



THE ASSAM GAZZET

EXTRA ORDINARY

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY

No. 17.Dispur, Friday,27th January, 2001 , 7th Magah, 1927 *S<E<

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
CULTRAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 2nd January, 2006

No. CAD.181/2003/23 . The Governor Aassam is pleased to adopt Cultural Policy as enclosed herewith which will form the guiding principle for function of the Department in comming years. This will come in to force with immediate effect.

CULTURAL POLICY

The culture of Assam has been a living culture for the last 5000 years having its own blending , ever flowing and ever changing form.

The simplest definition of culture is – the customs beliefs , arts , way of life and social organization of a particular society or group . Thus , even in its simplistic form , culture is an all encompassing concept involving the body politic of the whole state. Considering the plethora of tribes and groups which inhabit the state , the canvas becomes even wider. Then there is the question of how much a democratic state should involve itself in the moulding the culture of a state ; against the total cultural control of an authoritarian totalitarian state . Thus , the Cultural Policy of the state should preserve , promote and propagate the unique and salient features of its culture , the qualities that set it apart as a superior culture than the prevailing mass culture , thereby promoting the values that add to the strength and uniqueness of its society.

The salient and unique features of the culture and cultural temperament of Assam may be identified as :

1. Community good prevails over individual gains . What affects the individual also affects the community;
2. Women are accorded equal status in society and evils of dowry and casteism is not present ;
3. High value is accorded to honesty , loyalty , straightforwardness and sense of commitment to duty & hospitality ;
4. Social institutions have a bigger influence than codified laws in determining social conduct like – Rajjor Mel , Kebangs , etc. ;
5. Intellectual and cultural development takes precedence over material gains and success ;
6. All men are treated as equals , no one is higher or lower than other ;
7. Aesthetics govern every aspect of life ;
8. All people are brethren , irrespective of race , class , community , colour , caste , religion , birth etc. '**BASUDAIVA KUTUMBAM**' in practice – the people of the world are but one family ;
9. The family as an institution is very sacrosanct and the foundation of a good citizen ;
10. Agriculture is the primary activity of the people. Closeness to nature and concern for preservation of the environment is a noted feature.

The objectives of the cultural policy is to –

1. Preserve and promote the living culture of the ethnic and indigenous tribes and communities of the state ;
2. Preserve and promote the ancient monuments and historical sites as monuments of our glorious past ;
3. Preserve and promote the unique Satriya culture of the state ;
4. Search talents in music , dance , acting , fine arts etc. from different parts of the state & provide them adequate opportunity for developing the their talents and exposure ;
5. Promote cultural and emotional integration among the people of the state and also with other states of the country and spread the message of peace , universal brotherhood and national unity;
6. Publicise the unique cultural mosaic of the state with its infinite variety throughout the world and promotion of the state as a culture destination ;
7. Use cultural talent to develop the entertainment industry in the state , thereby promoting employment ;
8. Promote those qualities and values that sets the culture of the state as one of the brightest jewels in India's cultural milieu ;
9. Instill a sense national pride in the people and propel every citizen to give their best in their chosen field of activity ;
10. Make use of the national and the international media to promote the culture of the state; and
11. To imbibe a sense of appreciation of the traditional art and culture among the young generation from school level .

Based on the preservation , promotion and propagation of the aforementioned traits , the implementation of the cultural policy will be divided amongst the existing organizations as below , to develop in their own assigned duties and biases.

(A) DIRECTORATE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Directorate of Cultural Affairs will concentrate its activities on the preservation and promotion of the state's culture as a living tradition , keeping its purity in form and content intact .

1. The Directorate through its Cultural Centres will preserve and promote the traditional folk songs and dances of the state by (a) holding regular certificate courses in the cultural centres folk and traditional song dances of their areas (b) hold workshops / programmes of these dances and songs in other cultural centres , at district and state level (c) hold guest lecture in all high schools of the district on the different aspect of Assam's culture to spread awareness , based on a centrally prepared module.
2. The Directorate will promote awareness of Assam's rich culture by way of shows and lecture demonstrations outside the state in conjunction with SNA , NEZCC , EZCC , ICCR , national level private cultural trusts viz :- Shriram Bharatiya KalaKendra , Sarabhai Cultural Trust etc. It will also participate in the National Fairs and Festival and functions to mark the celebration of National Days
3. The Directorate will assist NGO's , Youth Clubs , Rural Libraries and cultural organizations in spreading a cultural environment for promotion of integration , communal amity , aesthetics, awareness of cultural heritage etc.
4. The Directorate will honour the doyens of Assam's culture in various media , through annual awards, pensions etc. , particularly in classical and modern music and dance , folk and traditional music and dance & drama , cinema and puppetry. The criterion and differentiation of the existing awards will be clearly marked out i.e. Sankaradeva Award , Bishnu Rabha Award , Phani Sharma Award Jyoti (Silpi Divas) Award , Azan Peer Award , etc. To spread the message and importance of the awards , the award functions will be rotated among the district and sub-divisional headquarters as far as practicable. An Artist Welfare Fund to help indigent and ailing artists / technicians will be set up jointly by Government and the entertainment industry.

Jyoti Bharati at Tezpur will be developed as a centre for modern Assamese music , preserving and promoting the history and tradition of the Assamese 'ADHUNIK' songs with special emphasis on Jyoti and Bishnu Rabha sangeet. Resource persons from the centre will conduct demonstrations and workshops at schools , rural clubs and cultural organizations through out the state on a regular basis with an annual programme calendar. Certificate courses will be conducted on Jyoti Sangeet at Jyoti Bharati , on a regular basis. All recordings of Jyoti and Bishnu Rabha Sangeet will have to be certified by Jyoti Bharati. Endeavour will be made by the Directorate of Cultural Affairs for establishing Jyoti Bharati type institution in all district headquarters of the state.

6. **State Art Gallery** will be the hub of the promotion and preservation of traditional and folk art and crafts of the state. The gallery will hold expositions at sub-divisional , district and state level regularly. Certificate courses will be conducted in mask making , manuscript painting in the Assamese style in collaboration with the State College of Art & Crafts. The Art Gallery authorities will hold workshops , lecture demonstration at Cultural Centres to spread awareness of our folk traditions styles and designs besides the Indian Art tradition. The State Art Gallery will actively work with the Lalit Kala Akademi and other private galleries to promote the artists of Assam. It will also work to set-up a Rashtriya Lalit Kala Kendra for the NE in Assam. The Gallery authorities will also assist artists in obtaining national level scholarship, fellowships etc. from Lalit Kala Akademi and other national art bodies.
7. The artistes of the Drama Repertory Group of the directorate will have an increased role as instructors in drama workshops to be held in all cultural centres. The Deputy Director (Drama) will head a Task Force for setting up a School of Drama in the state in co-operation with the Asom Natya Sanmilan and other reputed bodies connected with drama in the state. There being no recognized school of drama in the state , this school is essential and could be made a proposal under Clause VI of the Assam Accord. There would be increased and regular interaction with the National School of Drama to spread awareness of the Assamese Drama Tradition outside the state by staging plays in metropolitan cities of the country. The Directorate will hold annual drama festivals in inviting drama troupes from outside the state. It will also examine proposals of assisting the setting up of mini drama complexes and the Mobile Theatre Industry of the state.
8. The puppetry wing of the Directorate will increase its activities by holding workshops in puppet making. Tie-ups will be made with the Tourism Department to arrange for regular puppet shows in tourist sites, hotels , entertainment plazas , wayside amenities. Directorate will promote puppet parties in major towns for puppet shows on demand on payment. The wing will work in close liaison with Doordarshan and private TV channels for popularizing puppetry through increased TV productions.
9. The Publication and photography wing of the Directorate will take steps to prepare and publish a directory of the cultural luminaries of the state. It will also prepare photographic booklets on the different cultural aspects of Assam in co-operation with the Tourism Department. The Publication wing of the Directorate would take immediate steps to set up a web site of the department in consultation with NIC.
10. The State College of Music will emphasize on preparing its students for the preservation and promotion of the Satriya Culture and Folk & Traditional Music and Dance , while imparting courses in Indian classical music and dance.
11. The College of Arts & Crafts would emphasize its course content on preservation and promotion of traditional arts and crafts like "SANCHI BARK PAINTING", pottery , carving , bell metal smithy , sola pith works , cane & bamboo crafts. It will also orient its course content with a bias for preparing students for a career in fine arts.
12. The Tai Museum at Sivasagar will concentrate its activities in all matters related to preservation , protection and promotion of Tai Ahom and related cultures.

(B) SRIMANTA SANKARADEVA KALAKSHETRA

1. The Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra will be an exposition of the identities which mark the living culture of the different tribes and communities of Assam , , showing the diversity and commonality and uniqueness of the state's cultural mosaic. A web site will make all information available on the tribes and communities of Assam.

2. It will be an apex authority for the Vaishnavite culture of Assam.
3. Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra will be a research institution on the culture of the different tribes and communities of Assam. It would work jointly with the Directorate of Tribal Research for studies in tribal cultures to prevent overlapping of activities. It will also maintain close links with the Department of Folk Lore of different Universities of Assam for coordinating research efforts in folk culture.
4. In literary fields , Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra will limit its role to a reference point for the literature of the different tribes and communities of the state. It will work in close conjunction with Ananda Ram Barooah Institute of Language and Culture (**ABILAC**)
5. Institution will continue to carryout its other activities as laid out in Memorandum of Association.

(C) JYOT CHITRABAN (FILM STUDIO) SOCIETY

JCFS would be promoted as an industrial estate for the entertainment industry of the state. It will provide all facilities for promotion and development of cine , audio and video industry with a view to promote the regional film industry . Besides making the social obligations , the Society will take care of its own economic health and run on self sufficient basis. The Film and TV Institute under the Society will provide the trained manpower for the entertainment industry . An archive of local films will also be set up at the Jyoti Chitraban along with a Museum on Assam’s film history . In addition to above , the Society will carry out its objectives as laid down in the Memorandum of Articles of the Society.

(D) THE ASSAM STATE FILM (FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT) CORPORATION :

The Assam FilmFinance & Development Corporation would produce and encourage good cinema and video production by making finance available at reasonable rates . The Corporation will also set up / assist in creation of infrastructure for films with funds made available from entertainment tax collections and other sources of funds. In addition to above , the Corporation will carry out its objectives as laid down in the Articles of Memorandum of Association.

(E) THE DIRECTORATE OF LIBRARY SERVICES :

The Directorate of Library Services will build up a library of all published works in print in the different languages of the state as shown against the languages.

a.	Assamese	State Central Library
b.	Bengali	Silchar District Library covering works in Bangla published in Assam.
c.	Bodo	Kokrajhar District Librar
d.	Karbi	Diphu District Library
e.	Dimasa	Haflong District Librar
f.	Lalung Tiwa	Morigaon District Library
g.	Mishing	Dhemaji District Library
h.	Rabha	Goalpara District Library
i.	Deori	Lakhimpur District Library

The Directorate of Library Services will hold mobile book exhibitions . It will also hold seminars , authors meet , book fairs , poets meet , seminars , translation workshop , publication of translations of noted authors of Assam etc. It will also take steps to promote the library movement in the state using the rural library network and other village libraries for promoting reading habits of the people. The department will have frequent interactions with National Library , Kolkata and the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation , Kolkata to avail the benefits of the national schemes.

(F) THE DIRECTORATE OF ARCHAEOLOGY :

The Directorate of Archaeology will develop all the historical sites , document the findings . In association with the Tourism Department , it will promote the sites as tourists destinations. It will work in close conjunction with **ASI** who will do the same for the sites under **ASI** research work and the findings will also be encouraged. The sites will be promoted nationally and internationally through a web site. Registration of private antiquities will also be done. Suitable legislation will be enacted to protect modern (Pre 1930) structures also.

(G) THE ASSAM STATE MUSEUM :

The Assam State Museum will be further developed to showcase the cultural traits of the people of Assam through the age divisions accepted in history. The District Museums will also be developed in the same lines. Natural History will also be depicted in the museums . The State Museum will have its own web site and will be promoted as a tourist destination by the Tourism Department. It will also spread museum education in schools by making it a part of the school curriculum. The Directorate will set up folk museums in different part of the state specializing in local cultures. It will also document and preserve the manuscripts lying in the different part of the state.

(H) The department will also take up activities like setting up a regional centres of the National Institutions in the interest of socio-cultural development of the state.