

Objectives and policy framework for the Ninth Plan

3.12.13. The activity in the culture sector will continue to be the preservation, conservation, dissemination and promotion of all aspects of art and culture. The focus will be on comprehensive plans for conservation of the archaeological heritage and development of the monument complexes in the country. There will be an emphasis on the development of museum complexes which are a hub of activity for the community and where not only the heritage is preserved and displayed but is actively linked to education and entertainment also. In the field of promotion and dissemination of culture, the effort would be targeted towards documentation of rare and vanishing art forms, promotion of folk and tribal arts and crafts and oral traditions which are threatened with extinction. Zonal Centres are the arm of the department for this purpose and need to be strengthened by providing additional financial support. A National Mission for Manuscripts is being launched in three phases to identify, list, preserve and provide access to rare manuscripts strewn all over the country which are the repository of our ancient wisdom. Networking of Central and State institutions of culture including State Governments, State Akademies and Zonal Cultural Centres, Libraries and Museums will be a high priority item.

Implementation and Delivery System

Art and Culture

3.12.14. The Archaeological Survey of India would take up 300 monument complexes, including 16 monuments on the World Heritage list, for comprehensive development. A scheme of cataloguing through the establishment of a central computerised documentation centre for movable and immovable cultural properties is proposed to be undertaken. A scheme for site management of monuments will be initiated for preserving the monuments and reviving the historic gardens in their original style. Setting up and upgradation of Site Museums will be another important area of work. Computerisation and modernisation of circle offices of Archaeological Survey of India will also get attention.

3.12.15. Courses in Museology will be introduced in various institutions to overcome the shortage of qualified personnel for the existing cultural institutions. Priority will be given to the publication programmes of the ASI, National Museum, Anthropological Survey of India, National Archives and the three national Akademies so as to bring out publications of high quality. Fellowships for authors and writers would be provided to make the programmes attractive. Royalty could also be given as an incentive.

3.12.16. The scheme for conservation of wall paintings, initiated in 1996-97, will be carried forward. A scheme will be initiated to have one museum in each district of the country, which would be multi-disciplinary in nature and specific to that area for acquainting the people about the country's heritage.

3.12.17. The National School of Drama (NSD), the State Akademies and the Zonal Cultural Centres have worked towards taking culture to people through various schemes of promotion and dissemination. The Zonal Centres have created a meaningful dialogue between artists of different regions and the craftsmen representing the traditional mode of life. During the plan, Zonal centres would concentrate more on tribal/folk art forms and establish documentation of rare and vanishing art forms as their priority area. They will also increase their outreach so as to cover district headquarters and mofussil towns. The centres will be strengthened by addition to their corpus fund over the plan period, as a falling interest rate regime has shrunk their incomes from the existing corpus. To provide sustenance to artists engaged in performing arts, an increase in the scale of salary and production grant under 'Guru-Shishya Parampara' scheme is proposed. The scale of assistance to artists in indigent circumstances is also proposed to be increased to cover the increase in cost of living. Such financial assistance under 'Guru Shishya Parampara' is currently being provided to about 2000 artists annually.

3.12.18. The Department of Culture will strengthen the network for preservation of classical folk and tribal arts and crafts consisting of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, the Anthropological

