

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2575**  
ANSWERED ON 23.03.2023

**PROMOTION OF INTER-STATE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AT NATIONAL LEVEL**

2575 # SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of Culture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has implemented any program to promote inter-State Indian cultural activities at the national level, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to promote such exchanges at school and university level so as to ensure the participation of more and more youths in the program, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the total funds sanctioned and spent on such activities during the last five years?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b) To promote inter-State cultural activities at the national level, Ministry of Culture implements a scheme viz. National Cultural Exchange Programme through its seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) set up in the country with headquarters at Patiala, Thanjavur, Nagpur, Dimapur, Udaipur, Prayagraj and Kolkata. Under this scheme, various festivals of performing arts, exhibitions, yatras etc are organized in member States by these ZCCs. Artists from other Zones/States are invited to participate in these programmes. Participation of artists from the Zones in festivals held in other parts of the country are also facilitated. Ministry of Culture also organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) in the country with an objective of connecting the younger generations with the rich cultural heritage and diversity of Indian Culture. Since 2015, the Ministry has organized fourteen (14) RSMs in the country. These RSMs promote inter-State Indian cultural activities at the national level as folk and tribal artists from different States are engaged to showcase their talents during these programmes.

Further, an initiative of Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) programme aims to celebrate cultural diversity through mutual interaction & reciprocity between people of different States and UTs so that a spirit of understanding resonates throughout the country. Every State and UT in the country is paired with another State/UT to carry out a structured engagement with one another. Higher Education Institutes and schools conduct activities like webinar/ seminar on various themes like history, tourist attractions, culture, traditions etc. of the paired state, essay writing, identification and translation of similar proverbs, themed display board, learning language of the paired State, online cultural programme in collaboration with paired State, games & sports of the pairing State, food festival, etc. Under the Student Exchange Programme, students from Higher Education Institutions and Schools of a State/ UT travel to their paired State where they can experience the culture and tradition of the paired State and spend some time to see the life of

people in different States of India. Under Yuva Sangam programme, exposure visits of youth (college/ university students and off-campus youth of age group 18-30 years) are being organized between the 8 NE States and other States. In this regard, as a pilot initiative, 11 Higher Education Institutions from NE and 14 from other States have been paired. Multi-dimensional exposure is given to the youth during these visits under five broad areas – Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Traditions), Pragati (Development), Prodyogik (Technology) and Paraspar Sampark (People-to-people connect). As a fresh step in this direction, “Kashi Tamil Sangamam” event was recently held from 17<sup>th</sup> November to 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. This programme provided an opportunity to people from all walks of life including scholars, students, philosophers, traders, artisans, artists etc. from the two regions to come together, share their knowledge, culture and best practices and learn from each other’s experiences. The pairing States under EBSB given by Ministry of Education till 31st March, 2019 are as under:

Sl. No.	Pairing States/UTs	Pairing States/UTs
1	UT of Jammu & Kashmir	Tamil Nadu
2	UT of Ladakh	Tamil Nadu
3	Punjab	Andhra Pradesh
4	Himachal Pradesh	Kerala
5	Uttarakhand	Karnataka
6	Haryana	Telangana
7	Rajasthan	West Bengal
8	Gujarat	Chhattisgarh
9	Maharashtra	Odisha
10	Goa	Jharkhand
11	Delhi	Sikkim & Assam
12	Madhya Pradesh	Manipur & Nagaland
13	Uttar Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh & Meghalaya
14	Bihar	Tripura & Mizoram
15	UT of Chandigarh	UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli
16	UT of Puducherry	UT of Daman & Diu
17	UT of Lakshadweep	UT of Andaman & Nicobar

(c) There are no funds earmarked for the purpose. All the participating Ministries/ Departments taking part in such programmes/activities bear the cost of these events individually. In so far as Ministry of Culture is concerned, the Inter-State cultural activities /exchanges including those under EBSB are undertaken by the ZCCs. Details of funds released for these activities to all the seven ZCCs by Ministry of Culture during the last five years are as under:-

(Rs. in lakh)			
Sl. No.	Year	Grant-in-aid released for organizing activities including Inter-State cultural activities/ exchanges	Amount released for organizing RSMs
1.	2017-18	4689.71	967.50
2.	2018-19	5952.69	375.00
3.	2019-20	5732.95	996.00
4.	2020-21	4009.38	694.68
5.	2021-22	5881.48	916.60

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