

CHAPTER 2.12

ART AND CULTURE

2.12.1 India's culture is characterised by a unique pluralistic ethos that has evolved over 5,000 years. At the same time, it is constantly evolving through a process of assimilation, providing creative expression, value systems and belief patterns to society. In the present day world, culture is not confined to merely being a manifestation of the urge for self-expression by individuals and communities but is also a vehicle for providing employment opportunities. With a large number of people dependent on the output of this sector, promotion of this sector is necessary to spur economic growth, apart from strengthening its role as an expression of the creative urges of the people.

2.12.2 There are three broad dimensions of culture: National Identity, Mass Media and Tangible and Intangible Heritage. National Identity revolves around questions like: Who are we? What is our national identity as Indians? What is our shared perception or history, lifestyles, values and beliefs? These are not questions of purely academic interest alone but serious questions having a bearing on the well being of the nation and its people. Mass Media comprises cinema, radio, television and print media. Tangible and Intangible Heritage includes, among other things, monuments, sites and archaeology; anthropology and ethnology; folk and tribal art; dance and drama; and visual arts in the form of painting, sculpture and graphics.

2.12.3 The Department of Culture operates Plan schemes of the Government of India for preserving and promoting the country's cultural heritage. It has a network of subordinate and attached offices, besides a number of other autonomous institutions/organisations, such as the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Delhi, Anthropological Survey of India Delhi, National Archives of India (NAI), Delhi, museums, libraries, academics, etc. The focus of

the schemes of the Department of Culture has been development of culture from the grassroot level and it has been working towards this in association with a network of institutions.

PROGRESS SINCE INDEPENDENCE

2.12.4 The thrust of the development plan has to be the preservation of the cultural heritage but with a thread of continuity that binds the diversities into a cohesive whole.

2.12.5 The main concentration in the early Five Year Plans, from the First to the Seventh Plan, was the establishment of cultural institutions in the field of archaeology, anthropology, and ethnography, archives, libraries, museums, academies etc. Central conservation laboratories were also established. Serious efforts were made in the Sixth Plan to recognise culture as one of the basic concepts to be integrated with all development activities particularly at all levels in the education sector so as to make it more relevant to day-to-day life. During the Seventh Plan, an added thrust was given to contemporary creativity, preservation, documentation and conservation of the cultural heritage and to established cultural institutions. A large number of programmes for the preservation of monuments and sites of national importance were also taken up on a priority basis. Efforts have also been made for strengthening regional and local museums, the Anthropological Survey of India, the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS), Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs), Akademies, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and science museums. Emphasis was also laid on promoting tribal and folk culture through systematic documentation by the ASI India and promoting literacy through libraries and associated activities.

Progress in the Ninth Plan

2.12.6 Seven ZCCs were set up in various regions to create cultural awareness among people and to identify, nurture and promote the vanishing folk art traditions in the rural and semi-urban areas. These are: Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), Kolkata; North East Zonal Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Dimapur; West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC), Udaipur; South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC), Thanjavur; North Central Zone Cultural Centre (NCZCC), Allahabad, Central ZCC, Nagpur and North ZCC, Patiala. They have been active in organising various programmes in their areas of operation.

2.12.7 During the Ninth Plan period, the ZCCs were assigned two more activities – the Republic Day Folk Dance Festival and Craft Fair and documentation of vanishing folk art forms. The Department of Culture participates in the Republic Day parade every year through the ZCCs. The central theme for the Republic Day Folk Dance Festival in 2001 was 'Resurgent India'. A special programme called 'Umang' was organised on the occasion in which hundreds of handicapped children participated.

2.12.8 The National Cultural Fund (NCF) was constituted in 1996 in order to mobilise funds to preserve and promote Indian art, culture and heritage. All contributions made to it are wholly exempt from income tax. The following projects were implemented in collaboration with NCF during the Ninth Plan.

- i. Renovation of Shanivarwada in Pune.
- ii. Establishment of a cultural centre, 'Jnana Pravaha', in Varanasi to showcase the city's rich heritage.
- iii. Renovation and beautification of Humayun's Tomb in Delhi.

2.12.9 Five projects relating to heritage sites in the country, have been taken up in collaboration with Indian Oil Foundation of the Indian Oil Corporation. Memorandums of understanding (MoUs)

have also been signed with the Taj group of hotels and the Apeejay Surendra Group for the maintenance of the Taj Mahal in Agra and the Jantar Mantar in New Delhi respectively. The initiatives taken through the NCF have helped mobilise resources to the tune of Rs. 30 crore for the conservation and preservation of heritage sites and monuments.

2.12.10 Funds raised through the NCF are project-specific. The NCF, however, needs funds for its activities besides meeting its routine administrative expenses. For this purpose, the Government is committed to provide a corpus of Rs.19.25 crore against which a sum of Rs.6.01 crore has been released so far. There is a need to augment this amount, as the interest accruing on the corpus is insufficient to meet the requirements of the NCF.

2.12.11 Under the scheme for the Development of Cultural Organisations, the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata, which is a branch of the Ramakrishna Mission, has been provided grant-in-aid during the Ninth Plan period.

2.12.12 There are various central schemes through which the Department of Culture is granting fellowships to outstanding artists, scholarships to young artists, and financial assistance to needy persons who are distinguished in the letters and arts etc. Financial assistance is also provided to professional groups and individuals for specific performing art projects and also to voluntary cultural organisations for the construction of buildings and purchase of equipment. There is also a separate scheme for financial assistance to groups and individuals to promote and disseminate the tribal/ folk art and culture. The Department provides grants to organisations engaged in the propagation and scientific development of Buddhist/Tibetan culture, tradition and research in related fields. It also provides funds to autonomous bodies for setting up multi-purpose cultural complexes including those for children.

2.12.13 The activities of the ASI, which is an attached office of the Department, has been expanded. Its existing activities include maintenance, conservation and preservation of centrally

protected monuments/sites, conducting archaeological explorations and excavations, chemical preservation of monuments and antiquities and remains, architectural survey of monuments, archaeological excavation outside India and maintenance of Archaeological Library etc. Over the past three years, the entry fee to various monuments has been increased. As a result, fee revenue has increased from Rs.7 crore a year to an estimated Rs.65 crore. Monuments have been divided into three different categories:- Group A, B and C. There are 26 monuments in Group A, 16 of which are included in the World Heritage List and 11 which have been proposed to the UNESCO for inclusion in the list. Group B consists of the other important 100 centrally protected monuments. The rest of the monuments have been placed in Group C and the ASI requires large amounts not only for refurbishing them but also to provide basic facilities for the tourists. Entry to Groups A and B monuments is ticketed, while it is free for those in Group C.

2.12.14 During the Ninth Plan, the National Museum, a subordinate office of the Department organised several exhibitions including 'Fifty Years of Supreme Court of India and the Indian Legal System', 'Sikh Heritage in Arts', 'Indigenous Chile', 'Medieval Art in Germany', 'Nizam Jewellery', 'Religious and Cultural Traditions of Bhutan' etc. It also undertook modernisation of its permanent galleries like the Harappan Civilisation Gallery. The Museum was also designated as the nodal agency for organising an exhibition on 'Use and Significance of Coral in Indian Jewellery and Handicrafts' at the Banca Di Credit, Naples, Italy. In addition, an exhibition of original works of Pablo Picasso was organised at the Museum premises in Delhi.

2.12.15 The Allahabad Museum and the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, took up several activities ranging from photographic exhibitions, (Glimpses of 53 Himalayan Peaks, Buddhist Shrines), to lectures (The World of Shrijan Parvis, Upendranath Ishq ke Natak, History as a Dialogue between Past and Present) and summer art camps for children, college students and professionals. In these camps, children are trained to draw with different mediums like crayons, watercolours, oil pastels and oils.

2.12.16 Inter-state exhibitions have also been organised at various museums, for example Panorama of Bengal Art at the Salar Jung Museum and one on Bengal paintings at the Bharat Kala Bhawan, Varanasi. Indian museums, in addition, organised various international exhibitions viz. Yogi and Buddha, Glimpse of Indus Valley Civilisation, Life of Buddha and Treasures of Indian Art from Germany. During the Ninth Plan, the National Council of Science Museums set up the Kurukshetra Panorama and Science Centre in Haryana and the Goa Science Centre. Besides, a new gallery, a Hall of Chemistry was inaugurated at the Regional Science Centre, Guwahati.

2.12.17 Repairs to the main building of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata and remodelling and renovation of five galleries have been entrusted to the ASI. The Victoria Memorial Hall organised a number of exhibitions including two major ones on the 'War of Independence of 1857' and 'Contemporary Art of Bengal'. Son-et-lumiere, a sound and light programme depicting the history of Kolkata, was started during the Ninth Plan.

2.12.18 During Ninth Plan, the NAI carried out the appraisal of 1,64,948 records. Eighty-nine schedules were vetted under its programme of vetting of records retention schedule. A total of 504 Departmental Record Officers (DROs) were appointed from various central government organisations and public sector undertakings and the NAI conducted 22 orientation courses to train 294 DROs.

2.12.19 The National Library, Kolkata, undertook several major initiatives to upgrade and modernise its collection building programme, reader services and conservation of library material. The major activities completed during the Ninth Plan period were automating the circulation system in the lending section, setting up of a local area network, improved reader services and more efficient collection management. The conservation activities in the Library got a major fillip with the purchase of modern equipment to preserve rare books and other materials. Major renovations to the main building were taken up. Besides, the construction of a new building, 'Bhasha Bhawan', by the Central Public

Works Department (CPWD) was expedited. The new building would add 40,000 square metres of space to the National Library. Apart from being a reference centre for research scholars, the National Library provided periodic training to library professionals, particularly in the northeastern region and organised workshops, seminars and exhibitions across the country on relevant themes and issues. The Central Reference Library, Kolkata, which functions as a national bibliographic and documentation facility, computerised various functions during the Ninth Plan. As a result, the publication of the Indian National Bibliography is now up to date. These records are now available in electronic format for online viewing.

2.12.20 Funds were provided to the Delhi Public Library and Central Secretariat Library, Delhi, for acquisition of new material in different languages and media as well as for modernising their infrastructure. The benefits of these efforts can be seen in terms of improved reader services, networking and resource sharing. The Central Secretariat Library organised a number of computer training programmes to meet the emerging needs for resource sharing, standardisation of cataloguing formats and co-operative acquisition.

2.12.21 Funds for modernising and computerisation were also provided from central grants to the Connemara Library, Chennai, Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji Sarasvati Mahal Library, Thanjavur and the State Central Library, Mumbai. Besides these, the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation provided assistance through a number of matching and non-matching schemes to public libraries across the country for developing adequate stock of books and storage facilities, constructing buildings and holding seminars and workshops.

APPROACH AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE TENTH PLAN

2.12.22 The focus of the Tenth Plan has to be on the implementation of a comprehensive Plan for the preservation of the archaeological heritage and development of the monument complexes and museums. Further, efforts must also be made to preserve the archival heritage and promote

classical, folk and tribal art crafts and oral traditions, which are in danger of dying out.

2.12.23 The Department of Culture will continue to execute major schemes and programmes for promoting art and culture. Its Plan programme relating to the promotion, preservation and conservation of the cultural heritage of the country will be implemented through 34 attached/subordinate and autonomous offices/organisations and cultural institutions and through a number of schemes. Its activities and programmes have been organised under 11 broad heads. They are Promotion and Dissemination, Archaeology, Museums, Archives, Anthropology, Performing Arts, Libraries, Buddhist and Tibetan Institutes, IGNC, Activities for the Northeastern Region and Other Expenditure.

2.12.24 Besides continuing its on-going programmes, emphasis will be given to strengthening inter-organisational networks to introduce management-oriented approaches in the administration of cultural institutions. Networking among central museums will be strengthened, enabling these institutions to share their experience and resources in undertaking in-service training, organising exhibitions etc.

2.12.25 There is need to focus on areas like economic management of cultural institutions, scientific/technological principles of conservation, underwater archaeology etc. The scheme of financial assistance for strengthening of regional and local museums has also been revised, widening its scope for assisting smaller museums. Museums should be directed to emphasise more on digitalisation and documentation of works of art as a part of their Plan activities.

2.12.26 The ASI has 3,606 centrally protected monuments under its purview, which include the 16 in the World Heritage List. Apart from the maintenance of these monuments, work relating to structural conservation, chemical preservation and environmental development is also taken up on a regular basis. In the Tenth Plan, emphasis will be given to the formulation of perspective plans for the important monuments in each circle so as to ensure their integrated development. In the Tenth Plan, the

ASI will continue its excavation activities. However, in view of the resource constraints, there is an urgent need to involve the departments of history and archaeology of universities in the survey of heritage sites in a time-bound manner.

2.12.27 Due to industrialisation and the pressures of urban growth, encroachments pose a serious problem for monuments. Consequently, stress has been laid on demarcating the protected limits of monuments and to provide a grill/crimped-mesh fencing around them. In addition, proposals to acquire the vacant land around the monument will also be taken up. These plots will be landscaped in order to provide an aesthetic environment.

2.12.28 The Government of India has signed a MoU with the Cambodian government for the conservation of the Ta Prohm group of temples in Siem Reap in that country. This project, initiated by the Ministry of External Affairs, will be taken up during the Tenth Plan.

2.12.29 The major excavation projects of the ASI presently under way are (a) Dholavira - a Harappan city in Kachchh, Gujarat; (b) Dhalewa - a proto-Harappan settlement in Punjab; (c) Sravasti - an early historical city in Uttar Pradesh; and (d) Kanaganahalli-Sannati - a Buddhist stupa in Karnataka.

2.12.30 More recently, Hathab, a centre of Indo-Roman maritime trade in Saurashtra, Gujarat, has been discovered. Excavations of a rich Buddhist monastery at Udaigiri in Orissa are also going on. Excavations have also been undertaken in Boxanagar in Tripura, and at Karenghar in Sibsagar, Assam. These excavations will continue during the Tenth Plan.

2.12.31 Another major excavation proposed to be taken up is at Arikamedu, the famous Indo-Roman site in Pondicherry. A new Underwater Archaeological Branch has been set up in the ASI for underwater archaeological investigations.

2.12.32 In West Bengal, excavations in Dum Dum next to Lord Clive's house have revealed antiquities

of the pre-Christian era. Similarly, excavations at Bellie Guard, Lucknow have exposed pre-1857 period buildings, identifiable with the British Residency. These excavations will be continued.

2.12.33 In the area of museum activity, the ASI will initiate the process of modernisation of galleries, digital documentation of antiquities, publication of catalogues, museum guides, picture postcards and other informative material. Simultaneously, work on eight new museums, which was started in the closing years of the Ninth Plan period, will be completed. These include the Cooch Behar Palace and Tamruk Museum in West Bengal, Sheik Chilli's museum at Thaneswar in Uttar Pradesh and three new museums at Hampi in Karnataka.

2.12.34 In the academic segment, in addition to bringing out regular publications like *Indian Archaeology - A Review*, pending reports on excavations will be published. It is also proposed to revive the publication of *Ancient India*. In the publicity and information sector, 16 guidebooks will be published under the World Heritage Series, apart from posters and publicity literature.

2.12.35 In order to cope with the enhanced activities, infrastructure facilities (both administrative and technical) will be strengthened. Computerisation and modernisation of circle offices of the ASI will also get attention.

2.12.36 The major thrust in the Tenth Plan will be on modernisation of preservation facilities in order to accelerate the pace of repair and rehabilitation of records. Augmentation of facilities to speed up the preparation of microfilms to facilitate easy accessibility of records housed in the NAI will be carried out. It is also proposed to link the NAI and its regional offices, records, centres, state archive departments and departmental records room of all central government organisations through computers. Besides, support for the preservation of the documentary heritage will be continued through financial schemes being operated by the NAI. It is also proposed to develop the Conservation Research Laboratory, Lucknow and equipping it with various modern paper testing equipments.

2.12.37 During the Tenth Plan, the National Museum proposes to undertake computerisation work with the assistance of the National Informatics Centre (NIC). This would include setting up a local area network (LAN) and wide area network (WAN), digitalisation of its collection, microfilming of manuscripts and the introduction of equipment for audio tours, etc.

2.12.38 Eight new galleries are to be set up in the Victoria Memorial Hall during the Tenth Plan. A huge volume of conservation and restoration work remains to be carried out. The work of documentation and creation of a computerised catalogue of art objects is to be completed during the Plan period. Exhibitions on Mughal manuscripts and one on Tipu Sultan is to be organised jointly with the ASI, both at the Victoria Memorial Hall as well as at Srirangapatnam. Seventeen new galleries will be added to the Salar Jung Museum and the construction of the second and third wings of the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi will be taken up.

2.12.39 The problem of time and cost overruns, has to be viewed seriously, in view of the constraint of resources. The pace of construction work by the CPWD needs to be monitored closely.

2.12.40 In the library sector, the Department proposes to give a further push to the modernisation of central and public libraries during the Tenth Plan. A National Bibliographic Database in electronic format would be developed to encourage resource sharing, networking and to improve reader services. Retro-conversion of existing records in electronic formats would be taken up in the National Library, the Central Secretariat Library and the Delhi Public Library. Similar efforts would be extended to the public libraries through the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation. It is proposed to upgrade the conservation laboratory in the National Library as well as the Oriental libraries such as Rampur Raza Library, Kolkata and Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna. Substantial funds are proposed to be given for the completion of the Bhasha Bhawan building of the National Library. Construction of new buildings and extensive renovations in order to add space is envisaged at the Khuda Baksh Oriental

Public Library and the State Central Library, Thanjavur Maharaja Serofji Sarasvati Mahal Library and Connemara Public Library. Besides, the Department proposes to construct a hostel for readers at the National Library.

2.12.41 Preservation/digitalisation of rare manuscripts, historical document/paintings needs to be done in a time-bound manner to save them from the ravages of time. The Tenth Plan will pay greater attention to modernisation, upgrading of the existing libraries, including private collections.

2.12.42 With a view to making readers services more comprehensive and effective, it is proposed to widen the programme for bibliographic control and documentation. The National Library is expected to act as the ultimate referral centre for various subjects during the Tenth Plan. To keep pace with the latest developments in information technology in public libraries, the upgrading and networking of central and state libraries is also planned.

2.12.43 The Department of Culture had undertaken a zero-based budgeting exercise to find out the efficacy of schemes in operation during the Ninth Plan period. As a result of the exercise, the following Plan schemes were recommended for discontinuation:

- i. Multipurpose Cultural Complexes, Guwahati.
- ii. India Library.
- iii. Strengthening of small libraries.
- iv. Rajiv Gandhi Memorial, Sriperumbudur.
- v. Maintenance of national memorials.
- vi. Celebration of centenaries.
- vii. Celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Independence.

2.12.44 One scheme, Promotion of Literary Books and Magazines, was transferred to the Sahitya Academy and the Developing Library Network scheme was merged with another ongoing scheme, the National Policy on Library and Information System. Nine Plan schemes are thus to be weeded out in 2002-03.

2.12.45 The corpus fund of each ZCC is proposed to be increased by a suitable amount in the Tenth Plan as these centres have been finding it difficult to meet increased administrative and programme expenses, especially given the declining accruals on account of lowering of interest rates.

2.12.46 During the Tenth Plan, the Anthropological Survey of India will undertake study of DNA for property evaluation/assessment of ancient skeleton remains, physical growth of adolescents and study the cultural dimensions of tourism, dormitory system amongst tribes etc. It will also take up work relating to strengthening of infrastructure, training and orientation, publication programme and research in physical anthropology.

THE PATH AHEAD

2.12.47 Efforts are to be made for the preservation of the country's archaeological heritage and development of monument complexes and museums, besides the archival heritage. Efforts will also be made to promote classical, folk and tribal art crafts and oral traditions, which are in danger of dying out.

2.12.48 The publication of pending archaeological excavations reports will be expedited.

2.12.49 Emphasis must be laid on strengthening inter-organisational networks to introduce a management-oriented approach in the administration of cultural institutions. Net-working amongst central museums will be strengthened enabling these institutions to share their experience and resources in undertaking in-service training, organising exhibitions etc.

2.12.50 Formulation of perspective plans for the important monuments in each circle so as to ensure their integrated development.

2.12.51 The ASI will strengthen the process of modernisation of galleries, digital documentation of antiquities, publication of catalogues, museum guides, picture post-cards and other informative material.

2.12.52 The National Museum proposes to undertake computerisation work with assistance of the NIC, including setting up LAN and WAN, digitalisation of its collection, micro-filming of manuscripts and equipment for audio tours, etc.

2.12.53 The Schemewise break up of Tenth Plan outlay of the Department of Art and Culture is given in the Appendix.

