

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2904
ANSWERED ON- 13/08/2026

MAINTENANCE OF MONUMENTS IN RAJASTHAN

2904 # SHRI MADAN RATHORE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the folk arts and heritage of Rajasthan enjoy an international reputation;
- (b) if so, the amount of Central assistance provided for their conservation;
- (c) whether any new projects have been approved for conservation and maintenance of historic forts and monuments;
- (d) whether folk artists are being provided pensions and financial assistance; and
- (e) whether cultural tourism in the State would be promoted further?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b) The Government of India has set up West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC) at Udaipur (Rajasthan) to protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art & culture of its member States including the State of Rajasthan. Rajasthan is also the member State of North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Patiala and North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC), Prayagraj. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis for which they engage folk artists from their member States including the State of Rajasthan.

The grant-in-aid released to these ZCCs to organize various cultural programmes and activities in their member States including Rajasthan during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in lakh)				
Sl. No.	Year	WZCC, Udaipur	NZCC, Patiala	NCZCC, Prayagraj
i.	2023-24	1280.10	1067.79	3553.24
ii.	2024-25	1129.00	1129.00	3227.66
iii.	2025-26	1333.00	2914.87	1288.89

Besides, under the Global Engagement Scheme administered by this Ministry, Festivals of India are organized in other countries showcasing Indian art and other cultural events including the Arts and Culture of Rajasthan through exhibitions, dance, music, theatre, food fest, film fest, yoga etc. Under the Scheme, this Ministry has empanelled Artists/Groups under various art forms including folk arts performing in the Festival of India (FoIs) abroad. Currently, 627 Artists/Groups from across the states including Rajasthan are empanelled with the Ministry.

Further, Rajasthan's rich intangible cultural heritage is represented through traditions such as Kalbelia, Chaar Bayt, Turban Tying, Hingan of Molela and Phad, all included in the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage maintained by the Sangeet Natak Akademi (an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture). Among these, Kalbelia folk songs and dances earned global recognition through its inscription on UNESCO's Representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Ministry of Culture also promotes Indian Arts and Culture globally through signing of Cultural Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding, Cultural Exchange Programmes etc. with foreign countries which encompasses tangible and intangible heritage of India.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) undertakes the conservation and preservation of Centrally Protected Monuments of National Importance in Rajasthan through the approved Annual Conservation Programme (ACP), based on the conservation requirements of individual monuments and the availability of resources. New conservation and maintenance works are taken up as per the approved programme and in accordance with the conservation priorities of the monuments.

(d) Ministry of Culture administers a scheme namely 'Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' under which maximum financial assistance of Rs. 6000/- per month is provided to veteran artists for improving the financial and socio-economic status of the old artists and scholars who have contributed significantly in their active age or are still contributing in the field of arts, letters etc. but due to old age are unable to generate a steady income.

Ministry of Culture also runs Guru-Shishya Parampara (Repertory Grant) Scheme under which financial support is provided to folk artists of all genres of performing arts viz. musical groups, dance groups, theatre groups including children theatre, music ensembles etc. Under the scheme, the amount of assistance for Guru (leader of the Group) is Rs. 15,000/- per month and for the Shishya is Rs. 2,000-10,000/- per month depending upon the age of the artist.

Besides, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India administers a scheme viz. "Scholarships to Young Artists in Different Cultural Fields" in which financial assistance is given to young artists (upto 400 scholarships in a batch year) of outstanding promise in the age group of 18-25 years for advanced training within India in the field of Indian Classical Music & Dance, Theatre, Mime, Visual Art, Folk, Traditional and Indigenous Arts and Light Classical Music etc. @ Rs. 5,000/- p.m. for 2 years. The scholarship is released in four equal six-monthly installments.

Further, all the ZCCs engage folk artists from their member States for various cultural activities and programmes organized by them. These artists are paid honorarium, TA/DA, boarding and lodging, local transport etc. to enable them to earn their livelihood.

(e) WZCC, NZCC and NCZCC facilitate cultural exchanges among their member States, thereby providing opportunities for Rajasthani artists and cultural groups to perform in different parts of the country and for artists from other regions to participate in cultural programmes in Rajasthan. These activities include Marwar Festival, Lokanurangan Mela, Camel Festival, Desert Festival, Pushkar Fair, Beneshwar Mela, Kota Mahotsav, Lokrang - National Folk Festival, Shilpgram and other cultural events. Such activities contribute to the preservation, promotion and wider dissemination of Rajasthan's rich cultural heritage.
