

**Government of Chhattisgarh**  
**Forest and Culture Department**  
**Mantralaya, Raipur**

No.

Raipur, Dated / /2001

**The Policy of the State of Chhattisgarh**  
**for promotion and encouragement of cultural activities**

- 1 The State of Chhattisgarh will not announce or impose any cultural policy. It will identify, recognize, document, revitalize, present and disseminate the continuing cultural traditions of local communities.
- 2 The State will not set up artificial boundaries between classical, folk, tribal, visual and performing metropolitan and rural arts. It will recognize and respect the transitions and bridges among these.
- 3 The State will promote textual as well as non textual traditions, collection and documentation of tangible objects as well as recollection of intangible traditions, their ex situ display as well as in situ revitalization.
- 4 The State will try to work around existing cultural landscapes, festivals and institutions, rather than create new ones to replace them.
- 5 The State will be a catalytic agent, to support and advance the traditional connection among communities, between their life and their arts, and between forms and functions of these arts. It will respect and nourish culture as essential to eco-specific development strategies of communities, geared to resource management and subsistence. It will recognize culture as an essential ingredient in development. Effort will be made to recognize, embed and develop the cultural component in the programs of all Govt. departments, as culture is a component of all departments of life. Culture will not be reduced to a mere song and dance act, or to an exclusive concern of the Department of Culture.
- 6 Cultural impact assessment will be embedded as a component in the formulation and implementation of mega developmental projects.
- 7 The State will further cross disciplinary dialogues, inter institutional networking and decentralized field activity to replenish community identities .
- 8 The unique identity and polyvalence of the culture of Chhattisgarh will be promoted alongside its relationships and exchanges with cultural provinces and neighborhoods of adjacent states of Chhattisgarh. The community cultural identity and landscape of Chhattisgarh will be presented in the national and global perspective.
- 9 Bridges will be developed among dialects, and scripts will be developed for unscripted dialects. Relations will be promoted with hill and forest based communities from the newly formed states, and from other states of the country, and with indigenous tribal and analogous communities from other parts of the world.
- 10 Application and accumulation of knowledge will be treated as simultaneous rather than as isolated processes in culture.

- 11 The cultural programmes will be implemented through co-directed initiatives with local communities.
- 12 There will be a multi dimensioned cultural council with an interdisciplinary committee of advisers of eminence and it will be manned by people of high calibre, drawn from different arts and disciplines. This centre will promote community specific cultural programmes with cross-disciplinary content, in hills and forests, in urban, suburban and rural areas.
- 13 Protection will be offered not only to monuments but also to important cultural and physical landscapes, and attempt will be made to promote recognition of relict and associated landscapes as World Heritage sites.
- 14 Work will be undertaken on the mapping of bio-cultural habitat and socio-economic and intellectual background of the communities, and their relationships with other organic and inorganic communities, peopling the surrounding landscape. Efforts will be made to salvage and encourage unique and vanishing oral and textual traditions of life- enhancing and elements of knowledge, skills and technologies, in their own habitats. A Directory of resource persons, who are repositories of such traditions, will be made. The resource persons will be assisted to train their peers, pursue their avocations, and market their products and services.
- 15 Tourism will be developed as a non-invasive instrument of biological, ecological and cultural conservation, and not as a bread and circus affair.
- 16 Chhattisgarh itself being treated as a living museum space, the in-situ and ex-situ exhibition and dissemination initiatives, will be designed as exercises in problem assessment and resolution, and not as passive displays.
- 17 Role of women in cultural resource development will be explored; children will be provided with cultural space and elbowroom; and cultural access will be promoted for the physically and mentally challenged.
- 18 The cultural programme will treat past, present and future as a dynamic continuum and not in isolation. Attempt will be made to get the communities to write their own, community, specially tribal history, in the background of environmental history, to provide a backdrop to the state's efforts to promote community well being and bounty. The relevance and contemporaneity of tradition will be examined in the context of modernity and progress.
- 19 Culture will neither be treated as a commodity nor as a product, but as a living ongoing process. Encouragement will be given to cultural research and literacy, appreciation and research, therapy and training, publication, counseling and advocacy. The linkages, connecting cultural strategies with poverty alleviation, livelihood security, inter group harmony and coexistence; will form planks for policies and programs.

By order and in the name of the  
Government of Chhattisgarh,

(Ram Prakash)  
Additional Secretary  
Forest & Culture Department  
Government of Chhattisgarh