

Regarding need to accord special heritage status to Kottarakkara in Kerala, the birthplace of Kathakali dance and establish a National Kathakali Cultural Centre and Museum therein-Laid

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Kottarakkara in Kerala is historically recognised as the birthplace of Kathakali, India's renowned classical dance-drama. In the 17th century, Prince Kottarakkara Thampuran created Ramanattam, which later integrated elements from Krishnanattam to evolve into Kathakali. This art form, with its rich storytelling, elaborate costumes, and intricate expressions, is a symbol of Kerala's cultural identity and a treasure of India's intangible heritage. However, Kottarakkara lacks adequate infrastructure to preserve and promote this legacy. There is no dedicated national-level Kathakali cultural centre, museum, or structured tourism programme highlighting its heritage. Local artists face challenges in accessing resources, training facilities, and financial assistance, limiting opportunities for cultural education and performance. I urge the Government to accord special heritage status to Kottarakkara, establish a National Kathakali Cultural Centre and Museum, include the town in cultural tourism circuits, and provide scholarships, pensions, and financial aid to Kathakali artists. These measures will preserve an invaluable tradition, support artists' livelihoods, and position Kottarakkara as a global cultural destination.