

International Cultural Relations

The Ministry of Culture aims at disseminating Indian art and culture in new territories and developing cultural relations between India and other countries of the world through signing of bilateral Cultural Agreements (CA)/Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEP), cultural cooperation on multilateral platforms through BRICS, SCO, G20, BIMSTEC, SAARC, ASEAN etc. The Ministry also administers a Global Engagement Scheme to organize Festival of India abroad and provide Grant-in-aid to Indo-Foreign Friendship Cultural Societies.

Global Engagement Scheme

(i) Festival of India Abroad: Festivals of India (Fol) abroad seek to promote India's rich cultural heritage and enhance India's image in the global arena in a concerted manner. The Festivals of India are organized with the aim of having a lasting impact on the people of the host country. Thus, they are tools of cultural diplomacy that project the soft power of India. The events included in Fols are Music, Dance, Theatre, Film Festival, Food Festival, Literary Festival, Folk Arts such as Mehandi Puppetry etc., Exhibitions of various disciplines, Lecture Demonstrations and Workshops etc. The main focus of Fol is to connect and enhance the perception of India in the minds of locals which should ultimately lead to more tangible results in terms of trade and commerce, tourism, medical tourism, Ayush, etc".

(ii) Grant-in aid to Indo-Foreign Friendship Cultural Societies: Indian culture is also promoted and strengthened in foreign countries through grant in aid. The aim is to promote Indian culture abroad, fostering closer friendship and cultural contacts between India and foreign country concerned. The grant supports Indo-Foreign Friendship Societies for holding programmes and activities such as discussions on Indian culture, history, civilization, holding of seminars on topics of intellectual pursuits, and great personalities, arranging performances of Indian troupes exhibition of books, classes/courses in yoga, Indian music/dance etc. The grant released is considered by the Expert Committee on the basis of availability of funds and nature of events to be organized by the Societies.

In financial year 2022-23, an amount of Rs 666.72 lakhs (approx.) has been sanctioned to 35 Indian Missions abroad for 229 Cultural Societies as Grant in Aid under this component.

Significant Activities undertaken during 2022-23:

- A. Cultural Exchange Programmes have been signed in year 2022 with Turkmenistan, Panama, Denmark, Senegal, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania in the month of April, June and July, 2022 to strengthen bilateral cultural cooperation.
- B. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture participated in the 19th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Culture Ministers Meeting hosted by the Republic of Uzbekistan on 20 May, 2022 in Tashkent.



C. Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture participated in 7th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting on 24 May, 2022 hosted by the People's Republic of China in virtual mode.



C. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture participated in the G20 Culture Ministers Meeting on 13.9.2022 hosted by the Republic of Indonesia in Borobudur, Magelang, Central Java.



Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- During India's ongoing Chairship of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Ministry of Culture hosted:
 - SCO Senior Officials Meetings chaired by Ms.Lily Pandeya, Joint Secretary on 2nd February, 2023 and 31st March, 2023 to discuss and finalize the documents for SCO Culture Ministers' Meeting held in April, 2023.



- SCO Conference on Shared Buddhist Heritage on 14-15 March, 2023 at VigyanBhawan, New Delhi.



G-20

- During India's ongoing G20 presidency, M/o Culture hosted:
 - 1st G20 Culture Working Group Meeting from 22-25th February, 2023 in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.

<https://you.tu.be/4Nu6kUf4ZUQ>

Cultural Exchange Programme

- A Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for a period of five years (2023-2027).
- A Programme of Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic for the years 2023-2026 was signed on 4th March, 2023.

Other

- Festival of India was organized in Kuwait from 17-18 March, 2023 wherein total 35 artists participated.
