

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-967**  
ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

**ANCIENT MARTIAL ART 'KALARIPAYATTU'**

967. DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noted that Kalaripayattu, an ancient Indian martial arts form that can be traced back to the Sangam period in Southern India is a scientific sport that requires great mind-body coordination and agility and therefore, deserves special promotion and encouragement;
- (b) whether the Government is contemplating any Scheme to promote the Northern style of Kalari, also known as Vadakkan Kalari, popular in Malabar region and is generally regarded as the "original," form of Kalaripayattu; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) The word Kalari stands for gymnasium or a place of study and Payattu means a combat.

Some historians credit the development of Kalaripayattu to the Sangam age (BC 200-600 CE) mentioning of combat with sword etc. in the Sangam literature Purananuru and Akananuru.

South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur, an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture, has arranged Kalaripayattu performances during the last three years with details as under:

**2022-2023:**

- i. Akhila Bharat Shourya Parva Mahotsav at Karnataka.
- ii. Karaikal Carnival at Puducherry.
- iii. Chikmagaluru Cultural Fest at Karnataka.
- iv. Youth Empowerment Programme at Karnataka.

**2023-2024:**

- i. World Folklore day Celebrations at Kerala.
- ii. Dasara Festival at Karnataka.
- iii. Karikal Carnival at Puducherry.
- iv. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav at Telangana.
- v. Summer festival at Tamil Nadu.

**2024-2025 (upto January, 2025):**

- i. Onam Celebration at Karnataka.
- ii. Fete-de-Puducherry at Puducherry.
- iii. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas at Gujarat.

(b) & (c) Ministry of Culture runs two schemes viz. Guru-Shishya Parampara (Repertory Grant) and Cultural Function & Production Grant (CFPG) in which financial assistance is provided for all genres of performing arts including Kalaripayattu. Under Guru-Shishya Parampara (Repertory Grant), the amount of assistance for Guru is Rs. 15,000/- p.m. and for the Shishya is Rs. 2,000-10,000/- p.m. depending upon the age of the artist and under CFPG, the maximum grant provided is Rs. 5.00 lakh to an organization for organizing Seminars, Conference, Research, Workshops, Festivals, Exhibitions, Symposia, Production of Dance, Drama-Theatre, Music etc. which can be increased to Rs. 20.00 lakh in exceptional cases.

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