

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1578
TO BE ANSWERED ON – 09.02.2026**

DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF DISTRICT SCIENCE CENTRE, PURULIA

1578. SHRI JYOTIRMAY SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:-

- (a) the details of the total number of students/tourists visited to the District Science Centre, Purulia during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and whether there has been an increase or decline in footfall;
- (b) the details of the steps taken/being taken to encourage school students from Purulia, Jangalmahal and neighbouring regions to visit the Science Centre as part of their academic curriculum;
- (c) the details of the total funding allocated to the District Science Centre, Purulia during the last five years including infrastructure development, new exhibits and technological upgrades;
- (d) whether the Government has any plans for expansion or modernization of the Science Centre, including the introduction of new exhibits, digital learning tools and advanced science outreach programmes; and
- (e) whether the Government has undertaken any special initiatives to promote scientific awareness and innovation among students and the general public through this Science Centre and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF CULTURE & TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

- (a): the details of the total number of students/tourists visited to the District Science Centre, Purulia during the last three years and the current year, year-wise are as under:

Year	Visitors in Museum	Outreach Visitor (MSE)
2022-23	186641	46867
2023-24	188191	201332
2024-25	190729	230193
2025-26 (upto 26.01.2026)	150889	71630

From the table shown above, it is transpired that there is an upward trend of visitor's footfall to District Science Centre, Purulia, a constituent unit of National Council of Science Museums (NCSM).

- (b): The steps taken/being taken to encourage school students from Purulia, Jangalmahal and neighbouring regions to visit the Science Centre as part of their academic curriculum is attached at Annexure-I.
- (c): Total Allocation of Fund made to District Science Centre, Purulia in the last five years including infrastructure development, new exhibits, digital learning tools and advanced science outreach programmes is shown in the table below:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
GIA-Salary	60.12	65.67	69.73	77.76	80.17
GIA-General	37.88	37.61	69.66	82.42	113.22
GIA-CCA	3.27	9.19	1.98	15.83	20.48
Total Allocation	101.27	112.47	141.37	176.01	213.87

- (d): Details regarding plans for expansion or modernization of the Science Centre, including the introduction of new exhibits, digital learning tools and advanced science outreach programmes is attached at Annexure-II.
- (e): Innovation Hub at District Science Centre, Purulia was inaugurated on 19th December 2019, to ignite the creativity of young minds and to promote temper of innovation among them. With 170 individual members and 360 institutional members, the hub has fostered the development of numerous innovative projects.

Mobile Science Exhibitions are organised by District Science Centre, Purulia in various rural areas to reach unrepresented section of the society to promote scientific awareness amongst students and public.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED
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Steps taken/being taken to encourage School students

- i. The students from both Purulia and neighbouring area are invited to participate in various programmes, such as the Science Camp in collaboration with PBSSM and the Sky Observation Camp at the residential KGBV hostels.
- ii. School students are encouraged to take part in Science Seminar, Science Drama, Quiz, Hobby Camp, and Science Model Competitions.
- iii. They are encouraged to take part in different commemorative day celebrations to promote scientific culture.
- iv. To bring science to the grassroots level, Centre has organised a few programmes for underprivileged school students and Students from the Jangalmahal area.
- v. Purulia Centre organized Mobile Science Exhibition (MSE) for rural school students. The Exhibition is highly educative with working models for the students and common people alike. In Last three years, two Mobile Science Exhibition Buses have covered 294 nos. school and spent 788 days with school students during MSE Programmes.

District Science Centre, Purulia - Innovation Hub

Inaugurated on 19th December 2019, Innovation Hub in DSC, Purulia has been a platform to ignite the creativity of young minds. With 170 individual members and 360 institutional members, the hub has fostered the development of numerous innovative projects.

In last year the centre conducted 19 activity programme for the Innovation Hub members and 14 innovative project programme for Vigyan Jyoti Scholars of JNV Purulia & Sainik School Purulia students. In March 2024, two members participated in the Innovation festival 2024 organised by Digha Science Centre & National Science Camp, securing 1st position in this festival. In December 2024, three of the talented members participated in Techfest 2024 organised by IIT Bombay, securing an impressive 2nd position with 20k cash Prize in this prestigious event. This year, the Innovation Hub proudly developed three ground-breaking projects:

1. AI Automated Weather Station
2. H.A.R.I.S.H – Our own AI innovation
3. Smog Hawk(Drone based Pollution Monitoring System for Sustainable Development)
4. Weather Station project is going on for B B College, Asansol

The projects have been filed for copyright and patent protection.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED
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Details regarding plans for expansion or modernization of the Science Centre, including the introduction of new exhibits, digital learning tools and advanced science outreach programmes

- Installation of Women Scientist Busts is proposed to be completed by this FY (2025-26).
- In the coming financial year (2026-27), it has been planned to modernize the following arenas of DSC Purulia:
 - I. Development of a gallery titled ‘Wings of wonder’: A gallery has been proposed to showcase unique flora and fauna of the district with an emphasis to portray the natural migratory bird sanctuary surrounding the local water body named ‘Saheb Bandh’. The new gallery will replace the age-old display titled ‘Wealth of Purulia’ and cover an estimated floor space of about 500 square meters.
 - II. Development of ‘Virtual Reality Theatre’: In order to match the pace of advancement of modern technologies, it has been proposed to house an ultra-modern virtual reality theatre with a holding capacity of about 25 persons where each of the seats will be actuated by at least 3 DOF motion platforms along with a VR headset or alternatively a large format screen that produces immersive sensation to impart education in a fun-filled informal way.
 - III. Revamping of the Ticket booking system: Incorporation of online booking along with acceptance of payment through modern gateways along with UPI and bank cards to facilitate smooth entry to the centre and reduce the hassle of cash handling.
