

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-512
ANSWERED ON- 23/07/2026

PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF ODISHA'S TRADITIONAL ARTS

512. DR. SANTRUPT MISRA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to preserve and promote the classical and folk dance and art forms of Odisha, such as Odissi, Gotipua and Chhau;
- (b) the mechanism for recognising and supporting artists in both the performing and non-performing arts, including emerging artists; and
- (c) the schemes available to curate, train and provide livelihood security to such artists?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) To preserve and promote the classical, folk dance and art forms of Odisha including Odissi, Gotipua and Chhau, the Government of India has set up Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata (an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture). EZCC organizes various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis in its member States including the State of Odisha. The programmes/ activities organized by EZCC in which Odissi, Gotipua and Chhau art forms presented during the last three years are at **Annexure**.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi under Ministry of Culture organizes “Festival, Workshop & Exhibition” which is designed to establish/ support festivals both at the regional and national levels to present classical, traditional, tribal and other forms of Indian performing arts under the aegis of the Akademi in order to preserve art tradition in live practice and develop technique and creative process through performance and workshop, by holding and supporting music festivals, Seminars & Workshops & Exhibitions etc., the Akademi has brought into limelight many unknown and rare forms and many artists who are performers of outstanding merit as also younger generation of performing artists.

Since 2013, the Akademi has been holding a series of festivals titled ‘Desaj’ in different regions of the country to promote and encourage artists in the field of folk and tribal music, dance and theatre of the country. Besides, the Akademi has been organizing the following festivals for preservation of tribal culture:

- **Lok Sangam**- festival of senior folk and tribal artists of India.
- **Lok Pratibha**- a festival of young folk and tribal artists focused on narrative and traditional arts form of India.

The Akademi has also presented Chhau Dance of Saraikela and Kharsuan and Gotipua dance of Odisha in different festivals of the Akademi i.e. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Republic Day Parade, Kyrgustan SCO Summit, 20.Com ICH Submit.

Sangeet Natak Akademi has also organized Gotipua Baal Utsav on the occasion of children's day on 14-15 November, 2018 at Meghdoot-II, Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi. The festival was focused on Odisha traditional art form 'Gotipua'. Total 6 Groups from Odisha including approx. 80 artists participated in the festival.

(b) All the Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs), functioning under the Ministry of Culture, have established a comprehensive mechanism to recognize and support artists in both the performing and non-performing arts with particular emphasis on preserving India's rich cultural heritage and encouraging emerging talent. Artists are identified through cultural festivals, fairs, workshops, talent hunts and recommendations from State Governments, cultural institutions and experts with special attention given to folk, tribal and traditional artists. They also create performance opportunities by organising regional and national festivals, folk and tribal festivals, craft fairs, youth festivals and cultural exchange programmes, enabling artists to gain recognition and wider public exposure.

In addition, all the ZCCs conduct workshops, seminars and training camps to enhance artistic skills and build the capacity of emerging artists. They also undertake documentation and preservation of folk music, dance, theatre, oral traditions and traditional crafts through publications and audio-visual records.

For non-performing arts, ZCCs organise exhibitions, craft bazaars and artisan demonstrations to provide market access and improve the livelihoods of artisans. Cultural exchange initiatives including programmes under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, facilitate inter-regional exchanges and strengthen national integration by exposing artists to diverse cultural traditions.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi created a repository of artists/scholars/critics/writers/art historians etc. of the performing arts for updating database, better & direct connection with the artist community.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi for promotion, propagation and preservation of the performing arts of India, established 'Sangeet Natak Akademi's Chhau Kendra' at Chandankiyari, Jharkhand in 2018 for preservation and promotion of Purulia, Mayurbhanj and Saraikela Chhau.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Award/ Fellowship (the highest national honor in the field of performing arts) is given by Sangeet Natak Akademi every year. So far, 32 Odissi Dance Artists, 23 Chhau Dance Artists and 2 Gotipua Dance Artists have received the Award/ Fellowship.

(c) Folk artists are engaged by ZCCs 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.

Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme run by ZCCs is one such initiative where traditional masters train young disciples to ensure continuity of cultural knowledge which helps artistes, researchers and community bearers of traditions.

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, Govt. of India also 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.

Besides, Ministry of Culture 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.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi have a scheme “Training and Preservation of Traditional, Folk & Tribal Performing Arts” with a view to achieving the objectives, various selected forms of music, dance, theatre including crafts associated with the performing arts and allied arts from all over the country are provided financial support with special attention to training in non-formal and personalized atmosphere in the tradition of Guru-Shishya Parampara. The scheme also supports performances, workshops and exhibitions of musical instruments and crafts associated with traditional performing art forms.

The Akademi has started 13 training programmes of performing art forms of Odisha under the scheme "Kala Deeksha" (Guru Shishya Parampara):

- i. Ravan Chhaya, (Shadow Puppetry of Odisha) under Guru Khageswar Sahu Village: Odas Dist. Angul.
- ii. Sanchar under Guru Shri Alekha Sahu Talmenda Distt. Bargarh.
- iii. Brahmabina under Guru Ananda Bag, Dholband, Distt. Bargarh.
- iv. Ramleela under Guru Raghunath Swain, Village Golomundula.
- v. Prahlad Natak under Guru Radhamohan Pradhan Bahadaguda, Dist. Ganjam.
- vi. Mayurbhanj Chhau under Guru Laltu Mohanta Mayurbhanj, Odisha.
- vii. Mayurbhanj Chhau under Guru Sachindra Dhara Mayurbhanj, Odisha.
- viii. Mayurbhanj Chhau under Guru Narendra Tipiria Mayurbhanj, Odisha.
- ix. Mayurbhanj Chhau under Guru Akshay Kumar Mohanta Mayurbhanj, Odisha.
- x. Mayurbhanj Chhau under Guru Foren Narayan Dhara Baripada, Mayurbhanj, Odisha.
- xi. Mayurbhanj Chhau under Guru Maheswar Munda Dalima, Tiring, Mayurbhanj, Odisha.
- xii. Mayurbhanj Chhau under Guru Srishtidhar Mohanta Rairangpur, Odisha.
- xiii. Mayurbhanj Chhau under Guru Shib Charan Mohanta Karanjia, Mayurbhanj, Odisha.

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 512
for 23.07.2026**

Programmes/ activities organized by EZCC in which Odissi, Gotipua and Chhau art forms
presented

➤ **Odissi art form presented in the following programmes organized by EZCC:**

2023-24

Sl. No.	Name of the programmes/ activities
1.	Lingaraj Festival
2.	Amrit Gatha
3.	Gotipua Dance Festival
4.	World Dance Day
5.	CWG G20
6.	Bhimpahad Mahotsav
7.	Folk Fair
8.	Dance Drama Balya Leela
9.	Shreekhetra Mahotsav
10.	Rath Yatra – CAR Festival
11.	Classical Dance & Music Festival
12.	Wonder Caves – Fort & Caves Festival of India
13.	Kalinga and Southeast Asia: The Civilization Linkages
14.	Cultural programme on the occasion of 39 th Annual General Meeting of Paschim Banga Prakasak Sabha
15.	Meeri Maati Mera Desh & Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign
16.	26 th National Exhibition
17.	Cultural programme on the occasion of Launch of 'Mission Kala Karanti'
18.	Juger Jatra Lok Mahotsav
19.	7 th National Media Conclave
20.	Kalakranti Phase – II
21.	Chilka Shelduc Festival
22.	Baliyatra Cuttack Utsav
23.	Odissi Dance Workshop
24.	Kalakranti Purbanchaliya Lok Mahotsav
25.	Indradhanush
26.	34 th National Handicrafts Trade Fair
27.	Banipur Lok Utsav
28.	27 th Glory Fest - National Level Inter University/College Cultural Fest
29.	International Digha Beach Dance Festival
30.	Neelambhu Mahotsav
31.	Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)

2024-25

Sl. No.	Name of the programmes/ activities
1.	World Dance Day
2.	Raja Prab celebration
3.	24 th State Level Raja Mahotsav
4.	5 th National Conference of Corporate CS
5.	Conference of Governors
6.	Amrit Kaal – Cultural Conclave, A Journey Towards Viksit Bharat

7.	Har Ghar Tiranga campaign
8.	Baliyatra Cuttack Utsav
9.	Sagar Bandan
10.	Indradhanush
11.	Odisha Parba
12.	National Trade Fair
13.	Paenri Tihar
14.	Mondei
15.	6 th Rajasunakhala Mahotsav
16.	Malyabanta Mahotsav
17.	Parab
18.	Khorda Mahotsav
19.	Gajapati Utsav
20.	Padampur Loka Mahotsav
21.	Purbanchaliya Lok Mahotsav
22.	Folk Fair
23.	Amrit Kaal -A Journey Towards Vikshit Bharat
24.	Bargarh Dhanuyatra Mahotsav
25.	Ranpur Mahotsav
26.	Swagatam Mahotsav 18 th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
27.	KalagramMahakhumb
28.	Shreekhetra Makar Mahotsav
29.	Foundation Day of the States/UT
30.	Parakram Divas
31.	Satyabadi Mahotsav
32.	Nuagoan Mahotsav

2025-26

Sl. No.	Name of the programmes/ activities
1.	Lingaraj
2.	HrudayereKalakaar Annual Musical Show
3.	5-day Odissi dance workshop
4.	148 th Sital Sasthi Shiba Bibaha Mahotsav
5.	Shri Jagannath Sanskrutik Utsav
6.	Folk Fair
7.	Amrit Kaal Cultural Conclave – A Journey towards Vikshit Bharat
8.	Gurupujan Utsav
9.	Home reception hosted by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan
10.	Nuakhai Festival
11.	Amrit Kaal Cultural Conclave - A Journey towards Vikshit Bharat
12.	Purbanchaliya Lok Mahotsav - a signature festival of folk and tribal arts
13.	Utkal Banga Maitri Utsav and Jaleswar Simanta Gramin Mahotsav
14.	Bharatiyam Mahotsav
15.	Indradhanush

➤ **Gotipua art form presented in the following programmes organized by EZCC:**

2023-24

Sl. No.	Name of the programmes/ activities
1.	Lingaraj Festival
2.	Maha Visubha Milan Utsav
3.	Gotipua Dance Festival

4.	Sitamarhi Mahotsav
5.	CWG G20
6.	Bhimpahad Mahotsav
7.	Folk Fair
8.	Shreekhetra Mahotsav
9.	Rath Yatra – CAR Festival
10.	Wonder Caves – Fort & Caves Festival of India
11.	Kalinga and Southeast Asia : The Civilization Linkages
12.	Cultural programme on the occasion of 39th Annual General Meeting of Paschim Banga Prakasak Sabha
13.	Meeri Maati Mera Desh & Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign
14.	7 th National Media Conclave
15.	Kalakranti Phase – II
16.	ChilkaShelduc Festival
17.	Baliyatra Cuttack Utsav
18.	KalakrantiPurbanchaliya Lok Mahotsav
19.	Indradhanush
20.	34 th National Handicrafts Trade Fair
21.	27 th Glory Fest - National Level Inter University/College Cultural Fest
22.	Neelambhu Mahotsav

2024-25

Sl.No.	Name of the programmes/ activities
1.	Raja Prab celebration
2.	24 th State Level Raja Mahotsav
3.	Conference of Governors
4.	Har Ghar Tiranga campaign
5.	Baliyatra Cuttack Utsav
6.	Indradhanush
7.	Odisha Parba
8.	National Trade Fair
9.	Mondei
10.	6 th Rajasunakhala Mahotsav
11.	Malyabanta Mahotsav
12.	Parab
13.	Khorda Mahotsav
14.	Padampur Loka Mahotsav
15.	Purbanchaliya Lok Mahotsav
16.	Folk Fair
17.	Bargarh Dhanuyatra Mahotsav
18.	Ranpur Mahotsav
19.	Subarna Lok Mahotsav
20.	Swagatam Mahotsav 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
21.	KalagramMahakhumb
22.	Shreekhetra Makar Mahotsav
23.	Satyabadi Mahotsav
24.	Nuagoan Mahotsav

2025-26

Sl. No.	Name of the programmes/ activities
1.	Lingaraj
2.	Gotipua and Folk Dance Festival
3.	148 th Sital Sasthi Shiba Bibaha Mahotsav

4.	Shri Jagannath Sanskrutik Utsav
5.	25 th State Level Raja Mahotsav
6.	Folk Fair
7.	Purbanchaliya Lok Mahotsav - a signature festival of folk and tribal arts
8.	Amrit Kaal Cultural Conclave - A Journey towards Vikshit Bharat
9.	Indradhanush

➤ **Chhau art form presented in the following programmes organized by EZCC:**

2023-24

Sl. No.	Name of the programmes/ activities
1.	Baisakhi Utsab 1430 - Bengali New Year
2.	Maha Visubha Milan Utsav
3.	Folk Fair
4.	Classical Dance & Music Festival
5.	Kalinga and Southeast Asia : The Civilization Linkages
6.	Meeri Maati Mera Desh & Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign
7.	26 th National Exhibition
8.	Ganga Sanskriti Yatra
9.	Folk Festival
10.	National Level Tribal Dance & Music Festival – 8 th Lok Kala
11.	Amrit Kalash Yatra
12.	Silver Jubilee of Agnibina Tarun Sangha
13.	Khatundi Mela
14.	Inauguration of Kali Puja
15.	Nalanda Mahotsav on the occasion of 73 rd Nalanda Foundation Day
16.	Kalakranti Phase – II
17.	Chilka Shelduc Festival
18.	Rash Utsav
19.	Baliyatra Cuttack Utsav
20.	29 th Celebration of Srijan Utsav
21.	Kolaghat Utsav
22.	Kalakranti Purbanchaliya Lok Mahotsav
23.	Sonarpur Book Fair
24.	Monmohan Mela
25.	Sundarban Krishi Mela
26.	Indradhanush
27.	Banki Bhandarchak School Programme
28.	Haringhata Banga Sanskriti Utsav
29.	Amta Sampriti Utsav
30.	Sundarban Gramin Mela Kanmari
31.	Gujar Kharui Mela
32.	Sanchita Mela
33.	Banipur Lok Utsav
34.	Newtown Boimela
35.	Sundarban Folk Festival
36.	27 th Glory Fest - National Level Inter University/College Cultural Fest
37.	Lok Sanskriti Utsav
38.	Gaighata Utsav
39.	Ashoknagar Sishu Utsav
40.	International Digba Beach Dance Festival
41.	22 nd Gramin Krishi O Shilpa Mela

42.	Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 127 th Birth Anniversary
43.	Nabagram Krish Mela
44.	Bantra Bhatri Monimela
45.	Mangal Mayer Puja
46.	Neelambhu Mahotsav
47.	Bengal Kerala Mahotsavam - National Folk Festival - Mission Kalakranti
48.	Parampara Utsab
49.	Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)
50.	Gopinathpur folk Festival
51.	AmritKal - Cultural Conclave
52.	Ramakrishna Pramahansa Devji Janma Tithi

2024-25

Sl. No.	Name of the programmes/ activities
1.	Baisakhi Utsab - Bengali New Year
2.	Basanti Mayer Puja
3.	Foundation Day of West Bengal
4.	West Bengal Bengal Statehood Day Celebration
5.	Kharchi Festival
6.	5th National Conference of Corporate CS
7.	Two days Palamu Tribal Folk Dance Festival
8.	Two days Kolahan Folk Dance Festival
9.	Conference of Governors
10.	Amrit Kaal – Cultural Conclave, A Journey Towards Viksit Bharat
11.	Har Ghar Tiranga campaign
12.	Amrit Kaal – Cultural Conclave, A Journey Towards Viksit Bharat
13.	Amar Mati Amar Desh – Border Area Festival
14.	Sanskritik Utsav
15.	Rabindra Bhavan, Cooch Behar, West Bengal
16.	Cultural programme related to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna- Grameen on the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
17.	Amritkal Cultural Conclave - A Journey Towards Viksit Bharat
18.	Cultural programme on the occasion of Saradiya Durgotsab
19.	Chhau Festival
20.	Kali Puja Festival cum Cultural Festival
21.	Festival of Bengali Diaspora in Kerala
22.	Baliyatra Cuttack Utsav
23.	Indradhanush
24.	Odisha Parba
25.	National Trade Fair
26.	Paenri Tihar
27.	Mondei
28.	35 th Sonarpur Book Fair
29.	Malyabanta Mahotsav
30.	Parab
31.	Platinum Jubilee Anniversary Celebration of Raghunathpur Kiran Bala GSFP School
32.	Khorda Mahotsav
33.	Gajapati Utsav
34.	Purbanchaliya Lok Mahotsav
35.	Haringhata Banga Sanskriti Utsab
36.	Folk Fair
37.	Utkal Banga Maitri Utsav and Jaleswar Simanta Gramin Mahotsav

38.	Manomahan Mela O Loksanskriti Utsav
39.	Kolaghat Utsav
40.	Folk Festival
41.	30 th Amta Sampriti Utsav, Janajagaran Utsav
42.	Bargarh Dhanuyatra Mahotsav
43.	Subarna Lok Mahotsav
44.	Peoples Connect Pogramme
45.	Swagatam Mahotsav 18 th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
46.	Kalagram Mahakhumb
47.	Parakram Divas
48.	Sanskriti Mahotsav

2025-26

Sl. No.	Name of the programmes/ activities
1.	Baisakhi Utsab - Bengali New Year
2.	Lingaraj
3.	WAVES
4.	Gotipua and Folk Dance Festival
5.	Sitamarhi Mahotsav
6.	Janki Janmostav
7.	148 th Sital Sasthi Shiba Bibaha Mahotsav
8.	Swar Tal Mahotsav
9.	25 th State Level Raja Mahotsav
10.	Folk Fair
11.	International Mask Dance Festival
12.	Foundation Day of West Bengal
13.	Home reception hosted by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan
14.	Nuakhai Festival
15.	Cultural Programme - Agomoni
16.	Osaka World Expo
17.	Kali Puja Mahotsav and Sanskriti Utsav
18.	Lok Darshan (Festival of Folk and Tribal Arts of Jharkhand)
19.	Cultural Programme to celebrate the inclusion of Diwali in UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity
20.	Purbanchaliya Lok Mahotsav - a signature festival of folk and tribal arts
21.	Utkal Banga Maitri Utsav and Jaleswar Simanta Gramin Mahotsav
22.	Pous Parav
23.	Indradhanush Programme
24.	Bangla Sanskriti Utsav
