

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2579

TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

**2579. Sh. Jagannath Sarkar:
Sh. Sanjay Uttamrao Deshmukh:
Sh. Kalipada Saren Kherwal:**

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of current initiatives alongwith schemes undertaken to preserve and promote rich cultural and heritage, including arts, music, and literature of West Bengal and Maharashtra;
- (b) the details of the measures being implemented by the Government to support local artists, folk artists, cultural institutions, and traditional crafts programme and schemes of West Bengal and Maharashtra;
- (c) the number of artists benefited from the programmes and schemes till date in Maharashtra and West Bengal's especially in Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura and Paschim Medinipur Districts;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any special scheme to promote the famous artists and folk dances like Chhau, Jhumur, Danta, Rinjha etc. of Purulia and Jhargram district of West Bengal and Maharashtra on the national and international platforms, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the progress of cultural festivals and events aimed at showcasing West Bengal's cultural diversity both nationally and internationally;
- (f) the support provided for integrating cultural education into the school curriculum to foster appreciation among the youth;
- (g) whether any financial assistance is being provided by the Government to promote the traditional fairs and festivals of Maharashtra; and
- (h) if so, names of fairs included under the scheme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) The Ministry of Culture administers various schemes throughout the country including West Bengal and Maharashtra to preserve and promote rich cultural and heritage of India. The brief details of these schemes is at **Annexure I**.

Ministry of Culture recently declared 'Bengali' and 'Marathi' as classical languages.

In addition to this, Ministry through its following Autonomous Bodies encourages the preservation and promotion of culture as follows :

- (a) Sahitya Akademi (SA), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture, promote literature in the 24 languages recognized by it. Apart from literature of those languages, Akademi also promotes large and diverse tribal and oral traditions of the country. Some of these literary creations are adapted into other art forms as well and Sahitya Akademi promotes such initiatives through programme series like Loka and Avishkar.

Sahitya Akademi has published around 350 books in Marathi and around 450 books in Bengali in originals including anthologies and translations and many of these titles have been reprinted a number of times.

- (b) Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) regularly organizes Art Camps /Workshops/Exhibitions/Art Festival etc. inviting artists from all across of the country including West Bengal and Maharashtra.
- (c) Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) has been functioning as the apex body in the field of performing arts in the country, preserving and promoting the vast intangible heritage of India's diverse culture expressed in forms of music, dance, drama and folk & tribal performing arts.
- (d) Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) has been dedicated to linking education with culture since its inception in 1979. It has played a crucial role in integrating cultural heritage into pedagogy by organizing diverse training programs for in-service government and government-aided school teachers (from Primary to Senior Secondary levels), teacher educators (including DIET Lecturers), and administrators.

- (b) The Lalit Kala Akademi, an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture maintains regional centers in Kolkata and Chennai. These centers provide art studios for artists working in various disciplines, serving West Bengal and Maharashtra, respectively.

Ministry of Culture has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata (West Bengal), Dimapur and Thanjavur. Maharashtra is the member State of South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC), Nagpur and West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC), Udaipur while West Bengal is a of EZCC. These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes in their member States to promote folk and tribal Culture specially of the member states throughout the year on regular basis.

(c) The number of artists / cultural institutions benefitted from various schemes and programmes of Ministry of Culture, during last three years, is at **Annexure II**.

(d) The Government of India, through the Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) under the Ministry of Culture, is actively promoting and preserving India's performing arts. In 2018, the SNA established the 'Chhau Kendra' in Chandankiyari, Jharkhand, to specifically support Chhau dance. Additionally, the Akademi's "Kala Deeksha" (Guru Shishya Parampara) scheme funds numerous training programs. This includes 14 Chhau dance initiatives across Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal, with two dedicated programs for Purulia Chhau in West Bengal.

The "Kala Deeksha" scheme supports a variety of traditional art forms. In Maharashtra, it funds training in Shahiri Powada under Guru Dr. Devenanda Mali, Chitrakathi under Guru Shri Ganapath Sakharam Masge and Jaltarang under Guru Shri Milind Tulankar. In West Bengal, the scheme supports traditional music training in Shrikhol under Guru Shri Gopal Barman and Lepcha under Guru Shri Suksing Lepcha. These programs, all operating under the Guru Shishya Parampara, demonstrate the SNA's commitment to preserving and propagating diverse performing arts across India.

(e) Ministry is dedicated to showcasing West Bengal's rich cultural diversity both nationally and internationally by providing financial assistance for cultural organizations, participation in national festivals like the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav, and international cultural exchanges facilitated through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). The UNESCO recognition of Durga Puja as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity underscores the global significance of West Bengal's traditions.

The Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous body under Ministry of Culture showcases Bengali literature and its translations through book fairs and exhibitions like Festival of Letters, Yuva Writers Meet which provides a platform for young artists and cultural practitioners. Simultaneously, the Sangeet Natak Akademi provides national platforms for West Bengal's performing artists, alongside those from other regions, ensuring their talent is recognized and celebrated across India

(f) The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), an autonomous body under Ministry of Culture actively engages youth and educators through hands-on training in traditional arts, providing free cultural education kits, and supporting scholarship and fellowship programs for in-depth study and documentation.

Further, the Sangeet Natak Akademi's "Kala Dharohar" initiative brings Indian performing arts directly to schools nationwide, featuring eminent artists and scholars to deepen students' understanding and appreciation of our diverse cultural traditions, thereby fostering a culturally aware and engaged future generation.

(g) & (h) Ministry does not release financial assistance state / UT wise. However, this Ministry administers a scheme namely "Domestic Festivals and Fairs". The objective of this scheme is to provide assistance for holding the 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs'

organized by Ministry of Culture. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) are conducted through Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) where a large number of artists from all over the country, including Maharashtra are engaged to showcase their talents. From November, 2015 onwards, fourteen (14) RSMs and four (04) Zonal Level RSMs have been organized by Ministry of Culture across the country. Further, Ministry has organized RSM at Mumbai, Maharashtra from 11th to 19th February, 2023 where folk artists of Maharashtra were also invited to perform during the program. In addition, a minimum number of 42 Regional Festivals are organized by these ZCCs every year for promotion of art and culture. During last three years, Rs. 38.67 Cr. has been released under this scheme.

Brief details of Schemes

1. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTION OF GURU-SHISHYA PARAMPARA (REPERTORY GRANT)

The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial support for all genres of performing arts activities like dramatic groups, theatre groups, music ensembles, children theatre etc. and imparting training of artists by their respective Guru on regular basis in line with Guru–Shishya Parampara. As per the scheme, support is provided to 1 Guru and maximum 18 Shishyas in the field of theatre and 1 Guru and maximum 10 Shishyas in the field of music & dance. The Amount of Assistance for Guru is Rs.15000/- p.m. and for Shishya, the same is Rs.2000-10000/-p.m. depending upon the age of artist.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTION OF ART AND CULTURE: This scheme has following sub-components :

i. Financial Assistance to Cultural organizations with National Presence

The objective of this scheme component is to promote and support cultural organisations with national presence involved in promotion of art and culture throughout the country. This grant is given to such organisations that have a properly constituted managing body, registered in India; having a pan-India character with national presence in its operation; adequate working strength; and have spent 1 crore or more during 3 of the last 5 years on cultural activities. The quantum of grant under this scheme is Rs.1.00 crore which can be increased to Rs.5.00 crore in exceptional cases.

ii. Cultural Function & Production Grant (CFPG)

The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial support to NGOs/ Societies/ Trusts/ Universities etc. for Seminars, Conference, Research, Workshops, Festivals, Exhibitions, Symposia, Production of Dance, Drama-Theatre, Music etc. The quantum of grant under this scheme is Rs.5 Lakh for an organization which can be increased to Rs. 20.00 lakhs in exceptional cases.

iii. Financial Assistance for the Preservation & Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas

The objective of this scheme component is to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the Himalayas through research, training and dissemination through audio visual programmes. The financial support is provided to the organizations in the States falling under the Himalayan Region i.e. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The quantum of grant is Rs.10.00 lakh per year for an organization which can be increased to Rs. 30.00 lakh in exceptional cases.

iv. Financial Assistance for the Preservation & Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Organization

Under this scheme component financial assistance is provided to the voluntary Buddhist/Tibetan organizations including Monasteries engaged in the propagation and scientific development of Buddhist/Tibetan Cultural and tradition and research in related fields. The quantum of funding under scheme component is Rs. 30.00 lakhs per year for an organization which can be increased to 1.00 crore in exceptional cases

v. Financial Assistance for Building Grants including Studio Theatres

The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial support to NGO, Trust, Societies, Govt. Sponsored bodies, University, College etc. for creation of Cultural infrastructure (i.e. studio theatre, auditorium, rehearsal hall, classroom etc.) and provision of facilities like electrical, air conditioning, acoustics, light and sound systems etc. Under this scheme component, the maximum amount of grant is up to Rs.50 Lakh in metro cities and up to Rs.25 Lakh in non- metro cities.

vi. Financial Assistance for Allied Cultural Activities

The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial assistance to all eligible organizations for creation of assets for enhancing the audio-visual spectacle for allied cultural activities to give firsthand experience of live performances on regular basis and during festivals in open/closed areas/spaces. Maximum assistance under the scheme component, including applicable duties & taxes and also Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costing for five years, will be as under:- (i) Audio: Rs.1.00 crore; (ii) Audio+Video: Rs.1.50 crore.

vii. Domestic Festivals and Fairs

The objective of this scheme is to provide assistance for holding the 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs' organized by Ministry of Culture.

3. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TAGORE CULTURAL COMPLEXES (TCC)

The aim of the scheme component is to provide financial support to NGO, Trust, Societies, Govt. Sponsored bodies, State / UT Govt. University, Central/State Govt. agencies/bodies, Municipal Corporations, reputed not-for-profit organizations etc. for creation of new Large Cultural Spaces such as Auditorium with facilities and infrastructure for stage performances (dance, drama and music), exhibitions, seminars, literary activities, green rooms, etc. The Scheme component also provides support for restoration, renovation, extension, alteration, up-gradation, modernization of existing cultural facilities (Rabindra Bhawans, Rangshalas) etc. Under this scheme component, the financial assistance for any project will normally be up to a maximum of Rs. 15.00 crore. Central financial assistance would be 90% of the total approved project cost and remaining 10% of the total approved project cost will be borne by the recipient State Govt./NGO or concerned organization for NER Projects and except NER, there is 60:40 ratio for central assistant and state share (matching share).

4. SCHEME OF SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP FOR PROMOTION OF ART AND CULTURE: The scheme consists of following three components:

i. Scheme for the Award of Fellowship to Outstanding Persons in the field of Culture

Upto 400 fellowships (200 Junior and 200 Senior) are awarded in a batch year to outstanding persons in the age group of 25 to 40 years (Jr.) and above 40 years (Sr.) in different cultural fields @ of Rs. 10,000/- p.m. and 20,000/-p.m. for the period of 2 years for cultural research. The Fellowship is released in four equal six-monthly installments.

ii. Scheme for Scholarships to Young Artistes in Different Cultural Fields

Upto 400 Scholarships are awarded in a batch year. Under this scheme financial assistance is given to young artistes of outstanding promise in the age group of 18-25 years for advanced training within India in the field of Indian Classical Music, Indian Classical 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 instalments.

iii. Tagore National Fellowship for Cultural Research

The purpose of the Scheme Component is to invigorate and revitalize the various institutions under the Ministry of Culture (MoC) and other identified cultural institutions in the country, by encouraging scholars/ academicians to affiliate themselves with these institutions to work on projects of mutual interest. Upto 15 Fellowships (Rs.80,000/- p.m. + Contingency Allowance) and 25 Scholarships (Rs.50,000/- p.m. + Contingency Allowance) for a maximum period of 2 Years. The Fellowship is released in four equal six-monthly instalments.

5. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERAN ARTISTS

The objective of this Scheme is to provide financial assistance maximum upto Rs.6.000/- p.m. to the old artistes and scholars aged 60 years above having annual income not exceeding Rs.72,000/- who have contributed significantly in their specialized fields of arts, letters etc. In the event of death of the beneficiary, the financial assistance is transferred to his/her spouse.

Annexure – II

A. Details of number of Cultural Institutions benefitted from the Schemes during last three years in Maharashtra and West Bengal.

Scheme Name	State	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (Till Date)
Cultural Function and Production Grant Scheme	Maharashtra	27	56	34	16
Building Grants including studio theatre	Maharashtra	2	-	2	2
	West Bengal	3	5	1	1
Financial Assistance to Cultural Organizations with National Presence	Maharashtra	-	-	1	-
	West Bengal	2	-	2	2
Financial Assistance for the Preservation & Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Organization	Maharashtra	3	11	14	3
	West Bengal	12	72	92	19
Financial Assistance for Promotion of Guru-Shishya Parampara (Repertory grant)	Maharashtra	33	41	97	30
	West Bengal	112	333	418	158

B. Details of number of Artists benefitted from the Schemes during last three years in Maharashtra and West Bengal.

Scheme Name	State	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (Till Date)
Award of Senior/Junior Fellowship to Outstanding Person	Maharashtra	75	84	85	45
	West Bengal	81	87	100	70
Scholarships to Young Artistes in Different Cultural Fields	Maharashtra	132	40	127	80
	West Bengal	195	67	278	217
Artists pension Scheme	Maharashtra	448	740	1239	1249
	West Bengal	32	27	35	34