



## NATIONAL CULTURE FUND

Recognizing the need to introduce innovative patterns of cultural funding in India, the National Culture Fund was set up as a trust under the Ministry of Culture in the year 1996 vide notification published in Gazette of India dated 28<sup>th</sup> November, 1996, with a purpose to augment governments efforts and to facilitate public-private partnership in the field of heritage conservation and promotion. National Culture Fund enables institutions and individuals to perform their rightful role in promoting and preserving India's rich cultural heritage.

### A DIFFERENT ROUTE

National Culture Fund constitutes an important departure from the implementation strategies of the Government, which hitherto was thought to be solely responsible for providing administrative and financial wherewithal for culture related endeavors in the country. NCF accepts private institutions and individuals as equal partners of the government in the management of the cultural heritage of India. It enables the government to mobilize extra budgetary resources by allowing direct contributions to the NCF account maintained outside the Consolidated Fund of India. All contributions to NCF are given 100% tax exemption under Section 80 G (2) of the Income Tax Act of 1961.

The nature of funding has been made very flexible with the donor having an option to either execute the selected project directly wherein the donors can appoint and monitor the executive agencies to carry out the project work subject to the predefined technical/aesthetic conditions laid down by the ASI. Alternatively, the donor can get the selected project executed through the ASI, which needless to say, has acquired an expertise to execute such projects. A Project Implementation Committee shall be set up with experts and representatives of the concerned institutions to monitor and implement the project. A Project Advisory Committee consisting of nominees of donors, NCF and representatives of other interest groups oversee the project. NCF facilitates all necessary clearances and permissions for the project. ASI shall specify the general terms about the activities permissible within the protected sites.

