

5.8 ART AND CULTURE

REVIEW OF ANNUAL PLAN 1999-2000

Culture is an important element for human resource development in a country. The Department of Culture operates a number of Plan schemes of Government of India for preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the country. It also has a network of subordinate & attached offices besides a number of other autonomous institutions/organisations, such as Archaeological Survey of India, Anthropological Survey of India, National Archives, Museums, Libraries, Academies, etc. in the field of Art & Culture. For 1999-2000, Rs.165 crore and Rs.185 crore has been allocated to the Department of Culture. Planning Commission has allocated Rs.185 crore for the schemes of Department of Culture under Annual Plan 2000-01.

2. During 1999-2000, the Department's activities have increased in the North Eastern States including Sikkim. As directed, various organisations responded and launched various programmes during the year with proposed expenditure of nearly Rs.10 crore. A meeting of Ministers of North Eastern was held in November, 1999. Focus has been to promote and develop multipurpose cultural complexes with relaxed norms and higher outlays. Efforts have been made to strengthen State Archives and set up new Museums, Libraries, Archives.

3. A lot has been achieved under the National Cultural fund which had been supported by Planning Commission. A number of MOU's have been signed. Wide publicity has been given to its operations and implementation mechanism. Organisations like CII and FICCI have contributed to the Fund. The Agha Khan Trust has signed a MOU in April, 1999 and has remitted \$50,000 to the fund. Work has already been started by ASI for revitalising the water channels & restoration of gardens of Humayun's Tomb Complex. Other MOU's signed are with Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath Trust.

4. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) continued with its ongoing programme and maintained 3601 centrally protected monuments including 16 world Heritage, and 33 site museums. The work being executed by ASI includes structural repair, chemical conservation, development of sites around monuments, etc. ASI also undertakes work of conservation of unprotected monuments on deposit work basis. Activities relating to explorations and excavations continued at different sites including the submerged area of Sardar Sarovar Project covering parts of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Particularly notable is the site at Dholavira where among major findings is a stadium located between the citadel and middle town, a rock cut reservoir and some archaeological objects. Another major Harappan site has been located at Rakhigarhi, in district Hissar, Haryana, revealing important architectural remains of antiquity of Early Harappan as well mature Harappan period. Excavations at Fatehpur Sikri, Agra have yielded information regarding Jain Sculpture bearing inscription in nagari script and Sanskrit language of the tenth and eleventh centuries. Village to village survey was undertaken in various Districts of A.P., Bihar, Gujarat, H.P., Orissa, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and have brought a large number of fresh sites to light. Two projects relating to Temple Survey and Buildings (Colonial) Survey are in progress at Chhatisgarh and other places in Karnataka, Delhi and Calcutta for documentation (including photography documentation). As part of its publication programme ASI brought out guidebooks and folders on monuments like Fatehpur

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Sikri. Charminar INTACH Heritage Award for 1999 was given to ASI for outstanding conservation of Golconda Fort.

5. National Museum continued its various plan programmes and activities of acquisition, conservation of artifacts besides organising a number of exhibitions, Education programmes, publications etc. As part of the 50th year of India's Independence a number of exhibitions like "The Sikh Heritage", the "Bronze Treasures of National Museum", "Manuscripts, an Insight into the Past", "Fifty years of Supreme Court" and the "Indian legal system", in addition to besides a number of lectures, guided tours, film shows, painting competitions, quiz programmes, workshops, were organised. Indian Musuem, Calcutta, Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad and Allahabad Museum continued their Plan Schemes & Progammes of acquisition and conservation of art objects, organising of exhibitions, educational programmes, seminars. The National Council of Science Museums (NCSMs) continued to popularise science and technology among the students and the people through a number of its Plan programmes, exhibitions, etc.

6. The Science Centre at Goa which received support by the Planning Commission will be set up soon. Conceptual development of exhibits has started. Altogether 326 exhibits have been fabricated in NCSM Units. NCSM has also been entrusted with the Project for development of the Rajiv Gandhi Science Center at Mauritius. As part of the catalytic support programme NCSM is developing exhibits for Science Centres in Singapore and Israel. The Council established 300 school science centres in schools in rural areas and also provided teaching aids, training facilities, kits and books besides developing exhibits.

7. Nehru Memorial Museum and Library also continued its activities of promoting research in history and social sciences particularly international relations and contemporary history. The Library continued to enrich its resources in microforms by adding microfilms/microfich of private collections, dissertations and in the form of manuscripts of eminent persons. Its research and publication Division continued with its publishing programmes & monitored various research project institutions.

8. The National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC) continued its research activities in conservation techniques and rendered technical advice and assistance to Archives, Museums and Archaeological Departments in the country.

9. Archives and Libraries under Department of Culture also continued with their various ongoing Plan schemes and programmes. National Archives of India, a repository of Central Government Records carried out its programme of acquisition of records management programmes, conducting of Diploma and other short-term training courses in Archival science while extending research facilities to the research scholars from India and abroad. It also provided consultancy services to Government/private institutions and individuals on conservation and reprographic techniques.

10. Asiatic Society, Calcutta sponsored six Plan projects besides its own in house research activities. The Asiatic Society continued collaboration with Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow for the study of Indo-Russian relations and continued other academic research work in the field of Ideology, history of Medicine, History of Science, Oriental Studies, religious culture, etc. as part of its regular activities. It published 15 books and six journals along with monthly bulletins.

11. Planning Commission supported Plan activities of the Anthropological Survey of India which promotes research in the field of Anthropology and in disseminating information on the bio-cultural heritage of the people in the country. It has undertaken four new research schemes and five old schemes were continued including Nutritional status of the Indian population in the Ninth Plan. The Anthropological Survey has plans to further develop laboratory facilities in order to facilitate advanced research on DNA Polymorphism and has also signed MOU with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre for academic collaboration. The Anthropological Survey continued to execute its ongoing programme of providing and reserving tribal and ethnic culture in India. A number of initiatives were taken, both at Bhopal and in the field all over the country for documentation, conservation revitalisation, presentation and dissemination of the autonomy, variety and complexity of location specific traditional skills, technologies and knowledge systems by means of workshops, field camps, etc.

Libraries

12. National Library, Calcutta, continued with its programmes in the field of preserving and disseminating information to the scholars and other users. For effective implementation of Books Delivery Act, a special drive was undertaken to make the Delivery of Books Act more effective and to enhance its collections of Publications from Indian Publishers for making the National Bibliography more exhaustive and up-to-date. Work on Bhasha Bhawan, its Annexe Building is progressing fast with support of Planning Commission. The Central Reference Library, Calcutta continued with its two projects: compilation and publication of the Indian National Bibliography in Roman and 14 Indian Languages. Central Secretariat Library, Delhi continued serving its registered members for research & reference, policy planners, academics, research scholars and general readers. Mahabharata Data base project – conversion of slokas into electronic format' is in progress and being continued with its other ongoing progress. It is fully computerized and also conducts computer training programs. It is also developing its collection of CD-Rom databases. Delhi Public Library, having the biggest network in Delhi continued to serve the people in the National Capital territory region as usual including the rural and urban areas. Raja Ram Mohan Library Foundation at Calcutta continued promoting the Public Library movement in the country by extending library services and inculcating reading habits among the people particularly in the rural areas. The Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library, the only medieval library, preserves very rare & valuable collection of manuscripts, books, maps & paintings on all aspects of arts & literature. A Review Committee had been constituted including a representative of Planning Commission for reviewing its development activities. Oriental Libraries like Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna and Rampur Raza Library continued with their usual Plan programs and activities.

13. Amongst the three National Academies for which Planning Commission provides Plan funds, the Sangeet Natak Academy continued with its on-going Plan activities of documentation and dissemination, enriching its archives, museums & libraries, organizing a series of concerts to provide an India-wide platform for young Indian musicians through workshops and interaction sessions. Gave awards and fellowships. A number of dance festivals and programmes were organized at different places in India. Gave awards and scholarships to 31 artists and scholars. The Kathak Kendra continued rendering significant service in the field of dance education and organised performances in India and abroad (North Korea). The Manipur Dance Academy offered comprehensive courses in Manipur dance, music and allied arts and sponsored many performances like the Bhagyachandra

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National Festival of Classical Dance. Sahitya Academy continued its endeavour for the development of its library activities in all the Indian languages recognised by the Constitution. The Sahitya Academy Published 200 books and had net sales of books of more than Rs.1 crore. It continued the Project of Translation of Indian Classics into foreign languages in collaboration with various Government Institutions. The Lalit Kala Academy promoted the area of visual arts and continued to serve the cause of art and artists by recognising the artists and awarding the distinguished ones by fellowships at national and international exhibitions. The Academy also organised Kala Melas, artists camps/workshops, seminars and lectures etc. One such exhibition organised was on traditional and contemporary Art of the Eastern Region in Manipur in collaboration with EZCC and Government of Manipur. The National School of Drama, provided training in theatre and also continued with its ongoing Plan schemes and programs of producing plays, conducting festivals, organising exhibitions and theatre-in-education, with focus to perform plays in schools, specially designed and prepared for children and training, 300 students participated. The first National Theatre Festival or Bharat Rang Mahotsava was held from 18 March to 14 April, 1999 and 89 plays were staged by National level theatre companies from various States in many languages like Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Malayalam, Dogri, Bengali, Manipuri, Kannada, Punjabi, Telugu and Repertory Company of the School. .

14. The seven Zonal Cultural Centres in the country continued organising cultural programmes and strengthening cultural movements in the country, promotion of vanishing folk-art traditions in both rural and urban areas and also continued efforts for preservation, promotion and protection of tribal and folk art forms in association with the State Departments and non-Government Organisations through its schemes of National cultural exchange programme, setting up of documentation centres to protect vanishing and dying art forms and setting up of shilpagrams for providing promotional and marketing facilities to craftsmen. Recommendations of the Ananthamoorthy Committee Report regarding structural changes, reduction in administrative expenditure, etc. are being implemented from 1998-99 onwards in ZCC's programmes.

15. The Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath and the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh worked towards promotion and imparting education in Buddhist and Tibetan studies, and financial assistance was given to NGOs engaged in the area of research and development. Both the centres received Plan grants of Rs.1 crore each during 1999-2000. Spituk Monastery Leh has been provided Rs.1 crore by Planning Commission as special assistance for its renovation and repair during 1999-2000. Gandhi Samriti and Darshan Samiti worked in the direction of promoting the life and thoughts of Mahatama Gandhi by organising various socio-economic cultural programmes. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts also contributed in the promotion of art and culture in the country through a number of its innovative programmes and activities and in developing itself as a Centre for the Study of all arts.

16. The Department of Culture apart from promoting culture through various organisations and institutions also implemented some of the Schemes directly and provided financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid covering activities such as salary grants, production grants, scholarships and pensions research on various aspects of Indian culture.

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17. The creation of a separate Ministry of Culture and Sports & Youth Affairs, will strengthen and give boost to cultural activities in the country. Planning Commission approved an outlay of Rs.185 crore for Department of Culture for 2000-01. Rs.22.75 crore have been allocated for capital works out of which Rs.15 crore have been earmarked for Bhasha Bhavan of National Library Calcutta. Rs.162.25 crore have been earmarked for various organisations and schemes for the Department of Culture in consultation with Planning Commission keeping in view their objective and priorities. The emphasis will be on completion of ongoing projects like Bhasha Bhavan, ASI office & Institute Building, NGMA Annexe Building and those of NAI etc. Planning Commission also undertook the exercise of integrating and reducing number of schemes to avoid overlapping.

18. The Archaeological Survey of India proposes to concentrate on upgradation of infrastructure & upkeep of 300 identified monuments including 16 world heritage monument complexes for comprehensive development including proper management, documentation, conservation and environmental development of these monuments. In addition the thrust in new exploration and excavation will be on new Indus Valley civilisations sites. ASI also propose to start construction of its own building for its headquarters and the Archaeology Institute at NOIDA where they have already acquired land with the support of Planning Commission. Setting up and upgradation of site museums is another important area of work. In addition more monuments as per their tourist importance would be taken up. The Scheme of Conservation of Wall Paintings which ASI had initiated at the behest of Planning Commission during 1996-97, would be further strengthened by establishing five project branch offices exclusively for conservation of mural paintings at Dehradun, Indore, Jaipur, Aurangabad and Mysore. Priority is to be given to Publication Programme of the ASI, National Museum and three National Academies so as to bring out publications of high quality.

19. Revision of existing schemes for extending support to museums even under the control of State and local Governments is being fully supported. Support will be extended for improvement and strengthening of activities of Anthropological Survey of India and its new projects relating to Development and Regionalism, Growth and Development of Children – bio-cultural perspectives and special programme study of bio-cultural linkages among the population of SAARC Countries. New initiatives like the National Mission of Manuscripts under National Archives of India, Organisation of State Festivals under the Scheme of financial Assistance to Voluntary cultural organisations/individuals for specified performing art projects and setting up of science (centres) are being supported.

20. The Department of Culture also proposes to develop networking between Central, States and local museums. The Science City Project of Jalandhar and other Science Centres by NCSM in collaboration with the Government of Mauritius are also being supported.

21. The Planning Commission has supported the proposals of Department of Culture to modernise the existing libraries and spreading network of public libraries in new areas in rural regions under the control of Panchayats.

22. All the developmental activities of ZCC's, CCRT, National Akademies i.e. Sahitya Akademy, Sangeet Natak Akademy, Lalit Kala Akademy and National School of Drama are being supported, viz. (a) strengthening its Translation Bureau, (b) Sangeet Natak

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Akademy Project of Encyclopedia on Museum, Dance and Theatre, Production & Dissemination of Archival Material, etc.

23. Support is also being extended for strengthening the Centres of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies at Leh and Sarnath, Nav Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, Tibet House, Tawang Monastery School, Central Tibetan Library Dharamshala, etc. for improving their infrastructure as being repositories of rare manuscripts and centres of Buddhist learning.

24. Initiatives in the North East: As per the Prime Minister's direction, 10 per cent of the budget is earmarked for initiatives in the North East Region with concurrence of the Planning Commission. It is proposed to take initiatives through various schemes & programmes to highlight and popularise the rich and diverse art and culture of NE States including Sikkim.

25. Officers from Education Division are also being represented and fully associated on Monitoring and Review Committees of various schemes like Development activities of Serfoji Saraswati Mahal Library, Buddhist and Tibetan Institutions under Department of Culture, Science City, Calcutta, etc.