

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 511
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025**

HOSTING OF 20TH UNESCO'S INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

511 SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

Will the **Minister of CULTURE** be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the 20th session of UNESCO's Inter-Governmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage is being hosted for the first time in December this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its aims and objective;
- (c) the details of elements of the country on UNESCO's representative list;
- (d) the issues likely to be taken up during the said meeting;
- (e) the details of countries and international organizations likely to participate in the said event; and
- (f) the manner in which the hosting of the said meeting would contribute to country's cultural diplomacy and strengthen its collaboration with UNESCO?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. India will host the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 8 to 13 December 2025 at Red Fort (Lal Qila), New Delhi. Its aims and objective are as under:

- i. Examining **nominations** submitted by States Parties for inscription on the UNESCO ICH Lists
- ii. Reviewing the **status** of existing elements
- iii. Providing **international assistance** for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage

(c) India currently has 15 elements inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The details of these elements are placed at **Annexure I**.

(d) The core issues likely to be taken up during the meeting are as under:

- Assessment of safeguarding reports submitted by States about existing listed elements
- Requests for international assistance to support safeguarding of ICH
- Discuss “living heritage safeguarding,” best practices, and innovative safeguarding methodologies
- Reporting and future planning for safeguarding of ICH

(e) Over 800 delegates from more than 180 countries, including Committee Members, UNESCO officials, experts, accredited NGOs and practitioners are likely to participate in this event.

(f) Hosting of the said meeting offers several strategic and diplomatic advantages for India and strengthen its collaboration with UNESCO. The meeting will help the country by increasing its global influence and cultural Diplomacy & soft power, providing a platform to showcase its diverse heritage, strengthening international cooperation on cultural preservation and inspiring younger generations to connect with their cultural identity.

The event also provides an opportunity for India to lead discussions on important heritage issues and solidify its position as a global leader in cultural diplomacy.

Annexure referred in part (c) of Rajya Sabha unstarred Question No. 511 for reply On 04.12.2025 for Hosting Of 20th Unesco's Inter-Governmental Committee

Details of 15 elements inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>ICH Heritage</u>	<u>Year of Inscription</u>
1.	Tradition of Vedic chanting	2008
2.	Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana	2008
3.	Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre	2008
4.	Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India	2009
5.	Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala	2010
6.	Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan	2010
7.	Chhau dance	2010
8.	Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir, India	2012
9.	Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur	2013
10.	Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India	2014
11.	Yoga	2016
12.	Nawrouz, Novruz, Nowrouz, Nowrouz, Nawrouz, Nauryz, Nooruz, Nowruz, Navruz, Nevruz, Nowruz, Navruz	2016
13.	Kumbh Mela	2017
14.	Durga Puja in Kolkata	2021
15.	Garba of Gujarat	2023