

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 123

TO BE ANSWERED ON 4.2.2019

CONSERVATION AND PROMOTION OF INDIAN CULTURE

† 123. SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK

- a) the steps taken by the Government for conservation and promotion of Indian culture in the country during the last three years;
- b) the details of new programmes prepared for promotion of Indian Culture and to create awareness towards it during the said period; and
- c) the funds released to non-Governmental organizations for this purpose during the said period, State/U.T?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE AND
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) to (c): Ministry of Culture has taken necessary steps to achieve its mandate i.e preservation and conservation of cultural heritage and promotion of tangible and intangible art and culture through its attached, subordinate and autonomous organisations. Its activities and programmes are accomplished under several broad cultural heads viz. Preservation and conservation of Archaeological sites, Museums and its artefacts, Public Libraries, Promotion and dissemination of Performing Arts, Buddhist and Tibetan studies, International Cultural Relation and construction of cultural complexes etc. during the last three years (2015-16, 2016-17 & 2017- 18). The details of major activities for promotion of culture for the last three years are at annexure.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED
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Major Activities of Ministry of Culture and its organizations for the year 2015-16, 2016-17 & 2017- 18.

1. E-ticketing- A cashless tool started for tourists at all ticketed monuments.
2. 100 Monuments Identified for Portal on “Must-See Monuments and Archaeological Sites of India” .
3. Excavation at the site near Saser La Pass in Ladakh at an altitude of about 13500-14000 feet. Archaeological site development at Purana Qila (Delhi), Kalibangan and Binjor (Rajasthan), Lothal and Dholavira (Gujarat) and Sannathi (Karnataka), Conservation work outside India, in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. The Archaeological Survey of India (Delhi Circle) of Ministry of Culture discovered a hoard of 254 Copper Coins of medieval period in the premises of Khirki Mosque during the course of conservation of the monument.
4. The Archaeological Survey of India now allows photography within the premises of all centrally protected monuments/sites.
5. Ease of doing business – Website and Smart Smarac Mobile App for NMA Permissions.
6. Satellite Mapping of ASI Monuments with the support of ISRO done.
7. Retrieval of stolen antiquities (17) from abroad.
8. Swachh Bharat – Swachh Smarak- all ASI Protected Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites declared Polythene Free Zones. 25 ASI sites were launched as “Adarsh Smarak” on 26th December, 2014. The ASI has ranked top 25 Adarsh Monuments on the basis of Cleanliness parameters such as amenities like toilets, green lawns, Polythene Free Zone, signage for awareness, disabilities access, drinking water and provision for garbage bins etc. “Rani ki Vav (Gujarat)” a World Heritage Site has been declared as the cleanest iconic place in the country.
9. Establishment of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology, ASI.
10. Celebration of International Buddha Poonima Diwas. **Celebration of 75th Anniversary of Formation of Azad Hind Government in the Presence of Prime Minister.**
11. The Tagore Awards for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 were conferred on the doyen of Manipuri dance Sh. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh; Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh) and on one of India’s greatest sculptors, Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar, respectively.
12. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav were held at New Delhi, Allahabad, Varanasi, Gujarat, Puducherry, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand etc.

13. Gandhi Heritage: Development of Dandi Heritage Path from Ahmedabad to Dandi and 21 Nigh Halt places have been completed. Up gradation and modernization of Gandhi Ashram Trust at Noakhali (Bangladesh); up gradation of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore, Kolkata; curating exhibition of permanent nature at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station, South Africa and creation of data base relating to Gandhi Heritage Sites have been completed National Salt Satyagraha Memorial at Dandi is scheduled to be inaugurated this month..
14. Festivals of India organized in approximately 37 Countries.
15. Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP) in Sikkim and The Capitol Complex in Chandigarh were also announced as World Heritage Sites. The historic walled city of Ahmedabad, dotted with 28 protected ASI sites was inscribed as India's first heritage city by UNESCO on July 8, 2017. **Mumbai's Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Building declared as World Heritage by UNESCO.**
16. Release of Netaji Files.
17. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a Digital Exhibition – “*Uniting India : Sardar Patel*” organized by the Ministry of Culture on the occasion of *Rashtriya Ekta Diwas*- the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, former Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India in National Science Centre, New Delhi on 31st October 2016.
18. Commemorations have been celebrated of Lala Lajpat Rai, Maharana Pratap, Rani Gaidinliu, Taty Tope, Bhisham Sahni, 500 years of return of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu to Vrindavan, 350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind, birth centenary activities of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, 200th Anniversary of Paika Rebellion, 70th Anniversary of Indian Independence, Centenary of Champaran Satyagraha, Centenary of Sabarmati Ashram. Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi the Father of Nation commenced on 2nd October, 2018 both at national and international levels for a period of two years. **550th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji. Release of commemorative coin in honour of Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Special Exhibition to Commemorate the 70 years of Accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India.**
19. The National School of Drama has hosted the 8th edition of Theatre Olympics in the year 2018.
20. A pilot version of the ‘Vedic Heritage’ Portal has been launched by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
21. Ministry of Culture also plans to create Virtual Experiential Museums to showcase the tangible and intangible heritage of the country. The first of these proposed museums is in the process of being commissioned at the Man Mahal, an early 17th century protected monument in Varanasi.
22. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India launched the new scheme namely ‘**Seva Bhoj Yojna**’ on **01.08.2018**, with a total outlay of Rs. 325.00 Crores for Financial Years 2018-19 and 2019-20.
23. **Foundation stone laid for Museum on Prime Ministers of India in Delhi**