

# GENERAL POLICY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & CULTURE

1988

A. **Introduction:** With a view to preserve, document, research, promote develop and augment Arts & Culture in the State of Meghalaya the Department of Arts & Culture was bifurcated on the 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1988 from the Education Department. The function of the newly bifurcated department is divided into three broad objectives namely, Performing Arts, Research and Library Services. Under the Performing Arts is the Institute of Arts & Culture. Research includes Anthropological research (Tribal Research Institute), Gazetteers, Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Museum, Archaeology and the State Archives. Library Services includes the State Central Library and the District Libraries.

B. **Aims and Objectives:**

The main aims and objectives of the Department of Arts & Culture are as follows:

1. To preserve, document, research, promote, develop and augment arts & culture in the State of Meghalaya.
2. To promote the development and enrichment of Khasi and Garo languages.
3. To make special efforts to encourage indigenous folk and tribal arts and culture and vanishing art forms in the State including training in and propagation of music, dance and drama.
4. To promote entertainment by way of cultural shows, dances, music, concert, ballets, film shows, drama, son-et-lumiere and others.
5. To promote cultural exchange between Meghalaya and the rest of the Country.
6. To create avenues for research, study and other referral services in arts and culture for students, research scholars and the general public.
7. To publish the Administrative Report of the State, the State Gazetteer and the District Gazetteers for the benefit of the public in general and the scholars, academicians and administrators in particular.
8. To collect and preserve records and documents of historical importance and make arrangements for their publication and reprinting.
9. To preserve and protect ancient and historical monuments, sites, neolithic sites, fossil sites and monoliths, etc. in the State of Meghalaya other than those declared under law made by Parliament to be national importance.
10. To develop and expand Museum services in the State by creating infrastructural facilities for the purpose of preservation, conservation and protection of the rich cultural heritage of the people.
11. To acquire archival records / documents both from the Government and the public in order to preserve them in established repositories for research and study.
12. To develop and expand the Library Services in the District, sub-division and blocks of the State by creating necessary infrastructural facilities.

13. To set up rural libraries wherever feasible and to make available library services including information through Internet.
14. To liaise with and promote the objectives of the Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi and Lalit Kala Akademi in so far as these relate to the State of Meghalaya.
15. In general to carry out such other functions as may be required in order to achieve the general objectives of the Department.

**C. Strategies:**

With a view to attain the above objectives, the following strategies.

**I. Institute of Arts & Culture:**

- (a) To extend financial assistance to voluntary cultural organizations for organizing of cultural dances, drama, etc.
- (b) To continue to support the North Eastern Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur in order to sponsor the artistes to participate in the cultural programme organized by them.
- (c) To strengthen the existing staff of Instructors through moving for sanction of a Branch Officer in order to promote indigenous folk and tribal arts and culture and vanishing art forms including training in, and propagation of music, dance and drama.

**II. Tribal Research Institute:**

- (a) To study and research the history and culture of the people of Meghalaya through support from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (b) To take steps to full up the post of Director, Assistant Director, Research Officer and District Research Officer of the Tribal Research Institute in order to ensure an effective functioning of the Tribal Research Institute.

**III. Gazetteer:**

- (a) To collect primary, secondary and tertiary data for the purpose of compilation the State and District Gazetteers.
- (b) To undertake OCR scanning of the three existing District Gazetteers and to publish them on the web.
- (c) To compile and publish the Administrative Report of the State, State Gazetteer and the District Gazetteer with the inclusion of the new chapters on the subject as Ecology and Environment, Information Technology, Science & Technology, Role of Honour, Contribution of Judiciary to Socio – economic changes etc.
- (d) To undertake translation of the District Gazetteers from English into local languages viz. Khasi and Garo.

- (e) To extend financial assistance to the budding authors for production of folk literature in order to develop and promote the Khasi and Garo literatures.
- (f) To recognize and award the best books under the State Literary Award published by Khasi and Garo authors for their contribution towards the development and promotion of Khasi and Garo languages.
- (g) To take steps to constitute the Meghalaya Arts & Culture State Akademi with a view to promote the objectives of the Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi and Lalit Kala Akademi.
- (h) To take steps to fill up the post of State Editor in order to ensure and effective functioning of the Gazetteer Branch.

#### **IV. Historical and Antiquarian Studies:**

- (a) To collect, preserve, compile, transcribe, translate and publish historical records and treatises.
- (b) To compile the bibliography of the State History, descriptive list of historical relics and curios, history of towns and other historical places. Monograph on tribes and sub-tribes of the State, accounts of foreign travelers, flora and fauna, description of costumes and jewelries of the State, description and collection of records relating to the cement factory, records of various Christian Missions in the State and National Register of Private records.
- (c) To collect the ancient documents and manuscripts, chronicles, ballads, folk tales, folk songs, traditional songs, etc.
- (d) To enforce and implement the Registration of Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972.
- (e) To extend financial assistance to the deserving artists, artisans and living exponent of traditional art forms to continue their profession and impart training to others under the scheme of "Living Heritage Scheme".
- (f) To organize Painting and Art Workshop regularly in order to enrich the Rabindra Art Gallery at Brookside building located at Rilbong, Shillong.
- (g) To take steps to fill up the post of Special Officer for Historical and Antiquarian Studies (SOHAS) and Compiler in order to ensure an effective functioning of the Historical and Antiquarian Studies Branch.

#### **V. Museum:**

- (a) To collect, document, store, preserve and conserve the exhibits, artifacts, antiquities, etc. for posterity.
- (b) To take steps to delegate the Director of Arts & Culture, Meghalaya with adequate financial powers in order to help him to acquire and improve the collection of exhibits in the Museum.

- (c) To take steps to fill up the post of Curator and Artist in order to ensure an effective functioning of the Museum.

#### **VI. Archaeology:**

- (a) To protect, preserve and conserve the ancient and historical monuments, sites, neolithic sites, fossils sites, monoliths, etc. other than those declared by or under law made by Parliament to be of National Importance.
- (b) To undertake exploration works and study of potential sites in collaboration with any recognized Universities in the Country.
- (c) To take steps to provide with one Pick Up Jeep to the Archaeology Branch in order to ensure an effective and uninterrupted field exploration works, etc.

#### **VII. State Archives:**

- (a) To obtain, collect and preserve archival records / documents from Government, public and private parties in order to preserve them for research and study.
- (b) To photograph, microfilm and microfiche any document, manuscript, letter, diary, memoranda, drawings, maps register, ledger, or other documents regardless of physical form or character of any copy thereof.
- (c) To take steps to fill up the post of Archivist in the Audio Visual Archives in order to ensure and effective functioning of the State Archives.

#### **VIII. Library Service:**

- (a) To provide library services to the public in general and the students in particular.
- (b) To computerize the State Central Library at Shillong using and appropriate software to facilitate easy and fast service to the borrower of books.
- (c) To extend the computerization and upgradation of Library Services to the District Libraries as well.
- (d) To open three new District libraries at Baghmara, Nongpoh and Shillong.

#### **IX. Audio Visual Archive:**

For documentation and recording of Folk Music and Dance of the State.