



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



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Newsletter

North Zone Cultural Centre

Ministry of Culture, Government of India

April to June, 2026



LADAKH



JAMMU & KASHMIR



HIMACHAL PRADESH



UTTARAKHAND



PUNJAB



HARYANA



CHANDIGARH



RAJASTHAN





Director's Note

प्रिय दोस्तों और शुभचिंतकों, हाल ही में उत्तर क्षेत्र सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र, पटियाला का अतिरिक्त कार्यभार संभालने के बाद, मैं बहुत विनम्रता के साथ यह पहला संदेश लिख रहा हूँ। मैं संस्कृति मंत्रालय का आभारी हूँ कि उन्होंने मुझे इस काम को आगे बढ़ाने की ज़िम्मेदारी सौंपी और मुझ पर भरोसा जताया।

अप्रैल से जून 2026 की पिछली तिमाही ने हमें पहले ही दिखा दिया है कि यह ज़िम्मेदारी क्यों मायने रखती है।

हमने 12-13 अप्रैल को चंडीगढ़ के कलाग्राम में 'बैसाखी उत्सव-2026' के साथ फ़सल कटाई के जश्न की शुरुआत की। यहाँ पंजाबी लोक कलाकारों ने खचाखच भरे दर्शकों के सामने मालवई गिद्धा, ढाडी, झूमर, लुड्डी और गतका जैसे लोक कलाओं का प्रदर्शन किया। इस उत्सव ने एक मिसाल कायम की: के ऐसे उत्सव ऐसी जगहों होने चाहिए जहाँ युवा अपनी जड़ों से जुड़ें—सिर्फ दर्शक बनकर नहीं, बल्कि उसमें हिस्सा लेकर।

इसके बाद, 6 और 7 जून को कालिदास ऑडिटोरियम में 'रिदमिया' का आयोजन हुआ, जो हिंदुस्तानी संगीत और नृत्य का हमारा दो-दिन का उत्सव था। पहली शाम में सुरबहार वादन और उसके बाद संतोष नायर की प्रस्तुति 'द गेम ऑफ़ डाइस' हुई, जबकि समापन समारोह में पंडित सुभाष घोष और डॉ. समीरा कोसर की कथक प्रस्तुति हुई।

हमने 13 से 29 जून, 2026 तक "सिंधु दर्शन महोत्सव और सांस्कृतिक यात्रा" के साथ इस तिमाही का समापन किया, जिसमें पूरे भारत से आए कलाकारों के समूहों ने एक ही मंच साझा किया।

ये कार्यक्रम हमारी उस मुख्य ज़िम्मेदारी की पुष्टि करते हैं जिसके तहत हम अपनी समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक विरासत की रक्षा, उसे बढ़ावा और उसका संरक्षण करते हैं—और यह सब सार्वजनिक चौराहों, ऑडिटोरियम और यूनिवर्सिटी हॉल में किया जाता है।

जैसा कि हम नई कार्यशाला, क्राफ्ट रेज़िडेंसी और युवाओं पर केंद्रित संवादों के साथ मॉनसून के मौसम में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं, मैं आपके निरंतर सहयोग की अपेक्षा करता हूँ।

शुभकामनाओं के साथ,

अश्विन एम. दलवी

निदेशक

नॉर्थ ज़ोन कल्चरल सेंटर, पटियाला

Dear friends and well-wishers, I write this first note with deep humility, having recently assumed additional charge of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala. I am grateful for his stewardship and for the trust placed in me by the Ministry of Culture to carry this work forward.

The quarter gone by April to June 2026, has already shown us why this responsibility matters.

We opened with the spirit of the harvest at Kalagram, Chandigarh, with 'Vaisakhi Utsav-2026' on April 12-13, where Punjabi folk artistes brought Malwai giddha, dhadi, jhoomar, luddi and gatka to a packed evening audience. It set the tone: festivals must be spaces where youth meet their own roots, not as spectators but as participants.

On June 6 and 7, the Kalidasa Auditorium hosted 'Rhythmia', our two-day festival of Hindustani music and dance. The inaugural evening featured Surbahar recital followed by Santosh Nair's 'The Game of Dice', while the finale presented Pandit Subhash Ghosh and Dr Sameera Koser's Kathak.

We closed the quarter by "Sindhu Darshan Festival & Sanskrutik Yatra" from June 13 to 29, 2026 where troupes from across India shared one stage. These programmes affirm our core mandate to protect, promote and preserve the rich cultural heritage, not behind glass, but in public squares, auditoriums and university halls.

I seek your continued partnership as we enter the monsoon season with new workshops, crafts residencies and youth-focused samvaads.

With warm regards,

Ashwin M. Dalvi

Director

North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala



Jashan-E-Mauseeque

April 10 to 13, 2026 at Srinagar, Ganderbal and Pulwama, UT of J&K

NZCC in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages organized Jashan-E-Mauseeque (A festival of Jammu & Kashmir Sufi/Light & Folk Music) from April 10 to 13, 2026 at Govt. Degree College, Bamina, Srinagar; Govt. Women College, Srinagar; Open Air Park, Manasbal Lake, Ganderbal and Govt. Degree College, Tral, Pulwama, UT of Jammu & Kashmir. In which renowned artists from Kashmir viz. Mohd. Ismaiel Bhatt (Sufiana Kalam), Munir Ahmad Mir (Light Vocal), Farooq Ahmad Ganaie (Folk Singing), Raja Bilal (Light Vocal), Qaiser Nizami (Light Vocal), Abdul Rashid Dar (Folk Singing), Mohd. Abdulla Shaksaz (Folk Singing) and Shazia Bashir (Light Vocal) given their performances during said festival. The festival was appreciated by one and all.



Vaisakhi Celebration

April 12 & 13, 2026 at Kalagram, Manimajra, Chandigarh

North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala celebrated the Vaisakhi at Kalagram, Manimajra, Chandigarh on April 12 & 13, 2026. During this 2 day celebration, NZCC organized the performances of folk dances & folk singing of Punjab. The festival was a great success. Everyone appreciated NZCC for organizing the said festival.





National Painters' Camp

April 21 to 25, 2026 at Gulmarg, UT of J&K



NZCC in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages organized the National Painters' Camp on the theme **"Vision Bharat @2047"** at Gulmarg from April 21 to 25, 2026, bringing together artists to creatively express the vision of a developed India through art.

Celebration of States Foundation Day

May 01, 2026 at Lok Bhavan Punjab, Chandigarh

NZCC organized the choreographed cultural presentation during the "Celebration of statehood day of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh" at Guru Nanak Dev Auditorium, Lok Bhawan Punjab, Chandigarh. Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, Honourable Governor of Punjab-cum-Chairperson of NZCC along with other dignitaries graced the occasion. The performances by the artists were appreciated by one and all.





2569th Vesak Celebrations

May 02 to 13, 2026 at Leh, UT of Ladakh

The Administration of UT Ladakh, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, commenced a series of daily evening cultural programmes from May 2 to 13, 2026 at Leh in connection with the Sacred Exposition of the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha, marking the 2569th Vesak Purnima, in which folk dances of different states of India along with Ladakhi folk artforms was showcased. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pema Khandu, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest during inaugural function.



Painters' Camp-*by Artists from African Countries*

May 21 to 23, 2026 at Kalidasa Auditorium, Virsa Vihar Kendra, Patiala

NZCC, Patiala organized Painters' Camp by the artistes from African Countries as a part of Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit from May 21 to 23, 2026 at Virsa Vihar Kendra, Patiala. Renowned artists from African nations namely, Ms. Edith Wasserfall from Namibia, Ms. Anita Pearl Mwinabang Ankor from Ghana, Mr. Keith Zenda from Zimbabwe and Mr. Stary Mwaba from Zambia participated in the said camp and created paintings and sketches inspired by the broad theme, **"India through the Lens of Africa."**





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RHYTHMIA-*Rhythms of Music & Dance*

June 06 & 07, 2026 at Kalidasa Auditorium, Virsa Vihar Kendra, Patiala

NZCC, Patiala organized "Rhythmia – Rhythm of Music & Dance" on June 6 & 7, 2026 at Kalidasa Auditorium, Virsa Vihar Kendra, Patiala. The audience witnessed a soulful Surbahar recital by Dr. Ashwin M. Dalvi, followed by the acclaimed dance drama "The Game of Dice" presented by Shri Santosh Nair, showcasing the artistic brilliance of Indian classical dance & theatre. On the 2nd day mesmerizing Classical Music performance by Pt. Subhash Ghosh, followed by an elegant Kathak dance recital by Dr. Samira Koser, enthralled the audience.





National Level Summer Festival

June 08 to 12, 2026 at Ridge, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh



North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, presented cultural performances featuring folk dances from various states—such as Chholiya (Uttarakhand), Bhavai (Rajasthan), Gojri (UT of Jammu & Kashmir), Ghoomar, and Phag (Haryana)—as well as Punjabi folk singing by Bobby Sidhu during the National-level 'Summer Festival-2026' at the historic Ridge, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) from June 8 to 12, 2026 organized by the District Administration of Shimla, in collaboration with the Department of Language and Culture, Himachal Pradesh. These performances were greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all.

Shoolini Mela

June 26 to 28, 2026 at Solan, Himachal Pradesh

North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, presented captivating cultural performances featuring folk dances from various states, including Bhangra and Jindua (Punjab); Phag and Ghoomar (Haryana); and Chari, Ghoomar, and Bhavai (Rajasthan) during the state-level 'Shoolini Mela' which was organized in Solan, Himachal Pradesh, from June 26 to 28, 2026, by the Solan District Administration and the Department of Language and Culture, Himachal Pradesh. The performances given by the artists of NZCC were appreciated by one and all.



Sindhu Darshan Festival & Sanskritik Yatra

June 13 to 29, 2026 at different places of Punjab, HP, Uts of J&K and Ladakh

North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala organized '*Sindhu Darshan Festival-2026*' at Leh (UT Ladakh) from June 22 to 26, 2026 in collaboration with Sindhu Darshan Yatra Samiti, Delhi coinciding with unique '*Sanskritik Yatra-2026*' from June 13 to 29, 2026 comprising of folk artistes/folk singers & instrumentalists representing all the cultural regions of India. The artists performed at different places in the State of Punjab, U.Ts of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh & Himachal Pradesh viz. Pathankot (Punjab); Jammu, Ramban, Patan, Srinagar (UT J&K); Kargil, Drass, Leh (UT Ladakh); Keylong & Manali (Himachal Pradesh) from June 13 to 29, 2026. Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh was the chief guest on June 23, 2026 at Sindhu Ghat, Leh. Thousands of people from all over India witnessed and appreciated the cultural performances presented by NZCC, Patiala during the said events.





International Yoga Day

June 21, 2026 at Virsa Vihar Kendra, Patiala & Kalagram, Chandigarh

North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala celebrated “12th International Day of Yoga” in a befitting manner at Virsa Vihar Kendra, Patiala and Kalagram, Manimajra, Chandigarh on June 21, 2026, in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India. The theme of this year's International Day of Yoga was "Yoga for Healthy Ageing". The yoga session included various asanas and meditation techniques as per Common Yoga Protocol observance, creating an atmosphere of serenity and mindfulness. Yoga practitioners, senior citizens, children, youth, eminent theatre personalities and artists of various fields etc. performed various asanas and pranayama exercises under the guidance of Yog Guru. Officers & staff of NZCC also attended the yoga session.



Monthly Theatre Series

Second Saturday of every month

As part of its monthly theatre series, NZCC organizes a theatrical play on every **second Saturday** of the month at Kalidasa Auditorium, Virsa Vihar Kendra, Patiala. This regular initiative aims to promote theatre culture, provide a platform to theatre artists and groups, and encourage audiences to engage with meaningful stage performances.





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Commemoration of 350th Martyrdom Day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

June 24 & 25, 2026 at Gurudwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Mattan Sahib, Anantnag, UT of J&K

NZCC, Patiala, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages and Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee, Anantnag, organized a two-day religious programme to commemorate the 350th Martyrdom Day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji on June 24–25, 2026 at the ground (Pandal) near Gurudwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Mattan Sahib, Anantnag. The programme commenced with the inauguration of exhibition dedicated to the life and teachings of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, Government of J&K followed by lecture on the life and teachings of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji by the scholars, the day was concluded with Dhadi Gayan by Bhai Gursevak Ji and Group. On the second day, Shabad Kirtan by Bhai Bhupinder Singh Ji, Ragi of Gurudwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Mattan Sahib, followed by a spiritually uplifting rendition by Bhai Jagtar Singh Ji, Jammu Wale (Hazuri Ragi, Amritsar). The response from the public was overwhelming, with the pandal filled to its full capacity.





Summer Workshops

May & June, 2026 in the member states

North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Patiala, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, organized training workshops in different fields to promote and preserve India's rich cultural heritage.

- **Bhangra, Giddha, and Painting at Virsa Vihar Kendra, Patiala**
- **Folk Dances of Punjab, Haryana, Theatre and Art & Craft at Kalagram, Chandigarh**
- **Rouff Dance and Wanvun Dance at Srinagar**
- **Gojri Dance at Poonch**
- **Gadhiyali Dance at Kathua**
- **Production oriented Theatre Workshop at Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.**
- **Phag/Ghoomer Dance at Kurukshetra and Jind, Haryana**
- **Folk Dance & Folk Music of Uttarakhand at Chamoli, Uttarakhand**

These workshops provided a valuable platform for young participants to learn in an artistic environment under the able guidance of experienced experts and contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of traditional folk art forms.





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Contact Us



Head Office

Virsa Vihar Kendra, Near Bhasha Bhwan

Sheranwala Gate, Patiala-147001

Phone No. +91-175-2202918, 2211429

Email- nzccindia@gmail.com; Website: <https://www.culturenorthindia.com>



Sub-Office

Kalagram, Manimajra, Sector-13,

Chandigarh-160101

Phone No. +91-172-2930941