

PART VI

RATIONALISATION OF THE FUNCTIONS, ACTIVITIES AND STRUCTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

***Rationalisation of the functions, activities and
Structure of the***

Department of Culture

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***Rationalisation of the functions, activities and
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Executive Summary

1. As a subordinate office of the Department of Culture, the Archaeological Survey of India has to deposit all its receipts into the government treasury. Because of the delays in obtaining adequate budget provision, the upkeep of most of the archaeological sites and monuments has remained less than satisfactory. The tourist facilities are also inadequate at most centres. This has adverse consequences for the upkeep of monuments and it has also kept cultural tourism undeveloped. It is understood that Finance Ministry has recently approved that ASI can retain 50% additional income for being spent on better upkeep of the monuments and betterment of tourist facilities. This is a welcome initiative.
2. The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training could be wound up, as the objectives for which this Centre was set up can be adequately addressed by the educational system.
3. The case for continuance of the National Council of Science Museum in the Department of Culture is rather weak. However, as the Council has helped create a large number of institutions and centres, some of a good standard, it can be continued. The Council should focus on state level and national level activities and not set up any more district level centres. It is also recommended that the Council should transfer to states such centres and institutions which are not of national significance. By way of encouragement, the States could be provided with funds, on a decreasing scale, for the first few years for the management of the centres that they take over.
4. As regards observance of centenaries and anniversaries of important national personalities and events, it is recommended that government should confine itself to directly organising only such events which have truly large national significance like commemoration of Republic Day, Independence Day,

Anniversaries of people like Mahatma Gandhi etc. Other centenaries and anniversaries, while undoubtedly desirable, should be left to be organised by the interested groups in the society, and government could extend financial support for such purposes.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Department of Culture came into existence as a separate department in 1985. Before that it was a part of the Ministry of Education. The objective of the department is to preserve, promote and disseminate all forms of art and culture. The Department of Culture has a fairly large number of autonomous institutions as at Annex I. It has two attached offices viz. Archaeological Survey of India and National Archives of India and six subordinate offices of which Anthropological Survey of India and National Museum are the most prominent. The responsibility for Archaeology flows from entries 62, 67 and 68 in the Union List which specifically mention Indian Museum, Anthropological Survey and historical monuments as Central responsibility. In addition to managing and supporting these institutions, the Department of Culture also implements a number of schemes involving salary and production grants, scholarships, grants for performing arts etc., Anniversary celebrations of important personalities is

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and on the site in individual monuments. The ASI controls 3606 centrally protected monuments where it is responsible not only for refurbishing and maintaining these monuments but also for providing basic facilities for people visiting these monuments. There are 14 world heritage sites among these monuments. While most of the branches of ASI deal with various specialized matters and are fully justified, the same is not true of some of its activities. One such example is the Horticulture Branch. A specialized agency like ASI with specialization in a totally different area should not be distracted with day to day work in areas like horticulture. Horticultural development and maintenance within the parameters laid down by ASI should be, as a matter of policy entrusted to suitable private organisations on a contract basis having capability in this direction. Similarly, much of the Watch and Ward and Cleanliness staff with the ASI at monument sites is unwarranted and these items of work could be given out locally on a contract basis to agencies having capability in this regard. Separate staff now sanctioned and in position in ASI for executing these tasks could therefore be disbanded.

2.2 The Plan provision for ASI is Rs.51.25 crore while Non-Plan provision is Rs.95 crore. An important issue requiring consideration in regard to ASI is the entry fee charged from the visitors. The ASI has increased the entry fee in the year 2001 from Rs.5 to Rs.10 for the world heritage sites and from Rs.2 to Rs.5 in 109 other monuments. Foreign tourists are charged US\$ 10 per person for world heritage sites and US \$ 5 per person for other monuments. This yields an income of about Rs.75 crore during the year. While it is common knowledge that tourist facilities are inadequate at most places, the fact remains that, that no part of the income from entry fees, can be directly applied for upgrading tourist facilities and for better upkeep of the monuments. At the same time the process

of obtaining funds for such purposes from the budget often entails delays. It is understood that recently a decision has been taken that ASI, could retain 50% of the collections in excess of a baseline figure, for being spent on upkeep of monuments and improving tourist facilities. This is a welcome decision and should go a long way towards attracting more tourists to these places. Based on the experience gained, an arrangement by which ASI could retain upto 75% of the excess collections, for being spent on such purposes, could be considered.

3. Centre for Cultural Resources and Training

3.1 The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) was set up in 1979 as an autonomous organisation. It has two regional centres at Udaipur and Hyderabad. Its main objective is to revitalize the education system by creating an understanding and awareness among the students about Indian culture and linking such knowledge with education. As this objective can be adequately addressed by the educational set up there is no justification for this organisation to be continued. This may therefore be wound up.

4. National Council of Science Museums

4.1 The National Council of Science Museums (NSCM) is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Culture. Over the years the NSCM has assumed responsibility for managing a large number of institutions as in Annex II. The activities of NSCM include, *inter alia*

- a. popularising science and technology by organising exhibitions, seminars, popular lectures etc;
- b. inculcating scientific temper;
- c. supplementing science education imparted in schools and colleges;
- d. organising training programme for science teachers and young entrepreneurs; and
- e. rendering assistance to universities and other institutions in organising science museums to design, develop and fabricate science museum exhibitions.

4.2 The science museums have a rather tenuous linkage with culture. Even so, having set up a series of district, state and national level institutions over the years, some of which are undoubtedly of a very good standard, the whole set up cannot be easily dismantled. The National Council should focus mainly at the state level and national level and should not fritter away its attention and resources by setting up district level centres or institutions. The Department should also consider transferring such of the centres and institutions, which are

not of national significance to the concerned State Governments. By way of incentive, grants could be given, on a sliding scale to the States for the management of the taken over centres in the first few years.

5. *Lalit Kala Academy, Sangeet Natak Academy and Sahitya Academy*

5.1 The above mentioned three academies are premier institutions in their respective areas. The functioning of these academies has, however, been a matter of some controversy from time to time. These are not now the vibrant institutions which these were supposed to be initially. However, much of the problems can be traced to their 'constitution' and the provisions of the legislation under which these have been set up. It is understood that the Department of Culture is seized of the issues involved. It is necessary that action for 'correcting' the defects noticed should be completed in a time bound manner.

6. *Anthropological Survey of India*

6.1 Anthropological Survey of India is a research and study organisation. It was set up in 1945 and it has grown into a large organisation. Normally, anthropological studies should be the responsibility of the departments of anthropology in the universities. There are quite a few in the country. Most other countries in the world do not have an organisation similar to Anthropological Survey of India, presumably for this very reason. They rightly depend on the university system to adequately look after research and studies. However, in India many of the university departments are not very active and effective in carrying out research and studies of good standard. The Anthropological Survey would therefore need to be maintained in view of the need for extensive research and studies considering large ethnic and anthropological diversity obtaining in the country.

7. *Observation of Centenaries and anniversaries of important national personalities and events*

7.1 This is a major area activity of the Department of Culture. Of the total staff strength of 349 in the department, as many as 32, headed by Additional Secretary are deployed on this work. This activity has acquired considerable momentum with the celebration of Jawahar Lal Nehru Centenary Golden Jubilee of India's Independence and Golden Jubilee of Indian Republic. However, such celebrations acquire momentum and generate demands for celebrations in regard to other events and personalities, which have a sensitivity of their own and are therefore difficult to deny. The situation has inevitably evolved into one in which some celebrations get scheduled almost every year. This tends to dilute the importance of such celebrations and progressively leads to less and less public attention and participation. Moreover, government's initiative in organising such celebrations may not serve the important objective of enthusing people to participate in such events. When Government of India funds the celebrations and also takes responsibility for their organisation, it becomes more a series of official functions in which there is not sufficient public participation. It is therefore recommended that except for very few select events like celebrations relating to independence day, Republic Day and anniversaries of personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, government should consider leaving the responsibility for organising and conducting other celebrations to organising committees to be constituted by the different sections of the society. It would be quite appropriate for the Government of India to assist such celebrations by extending necessary financial support. Such a policy would facilitate greater public participation in organising such celebrations.

8. *Implication for staff strength*

8.1 Existing staff in the Department is shown in a tabular form in Annex-III.

8.2 With the suggestions for the winding up of Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, a transfer of some of the museums set up by NCSM to the States,

and restricting direct organising of centenary/anniversary celebrations to only to a few National events and National figures, there will be substantial reduction in the workload in the Department. As such the post of Additional Secretary as also two posts of Director/Deputy Secretary of the total of 9, and three posts of Under Secretaries out of a total of 10, could be abolished along with the related support staff.

Annex-I

List of attached offices and autonomous institutions under the Department of Culture

Attached Offices	
i	Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi
ii	National Archives of India, New Delhi
Subordinate Offices	
i.	Anthropological Survey of India, Calcutta
ii	National Museum, New Delhi
iii	National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
iv	National Library, Calcutta
v	Central Reference Library, Calcutta
vi	National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow
Autonomous Organisations	
i	Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal
ii	National Council of Science Museums, Kolkatta
iii	Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi
iv	Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi
v	Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi
vi	Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
vii	National School of Drama, New Delhi
viii	Centre for Cultural resources and Training, New Delhi
ix	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi
x	Allahabad Museum, Allahabad
xi	Delhi Public Library
xii	Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata
xiii	Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh
xiv	Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi
xv	Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta
xvi	Indian Museum, Calcutta
xvii	Asiatic Society, Calcutta
xviii	Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad
xix	Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna
xx	Rampur Raza Library, Rampur
xxi	Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Sarasvati Mahal Library, Thanjavur
xxii	Kalashetra Foundation, Chennai
xxiii	National Museum Institute of History of Art Conservation & Museology, New Delhi
xxiv	Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, Bihar
xxv	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta
xxvi	Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi

**List of institutions managed and supported by
National Council of Science Museums**

- Birla Industrial & technological Museum (BITM), Kolkata
- Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museum (VITM), Bangalore
- Nehru Science Centre (NSC), Mumbai
- National Science Centre (NSC), Delhi
- Central Research & Training Laboratory (CRTL), Kolkata
- Science City, Kolkata
- Shrikrishna Science Centre, Patna
- Regional Science Centre, Lucknow
- Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar
- Raman Science Centre, Nagpur
- Raman Planetarium, Nagpur
- Regional Science Centre, Guwahati
- Regional Science Centre, Bhopal
- Regional Science Centre, Tirupati
- Regional Science Centre, Calicut
- Calicut Planetarium, Calicut
- District Science Centre, Dharampur
- District Science Centre, Gulbarga
- District Science Centre, Tirunelveli
- Bardhaman Science Centre, Dhenkanal
- Digha Science Centre & National Science Camp, Digha
- North Bengal Science Centre, Siliguri
- Kapilas Science Park, Kapilas
- Science Activity Centre, Gwalior
- Science Activity Centre, Sirsa
- Kurukshetra Panorama & Science Centre, Kurukshetra
- Goa Science Centre, Panaji

Annex-III

S.No	Scale of Pay in full	Staff Strength Department of Culture		
		Group of Post ABCD unclassified	Total No. of Posts	No.of emp. In position
1.	Secretary Rs.26000/- (fixed)	A	1	1
2.	Joint Secretary Rs.18400-500-22400	A	2	2
3.	Director Rs.14300-400-18300	A	4	4
4.	Deputy Secretary Rs.12000-375-16500	A	3	3
5.	D.S.(in-situ) Rs.12000-375-16500	A	2	2
6.	Under Secretary Rs.10000-325-15200	A	8	8
7.	Deputy Director Rs.10000-325-15000	A	2	2
8.	L.I.O. Rs.10000-325-15200	A	2	2
9.	Director Rs.14300-400-18300	A	1	1
10.	Additional Secretary Rs.22400-525-24500	A	1	1
11.	Deputy Secretary Rs.12000-375-16500	A	-	-
12.	Under Secretary Rs.10000-325-15200	A	2	2
13.	Section Officer Rs.6500-200-10500	1B	13(11+2) (Situ us)	
14.	Desk Officers Rs.6500-00-10500	B	6(1+5)	
15.	In-situ US Rs.10000-325-15200	B	6(1+5)	
16.	Assistant Director Rs.6500-200-10500	B	1	1
17.	Research Officer Rs.8000-275-13500	B	2	1
18.	Assistant Rs.5500-175-9000	B	39	37
19.	Stenographer (Rs.6500-200-10500)	B B	6	2 4

20.	10000-325-15200)ACP Stenographer Rs.5500-175-9000 Rs.6500-200-10,500	B	11	9 2
21.	Stat. Investigator Gr.I Rs.6500-200-10500	B	2	2
22.	Research Assistant Rs.5500-175-9000	B	1	1
23.	Sr. Hindi Translator Rs.5500-175-9000	B	1	1
24.	ALIO(Lang.&Genl.) Rs.6500-200-10500	B	18	16
25.	Stenographer Rs.5500-175-9000	C	4	4
26.	Stenographer Rs.4000-100-6000	C	7	7
27.	Stat. Invest. Gr.li Rs.5000-150-8000	C	3	1
28.	Jr. Hindi Translator Rs.5000-150-8000	C	3	3
29.	UDC/Caretaker Rs.4000-100-6000	C	46	39
30.	LDC (Rs.3050-75- 3950-80-4590)	C	42	38
31.	Driver Gr.I Rs.4500-125-7000	C	1	1
32.	Driver Gr.II Rs.4000-100-6000	C	2	2
33.	Driver(ordinaryGr.)Rs. 3050-75-4050-80-4590	C	4	4
34.	Coupen Clerk Rs.3200-85-4900	C	8	8
35.	Daftry/Peon/Farash/ Chowkidar, Jamadar Sweeper, etc. Rs.3050-75-3950-80- 4590 Rs.2550-55-2660-60- 3200 Rs.2610-60-3150-65- 3540 Rs.2650-65-3300-70- 4000	D	75	69

Department of Culture

S N	Scale of Pay in full	Group of Post ABCD unclassified	Total No. of Posts	No.of emp. in position
36.	SLA Rs.2650-65-3300-70-4000	D	4	3
37.	MINISTER'S STAFF ON CO-TERMINUS BASIS			
	1. Private Secretary Rs.12000-375-16500	A	1	1
	1. Addl. Private Secretary Rs.10000-325-15200	A	2	2
		B		1
				1
	2. Asstt. Private Secretary Rs.6500-200-10500	B	2	1
	3. Second P.A. Rs.4000-100-6000	C	1	2
				1
		B		1
	4. Language P.A. Rs.4000-100-6000	C	1	1
	5. L.D.C. Rs.3050-75-3950-80-4590	C	1	2
	6. Driver Rs.4000-100-600	C	1	1
	8. Peon	D	4	3