

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2515**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

**PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOLK CULTURE**

2515. Dr. Indra Hang Subba:

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any schemes for promoting folk culture and arts of India across the country including Sikkim, through global engagement schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote folk arts and culture of India during the last three years; and
- (d) the details of the budgetary allocation during the last five years and current year, State/UT-wise?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

**(a) & (b):** Ministry of Culture implements a scheme titled “Global Engagement Scheme” (GES) to promote India’s rich cultural heritage internationally and enhance India’s global image. The objective of the Scheme is providing artists practicing Indian art forms, an opportunity to perform abroad under the banner of ‘Festival of India(FoI)’. Under the Scheme, artists from diverse cultural fields such as Folk Art including Folk Music, Folk Dance, Folk Theatre & Puppetry, Classical and Traditional Dance, Experimental/ Contemporary Dance, Classical/ Semi Classical Music, Theatre etc. perform in the ‘Festivals of India’ abroad. Under the Scheme, all expenditure on deputation of an artist for performing in “Festival of India” is incurred by the Government.

Ministry of Culture has empanelled Artists/Groups under various art forms and Artists are selected from the empanelled list, for performing in the Festivals of India (FoIs)

abroad. Currently, 627 Artists/Groups are empanelled with the Ministry. Presently, no artist/group is empanelled from Sikkim.

Also, Grant-in-aid is released to Indo-Foreign Friendship Cultural Societies actively functioning in foreign countries through our Indian Missions for promoting Indian Culture abroad and fostering close friendship and cultural contacts with other countries.

To protect, promote and preserve various forms of folk art & culture within the country including Sikkim, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patna, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. Sikkim is the member State of North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Dimapur and Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata.

These ZCCs organize various cultural activities and programmes on regular basis in their member States for which annual grant-in-aid is provided to them.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) as per its mandate promotes and projects various facets of India's diverse culture, including Sikkim, worldwide.

**(c):** During the last three years Festival of India were held in Kuwait in 2022-2023 and in France in 2023-2024 under GES Scheme. Total 35 artists/members participated in 3 events in FoI held in Kuwait and total 62 artists/members participated in 9 events in FoI held in France.

Similarly under ZCC, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) at national level were organized through these ZCCs where a large number of artists from all over India including Sikkim are engaged to showcase their talents. Besides, Ministry of Culture also participated in Madhapur Ghed Fair in which 120 tribal artists in 2022, 239 tribal artists in 2023, 45 tribal artists in 2024 & 800 tribal artists in 2025 from North East Region including Sikkim have participated.

In the last three years, ICCR has sent 78 cultural groups to various countries around the world. The details are at **Annexure 'I'**.

**(d):** No State/UT-wise funds are released under GES scheme.

Under ZCC, No State/UT-wise funds are allocated. However, the grant-in-aid released to ZCCs during the last five years and the current year is as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2020-21	4721.88
2	2021-22	6838.08
3	2022-23	6572.07
4	2023-24	11967.59
5	2024-25	11121.66
6	2025-26 (as on date)	5262.35

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# ANNEXURE-I

## ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (C) OF LOK SAHBA UNSTARRED QUESITON No. 2515 FOR 04.08.2025 REGARDING “PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOLK CULTURE”

2022 –23:

S.No	Country	Name of group	Date	Occasion/Purpose
1.	USA (Houston)	12-Member “Vande Bharatam” Rajasthani Folk Dance group “Anita Pradhan Dance Group” led by Ms. Anita Pradhan, Rajasthan along with Shri Santosh Kumar from Administration Section.	20 June-01 July,2022	On the occasion of <b>Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)</b> celebrations.
2.	Turkey	13-Member Folk Group “Saptak Folk Dance Group” led by Shri Chetankumar Chandrakant Jethava, Gujarat alongwith 01 Liaison Officer Shri Aslam Khan, Protocol/DVP Section	01-08 July, 2022	To participate in the 34 <sup>th</sup> International Golden Karagoz Folk Dance Competition in Bursa, Turkey.
3.	Belarus  Germany (Munich)	11-Member “Vande Bharatam” group “Bhairi Bhavani Performing Arts” led by Ms. Bhavana Chaudhary, Maharashtra and 01 Liaison Officer Shri Naresh Gulati from ISD-ISection.	15-20 July, 2022  21-25 July, 2022	For performance at Slavianski Bazar coinciding with 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India’s Independence and 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of diplomatic ties with Belarus.  To participate in India Summer Days 2022
4.	Brazil	12-Member Gujarati Folk group “Aavishkar” led by Shri Dinesh Gokaldas Parekh, Gujarat	12-21 August, 2022	On the occasion of <b>Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)</b> celebrations.
5.	Mauritius (14-18 August)  Madagascar (18-21 August)  South Africa (21-24 August)	12-Member “Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy” (JNMD) group led by Ms. Chandandevi Gurumayum, Manipur	14-31 August, 2022	On the occasion of <b>Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)</b> celebrations coinciding with Independence Day.

	Botswana (25-29 August)  Swaziland (29-31 August)			
6.	Lebanon	10-Member Vande Bharatam “Chandigarh University Girls Team – Giddha” group led by Mandeep Kaur, Punjab	14-18 August, 2022	On the occasion of celebration of India Week in Lebanon
7.	New Zealand	12-Member Vande Bharatam “Chandigarh University Bhangra Group” led by Shri Amit Sarwan, Punjab	19-22 August, 2022	On the occasion of <b>Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)</b> celebrations.
8.	Australia	i.08-Member VB Gujarati Folk troupe “Margam” led by Ms. Priyal Dipesh Zaveri, Gujarat	06-17 October, 2022	AKAM celebrations.
9.	USA (Atlanta)	08-Member Rajasthani group led by Ms. Kanchanbai Teratali, Rajasthan	14-20 October, 2022	On the occasion of <b>Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)</b> celebrations coinciding with the annual event “The Story of Ram” of Mandala Souht Asian Performing Arts.
10.	Mexico	12-Member “Siddhi Baana” group led by Shri Sidi Farooqbhai Umarbhai, Gujarat	19-28 October, 2022	To perform at Santa Lucia Festival and Julio Torri Festival.
11.	Malaysia	08-Member Kerala Folk “Nava Jeevan Kalari Sanghom” led by Babu Sivadas, Kerala	28 October-07 November, 2022	To perform at Living Arts Cultural Festival.
12.	Reunion Island (02-07 Nov.)  South Africa (08-13 Nov.)	08-Member Rajasthani Folk group led by Shri Dilip Khan, Rajasthan	02-13 November, 2022	On the occasion of Namaste La Reunion-Deepavali 2022
13.	Ethiopia (26-29 Nov.) Sudan (29 Nov.-02 Dec.) Israel (03-08 Dec.)	08-Member Maharashtra Folk group “Bhairi Bhavani” led by Shri Pradeep Kadamb, Maharashtra along with Shri Liaison Officer, Shri Anil Kumar from Administration Section, ICCR	25 November-08 December, 2022	To give cultural performances.

14.	Malaysia	08-Member Punjab Folk Dance Group “Punjabi Cultural Society-Ms. Ravinder Kaur” led by Ms. Sangeeta Kaushik, Delhi	03-07 December, 2022	For participation in Gurudwara Event at Sabah & Sarawak, Kuala Lumpur & Ipoh.
15.	Zimbabwe	07-Member Kalariyapattu Group “Maruthi Marma Chikilsa & Kalari Sangom” led by Shri T Ajith Kumar, Kerala	12-17 December, 2022	On the occasion of Namaste Zimbabwe Festival during India@75 celebrations.
16.	Iraq (24 Jan.-02 Feb.)	08-Member VB Maharashtra Folk Group “Amey Patil Dance Group” led by Ms. Kiran Sawant, Maharashtra	24-January – 02 February, 2023	On the occasion of Republic Day Celebrations 2023.
17.	Saudi Arabia	08-Member VB “Om Vinayak Crew” Group led by Shri Yogesh Kushwaha, Uttar Pradesh	24-29 January, 2023	Republic Day Celebration, 2023.
18.	Estonia (24-30 Jan.)  Lithuania (30 Jan.-02 Feb.)	08-Member Rajasthani Folk Group “Panihari Lok Sangeet” led by Manga Khan, Rajasthan	24 January-02 February, 2023	Republic Day Celebration, 2023
19.	Poland (25-30 Jan.)	08-Rajasthani Group led by Ms. Shamla Kalbelia Sopera, Rajasthan	24-30 January, 2023	Republic Day Celebration, 2023
20.	Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo and Gabon (25 Jan.-01Feb.)  Sudan (02-04 Feb.)	08-Member Gujarati Folk Dance Group led by Mr. Kushal Dixit, Gujarat.	25 January-04 February, 2023	Republic Day Celebration, 2023
21.	Fiji	i. 08-Member Punjab Folk Group “Bagga Lok Nach Academy” led by Shri Jarnail	12-19 February, 2023	On the occasion of 12 <sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference.

		Singh Bagga, Punjab		
		ii. 08-Member Uttar Pradesh Folk “Geetanjali International Folk Tang” led by Ms. Geetanjali Sharma, Uttar Pradesh		
22.	Timor Leste	08-Member Goa Folk Group “Mando Mogi Margao” led by Pervis Gomes, Goa	15-19 February, 2023	To give cultural performances
23.	Netherlands	07-Member Bhojpuri Group led by Ms. Usha Gupta, Uttar Pradesh	25 February – 01 March, 2023	150 years of Immigration of Indians to Suriname
24.	UK (London)	12-Travel Grants to Sri Idagunji Mahaganapati Yakshagana Mandali - Keremane Shivanand Hegde Group, (Karnataka)	04-05 March, 2023	Performance & Lecture-Demonstration on the occasion of Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, London’s Golden Jubilee Celebrations.
25.	Chile	08-Member Punjab Folk group led by Ms. Shelly Sharma., Punjab	31 March-06 April, 2023	To participate in WOMAD International Festival 2023 coinciding with Special AKAM Week Celebrations.

**2023-24:**

Sl. No	Country	Artist / Group	Dates	Occasion / Purpose
1.	Hungary	6 -member Shadow Puppetry group led by Mr. Ramachandran PKK Kutty, Kerala	19-23 April, 2023	02nd Karakulit International Shadow Theatre festival in Hungary
2.	Malaysia	08 member Shri Patel Raas Mandali group led by Mahendra Karsanbhai Andani (Gujarat)	1-6 June 2023	To give cultural performances on the occasion of PIO event
3.	Kenya	08 members Sidi Dhamaal Sidi Goma – Saiyad Akbarmiya Gulamali Kadari troupe. Gujarat	10-18 June 2023	To celebrate the Iconic AKAM Week
4.	Turkmenistan Azerbaijan	08 members “Gandharba Kala Kendra” led by Ms Dreamly Gogoi Assam	11-17 June 2023 17-22 June 2023	To perform at the International Dance & Folklore Festival "Avaza-2023' Turkmenistan For Cultural performances
5.	Jamaica	08 member Tapasaya A Centre for Performing Arts led by Shri M.S. Singh Manipur	20-30 June 2023	Performance
6.	Croatia Italy	08 member “Rajasthani Panihari Lok Sangeet” led by Roshan Khan Rajasthan	19-23 July 2023 23-28 July 2023	Zagreb International Folklore Festival Cultural performances
7.	Thailand	08 member contemporary dance troupe “Baruipara Nrityalok” led by Sutapa Awon Pradhan	29 July to 4th August 2023	To perform in the Candle Festival
8.	Hanoi, Vietnam	06 members Tetseo Sisters from Nagaland	10-16 August 2023	Independence Day celebrations
9.	Bangladesh	08 member Rajasthani group Jaisalmer Beat led by Rais Khan, Rajasthan	29 August – 7 September 2023	To perform in Artist Murtaja Bashir Cultural Festival in Chattagram
10.	Italy	<b>08-member Senhri Folk and Culture Troupe from Mizoram State Government.</b>	8-13 September, 2023	<i>To perform North East India at Milan, Italy</i>
11.	Russia	<b>15 member group SurajLal Party Rajasthani group, Rajasthan</b>	25 September-07 October 2023	<i>To perform in Fol in Russia</i>
12.	Bangladesh	<b>4-member Sikandar Khan Langa group</b>	26 Sep-15 October, 2023	<i>To perform in Bangladesh</i>
13.	Mexico	08 member <b>Purulia Chhau Dance Academy-Paresh Prasad Parit</b> , Jharkhand	29 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 12 October 2023	<i>For performance at Santa Lucia event</i>
14.	Indonesia	08-member Nithya Chaithanya Kalari led by Murugan Pillai	12-17 October, 2023	<i>To perform in Intangible Cultural Heritage Festival</i>



				<i>at Payakumbuh City in West Sumatra Province</i>
15.	Malaysia	08 member <b>Shashadhar Acharya</b> led <b>Seraikella Chhau</b> group, Jharkand	18-26 October 2023	<i>To perform at the Living Arts Cultural Festival</i>
16.	Germany	08 member Rajasthani group led by Edu Khan Langa	8-19 November 2023	<i>DIG Chain Tour</i>
17.	Peru	08-member Kalaripayattu Group Travancore School of Kalaripayattu led by Radhakrishnan G.	16-21 November, 2023	<i>To perform on the occasion of 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Celebration of India – Peru Diplomatic Relation.</i>
18.	Botswana	8-member Gujarati Folk Dance group – Niyati Sanskrutik Parivar led by Harendu Satendraparasad Dave	04-09 December, 2023	<i>To perform on the occasion of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in Kasane</i>
19.	USA	8 member bhojpuri group led by Rakesh Chandra Srivastava	23-30 December, 2023	<i>Cultural Performances</i>
20.	Vietnam	8-member Punjabi Folk group led by Hardeep Singh	15-26 January, 2024	Republic Day Celebrations
21.	New Zealand	08 member Rajasthani group led by Mehboob Khan Langa	25 January -01 February 2024	<i>Cultural Performance</i>
22.	Jagreb, Croatia	8 member Punjabi Folk Group "Asian Punjabi Folk Dance Club" led by Ashwani Kumar	9-15 February, 2024	International Rijeka Carnival 2024
23.	Egypt	8 members Chhau Dance group led by Sambhu Nath Karmakar	15-23 February, 2024	Cultural performance
24.	Dhaka	20 member group Directorate of Art & Culture, Govt. of Meghalaya Traditional Dance and Music Group	February, 2024	Cultural performances during setting up of U Tirot Singh Memorial at IGCC
25.	Turkey	8 member Bihu Group led by Neela Kontha Dutta	March, 2024	Cultural performance
26.	Guyana, T&T and Suriname	08-Members Bhojpuri group led by <b>Shri Bhola Pandey</b>	24 March, 2024	Cultural performances on occasion of Fagua (Holi)
27.	Indonesia & Vietnam	Braj ki Holi - Pratibha Kala Kendra led by Pratibha Tiwari (Sharma)	20-31 March, 2024	Cultural performances on occasion of Holi

2024-25:

Sl. No.	Country	Artist/ Group	Dates	Occasion/ Purpose
1.	Norway	08 Member Hindi Cinema Dance & Music group “Sugar And Spice” led by Monica Narula	3-6 May, 2024	To perform in 3rd Oslo Colour Festival
2.	Fiji	05-Members Bhojpuri group led by Vandana Shukla	12-19 May, 2024	To perform in Girmit Day celebration
3.	Russia	08 Member folk music group Dohar led by Rajib Das	14-16 June, 2024	To perform at Dobrovision, International Folk Song Festival
4.	<b>Zambia</b> <b>Tanzania</b>	08- members Gujarati Folk Group “Nrityavali” led by <b>Bharatsinh Karsanbhai Bariya</b>	14-20 June 2024 20-23 June 2024	<b>60th year of Independence of the Republic of Zambia</b>
5.	Slovakia	08 Member Rajasthani Folk group “Marwar Folk Group” led by Bhawani Singh Panwar	14th June - 2nd July	64th Myjava International folklore festival
6.	Azerbaijan	07-member Punjabi Folk Dance Group led by "Rattan Lal Shugal & Party	4-7 July, 2024	To perform in Silk Road International Music Festival
7.	Jordan	08 Member Assamese folk dance group Hemanga Bikash Das	29 July- 02 August, 2024	To perform at 38th edition of the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts
8.	Indonesia	08 Member Manipuri Group led by Basanta Singh	07-28 August 2024	To perform at Samosir Music International 2024
9.	Sri Lanka	08 Member Folk group Ranjit Gogoi	13-17 AUGUST, 2024	Independence Day/ Bharat Week
10.	Canberra (Australia)	08 Member Punjab Cultural Socieity Regd. folk music group led by Ravinder Singh	12-19th August, 2024	To participate in mini India festival
11.	Japan	08 members of the Purulia Chhau Group led by Shri Bhagaban Das Kumar	17-30 September, 2024	Indian Festival “Namaste India”
12.	Kazakhstan	08 Member Jugni Cultural and Youth led by Davinder Singh	07-14 September, 2024	To perform in Festival of Arts of the SCO Member States
13.	Kazakhstan	08 Member Folk Arts Academy led by Shri Raghav Raj Bhatt	07-14 September, 2024	To perform in Festival of Arts of the SCO Member States

14.	Thailand	08 members Rajasthani Folk group Jivandas Teratali Group led by Jivandas	13-17 September, 2024	Diwali Celebration: India (Mini India Diwali Festival): is an annual event hosted by all the Indian Associations under the patronage of the Embassy of India. This event has the maximum foot fall of 5000 Thais and Indians. This is a great example of people to people contact and Indo-Thai Cooperation and Friendship.
15.	South Africa	8 Member Gujarati Folk Group led by Chetan Pravinchandra Dave	5th October, 2024	Ramayana troupe
16.	Georgia	08-member Gujarati Folk Group led by Shri Harendu Dave	15-19 October, 2024	<p>The famous Shota Rustaveli theatre in Georgia had shown their interest in showcasing Ramayana. The request was made during the visit of MOS (ML) to Georgia in October 2022. Mission forwarded the same to ICCR for consideration, however, ICCR's response is still awaited.</p> <p>Since the theme for 2024-25 will be Connecting the world through Ramayana, Mission recommends sending a theatre group from India to Georgia.</p>
17.	Japan , Vietnam and Thailand	8-member Rajasthani Folk Group "Ajmaru Kala Mandal" led by Ms. Karuna Verma	11-October, to 30 October 2024	India Mela Tokyo
18.	Australia	8-Member Rajasthani Folk group led by Rashid Khan Langa	25-29 October, 2024	Mission intends to host theatre group who would perform play on Ramayana theme during Dueshra/Diwali festival month
19.	Indonesia	08 Member Chhau Dance group Shri Gambhir Chandra Mahto	14-17 November 2024	International Mask Festival (IMF)
20.	HCoI-Victoria-Mahe-Seychelles	09-member <b>Punjabi Folk Group "Punjabi Lok Rang Cultural Club-Group" led</b>	<b>24-27 Jan,2025.</b>	The Mission proposes to invite a 8-member cultural dance troupe for the

		<b>by Shri Sandeep Kr. Kheeva</b>		Republic Day celebrations in 2025.
21.	South Africa	12-member <b>Punjabi Folk Group "Indian Traditional Performing Art &amp; Craft Centre"</b> led by <b>Naresh Bala</b>	24-27 January, 2025	India's Republic Day celebration in 2025
22.	Dominican Republic	08-member Punjabi Folk group <b>"Preeti &amp; Party"</b> led by <b>Ms. Preeti</b>	24-31 January, 2025	India's Republic Day celebration in 2025
23.	Qatar	<b>05 members of Manipuri Folk Group</b> led by <b>Ms Khumanthem Narmada Devi</b>	25-29 January, 2025	India's Republic Day celebration in 2025
24.	Nepal	12 Member Cultural & Folk Dance group led by Ilamdin	25-30 January, 2025	India's Republic Day celebration in 2025
25.	Nepal	10 Member Mayurbhanj Chhau Group "Yagna" led by Kuleshwar Thakur	20-28 March, 2025	ITEC Day celebration in Nepal from 20-28 March 2025
26.	Port of Spain Georgetown	10 Member Rajasthani Dance group led by Ms. Rajkumari	15-21 March, 2025	Cultural Performance