

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4061

TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

PROMOTION OF BENARES GHARANA OF KATHAK DANCE

4061. SHRI. RAJEEV RAI

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Government has taken any measures to promote the Benares Gharana of Kathak classical dance form;
- b) if so, the details of the activities undertaken and amount utilised during the last five years and the current year;
- c) whether the Government is considering to establish any Indian Classical dances university in the Eastern part of Uttar Pradesh with a specialized centre for imparting training in the Benares Gharana of Kathak; and
- d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b) Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, has been promoting all art forms, including the Benares Gharana of Kathak, since its inception through various schemes and programmes. The Akademi has presented several artists of the Benares Gharana from time to time in national and international festivals, and has conferred prestigious honours such as the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards.

Artists of the Kathak Benares Gharana who have been honoured by the Akademi include:

- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship & Award:**

- Sitara Devi (2008)

- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award:**

- Sitara Devi (1969)
- Jitendra Maharaj (2016)
- Sunayana Hazarilal (2022)
- Nalini and Kamalini Asthana (2022)

- **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar:**

- Vishal Krishna (2015)

The total budget released to the Sangeet Natak Akademi for the promotion of all art forms, including the Benares Gharana of Kathak, during the last five years, along with the allocation for the current year, is as under:)

Year	Total Budget (in Lakhs)
2020-2021	5222.40
2021-2022	5711.82
2022-2023	6810.50
2023-2024	7105.00
2024-2025	12099.00
2025-2026	5905.00

(c)& (d) No Sir. At present, there is no proposal under consideration.
