

**CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**

**BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

**AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN**

**FOR THE YEARS 2019-2023**

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Benin (hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Parties" and separately as a "Party");

**RECALLING** of the implementation of the Cultural Agreement signed between the Parties in New Delhi on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1986; and

**DESIRING** to strengthen the friendly links between the Parties so as to deepen cultural relations between them;

Have agreed on the following Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2019-2023;

### **Article 1**

#### **Music and Dance**

The Parties shall exchange artistic troupes, musical groups and individual performing artists for a period not exceeding ten (10) days each. Dates and other details of such exchange will be mutually agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

### **Article 2**

#### **Theatre**

- a) Both Parties shall encourage and facilitate exchange of theatre performances in both countries and to participate in local and International theatre festivals on mutually agreed terms.
- b) Both Parties shall exchange theatre journals and publications on a reciprocal basis between the two countries on mutually agreed terms.

### Article 3

#### Exhibitions, Seminars and Conference

- a) The Parties shall exchange contemporary and modern art exhibitions between the two countries on reciprocal basis on mutually agreed terms.
- b) Both Parties will invite experts from the other side to participate in International seminars, symposiums, conferences, camps, residencies etc on culture and arts.

### Article 4

#### Archeology

- a) Both Parties shall support cooperation in the field of protection, conservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of both countries.
- b) The Parties shall exchange one expert each (1) in the field of protection and conservation of ancient monuments and archaeological sites, art objects and development of archaeological site museums for a two-week period, details of which shall be mutually agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

### Article 5

#### Archives

- a) The Parties shall promote exchange of information and documentation concerning the history of Benin in the archives of India and the history of India in the archives of Benin, as well as copies of documents (digital copies) of interest to both Parties in order to replenish in respective collections, Modalities will be worked out through mutual consultations.
- b) Both Parties shall exchange experts for a period of one week in each case, in the field of Records Management, Archives Administration and Conservation of Records, digitization and digital preservation of records.
- c) The National Archives of India will provide professional training facilities to officials and students of Benin in the courses run by the School of Archival

Studies. Similarly, the National Archives of Benin will provide professional training courses to officials of National Archives of India.

#### Article 6

##### Library

- a) Both Parties will exchange publications and other reading materials of mutual interest on reciprocal basis.
- b) The Parties will assist exchange of visits of library experts reciprocally with a view to promote library activities between both the countries. Details shall be finalized through diplomatic channels.

#### Article 7

##### Museums

- a) The National Museums on both sides will exchange exhibitions, museum exhibits and museum personnel. Exhibitions may also be organized jointly by the respective museums. Details shall be finalized through diplomatic channels.
- b) Exchange of the museum's personals/experts including Curators, Deputy Curators, Research Officer, Assistant Curators, Conservators for a period of four weeks to share the knowledge and expertise in respective fields.
- c) Exchange of standard art publications.

#### Article 8

##### Literature

- a) Both parties shall exchange a writer's delegation on reciprocal basis. Details of such visits shall be mutually decided by the Parties through diplomatic channels.
- b) Both Parties shall promote the translation of literary works of famous writers and poets in both countries.

## **Article 9**

### **Research and Documentation**

**Both Parties shall facilitate:**

- a) Study of the artistic heritage, Folklore/folk traditions and narrative forms.
- b) Devising creative activities for cognitive and skill development of the students.
- c) Exploring possibilities of developing educational activities at Art Academies, Museums, Cultural Centres and Educational Institutions for children.
- d) Development of audio-visual and printed educational materials for students and teachers to have better understanding of tangible and intangible art forms of both the countries.
- e) Documentation of the Arts, Museum objects and Production of Cultural Resources of both the countries.

## **Article 10**

### **Science Museums/Centres**

Both Parties shall exchange one senior level Science Communication professional to study science centres / museums & non-formal science education programmes in India & in Benin. The professional from Benin will visit India to study NCSM museum/centre programme for identifying and strengthening collaborative avenues for development of interactive science centres & non-formal science learning centres, etc. The duration of the visit will be one week each.

## **Article 11**

### **Anthropology**

Both Parties shall exchange visits of experts in anthropology of different institutes of both countries.

## **Article 12**

### **Festivals**

The Parties shall conduct festivals in each other's country, which shall include the exchange of tours of performing arts groups of multiple participants from each side. The details of these tours and other activities included shall be developed on the basis of reciprocity.

### **Article 13**

#### **Mass Media**

- a) Both Parties will exchange programme depicting various facets of life and culture in the two countries through their respective radio and TV organization.
- b) Both Parties shall endeavour to strengthen relation between their national broadcasting organizations by exchange of Programmes, professionals and by utilizing training expertise and facilities available in respective country. Details of such exchange will be mutually agreed upon by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

Both Parties will invite each other to its International Film Festivals.

### **ARTICLE 14**

#### **Youth Programmes**

The Parties shall encourage the exchange of youth programmes, participation in youth festivals in either country, visits of the officials in charge of the Youth Affairs, sharing of experiences, skills, techniques, information and knowledge in the areas of cooperation in youth affairs and participation of youth in seminars and conferences organized in both the countries on youth related issues.

### **ARTICLE 15**

#### **General and Financial Provisions**

##### **A. Exchange of individuals, delegations, exhibitions:**

Every Party shall send to the other Party the bio-data (including languages spoken and proposed itinerary) at least two months in advance of the expected date of visit of the delegation or individuals selected under this Programme and bio-data of performing groups at an exhibition four months in advance. The receiving Party shall inform the other Party about agreeing to receive or postponing the date at least one month in advance.

##### **B. Exchange of exhibitions:**

Separate agreement shall be reached between the promoting party and the receiving party with regard to exhibition. The sending Party shall inform the receiving country about the technical details of the proposed exhibition. The necessary information for the elaboration of the

corresponding catalogue must be sent three months before the inauguration date. The art exhibits must arrive at their destination 15 days before the opening of the exhibition.

C. Exchange of materials:

Each contracting Party shall have the right to use the materials exchanged in the fields of information, Mass Media in its own programmes and such materials should not be given by the receiving Party to a third Party.

D. Finances:

While visiting representatives of groups, delegations, performing groups to each other countries, sending Party shall provide international travel expenses, the receiving Party shall provide boarding, food and internal travel expenses, as well as emergency expenses.

E. One-month duration visits:

The sending Party shall provide international travel expenses in respect of their performing groups and delegation in case of visits for a period not exceeding one month. The receiving Party shall provide hospitality, which includes free boarding and lodging, internal travel expenses and free medical care in case of sudden illness. This is applicable in respect of both the Parties.

## ARTICLE 16

### Miscellaneous

Any dispute between the Parties arising out of the interpretation, application or implementation of this Cultural Exchange Programme shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiations between the Parties.

The provisions of this Cultural Exchange Programme shall not preclude the Parties from agreeing through the diplomatic channel, on other arrangements which they may deem desirable.

The present Programme is not an international treaty and does not create obligations under international law.

This Programme may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of the Parties by an Exchange of Notes between the Parties through the diplomatic channel.

Either Party may terminate this Programme by giving written notice to the other Party 6 (six) months in advance. The termination of this Programme

shall not prejudice the completion of any on-going programmes and projects under this Cultural Exchange Programme unless the Parties decide otherwise.

The present Programme comes into force from the date of its signature thereof by the Parties and shall remain valid for a period of five years or till a fresh Programme is signed.

Done and signed at Cotonou on 29 July 2019 in two originals each in Hindi, English and French languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA



H.E. Mr. Abhay Thakur  
Ambassador of India to Benin

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF BENIN



H.E. Mr. Aurélien A. Agbénonci  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
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