grant	1471	1651.90	1615	2330.35	2135	3275.21
4.	Financial Assistance for the Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas	128	336.00	203	473.47	225	468.73
5.	Financial Assistance for the Development of Buddhist/ Tibetan Culture & Art	276	1607.99	366	2251.17	401	2601
6.	Financial Assistance for Building Grants including Studio Theatres	29	193.46	22	133.05	21	123.48
7.	Scheme For The Award Of Fellowship To Outstanding Persons in The Field Of Culture	982	888.60	1001	1634.00	980	1362.60
8.	Scheme for Scholarships to Young Artistes in Different Cultural Fields	1265	379.50	1293	390.30	395	118.50
9.	Tagore National Fellowship for Cultural Research	07	28.25	07	52.25	-	-
10.	Financial Assistance for construction of Tagore Cultural Complexes(TCC)	1	596.00	2	349.02	1	500.00
11.	Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists	2000	871.31	3029	1542.17	453	296.5
12.	Seva Bhoj Yojana	03	169.00	03	154.00	03	143.00
13.	Museum Grant Scheme	12	2355.25	13	2058.08	11	1483.12