

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 4329

ANSWERED ON- 20/12/2024

INDIAN FESTIVALS IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

4329. SHRI ANIL YESHWANT DESAI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed that Indian festivals and traditions being followed in some African and other countries;

(b) if so, the name of the countries alongwith the Indian festivals they celebrated in those countries;

(c) whether cultural exchange has ever been made between these countries, if so, the details of such activities during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) whether such bonds helps in better understanding with them?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA)

(a & b) Indian festivals and traditions are not only followed in African countries but all over the world by Indian community as well as several local cultural organizations. In addition, Indian Missions/Posts abroad also celebrate Indian festivals by organizing performances by Indian cultural groups/troupes through Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

(c) ICCR has been sponsoring visits of performing art groups in collaboration with Indian Missions/Posts abroad and local cultural organizations; often coinciding with Indian festival dates and promoting Indian traditions abroad. A list of such groups sponsored by ICCR since 2020 is placed at Annexure-I.

(d) These festivals are being organized with the aim to depict the rich and diverse cultural heritage of India and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding with other countries. They are the tool of inter-culture understanding and cultural diplomacy that project the soft power of India. This soft approach is expected to benefit India in the field of tourism, health, education, commerce etc. and provide strategic depth to growing influence of India.

a) ICCR sponsored events in African Countries

S.No.	Name of Country	Name of Indian Festival	Details of groups sponsored by ICCR
2020			
1.	Nigeria, Chad, Benin, Mozambique and Reunion Island	Republic Day Celebrations	06-Member Oddisi group “Kaishiki Dance Academy” led by Ms. Daksha Sanjay Mashruwala, Maharashtra from 23 January – 5 February 2020
2.	Senegal	Tiranga Festival	08-Member Bollywood group “Dance Smith Performing Arts Pvt. Ltd. – Sujit Kayal” led by Shri Mirnal Gera, Delhi from 25-26 January 2020
3.	Mauritius	Mahashivratri Celebrations	04-Member Devotional music group led by Ms. Sumana Chakrabarty, West Bengal from 15-23 February 2020
2022			
1.	Zambia	“India Week” as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav(AKAM)	12-Member “Vande Bharatam” Contemporary Dance troupe “Rekha Dance Troupe” led by Mr. Samrat Das, Delhi from 03-07 June, 2022
2.	Ghana	Celebrations of India@75	17-Member Indian Cinematic Music & Dance Group “Dance Era - Manik Bhatheja (Delhi)” led by Mr. Manik Bhatheja, Delhi from 11-16 August, 2022
3.	Mauritius, Madagascar, South Africa,	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav coincide with Independence	12-Member “Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy” (JNMD) group led by Ms. Chandandevi Gurumayum, Manipur from 14-31 August, 2022

	Botswana and Swaziland	Day celebrations	
4.	Angola, Ethiopia and Sudan	India Week.	08-Member Indian Cinema Music & Dance Group “A To Z Hot Dance Group” led by Shri Sukhvinder Singh, Delhi from 03-15 November, 2022
5.	Mauritius	AKAM India @75 celebrations.	08-Member Indian Cinema Music Cinema Music & Dance Group “Colours of Bollywood’ led by Shri Asif Ali, Delhi from 07-12 December, 2022
6.	Zimbabwe	Namaste Zimbabwe Festival during India@75 celebrations.	i. 05-Member Light Music Group led by Ms. Oshin Bhatia, Delhi and ii. 07-Member Kalariyapattu Group “Maruthi Marma Chikilsa & Kalari Sangom” led by Shri T Ajith Kumar, Kerala from 12-17 December, 2022
2023			
1.	Seychelles	Republic Day Celebrations	08-Member “Sanjali Centre for Odissi Dance” Troupe led by Sharmila Mukerjee, Karnataka from 25-28 January, 2023
2.	Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Gabon and Sudan	Republic Day Celebration	08-Member Gujarati Folk Dance Group led by Mr. Kushal Dixit, Gujarat from 25 January-04 February, 2023
3.	Kenya	Iconic AKAM Week	08 members Sidi Dhamaal Sidi Goma – Saiyad Akbarmiya Gulamali Kadari troupe. Gujarat from 10-18 June 2023
4.	Tunisia	India Day celebrations	08 member Vande Bharatam group Supriya Dance Academy led by Supriya Singh from 2-16 August 2023

		coincide with AKAM	
5.	Zambia	Independence Day Anniversary	07 member Naadhalaya led by Valayyapatti S Malarvannan Percussion Instrumental Group, Tamil Nadu from 7-10 August 2023
2024 (Till date)			
1.	Seychelles, Mahe	Independence Day	08 Member Kathak Dance Group led by Uma Dogra from 12-16 August, 2024

b) ICCR sponsored events in other than African Countries

S.No.	Name of Country	Name of Indian Festival	Details of groups sponsored by ICCR
2020			
1.	Singapore	Pongal celebrations	08-Member of Tamil Nadu Folk group “Kavin Kalai Kuzhu – Ilangovan M” led by Ms. Keerthanaa Ilangovan, Tamil Nadu from 08-13 January 2020
2.	Sri Lanka and Myanmar	Republic celebrations. Day	06-Member Kathak group led by Ms. Jayshree Acharya, Haryana; and 03-Member Veena group led by Ms. J. Yoga Vandana, Karnataka from 21-28 January 2020 03-Member Veena group visited Myanmar from 29 January – 1 February 2020.
3.	Saudi Arabia	Republic celebrations Day	08-Member Bhangra group “Malwa Sabyacharak Club Patiala” led by Shri Gurdarshan Singh, Punjab from 23-29 January, 2020
4.	Trinidad & Tobago	Republic celebrations Day	06-Member Odissi dance group “Soor Mandir Dance Academy” led by Ms. Jyotsna Rani Sahoo, Bhubaneswar

			from 24 January to 08 February 2020
5.	South Korea	Republic Day Celebrations	03-Member Instrumental group (Santoor) led by Shri Satyendra Singh Solanki, Madhya Pradesh from 29 January -02 February 2020
6.	Spain	India en Concierto festival dedicated to Pandit Ravi Shankar on the occasion of his 100th Birth Anniversary.	04-Member Sitar group led by Shri Gaurav Mazumdar from Delhi. 06-14 October 2020
2021			
1.	Canada	India en Concierto festival dedicated to Pandit Ravi Shankar on the occasion of his 100th Birth Anniversary.	Sent video recording of Ms. Vidhi Nagar, Kathak dancer from Uttar Pradesh from 22 January - 01 February 2021.
2.	Bangladesh	India en Concierto festival dedicated to Pandit Ravi Shankar on the occasion of his 100th Birth Anniversary.	18-Member Contemporary dance group led by Ms. Mamta Shankar Ghosh, West Bengal from 15-23 March 2021; and 07-Member Hindustani Vocal group led by Pt. Ajoy Chakraborty, West Bengal from 25-29 March 2021
3.	UK	India en Concierto festival dedicated to Pandit Ravi Shankar on the occasion of his 100th Birth Anniversary.	ICCR participated in the India Global Week held in London on 30th June, 2021. Two Segments- Indology Award Ceremony and Cultural Board Interaction were coordinated by ICCR on 30 June, 2021
4.	Mexico	India en Concierto	12-Member Bollywood/Bhangra group “Taka Dimi Ta” led

		festival dedicated to Pandit Ravi Shankar on the occasion of his 100th Birth Anniversary.	by Shri Narender Kumar, Delhi from 23 October- 03 November 2021
5.	Palestine	India en Concierto festival dedicated to Pandit Ravi Shankar on the occasion of his 100th Birth Anniversary.	11-Member Contemporary group “Anveshana” led by Ms. Sangeeta Sharma, Delhi from 23 -30 November 2021
6.	Finland	India en Concierto festival dedicated to Pandit Ravi Shankar on the occasion of his 100th Birth Anniversary.	03-Indian artistes (Shri Vidyadhar Vyas, Vocalist, Shri Kamal Sabri, Sarangi exponent and Shri Gulfam Sabri, Tabla exponent) to Helsinki from 08 – 11 December 2021, to give fusion performance with Finnish artistes from 08 – 11 December 2021
2022			
1.	Iraq	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” (AKAM) coincide with Republic Day celebrations	15-Member Bholi Panchhi Bhangra Group led by Shri Parvinder Singh, Rajasthan from 23-30 January,2022
2.	Sri Lanka	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) coincide with India’s Republic Day and Sri Lankan Independence Day.	10-Member Oddisi Dance Group led by Moumita Ghosh, Delhi from 25 January-05 February, 2022

3.	Uzbekistan and Tajikistan	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations.	11-Member Kathak Dance group “Shambhavi’s International School of Kathak” led by Ms. Sharbari Ajit Bhide, Maharashtra from 22-30 March, 2022
4.	Uzbekistan	International Jazz Festival coincide with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations.	05-Member Jazz Group “Benny & The Jazz Collective-Benedict Lazarus” led by Shri Benedict Lazarus, Delhi from 10-13 May, 2022
5.	Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras.	50th Anniversary of the Establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Guatemala.	12-Member Kathak Dance Group led by Ms. Sonia Atul Parchure, Maharashtra from 16-25 May 2022
6.	Austria	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations.	10-Member “Vande Bhartam” Odissi Dance group “Nrutyanilaya” led by Ms. Swapana Rani Sinha, Odisha from 17-23 June, 2022
7.	Russia	“India Week” as part of AKAM celebrations.	10-Member Carnatic Veena group led by Suma Sudhindhra, Karnataka from 20-28 June, 2022
8.	USA (Houston)	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations.	12-Member “Vande Bharatam” Rajasthani Folk Dance group “Anita Pradhan Dance Group” led by Ms. Anita Pradhan, Rajasthan from 20 June-01 July, 2022
9.	Belarus	Slavianski Bazar coincide with 75th Anniversary of India’s Independence and 30th	11-Member “Vande Bharatam” group “Bhairi Bhavani Performing Arts” led by Ms. Bhavana Chaudhary, Maharashtra from 15-20 July, 2022

		Anniversary of diplomatic ties with Belarus.	
10.	Brazil	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations.	12-Member Gujarati Folk group “Aavishkar” led by Shri Dinesh Gokaldas Parekh, Gujarat from 12-21 August, 2022
11.	Vietnam	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations coincide with Independence Day celebrations	1. 06-Member Odissi Dance group led by Ms. Anu Narayan, Maharashtra 2. 12-Member Bollywood group led by Ms. Shipra Goyal, Delhi 3. 04-Member Fusion group “Parinday Music of Soul” led by Soumitra Paul, Delhi from 12-21 August, 2022
12.	Egypt	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.	09-Member Kathak Group led by Ms. Luna Poddar, West Bengal from 13-19 August, 2022
13.	Saudi Arabia and Qatar	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav coincide with Independence Day celebrations	08-Member Qawwali Group led by Shri Danish Hussain, Uttar Pradesh from 14-20 August, 2022.
14.	Lebanon	India Week in Lebanon	10-Member Vande Bharatam “Chandigarh University Girls Team – Giddha” group led by Mandeep Kaur, Punjab from 14-18 August, 2022
15.	New Zealand	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.	12-Member Vande Bharatam “Chandigarh University Bhangra Group” led by Shri Amit Sarwan, Punjab from 19-22 August, 2022

16.	Ireland, Switzerland and UK	Tagore Jayanti as AKAM mega event.	12-Member Tagore Theatrical group led by Ms. Dona Ganguly, West Bengal from 19-29 August, 2022
17.	Finland	India Day 2022 and the Reception on the occasion of 75 year of India's Independence as part of AKAM week.	08-Member Vande Bhartam "Talam" group led by Shri Rajiv Khan, West Bengal from 20-22 August, 2022
18.	Scotland	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.	10-Member VB Bharatnatyam Group "Sree Natya Niketan" led by Ms. Shrinithi Vijaykumar, Tamil Nadu from 02-05 September, 2022
19.	Malaysia	65 years of diplomatic relationship between India and Malaysia	10-Member VB Bharatnatyam Dance group "Manjula Ramaswamy" led by Ms. Manjula Ramaswamy, Telangana from 08-14 September, 2022
20.	Switzerland	AKAM celebrations	04-Member Travel Grant led by Dr. L. Subramaniam, Karnataka from 22 September – 14 October, 2022
21.	Switzerland and Spain	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations coinciding with Independence Day	08- Member "Vande Bharatam" Mohinattam/ Kalariyapattu Dance Group "International Academy of Mohiniattam" led by Ms. Radhika Menon, Delhi from 23-29 September, 2022
22.	Australia	AKAM celebrations.	i.08-Member VB Gujarati Folk troupe "Margam" led by Ms. Priyal Dipesh Zaveri, Gujarat and ii.08-Member VB Bharatnatyam group "Pavitra Art

			Academy” led by Shri Pavitra Bhatt, Maharashtra from 06-17 October, 2022
23.	Spain	AKAM Celebrations.	08-Member Bharatnatyam Dance group led by Ms. Rama Vaidyanathan, Delhi from 08-12 October, 2022
24.	USA (Atlanta)	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations	08-Member Rajasthani group led by Ms. Kanchanbai Teratali, Rajasthan from 14-20 October, 2022
25.	Canada	Banaras Festival under the ambit of annual Diwali Razz Matazz Festival of Indo Canada Arts Council.	08-Member Fusion group “Neeraj Arya’s Kabir Cafe” led by Shri Neerja Arya, Maharashtra from 18-30 October, 2022
26.	Vietnam	Diwali Celebrations by Indian Chamber of Commerce (INCHAM)	08-Member Fusion Music “Indian Ocean” group led by Shri Dhruv Suresh Jagasia, Delhi from 11-15 November, 2022
27.	Bangladesh	Bharat-Bangladesh Maitree Divas.	07-Member Band Group “Band Oxygen” led by Shri C. Girinandh, Tamil Nadu from 05-11 December, 2022
2023			
1.	Sri Lanka (Colombo)	Republic Day Celebration	07-Member “Dementia Rock Band” Group led by Shri Inakhu A Ayeh, Nagaland from 23-31 January, 2023
2.	Dominican Republic	India Week & National Day Celebrations.	08-Member Odissi Dance Group led by Ms. Ranjana Gauhar, Delhi from 24 January -01 February, 2023
3.	Iraq	Republic Day Celebrations	08-Member VB Maharashtra Folk Group “Amey Patil Dance Group” led by Ms. Kiran Sawant, Maharashtra from 24-January – 02 February, 2023
4.	Saudi Arabia	Republic Day Celebration	08-Member VB “Om Vinayak Crew” Group led by Shri

			Yogesh Kushwaha, Uttar Pradesh from 24-29 January, 2023
5.	Estonia and Lithuania	Republic Day Celebration	08-Member Rajasthani Folk Group “Panihari Lok Sangeet” led by Manga Khan, Rajasthan from 24 January-02 February, 2023
6.	Poland	Republic Day Celebration	08-Rajasthani Group led by Ms. Shamla Kalbelia Sopera, Rajasthan from 24-30 January, 2023
7.	Turkmenistan	Republic Day Celebration	08-Bharatnatyam Dance Group “Chithkala School of Dance” led by Mr. Praveen Kumar Prasanna Kumar, Karnataka from 25-30 January, 2023
8.	Nepal	Republic Day Celebrations	05-Member Kathak Dance Group led by Ms. Namrata Rai, Delhi from 25-30 January, 2023
9.	Sri Lanka	India-Week Festival coincide with Mahashivratri Festival.	05-Member Carnatic Vocal Group led by Dr. Arundhati B, Kerala from 14-19 February, 2023
10.	Uzbekistan	Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.	08-Member Shibani Kashyap, Delhi NCR from 16-20 March, 2023
11.	USA, New York	India@75 special concert planned in the UN General Assembly Hall as part of AKAM celebrations.	Group led Shri Niladri Kumar from 31 March, 2023
12.	Switzerland and Edinburgh	Independence Day Anniversary	05 member Anwasha Das led Bharatnatyam group, Tamil Nadu from 11-17 August, 2023

13.	Hanoi, Vietnam	Independence celebrations	Day	06 members Tetseo Sisters from Nagaland from 10-16 August 2023
14.	Qatar	Independence celebrations	Day	02 member Sachin Patwardhan led Sarod group Madhya Pradesh from 14-17 August 2023
15.	Bulgaria	Independence celebration	Day	06 member Kathak group led by Leena Malakar, Haryana from 14-20 August 2023
16.	Finland, Tallinn and Estonia	AKAM celebrations alongwith India Day 2023 celebrations		08 member Tanushree Shankar led contemporary fusion dance group, West Bengal from 18-23 August 2023 and 23-26 August, 2023
17.	Reunion Island	Diwali celebrations		8-Member Bharatanatyam Dance Group led by Sneha Devanandan from 14-20 November, 2023
18.	Peru	60th Anniversary of Celebration of India – Peru Diplomatic Relation.		08-member Kalarippayattu Group Travancore School of Kalarippayattu led by Radhakrishnan G from 16-21 November, 2023
2024 (Till date)				
1.	Vietnam	Republic Celebrations	Day	8-member Punjabi Folk group led by Hardeep Singh from 15-26 January, 2024
2.	Indonesia	Republic Celebrations	Day	8-Member Odissi Dance group – Gunjan Das Academy led by Meera Das from 23-29 January, 2024
3.	Sri Lanka	Republic Celebrations	Day	8-Member Odissi Dance Group led by Namrata Mehta from 23-29 January, 2024
4.	Peru	60th Anniversary of Celebration of India – Peru Diplomatic Relation.		05-member Odissi Dance Group led by Leema Bhol, Odisha from 25-30 January, 2024

5.	Peru	60th Anniversary of Celebration of India – Peru Diplomatic Relation.	04-member Hindustani Vocal Group led by Ms. Anisha Roy from 25-30 January, 2024
6.	Bhutan	Republic Day celebrations	08 member Manipuri group led by Poushali Chatterjee, West Bengal from 25-30 January 2024
7.	Poland	Republic Celebrations Day	8-Member Kathak Group “Kadambh” from 23-28 January, 2024
8.	South Africa	Republic Celebrations Day	8-Member Contemporary Dance Group led by Satya Brat Roy Chowdhury from 23-31 January, 2024
9.	Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	Republic Celebrations Day	8-member Kathak Dance group led by Prajakta Atre in January, 2024
10.	Slovenia	Republic Celebrations Day	5-Member Kathak Group led by Kavita Thakur from 24-28 January, 2024
11.	Russia	Republic Celebrations Day	08 Member group Contemporary Dance group led by Rekha Mehra from January, 2024
12.	Guyana, T&T and Suriname	Fagua (Holi)	08 member Bhojpuri Group led by Bhola Pandey from 24 March, 2024
13.	Indonesia & Vietnam	Holi	08 Member group Braj ki Holi - Pratibha Kala Kendra led by Pratibha Tiwari (Sharma) from 20-31 March, 2024
14.	Fiji	Girmit Day celebration	05 Member Group led by Vandana Shukla from 12-19 May, 2024
15.	Hungary	Connecting the World through Ramayana	08 Member group Vyomesh Shukla Theatre from 28th June - 1st July
16.	Thailand	International Ramayana Festival	08 Member group Ananda Shankar Jayant (Bharatnatyam Group based on Ramayana production)

			from 12th-16th July, 2023
17.	Vietnam	Independence Day	08 Member Odissi Dance group "A.L.P.A.N.A." led by Alpina Nayak from 11-26 AUGUST, 2024
18.	Nepal	Independence Day	08 Member Instrumental Group led by Arpita Dutta from 12-21 August, 2024
19.	Russia	Independence Day Celebrations	08 Member Kathak and Mohiniyattam Priyadarshani Shome from 14-24 AUGUST 2024
20.	Sri Lanka	Independence Day/ Bharat Week	08 Member Folk group Ranjit Gogoi- from 13-17 AUGUST, 2024
21.	Esthonia	78th Independence Day Celebration 2024	08 Member "Jhankaar Bollywood Dance Company" LED BY Neha Sharma from 14-20 August 2024
22.	Canberra (Australia)	To participate in mini India festival	08 member folk music group led by Ravinder Singh from 12-19th August, 2024
23.	United Kingdom (created on Jan 15, 2024)	Independence day Bharatanatyam Dance Group	07 Member Bharatanatyam Dance Group Kanika Srinivasan from 14-18th August 2024
24.	Bulgaria	Independence day	07- members of Bharatnatyam Group led by Ms. Arupa Lahiry from 12th- 17th August 2024
25.	Japan	Namaste India	08 members of the Purulia Chhau Group led by Shri Bhagabandas Kumar from 13-30 September, 2024
26.	Thailand	Diwali Celebrations	08 members Rajasthani Folk group Jivandas Teratali Group led by Jivandas from 13-17 September, 2024
27.	Japan, Vietnam and Thailand	India Mela	08-member Rajasthani Folk Group "Ajmaru Kala Mandal" led by Ms. Karuna Verma from 11-October, to 30 October 2024

28.	Australia	Dueeshra/Diwali Celebrations	08-member Rajasthani Folk group (Rashid Khan Langa Group) from 25-29 October, 2024
29.	Spain	Ramayana Festival	08 Member Ramayana Festival Margi Kathakali group led by Vijayakumaran Nair Velayudhan Nair from 14-18 November, 2024
