

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2102
ANSWERED ON- 18/12/2025

PROMOTION AND PRESERVATION OF PATACHITRA ART FORM

2102. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government would promote and preserve Patachitra, the traditional scroll painting art form of West Bengal, including the narrative style of Patachitra singers (Patua), particularly in Bankura, Purulia and Paschim Medinipur districts;
- (b) the details of financial assistance, training programmes or marketing initiatives undertaken during the last five years for Patachitra artisans of West Bengal and Odisha;
- (c) the role of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in promoting Patachitra at the national and international level, including participation in cultural exchanges, exhibitions and festivals; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to promote the art through fairs, e-commerce and global platforms?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b) The Government of India has set up Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata (an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture) to protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art including Patachitra in its member States. EZCC organizes various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis for which they engage folk artists from all over India including Patachitra artists and they are paid honorarium, TA/DA, local transportation, boarding & lodging etc for these programmes. Some of the key programmes include the Bengal Patachitra Workshop, Traditional Wall Painting Workshop, Production oriented Crafts Workshop, Indian Traditional Painting Workshop etc.

Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture, has been actively supporting Patachitra artists through training, orientation and awareness programmes to help them adapt their practice to contemporary trends and market requirements. Patachitra artists are regularly facilitated and encouraged to participate in State, National and International Fairs and Exhibitions.

The Regional Centre of LKA at Kolkata has organized a week-long art camp where 5-7 patua artists from West Bengal participated to help Patachitra artists. Lalit Kala Akademi Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar also organizes camps in which Patachitra artists are invited to participate alongwith other artists.

(c) Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) under Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India promotes and projects various facets of India's diverse culture worldwide. As part of ICCR's efforts to showcase diverse cultures of different regions, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the State Government of Odisha on 27 September, 2024 to promote Odisha's culture abroad. Artworks in Patachitra style have been included and displayed in ICCR supported exhibitions abroad.

(d) Patachitra artists are regularly provided platforms at national and zonal-level festivals such as Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav, craft fairs, folk art festivals and thematic cultural events organised by Zonal Cultural Centres.
