

## PROJECT 'MAUSAM' EXTENDED UP TO 2020 WITH THE PRE-APPROVED FUND OF RS 60,039,297: DR. MAHESH SHARMA

Relevant for: History & Culture | Topic: Promotion and Preservation of Culture Incl. UNESCO

Ministry of Culture

### Project 'Mausam' extended up to 2020 with the pre-approved fund of Rs 60,039,297: Dr. Mahesh Sharma

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Project 'Mausam' is the initiative of Ministry of Culture to be implemented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as the nodal agency with research support of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Museum as associate bodies. This project aims to explore the multi-faceted Indian Ocean 'world' – collating archaeological and historical research in order to document the diversity of cultural, commercial and religious interactions in the Indian Ocean. The main objective of the project is to inscribe places and sites identified under Project Mausam as trans-national nomination for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The details of achievement made so far are as follows:-

- i. A publication titled *Mausam: Maritime cultural landscapes across the Indian Ocean*; edited by Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray
- ii. Nineteen lectures were held on various themes related to project Mausam- which could now be taken up for publication
- iii. An exhibition on "Africans in India: A rediscovery" in the IGNCA (October-November, 2014)
- iv. One day Conference on "Africans in India: A rediscovery" in the IGNCA on 15-10-2014
- v. National conference on the theme "Cultural landscapes and maritime trade routes of India" under project Mausam was organised by ASI and Kerala Tourism on 17-19 November, 2014 at Kochi, Kerala- in which the IGNCA also participated
- vi. Exhibition on "Unearthing Pattanam: Histories, Cultures and Crossings" at National Museum ( 28-11-2014)
- vii. Conference on "the making of the Indian Subcontinent: Indian ocean perspective" at National Museum (7-8 January, 2015)
- viii. An international conference on "Maritime routes and cultural landscapes" was held by ASI and the IGNCA on 16-02-2016 at Kanheri Caves, Mumbai.
- ix. Symposium on "Maritime culture of India and its potential" on 28-01-2017
- x. Conference on Maritime Traditions of the Indian and Pacific Oceans at Kochi, Kerala (22-24 March, 2018)



- xi. Brainstorming session for creation of a database of Coastal sites on 18-06-2018 in the IGNCA at New Delhi.
- xii. Director, World Heritage visited Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam 18 to 25 March, 2016 to explore possibilities of collaboration under Project Mausam.
- xiii. Indian Mission in these countries have been requested to identify appropriate authority / expert / resource person for dialogue. Seminar and academics have been taken in IGNCA.

SFC primarily approved a fund allocation of Rs 15,244,5021/- for the period of 2015-17, out of which Rs. 42,08,341/- has been utilized. Further, the duration of the project has been extended up to 2020 with the pre-approved fund of Rs 60,039,297/-.

List of **39 Indian Ocean countries** identified under Project Mausam:

1	Bahrain
2	Bangladesh
3	Cambodia
4	China
5	Comoros
6	Egypt
7	Eritrea
8	Réunion, French Department
9	Indonesia
10	Iraq
11	Iran (Islamic Republic)
12	Jordan
13	Kuwait
14	Kenya
15	Lebanon
16	Madagascar
17	Malaysia
18	Maldives
19	Mauritius
20	Mozambique
21	Myanmar
22	Oman
23	Pakistan
24	Philippines
25	Qatar



26	Singapore
27	Sri Lanka
28	Saudi Arabia
29	Seychelles
30	Somalia
31	South Africa
32	Sudan
33	Syrian Arab Republic
34	United Republic of Tanzania
35	Thailand
36	Turkey
37	United Arab Emirates
38	Viet Nam
39	Yemen

The above information was given by Minister of State (independent charge) for Culture and Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate change Dr. Mahesh Sharma, in reply to an Unstarred Question in the Lok Sabha today.

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