

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 504
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

PRESERVING ODISHA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

504. SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA:
SHRI DEBASHISH SAMANTARAY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to preserve Odisha's cultural heritage, including temples, dance and art forms;
- (b) the number of cultural events organized in the State under central schemes;
- (c) the funds allocated and utilized for promotion of handicrafts and traditional arts in the State;
- (d) the support provided to local artists and performers; and
- (e) any new initiatives to promote the State's cultural heritage internationally?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) There are 82 centrally protected monuments/sites including temples under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in the State of Odisha. Conservation, preservation and maintenance of these centrally protected monuments/sites is a continuous process and is taken up as per the requirement and availability of resources. All the monuments are in a good state of preservation.

The Lalit Kala Akademi Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar works for the development and promotion of Visual Arts in its region comprising Odisha, through exhibition, camps workshops etc. in which Odisha artists participate.

The Government of India has set up Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) at Kolkata to promote the folk art of its member States which includes the State of Odisha. EZCC organizes various cultural activities in its member States for which annual grant-in-aid is provided to them.

- (b) Lalit Kala Akademi, Regional Centre, Bhubaneswar has organised the following programmes during the current financial years:-

1. Exhibition Parikarma in which Odia Research Scholars participated (16th April to 4th May, 2025)
2. Children Painting workshop under Jai Hind Programme (21st May, 2025)
3. Artist camp on World Environment Day (30th May to 3rd June, 2025)
4. Exhibition on World Environment Day -05th June, 2025.
5. Water Colour Workshop on Foundation Day – 05th August, 2025.
6. Water Colour Workshop on Har Ghar Tiranga – 13th August, 2025.
7. Children Painting Workshop on Har Ghar Tiranga – 14th August, 2025.
8. Students Paintings workshop at Puri, Khallikote and Bhubaneswar under Sewa Parv (21st Professional Artists Workshop under Sewa Parv- (28th September, 2025)
9. Professional Artists Workshop under Sewa Parv – 28th September, 2025)
10. Children Painting Workshop under Sewa Parv (30th September, 2025)

EZCC organizes number of programmes like Folk Fair, National Tribal/ Folk Dance & Music Festival, Chilika Shelduck Folk Carnival, All India Multilingual Drama & Dance Festival etc. in Odisha. Workshops viz. Filigree, Patachitra, Mayurbhanj Chhau and Saura Painting are also conducted by EZCC to promote dying & vanishing folk art forms.

- (c) The grant-in-aid released to EZCC, Kolkata during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount released (Rs. in Lakhs)
2022-23	755.81
2023-24	897.14
2024-25	1145.48

- (d) EZCC and Lalit Kala Akademi engages folk artists including local artists/ performers for the cultural programmes/ activities who are paid honorarium, local transportation, boarding & lodging etc. to enable them to earn their livelihood.
- (e) In order to make the world aware of India's rich cultural heritage, Ministry of Culture implements a scheme titled "Global Engagement Scheme" to promote India's rich cultural heritage and enhance India's image in the global arena. The objective of the Scheme is providing artists practicing Indian art forms, an opportunity to perform abroad under the banner of 'Festival of India'.

Ministry of Culture has empanelled artists/groups under various art forms and artists are selected from the empanelled list for deputing for performing in the Festivals of India abroad. Currently, 627 artists/groups are empanelled with the Ministry. Out of these 49 Artists/Groups are empanelled from Odisha. So far 7 Artists/Groups from Odisha have performed in Festivals of India/ Freedom-70 events abroad.
