

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2273
ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025**

'FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTION OF ART AND CULTURE' SCHEME

2273 Shri Kunwar Ratanjeet Pratap Narayan Singh:

Will the MINISTER OF CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives and scope of the 'Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture' scheme;
- (b) the criteria for selecting cultural organizations eligible for financial assistance under this scheme;
- (c) the total amount allocated and the number of organizations that have benefitted from the scheme in the last financial year;
- (d) the steps taken to ensure that the financial assistance is effectively utilized for the promotion of diverse art forms and cultural heritage across the country till March 2025; and
- (e) any future plans to expand or enhance the scheme to support a greater number of cultural organizations?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

(a) Ministry of Culture implements a Central Sector scheme by the name of 'Financial Assistance for Promotion of Art and Culture'. This scheme has eight sub-components under which financial assistance is provided directly to eligible cultural organizations working in the field of art and culture across the country. The brief objective of these schemes is given at **Annexure**.

(b): The broad criteria for selecting beneficiaries under the scheme components is as under:

- i) The organization must be registered as a society under the societies Registration Act 1860 or similar Acts or as a Trust or Not-for-Profit Company and shall have been functioning for a period of at least three years.

- ii) The organization must be registered on NGO Darpan Portal of NITI Aayog.
- iii) The organization must have pre-dominant cultural profile.
- iv) The organization must have submitted audit statements of last three years.
- v) The organization must have filed Income Tax returns during the last three years.

Application(s)/ proposal(s) found complete in all respect are placed before the Expert / Steering Committee, duly constituted for each scheme component by the Ministry, for its evaluation and recommendations on case-to-case basis on the merit of the proposal as per the respective scheme guidelines.

(c) An amount of Rs.78.30 Cr. was released to 2760 organizations under the scheme in the last financial year (2023-2024).

(d) Ministry of Culture has been monitoring the effective utilization of financial assistance by checking Utilization Certificate as per GFR-2017, Bill vouchers and other evidentiary proofs such as photos/videos, completion certificates etc. This apart, there are also provisions of on-site physical inspections to monitor the progress and effective utilization of financial assistance.

(e) It has been a continuous endeavour of the Ministry of Culture to expand the reach of its schemes to support a greater number of cultural organizations/ individual artists. Ministry of Culture has taken necessary steps to support a greater number of cultural organizations under the scheme of Promotion of Art and Culture and the guidelines and application forms of these schemes have been uploaded on the Official Website of the Ministry. Wide publicity is also given to the advertisements seeking applications under these schemes through various newspapers, official website and social media platforms of Ministry and concerned Nodal agency of the scheme.

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.2273 answered
on 20.03.2025

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTION OF ART AND CULTURE: This scheme has following sub-components:

i. Financial Assistance to Cultural organizations with National Presence

To promote and support cultural organisations with national presence involved in promotion of art and culture throughout the country, this grant is given to such organisations that have a properly constituted managing body, registered in India; having a pan-India character with national presence in its operation; adequate working strength; and have spent 1 crore or more during 3 of the last 5 years on cultural activities. The quantum of grant under this scheme is upto Rs. 1 crore which can be increased upto Rs. 5 crore in exceptional cases

ii. Cultural Function & Production Grant (CFPG)

The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial support to NGOs/ Societies/ Trusts/ Universities etc. for Seminars, Conference, Research, Workshops, Festivals, Exhibitions, Symposia, Production of Dance, Drama-Theatre, Music etc. The maximum grants provided under CFPG is Rs.5 Lakh for an organization which can be increased to Rs. 20.00 lakhs in exceptional cases

iii. Financial Assistance for the Preservation & Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas

The objective of this scheme component is to promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the Himalayas through research, training and dissemination through audio visual programmes. The financial support is provided to the organizations in the States falling under the Himalayan Region i.e. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The quantum of funding is Rs. 10.00 lakhs per year for an organization which can be increased to Rs. 30.00 lakhs in exceptional cases.

iv. Financial Assistance for the Preservation & Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Organization

Under this scheme component financial assistance is provided to the voluntary Buddhist/Tibetan organizations including Monasteries engaged in the propagation and scientific development of Buddhist/Tibetan Cultural and tradition and research in related fields. The quantum

of funding under scheme component is Rs. 30.00 lakhs per year for an organization which can be increased to 1.00 crore in exceptional cases

v. Financial Assistance for Building Grants including Studio Theatres

The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial support to NGO, Trust, Societies, Govt. Sponsored bodies, University, College etc. for creation of Cultural infrastructure (i.e. studio theatre, auditorium, rehearsal hall, classroom etc.) and provision of facilities like electrical, air conditioning, acoustics, light and sound systems etc. Under this scheme component, the maximum amount of grant is up to Rs.50 Lakh in metro cities and up to Rs.25 Lakh in non-metro cities.

vi. Financial Assistance for Allied Cultural Activities

The objective of this scheme component is to provide financial assistance to all eligible organizations for creation of assets for enhancing the audio-visual spectacle for allied cultural activities to give firsthand experience of live performances on regular basis and during festivals in open/closed areas/spaces. Maximum assistance under the scheme component, including applicable duties & taxes and also Operation & Maintenance (O&M) costing for five years, will be as under: -
(i) Audio: Rs.1.00 crore; (ii) Audio+Video: Rs. 1.50 crore.

vii. Intangible Cultural Heritage:

This scheme was launched by the Ministry of Culture in 2013 for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage and diverse cultural traditions of the country with the objective of reinvigorating and revitalizing various institutions, groups, NGOs, etc. so that they may engage in activities/projects for strengthening, protecting, preserving and promoting the rich intangible cultural heritage of India.

viii. Domestic Festivals and Fairs

The objective of this scheme is to provide assistance for holding the 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs' organized by Ministry of Culture. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) are conducted through Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) where a large number of artists from all over the country are engaged to showcase their talents. From November, 2015 onwards, fourteen (14) RSMs have been organized by Ministry of Culture in the country. During last three years, Rs. 38.67 Cr. has been released under this scheme.