

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1943
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

1943. Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the initiatives taken by the Government to expand the reach of our Cultural Exchange programmes, engaging with more countries and exploring new areas of collaboration;
- (b) What are the efforts being made to promote India's rich heritage, foster international cooperation, enhance its global standing and strengthen ties with the global community?
- (c) the number of countries India is engaged with Cultural Exchange programmes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Culture has been making efforts to disseminate Indian art and culture to promote India's soft power and developing cultural relations between India and other countries. India's relationships with different countries across the world have been marked by mutual respect and understanding and have strengthened over the years through various cultural exchanges. The cultural collaborations and dialogue serve as building blocks of peaceful coexistence by fostering mutual respect, diversity and inclusion. The cultural cooperation is promoted through:

- (1) Negotiating and signing of bilateral Cultural Agreements (CA)/Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEP).
- (2) Cultural cooperation on multilateral platforms like BRICS, SCO, G20, BIMSTEC, SAARC, ASEAN etc.
- (3) Implementation of Global Engagement Scheme which has two components (i) to organize Festival of India abroad and (ii) to provide Grants-in-aid to Indo-Foreign Friendship Cultural Societies.

Ministry of Culture has CEPs with 85 countries. In addition, the CEPs with 17 countries are under renewal and fresh CEPs have been initiated with 88 countries.
