

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2275**

ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

PROMOTION OF DURGA PUJA

2275. SHRI SAKET GOKHALE:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to promote Kolkata's Durga Puja which has been added to the UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Ministry has provided any central funds to the State of West Bengal for the promotion of Kolkata's Durga Puja festival, if so, the year-wise details from 2021 till date?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) In December 2021, "Durga Puja in Kolkata" was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The various stakeholders are involved in the promotion of Durga Puja.

Some of the steps taken by Ministry of Culture, Government of India include:

Documentation and preservation: The Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, Ministry of Culture, Government of India has initiated efforts to document and preserve the intangible cultural heritage of Durga Puja, including its rituals, customs, and traditions through a documentary i.e. "Devi Durga" link is <https://youtu.be/IBOQlcrq3Vk> .

Capacity building: The Ministry has organized capacity-building workshops and training programs for artisans, craftsmen, and other stakeholders involved in Durga Puja to enhance their skills and knowledge.

Patachitra Workshop: Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with 14 Udyan Sangha organised Patachitra Workshop from 28 September, 2024 to 2 October, 2024 at 14 Pally Puja Mandap, 1A Haralal Das Street, Kolkata.

Cultural programs: Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, Ministry of Culture, Government of India has organized cultural programs and events to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Durga Puja.

Cultural programme on the occasion of Saradiya Durgotsab: Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with Dakshin Srirampur Sarbojonin Durga Puja Committee organised a cultural programme on the occasion of Saradiya Durgotsab on 13 October, 2024 at Dakshin Srirampur, East Burdwan, West Bengal.

Durga Puja Festival: Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, Ministry of Culture, Government of India organised Durga Puja festival from 03rd – 05th October 2022 at Bharatiyam, EZCC, Kolkata. Folk dance, folk song, classical dance were presented in the festival.

Dhak Utsav: Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with Chaltabagan Puja Committee organised Dhak Utsav at ITC, Royal Bengal, Kolkata on 6 October, 2021. Classical and Folk troupes performed in the programme.

Dasabhuja: Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with Chaltabagan Puja Committee organised Dasabhuja at ITC, Royal Bengal, Kolkata on 20 October, 2020. Agomoni Songs by a group were performed in the programme.

The Ministry through its various schemes and organizations is working towards the preservation and promotion of the vast intangible cultural heritage of the country as a whole including Durga Puja.
