

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 491
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2022**

VIRTUAL TOURS OF MUSEUMS

491 DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

Will the Minister of **CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the work done to operationalize virtual tours of museums, State-wise including in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) the tentative timeline for the completion of the projects, State-wise;
- (c) the details of funds allocated, released and spent for the operationalization of virtual tours of museums during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (d) whether there has been any delay in the release of the allocated funds, if so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION**

(G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (d): Ministry of Culture operates a Museum Grant Scheme under which financial assistance is provided for setting up of new Museums/development of existing museums by State Governments, Autonomous bodies, Local Bodies, Academic Institutions, Public Sector Undertakings, Trusts and Societies registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 at the regional, State and District level.

One of the components under Museum Grant Scheme is "Virtual Experiential Museum". Till date, no proposal has been received from any State under Museum Grant Scheme for setting up of Virtual Experiential Museum. However, Ministry of Culture has set up a Virtual Experiential Museum on Ajanta at National Museum and also a Virtual Experiential Museum at Man Mahal Observatory, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Museums under Ministry of Culture have also initiated a series of Virtual Tour and Exhibition programmes of their collections for public viewing and to make visitors aware of it. The details of such programmes are attached at Annexure.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 491 DUE FOR 21.07.2022 REGARDING “VIRTUAL TOURS OF MUSEUMS”****Details of Virtual Tours/Exhibition Programme Organized by Various Museums**

Sl. No.	Name of Museum	Detail of Various/Exhibition
1.	Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sanghralaya (IGRMS), Madhya Pradesh	<p>Object of the Week programme was initiated since 28th May 2020 to showcase important collections from all over India. In this series, total 111 nos. of objects have been made virtual so far.</p> <p>Another online Exhibition Series to describe its exhibits virtually started since 18th June 2020. This series aimed to showcase the architectural diversity of various parts of the Country including Maharashtra through exhibits installed in different open air and indoor exhibitions. This series commenced with 75 online presentations for visitors.</p>
2.	Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, Telangana State	Virtual Tour of Salar Jung Museum is available and can be accessed through mobile phone. In order to make accessible museum collections, an application has been developed by HopOnIndia which is accessible to the visitors from 18-10-2021 onwards. The tour consists of an introductory video on Salar Jung Museum and also about the galleries and artifacts.
3.	Archeology Survey of India, New Delhi	<p>Exhibits of two museums of ASI have been uploaded on “Museums of India” portal and can be accessed virtually. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological Site Nagarjunakonda, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh. Archaeological Museum at Velha Goa, Goa.
4.	Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata	<p>Virtual walk through covering the open and closed spaces of the Victoria Memorial Hall was completed in 2015 and put in operation in Google Map : https://www.victoriamemorial-cal.org/index.php?/virtualtour/content/en</p> <p>A walk through film of New Gallery on Freedom Fighters of India was developed in March, 2022. Rs.2.95 lakh was spent for developing this film.</p>
5.	Indian Museum, Kolkata	A Virtual Tour was created with Google Art & Culture in 2016 in Indian Museum, Kolkata. The same can be accessed at – https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/indian-museum-kolkata
6.	National Museum, Delhi	Museum in Nine Minute series was designed and delivered during the lockdown, when visitors could not visit the museum. Through this series, visitors could be part of sessions where the museum’s

		young Curators, Museum Educators and Assistant Curators delivered talks on Museum's collection. Besides this National Museum has also organized virtual tours on Meet on Curator Series, Reserve Collection and Anubhav Gallery.
7.	National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi	Permanent Exhibition—"In the seeds of time"- This virtual tour includes 213 art objects out of a total of 275 art works on display. Tour was launched on 29th March, 2020, on the eve of 66th Foundation Day of NGMA Delhi. Besides, 16 Virtual Tours and Exhibitions have been launched since April, 2020 on Jamini Roy, Raja Ravi Varma, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Ramkinkar Baij, Abanindranath Tagore, Gaganendranath Tagore, Nicholas Roerich, Sailoz Mookherjea, Nandalal Bose, Amrita Sher-Gil, Binode Behari Mukherjee, Women's Day, Mahatma Gandhi, Virtual Exhibition "Dhyana". Virtual Exhibitions viz. "Dhyana" and "Maatritva" were also launched to celebrate the International Yoga Day and to celebrate the International Mother's Day respectively.