

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2267
ANSWERED ON- 20/03/2025

**PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF ART AND CRAFT HERITAGE OF
MAHARASHTRA**

2267. SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified heritage crafts and art traditions of the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to promote them;
- (c) whether there exists any regional centre dedicated to promote the same;
- (d) if so, the details of programmes undertaken in the last two years, including amount sanctioned, disbursed and utilised for the same;
- (e) whether any steps were taken for protecting livelihoods of artisans/craftsmen during the pandemic, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether Government plans to dedicate any new centres for promotion of heritage crafts and art traditions of Maharashtra?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a)& (b) Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India has identified traditional handicrafts such as Warli Painting, Paithani Saree, Kolhapuri Chappal, Hupari Silver Craft, Sawantwadi Wooden Toys, Kolhapuri Saaj, Tanapur and Sitar (Musical instruments) of Maharashtra. It implements two schemes namely National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP) and Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) for overall development and promotion of handicraft sector across the country including the State of Maharashtra. Under these schemes, need based assistance is provided for end-to-end support to the artisans through marketing events, skill development, cluster development, formation of Producer Companies, direct benefit to artisans, infrastructural & technology support, research & development support etc. which benefit the traditional crafts and artisans throughout the country.

(c) & (d) A Regional Office under Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) is situated at Navi Mumbai for Western Regional States including Maharashtra for holistic Promotion and development of handicrafts and artisans.

The details of various programmes conducted by Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) under NHDP Scheme alongwith funds sanctioned & released and the artisans benefitted during the last two years in the State of Maharashtra are as under:

Year	No. of programmes conducted	Funds sanctioned	Funds released	Artisans benefitted
2022-23	83	Rs. 326.58 lakh	Rs. 265.78 lakh	3990
2023-24	71	Rs. 919.61 lakh	Rs. 423.06 lakh	3416

(e) The global pandemic of Covid-19 had badly affected the Handicraft sector by posing restriction on social gathering but at the same time, it has opened new windows of opportunities which were previously less explored. The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) extended the benefit to the handicraft artisans under “National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP)” and “Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)” to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to them. The Virtual meetings were organized with State Governments and their agencies to provide all necessary benefit in a mission mode to handicraft artisans.

(f) For promotion of heritage crafts and art traditions of Maharashtra, four (04) Handicraft Service Centres of Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) already exist in Maharashtra.
