

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.157  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.03.2020**

**INTER-CULTURAL INITIATIVES**

**\*157 SHRI UPENDRA SINGH RAWAT  
SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Inter-Cultural initiatives taken by the Government with different countries of the world during the last three years;
- (b) whether any tangible impact or positive outcome has been achieved by these interactions including help in promotion of Indian culture; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CULTURE &  
TOURISM**

**(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

**(a) to (c):** A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.157 for 02.03.2020 regarding Inter-Cultural Initiatives.**

Ministry of Culture signs bilateral Cultural Agreements (CAs) /Cultural Exchange Programme(CEPs)/Memorandum of Understanding(MoUs) with different countries having inter alia provisions for cooperation in the field of music, dance, theatre, archives, archaeology, libraries, museums, literature, exhibition, capacity building etc. The provisions of aforesaid agreements are implemented through different organizations/institutions. The list of CEPs signed during the last three years is enclosed at Annexure-I.

To enhance India's cultural outreach abroad, Ministry of Culture also implements a scheme for Promotion of International Cultural Relations. This scheme has two components (i) Festival of India(FOI) (ii) Grant in Aid to Indo Foreign Friendship Societies. The activities undertaken under the scheme include music, dance, theatre, food festivals, literary festivals, folk arts, yoga, exhibitions, lecture demonstration and workshops etc. The details of FOIs and Grant in aid to Indo Foreign Friendship Cultural Societies are enclosed at Annexure II.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations(ICCR), an autonomous organization under Ministry of External Affairs also foster and strengthen cultural relations between India and other countries through its inter cultural initiatives. Details of major activities undertaken by ICCR are enclosed at Annexure III.

Positive feedbacks/reports have been received from Indian Missions, Posts and diasporas on these cultural events organized abroad. These events enhance awareness about Indian culture and India's soft power diplomacy. All these inter cultural initiatives have been able to popularize and create interest about Indian art & culture and foster closer friendship between India and other countries.

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**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.\*157 for 02.03.2020 regarding Inter-Cultural Initiatives.**

**CEPs Signed during the last three years (2016-19)**

<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>Name of the countries</b>	<b>Signed on</b>
1.	Iran	23.05.2016
2.	Japan MOC	11.11.2016
3.	Mali	29.09.2016
4.	Morocco	31.05.2016
5.	Russia 22 <sup>nd</sup> protocol	13.09.2016
6.	South Africa	08.07.2016
7.	Thailand	17.06.2016
8.	Armenia	25.04.2017
9.	Cyprus	28.04.2017
10.	Russia	01.06.2017
11.	Turkey	01.05.2017
12.	Netherland (MOU)	27.06.2017
13.	Portugal	24.06.2017
14.	Belarus	12.09.2017
15.	Italy	30.10.2017
16.	Myanmar	06.09.2017
17.	Cambodia	27.01.2018
18.	Jordan	28.02.2018
19.	Mauritius (POC)	12.03.2018
20.	Bulgaria	15.03.2018
21.	Guyana	30.01.2018
22.	Serbia (Agreement) (CA)	03.05.2018
23.	Seychelles	24.06.2018
24.	Greece	18.06.2018
25.	Korea	10.07.2018
26.	Ghana	18.07.2018
27.	Rwanda	23.07.2018
28.	Uganda	24.07.2018
29.	Azerbaijan	12.10.2018
30.	Croatia	22.10.2018
31.	Tajikistan	08.10.2018
32.	Zimbabwe (MOU)	03.11.2018
33.	Maldives (MOU)	17.12.2018
34.	Algeria	31.01.2019
35.	Bolivia	29.03.2019

**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.\*157 for 02.03.2020 regarding Inter-Cultural Initiatives.**

**Festival of India held during last three years (2016-2019)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Countries</b>	<b>Name of countries</b>
2016-2017	17	Myanmar,Hungary,Spain,Morocco,Italy,Australia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya,Tanzania,Oman,Senegal,Ghana, Cambodia,Netherlands,Ukraine
2017-2018	12	United Kingdom, Ivory Coast (Cote d'ivoire), Liberia and Guinea, Thailand, Brazil, Uzbekistan, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Vanuatu, Nauru, Tuvalu and Cook Island
2018-2019	7	Tunisia, Russia, Switzerland & Liechtenstein, Croatia, Qatar, Nepal, Colombia & Ecuador

**List of countries where 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of**

**India's independence was celebrated under Festival of India**

Sl.No	Country Name	Duration	Sl.No	Country Name	Duration
1.	Hungary	23-25 June 2017	28.	Sri Lanka	16-21 Nov. 2017
2.	Tunisia	26 July to 1 Aug 2017	29.	Tanzania	26-31 Oct. 2017
3.	Afghanistan	6-10 Sep 2017	30.	Turkey	21-25 Aug 2017 11-15 Sept. 2017
4.	Belarus	26-28 Aug 2017	31.	Turkmenistan	23-27 Aug 2017 14-17 Nov 2017
5-6.	Belgium & Luxemburg	11-17 Aug 2017	32-34.	Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi	17-21 Aug 2017 7-11 Nov. 2017
7.	Brunei Darussalam	13-17 Aug 2017 9-25, Nov. 2017	35.	Vietnam	14-20 Aug 2017
8.	Chile	17-21 Aug 2017 19-23 Oct. 2017	36.	Algeria	16-21 Sep. 2017 17-22 Dec. 2017
9-10.	Cuba and Dominican Republic	8-16 Aug 2017	37.	Angola	01-03 Oct. 2017 04-12 Jan 2018
11.	Czech Republic	14-16 Aug 2017 Sep 26 – Oct 1, 2017	38.	Bahrain	23-25 Nov. 2017 22-26 Nov. 2017
12.	Denmark	17-20 Aug 2017 18-21 Oct. 2017	39.	France	24-28 Oct. 2017 23-19 January 2018
13-16.	Ghana, Togo, Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone	9-17 Aug 2017 24-29 Jan 2017	40.	Portugal	Oct. 28 – Nov. 3, 2017
17.	Iran	14-16 Aug 2017	41-42.	Argentina & Uruguay	Nov. 2-11, 2017
18.	Japan	24-30 Aug 2017	43.	Croatia	17-21 Sep. 2017 7-10 Nov. 2017
19.	Laos	19-21 Aug 2017 25-29 Oct. 2017	44-45.	Switzerland and Liechtenstein	6-9 Oct. 2017
20-21.	Mexico and Belize	13-22 Aug 2017 24 Jan-3 Feb 2018	46-47.	Armenia and Georgia	11-15 Oct. 2017 29 Oct to 2 Nov. 2017
22.	Myanmar	12-16 Aug 2017	48.	Israel	5-10 Nov. 2017
23.	New Zealand	18-20 Aug 2017	49-50.	Colombia & Ecuador	13-20 Aug 2017 10-17 Dec. 2017
24.	Norway	14-16 Aug 2017	51.	Venezuela	9-12 Nov 2017 24-28 Jan 2018
25.	Oman	14-16 Aug 2017 8-15 Nov. 2017	52.	Kenya	23-27 Nov. 2017
26.	Seychelles	21-23 Aug 2017 23-26 October 2017	53.	Sudan	22-25 Nov. 2017
27.	Spain	14-19 Aug 2017 17-21 Oct. 2017	54.	USA	19-21 November, 2017
			55.	Trinidad and Tobago	10-13 November, 2017

**STATEMENT OF GRANT SANCTIONED TO CULTURAL SOCIETIES**  
**THROUGH INDIAN MISSIONS DURING LAST THREE YEARS**

YEAR	NO. OF MISSION	NO. OF SOCIETIES
2016-2017	51	350
2017-2018	54	379
2018-2019	57	404

**Annexure- III**

**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.\*157 for 02.03.2020 regarding Inter-Cultural Initiatives.**

**DETAILS OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY ICCR DURING THE LAST  
THREE YEARS 2016-2019**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
1.	Number of MoUs' supporting chairs of Indian studies in various foreign universities	74	79	66
2.	Number of eminent academicians/ distinguished visitors hosted by ICCR	14	17	14
3.	Number of bronze bust statues of national heroes gifted	11	7	13
4.	Number of countries to which financial assistance provided for celebration of International Day of Yoga	120	128	172
5.	Number of foreign groups hosted for cultural programmes in various states of India	53	66	54
6.	Number of groups sponsored to participate in various prestigious International Festivals and Events abroad	166	175	118
7.	Number of Exhibitions organised abroad	20	7	8
8.	Number of Exhibitions hosted in India	2	11	4
9.	Number of foreign students studying in various universities in India	6569	6224	5793