

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2275**  
ANSWERED ON 12/03/2026

**GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT SCHEME**

2275. SHRI RATANJIT PRATAP NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- a. the primary objectives and key components of Global Engagement Scheme;
- b. the steps being taken under this scheme to promote Indian folk arts and culture internationally;
- c. the countries and regions where Indian folk arts and culture have been showcased under this scheme;
- d. the number of artists or cultural organizations that have benefited from this scheme till July 2025; and
- e. the future plans for expanding the scope and impact of the scheme?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

**(a)** Ministry of Culture implements “Global Engagement Scheme” to promote India’s rich cultural heritage internationally and enhance India’s global image. The primary objectives of the Scheme include strengthening cultural ties with foreign nations, promoting bilateral cultural contacts, projecting India’s cultural identity on the world stage and encouraging inbound tourism. The Global Engagement Scheme has the following three components:

- I. Festival of India (FoI)
- II. Grant in aid to Indo Foreign Friendship Cultural Societies
- III. Contributions to Inter-governmental organizations

Components (I) & (II) of the scheme are administered through Indian Missions abroad to achieve its objectives.

**(b)** Under the Scheme, Ministry of Culture has empanelled Artists/Groups under various art forms to participate in Festival of India abroad. Artists are selected from the empanelled list for performing in the Festivals of India abroad. Currently, 627 Artists/Groups are empanelled with the Ministry. Out of these, 119 Artists/Groups are empanelled in Folk Arts.

**(c)** Till now, 62 FoIs have been held in different countries. The countries where Indian folk arts and culture have been showcased are Senegal, Ghana, Laos, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Vanuatu, Nauru, Tuvalu and Cook Island, Trinidad and Tobago, UK, Turkmenistan, Hungary, Denmark, Japan, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Guinea, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Tunisia, Qatar, Croatia, Kuwait and France.

**(d)** Total 2348 artists have participated in the FoIs till July, 2025.

**(e)** Existing Global Engagement Scheme is valid for 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Cycle.

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