

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2435
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND DIVERSE CULTURAL TRADITIONS OF INDIA

†2435. SMT. BHARTI PARDHI:

SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH ALIAS PAVAN RAJENIMBALKAR:
SHRI SANJAY UTTAMRAO DESHMUKH:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the progress made under the "Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India" since its inception, particularly in identifying, documenting and promoting endangered intangible specific cultural heritage;
- (b) the number of specific intangible cultural heritage formally recognised and supported under the scheme along with geographical distribution of these initiatives;
- (c) the strategy of the Government to directly involve local communities and artists in the preservation and promotion of their traditional art forms and practices particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra; and
- (d) the details of the special efforts being made by the Government to promote endangered cultural heritage and art for Maharashtra?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

a) A Scheme titled "Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India" was operational between 2013-2016. However Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) conducts capacity building workshops aimed at training and raising awareness about Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). The workshop engages local communities, cultural practitioners, stakeholders, and students. As a result of these initiatives, there has been a significant increase in requests from across India for the inclusion of elements in the National Inventory. Documentation and digital archiving of performing arts and other ICH elements—especially those on the "Work in Progress" list—are being carried out on a regular basis. These efforts contribute not only to the digital preservation of ICH but also support students and researchers pursuing higher studies in these fields. In addition, awards are conferred upon artists to promote and raise awareness of various ICH elements. The Akademi contributes to both academic and public understanding of Indian performing

arts and ICH elements through its extensive publication program, which includes journals, books, and monographs.

b) The details of elements inscribed on the National Inventory till date is enclosed at Annexure.

c) The Ministry through Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) maintains both the National Inventory and the “Work-in-Progress” list of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) elements, based on requests and submissions from local communities, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders. The inclusion of these elements helps enhance both the preservation and outreach of the respective art forms. Currently, a total of six elements from both states combined have been included in the National Inventory. For more details, please refer to: <https://www.sangeetnatak.gov.in/sections/ICH>

SNA also conducts various capacity-building workshops and training programmes that actively involve local communities and artists. Furthermore, by conferring awards to artists for their contributions to specific art forms, SNA encourages community participation and promotes recognition of their cultural heritage.

d) The inclusion of Pandharpur Vari and Dashavatar: Traditional Folk Theatre in the National Inventory maintained by the SNA under this Ministry, plays a significant role in promoting the performing arts of Maharashtra. The documentation and archiving of these traditions help create greater outreach and serve as valuable resources for those interested in studying these art forms. Additionally, the publication of journals and other materials on these elements contributes to the preservation and promotion of endangered cultural practices. Moreover, performances held during various workshops and seminars further enhance public awareness and appreciation of these traditions.

Annexure referred in part (b) of Lok Sabha unstarred Question No.2435 regarding Intangible Cultural Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India

S.No.	Element	State/Region
1	Kutiyattam, Sanskrit Theatre	Kerala
2	Ramlila - The Traditional Performance OfThe Ramayana	Uttar Pradesh
3	Novruz, Nowrouz, Nooruz, Navruz, Nauroz, Nevruz	Multinational Nomination
4	Ramman: Religious Festival And Ritual Theatre	Uttarakhand
5	Chhau Dance	Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal
6	Kalbelia: Folk Songs And Dances	Rajasthan
7	Mudiyettu: Ritual Theatre And Dance Drama	Kerala
8	Buddhist Chanting Of Ladakh	Ladakh
9	Sankirtana: Ritual Singing, Drumming And Dancing	Manipur
10	Thatheras Of Jandiala Guru	Punjab
11	Yoga	Pan-India (inscribed by India)
12	Sowa Rigpa	Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh
13	Kolam	Tamil Nadu
14	Music And Knowledge OfThe Veena	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh (broadly South India)
15	Chaar Bayt	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan
16	Chettikulangara Kumbha Bharani Kettukazhacha	Kerala
17	Shadow Puppet Theatre Traditions Of India	Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha
18	Sattriya Music, Dance And Theatre	Assam
19	Patola: Double Ikat Silk Textiles	Gujarat
20	Lama Dances Of Sikkim	Sikkim
21	Turban Tying	Rajasthan
22	Kalamkari Paintings	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
23	Rathwa Ni Gher	Gujarat
24	Sankheda Nu Lakh Kam	Gujarat
25	Qawwali	Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Pan-India
26	Jangam Gayan	Haryana
27	Durga Puja In Kolkata	West Bengal
28	Hingan	Rajasthan
29	Phad: Scroll Paintings And Their Narration	Rajasthan
30	Nautanki	Uttar Pradesh
31	Ranmale	Goa
32	Gaddi Jatar	Himachal Pradesh
33	The Festival Of Salhesh	Bihar
34	Nacha: Folk Theatre	Chhattisgarh
35	Dashavatar: Traditional Folk Theatre	Maharashtra, Goa

36	Kumbh Mela	Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra
37	Tradition Of Vedic Chanting	Pan-India (notably Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka)
38	Garba	Gujarat
39	Deepavali	Pan-India (focus in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, etc.)
40	Rangpanchmi's Gerr	Madhya Pradesh
41	Losar Festival	Ladakh
42	Meghalaya's Whistled Language	Meghalaya
43	Aranmula Metal Mirror, Vallasadya, Vallamkali	Kerala
44	Bali Jatra	Odisha
45	Chhath Puja	Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand
46	Henna	Multinational Nomination
47	Bhagoriya Adivasi Nritya	Madhya Pradesh
48	Gond Adivasi Chitrakala	Madhya Pradesh
49	Lai Haraoba	Manipur
50	Mahabharata Koothu Festival	Tamil Nadu
51	Narmada Parikrama	Madhya Pradesh
52	Pandharpur Vari	Maharashtra
53	Rath Yatra, Puri	Odisha