

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Seva Bhoj Yojna

- It is a Central Sector Scheme under which the CGST and Central Government's share of IGST paid by Charitable Religious Institutions on purchase of specific raw food items shall be reimbursed to them.
- The charitable religious institutions include Temples, Gurudwara, Dharmik Ashram, Mosques, Dargah, Church, Matth, Monastries etc.
- The objective of the scheme is to lessen the financial burden of such Charitable Religious Institutions who provide food at free of cost without any discrimination.
- Such institutions applying for financial assistance are required to produce a certificate from District Magistrate indicating that they are involved in charitable religious activities.
- These institutions must be distributing free food to public for last 3 years on daily/monthly basis.
- In case of mis-use of funds, it provides for penalties such as black listing the organisations, recovering the financial assistance with penal interest apart from taking criminal action as per law.

Intangible Heritage Scheme

- **Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India** is a new scheme for revitalizing various institutions, groups, individuals, NGOs, researchers and scholars to engage in activities for preserving and promoting the rich Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of India.
- The scheme is being implemented through Sangeet Natak Akademi, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture.
- It covers all recognized domains of ICH such as
 - oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage,
 - Performing arts, Social practices, rituals and festive events,
 - Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe,
 - traditional craftsmanship etc.
- Assistance under the scheme will be provided in the form of non-recurring grants, honoraria, infrastructure grants for the survival and propagation of all forms of ICH.
- Assistance will also be provided for short research and referencing work of relevance to ICH.
- It also support initiative of Ministry of HRD in setting up Sector Skill Councils relating to art under National Vocational Educational Qualifications Framework (NVEQF).

Junior Heritage Mistri Scheme

- The scheme comes under the Centre's Heritage Mason programme.
- Rajasthan was chosen as a pilot State for the scheme in view of its rich architectural heritage.
- Rajasthan government is raising a new class of masons to help conserve the State's rich architectural heritage.
- Under the programme, the government has started training youths on indigenous building practices, arts and crafts, traditional structures and knowledge systems, with an emphasis on preservation of heritage architecture.

Project Mausam

- Project 'Mausam' is to showcase a Transnational Mixed Route (including Natural and Cultural Heritage) on the World Heritage List.
- It aims to understand how the knowledge and manipulation of the monsoon winds has shaped interactions across the Indian Ocean and led to the spread of shared knowledge systems, traditions, technologies and ideas along maritime routes.
- Archaeological Society of India (ASI) is the nodal agency and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is its Research Unit and National Museum & IGNCA are its Associate bodies.
- The project collates archaeological and historical research and document the diversity of cultural, commercial and religious interactions among the 39 Indian Ocean countries.
- Goals - Reviving lost linkages with nations, Creating links to existing World Heritage sites, Redefining Cultural Landscapes', Achieving transnational nomination under World Heritage.

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