

MANIPUR CULTURE POLICY

DEPARTMENT OF ART & CULTURE

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

PART ONE

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Culture, in its widest sense, is the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, moral, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a social group or a society. It is whole collection of learned and transmitted movements, habits, ideas, values and behaviours which have been with the members of a social group for a long time. It also includes the knowledge, belief, arts, moral, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man in the journey of time as the member of a society. It is culture that gives man the ability to reflect upon himself and makes him a human and rational being, endowed with a sense of critical judgement and moral commitment. It is, again, through culture that man tirelessly seeks the meaning of life and the world and creates works through which he transcends his own limitation.
- 1.2 Thus, culture encompasses almost all the spheres of human activities which determine and govern the life and the pattern of every human society. It permeates various ranges of creative activities of human beings which enhance the quality of life and results in visions and concepts for the promotion of right and meaningful life. It is because of this that culture is generally associated with the human pursuit of perfection in life giving rise to a happy synthesis of purity of thought, nobility of feelings and productive deed which ultimately contributes substantially to the creation of a civilization and its advancement. That civilization is based on the ultimate human values like love, tolerance, renunciation, compassion, non-violence, peace and harmony. This should, in the midst of the confusing differences and chaotic conditions of life beset with tension, conflict, violence, war and disintegration, enable it to achieve the objective of peace and harmony. We all know very well that peace is the comprehensive concept and enterprise which calls for a transformation in our thinking and feeling which can resolve the conflicts inherent in human relationship non-violently, particularly, in the context of what is happening in human life in the 21st century.
- 1.3 Again, culture is a crucial part of the tremendous processes of development taking place in the problematic 20th century all over the world. Development has, all too often, been perceived as what we generally understand as modernization patterned after a particular design, which is usually found to be too exclusive whereas composite inclusiveness is the universal need of a society which is nowadays mainly multi-cultural and pluralistic. Development and modernization do not necessarily mean the mechanical imitation of a particular way of life. The concept has to be redefined in terms of the link and interaction between the elements of development and that of culture. In this process, we cannot afford to neglect a reference to the realities of the geographical and environmental factors, historical tradition and

traditional knowledge and skill. The motivation of the people who are supposed to be the beneficiaries and participants in the developmental process is of supreme importance. This will necessitate the involvement of both the state and the society in the planning, administration and financing of the programmes of development.

- 1.4 “No culture is a hermetically sealed entity”. All cultures are influenced by other cultures and these cultures are, in turn, influenced by those other cultures. No culture is changeless, invariant or static. That means that all cultures are in a state of flux, governed by both internal and external forces. A culturally homogenous society whose members share and mechanically follow an identical body of beliefs, practices and manners is, in many ways, an anthropological fiction. Always resisting the colonization of minds, a healthy culture is supposed to remain in constant dialogue with the world at large in the realm of ideas, perception and creative expressions. As a matter of fact, the flowering and enrichment of culture can take place only if the ultimate values of truth, beauty, purity of thought, ideas, deeds and nobility of feelings and morals are promoted and maintained. Essentially, there is no conflict between aesthetic sensibility and scientific temper, between tradition and individual talent.
- 1.5 Again, there are two different ways of looking at culture, giving rise to two distinct modules of Culture. The first module may be said to be composed of values, beliefs, norms, ideology, which are all mental products like literary works, performing art forms, which are nowadays increasingly used in cultural tourism and exhibitions. The second module views culture as referring to the total ways of life, interpersonal relationship and attitudes together with the behaviour of ordinary people in their ordinary business of life. This cultural praxis usually boils down to the problems of identity, patriotism, etc. In the history of time these practices will be seen ceaselessly changing and becoming more sophisticated in time with the continuously changing technology and needs of society under the changing compulsions of cultural policy. It will be found to be imperative that further changes through modernization in the cultural process are planned in a very calibrated manner and subsequently implemented with great caution and prudence by way of cultural reform through socio-economic development. In that way, culture becomes not only a mirror of the past and present but also a window to the wide world in consonance with compulsions of the globalization process sweeping over the entire world in this post-modern era.
- 1.6 Another important issue which cannot be ignored or sidelined in any discussion of culture is the close relationship between culture, education and science. The overall development of society calls for a complimentary policy in these fields. There is, therefore a pressing necessity for the establishment of a harmonious balance between scientific and technological progress on the one hand and the intellectual, moral and cultural advancement of the people on the other hand.

Education in general is necessary for the identification and transmission of regional, national and universal cultural values and assimilation of scientific and technological knowledge. An education devoid of these would be detrimental to the overall growth of the people. The National Policy on Education 1986 had been designed to create a national system removing all imbalances and disparities in all sectors of education. Any State cultural policy is supposed to be in consonance with the objectives of the National Policy on Education. For this there is necessity to establish close relationship among the several authorities of the national and state governments like the departments of Culture, Education, Sports, Tourism and Science. It is in this connection that for some time some proponents of culture have been expressing their views regarding the necessity of re-defining or reconstruction of culture based on universalism and scientific temper and activities which, they think, will be helpful in bringing about conditions of absolute peace and justice far away from the negative modules given by violence and war.

- 1.7 In the context of the multifarious definitions and meanings of the word “culture”, the Government of Manipur has decided to frame a State Policy on Culture entitled *Manipur Culture Policy* in tune with the emerging cultural situation of the world. At this point, a loving look-back is required to the unique culture of the land that is Manipur in the ancient pre-Christian, proto or pre-historical and even some years of historical time. Walking down the memory lane almost all the conscious Manipuris cannot but remain unaffected by the resonances of the life, society, traditions, customs in the life of the people living in this isolated and land-locked land in the Himalayan and sub-Himalayan regions. How can we forget the time of the first historical king Nongda Lairen Pakhangba ? How can we forget king Loiyumba (1074-1122) who changed the way of being king by introducing some kind of decentralization of power by writing his historic *Loyumba Shinyel*, perhaps the first constitutional text in the land ? There is again king Khagemba (1597-1652) who permitted Muslims brought as battle captives to settle in Manipur valley giving them land and also allowing them to marry local girls. In this way because of various reasons and under different circumstances, the structuring of the culture of Manipur has been influenced by various forces of change. In short, from the very beginning the culture of Manipur was very unique in comparison with the cultures of the neighbouring countries. Because of this, the cultural policy of Manipur cannot but adumbrate an outline of the conditions which impacted the gradual evolution of Manipuri culture through the years. The policy will have to refer to conditions conducive to more satisfactory self expression and willing participation in the cultural life of the people without distinction of race, caste, creed, religion and language. It will have to recognize the need to develop strategies to sensitize the people, particularly the young for creative expression in a framework of values which are generally accepted to be useful in the enrichment of the quality of life.

- 1.8 The policy proposes that the State would play a catalytic role in the process of development and in the progress of culture. In addition, the general coarsening of sensibility, loss of sense of values, erosion of pluralistic vision and reduction of the masses into passive recipients of culture should be resisted. Again the Policy has to highlight the growing concern over the erosion of essential values and focuss on the need for meaningful changes in the curriculum and this is in line with the New Education System designed to re-enforce the century old values and maintain our basic Indianness against the negativism of materialism. This policy in consonance with what has been envisaged in the National Education Policy aims at changing and enriching the cultural contents in education in as many manifestations as possible. Particularly the young people will be motivated to enable them to develop sensitivity to beauty, harmony and refinement starting from the primary and secondary levels. The policy proposes to expose every young learner to a basic foundation of facts about the cultural heritage of the Nation and the State through a well-calibrated mechanism of bringing about a close relationship among the several authorities of the State Government.

PART TWO

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The Government shall go for strategies to preserve, promote and enrich the culture of Manipur which is composite and plural in nature. Culture is supposed to embrace the whole society rather than a few privileged citizens, groups and communities. The plains and the hills, the urban and the rural, the several communities, ethnic and tribal groups shall receive equal attention in the endeavour to develop culture. The plural and the composite character of our culture and the crucial contribution made by various communities to it and the envisaged ultimate values with the inclusive and humanizing ethos should be highlighted and brought home to all. For this, the preservation and the promotion of our culture should be made in such a manner that the spirit of unity in diversity, the integrity of the state of Manipur and of the country, the ethos of secularism, socialism, democracy, social justice and peaceful co-existence will have to be maintained and strengthened at any cost.
- 2.2 There should not be any discrimination of race, caste, creed, religion, language, ethnicity, age and sex in the activities for promotion of culture. In this spirit of unity in diversity, the unique cultural identity of the state should be made to flourish to enable it to be a part of the vast culture of the country and the world. While doing this, the ever enriching cultural diversity of the state shall be carefully recognised in all plans for development and strategies for protection and promotion of the culture as a whole. There should be no attempt to slither down to any single direction or ideological orientation in the culture. In short, diversities and pluralism will be given a free play in an inclusive context of consonance and harmony. The infusion of a shared moral vision, democratic and humanitarian values should be made crucial contents of this composite culture.
- 2.3 In the midst of changes and mutations we witness today, we need to adopt and strengthen a holistic vision of culture so that no segment, area or community feels excluded and each is encouraged to contribute freely and willingly towards the promotion of cultural growth and enrichment. Importance should be given to the protection and the promotion of cultural contribution by the weaker sections and minorities. Concrete steps should be taken to provide greater opportunities with the widest ramification to people in the hills and the plains, both rural and urban for meaningful and continuing exposure to and participation in various forms of cultural activities. Exposure to and participation in the different art disciplines at the various levels of the society, from the most affluent to the weakest sections shall be encouraged. There should be a constant flow of cultural awareness which

would give the people a remarkable openness and resilience, and enrich the range of their artistic endeavours and creative activities. In this, the traditional institutions which have been enriching our culture should be preserved, protected and strengthened.

- 2.4 Both education and media or mass communication participating and playing important roles in society are crucial culturalizing agencies. The policy emphasizes the positive cultural consequences of education and media. Both should deepen and strengthen their cultural components. It should aim at seeing that consumerist tendencies are not allowed to create cultural distortions and tensions.
- 2.5 As stated in the National Policy on Education 1986, de-culturalization, de-humanisation and alienation must be avoided at all costs. Education can and must bring about a fine synthesis between change-oriented technologies and the country's community of cultural traditions. Effort should be made particularly to enable children and youth to develop sensitivity to duty, beauty, harmony and refinement. Emphasis should be given on the growth of cultural literacy in sync with verbal literacy. It would also aim at interweaving into the formal and non-formal systems of education at all levels, along with the cultural escalation and sharpening of cultural inputs in educational curricula with a view to arousing deeper interest in cultural heritage, to provide free creativity and to foster elements of composite culture. Respect and striving for ultimate value of creativity and excellence must be inculcated from the early stage of education. Every child from the primary level onwards should be imparted with a basic core of facts about the cultural heritage of his or her community, the state and the country.
- 2.6 The Policy would stress on an integrated approach to cultural education. Strategies would be made for coordination amongst the Departments of Culture, Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, Information and Public Relations, Tribal Development and Tourism, and others for furthering and strengthening the cause of culture. The tradition of imparting and transmitting knowledge from Master to Pupil (Guru Shishya Parampara) is still relevant and shall be emphasized in cultural education. As literacy is an essential condition for people's cultural development, it would therefore be necessary to ensure community participation in literacy programmes including formal, non-formal and those through informal agencies such as panchayats, local bodies, etc. A Centre/Institute of Advanced Study and Research which may become Deemed University/University is envisaged to be set up for Manipuri Culture. The state would consider conferment of State Awards on individuals and institutions strictly on the basis of attainment of eminence in and contribution to culture.

- 2.7 The policy envisages to open a composite cultural centre in each district of Manipur with facilities of museum, library, exhibition and exposition of several arts, artefacts and letters with the understanding that decentralization and participation by the people are key factors in cultural promotion. Infrastructural facilities shall be developed and strengthened in a more coordinated manner for promotion and conservation of various forms of creative expression.
- 2.8 Cultural heritage in its different manifestations and ways shall be preserved. The policy recognizes the need for preserving and documenting those aspects of classical, folk, tribal, ethnic, rural and community cultural traditions which are rare but vanishing and in danger of extinction due to social change, market forces, technological onslaught, globalization etc. Endeavour would be made to preserve, protect and document monuments, historical places, antiquities, art treasures, public and private records of cultural and artistic importance in an integrated approach in collaboration with other related Departments of the State.
- 2.9 The State would however play a catalytic role, keeping intervention at arm's length in the efforts for development of culture. The pursuit of cultural creativity has to be seen as a self-reflexive activity. However, despite this policy not to make any direct intervention in cultural matters on the part of the State, coarsening of sensibility, loss of values and reduction of the masses into passive recipients in the processes of culture should be resisted.
- 2.10 Understanding that culture is a crucial part of development deserving substantial investment and that the investment made so far in the cultural dimension is not adequate, the policy envisages enhancing investment for development of culture commensurate with the broad social needs and its intrinsic value. The important point is that material development should go hand in hand with cultural and spiritual development. Public support and patronage in the promotion of culture should be encouraged instead of depending on state patronage only. There should be effective coordination among the various agencies in the state. The policy recognizes that decentralization is a key factor in cultural promotion and that an important role should be played by individuals, voluntary organizations and corporate bodies. However for better and maximal use of fund and infrastructural facilities, duplication of works should be scrupulously avoided. State Kala Akademi for the promotion of several arts and letters shall be maintained and strengthened. The policy would also consider extending recognition and support, strictly on merit, to voluntary organizations and individuals working outside the state for promotion and enrichment of Manipuri culture. Women have been occupying a status of pride in the economic, social and cultural life in Manipur by dint of their

creativity, talent, innovative skill and participation. The policy shall emphasize on promoting their presence and works – full spectrum of their views and contribution in cultural processes to achieve a truly integrated cultural life. The importance of the creative cultural activities of the physically challenged persons will also be sought, given recognition, and encouraged.

PART THREE

PLAN OF ACTION

The following plan of action has been suggested with a view to fulfilling the objectives stated above.

- 3.1. The state will give high priority to the preservation, promotion and enrichment of the diverse manifestations of its culture. It has the responsibility of fostering and nurturing the seminal values of life which have found creative expression in arts, literature and other cultural activities. Nevertheless direct state interaction or interference will have to be avoided as far as possible. Though the state must provide funds and facilities for such activities on a scale commensurate with the needs for the implementation of the plans to improve the quality of the social and cultural life of the people it must not be involved in any direct grant giving activities. The process of giving grants will have to be channelized through the Departments so that any form of interaction is eliminated at the right stage and moment.
- 3.2. As the policy insists on avoidance of direct Government involvement in the cultural programmes and processes the role of the cultural agencies have become very crucial. In line with the autonomous functioning of the three National Akademies viz Sangeet Natak, Sahitya and Lalit Kala, the autonomy of the cultural agencies of the State Government like the Manipur State Kala Akademi and others shall be maintained and strengthened. Along with this all the possible steps will have to be taken to streamline the process and the agencies concerned should be made responsible in their areas of activity.
- 3.3. It is proposed that a powerful body, which may be called *Manipur Cultural Advisory Board*, comprising of not more than 30 experts and eminent persons in various fields of culture must be constituted to carve out effective strategies, mechanisms and guidelines to carry out the objectives of preserving, strengthening and enriching Manipuri Culture. Twenty of the members of the Board shall be elected by the recognized cultural Institutions/Organisations and ten, including the Chairman, nominated by the Government from among the eminent and distinguished experts in the field of culture. The concerned minister shall be the Chairman of the Board, which shall have a tenure of three years.
- 3.4. Perceiving that culture and general development of a land are closely interrelated, calling for substantial investment and that the investments made so far for this dual process have not been quite adequate, it is proposed that the quantum of investment on culture should be enhanced to commensurate with the broad social needs and their intrinsic values. In fact, development should have profound human significance based on the continuous well-being and fulfilment in the life of each and every individual. Making cultural factors an integral part, strategies of

development will have to be devised in the context of the historical, social and cultural realities of our society.

- 3.5. As our society is basically composite and plural in character a democratic cultural policy will have to be worked out carefully, taking into consideration the cultural needs and aspirations of all groups and communities of the state. The action plans should ensure the maximum participation of the people in the composite and plural cultural life of the region without any distinction of caste, creed, language, religion, ethnicity, minorities or fringe groups, education, status and sex. In addition, the cultural programmes and activities should not be confined to the towns and urban areas but reach out to the rural and interior areas both in the hills and the plains.
- 3.6. There is an increasing perception that there are areas of co-operation, collaboration and net-working among several Departments and agencies of the state Government to be adopted for effective projection and implementation of the cultural programmes and activities. Departments of Art and Culture, Education, Tourism, Youth Affairs and Sports, Development of Tribals, Minorities and Backward Classes, Planning, Environment, Local Bodies etc. can tie up and pool their resources and infrastructural facilities together to implement the programmes that will enrich and highlight our history, heritage and culture. Apart from depending only on state patronage, public support, patronage in the promotion of culture from individuals, voluntary organizations and corporate bodies should be encouraged.
- 3.7. Historical sites and places of cultural significance should be kept vibrating and reverberating with the rhythms, resonances, visuals and movements of our cultural ethos. Old castles, forts, palaces, ruins, sacred places and similar sites are to be restored, conserved and maintained. There must be a ready supply of attractive and relevant literature, photographs, postcards, souvenirs etc. available at each site. The services of multilingual guides will have to be provided. Light and sound shows, performances of dance, music and other art forms of these places will have to be organized off and on jointly by the Departments of Art & Culture, Tourism, Tribal Development, and Youth Affairs & Sports, etc. This would add to the attraction of these sites and create awareness. In doing this the Department of Art & Culture shall initiate and co-ordinate with other Departments.
- 3.8. As stated in the National Policy on Education 1986, cultural content shall be introduced at the early levels of education and upwards not as an additional but as an integrated component in the syllabi and curricula to enable children and youth to develop sensitivity to environment, beauty, creativity, harmony and refinement and be aware of our ancient traditions and ultimate values. A cultural primer would be prepared which should serve as a kind of handbook for teachers at the pre-primary and primary levels. Resource persons in the community, irrespective of their formal educational qualifications, will be invited to contribute to the cultural

enrichment of education, employing both the written and oral traditions of communication. It is proposed that links will have to be established between the University system and other institutional systems of higher learning in arts. Due attention will be paid to the specified disciplines such as fine arts, folklore, traditional and indigenous forms of art. Research, teaching and training in various disciplines will be strengthened in order to replenish specialized manpower in them. An integrated approach to the problem of co-operation and co-ordination among several Departments in the context of human development shall be stressed.

- 3.9. Manipuri, which is one of the scheduled languages of the Constitution of India, is a valuable vehicle of culture articulation and dissemination. It is also the lingua franca of the state. The Government has already set up a Language Directorate in co-ordination with the Education Department of the State to ensure rational development and enrichment of Manipuri and other languages of the State. Lexicons, encyclopaedias, books of terminologies in different subjects like the sciences, technology, law, culture, literature, arts, etc. should be published to speed up the development of the languages.
- 3.10. It envisages setting up a Deemed University/University for advanced study and research in Manipuri culture and related subjects. Centres of training in the several Manipuri art forms shall be set up. The role of non-government organizations and old masters in the task of sustaining and carrying forward the cultural traditions will be recognized and supported. Special attention shall be given to the work of attracting young learners in these fields. The syllabi and the teaching programmes of these centres shall be standardised and recognized by the proposed University.
- 3.11. In view of the large number of cultural organizations and agencies needing specialized management skills, programmes of training in cultural administration and cultural resource development shall be worked out and implemented. Infrastructural facilities such as auditorium, open-air theatre and performance spaces, halls for conferences, seminars, lecture demonstrations, art galleries, rooms for art exhibition and rehearsals, guest rooms and dormitories for artistes, etc. shall be developed and strengthened in co-ordination with the related Departments.
- 3.12. Museums are not merely places to house our ancient heritage. They have to function as centres of learning and creative awareness. Attractive programmes which would be of interest the children and the youth need to be developed by each museum on a regular basis. Archives also, should be supported and enriched as they house precious history and relics of antiquities.
- 3.13. Action would be taken up to identify and declare heritage zones in respect of identifiable and compact areas which have large bodies of significant historical and cultural properties like the Kangla, parts of Canchipur, etc. Such zones should be protected fully against the location and adverse effects of commercial and industrial

establishments. A very serious engagement of our attitudes, perceptions and feelings for Kangla is called for. The Kangla Fort Board should play a proactive role. The work of restoring the ancient historic glory and importance of Kangla should be undertaken as a mission with the help of scholars who had been both widely and deeply exposed to the historical and cultural importance of the ancient site. This will help the people feel the pride, the dignity and the civilizational importance of the historic capital.

3.14. A state Documentation Centre would be established in the complementary effort with other Departments, agencies and corporate bodies for preserving and documenting cultural manifestations, especially those which are rare but languishing and in danger of extinction. Our rich mosaic of folk and tribal cultures needs comprehensive and systematic documentation over and above the classical, traditional and contemporary art forms. Documentation of the art forms will inevitably include their oral literature, visual and performing art traditions and also artefacts. Old castles, forts, palaces, ruins and sites of historical and cultural importance and eminent cultural personalities should also be documented and preserved by pooling together resources of several state Departments. Audio-visual rooms may be provided in the Documentation Centre. A state cultural data bank would be established to ensure a system of links between museum and other educational and cultural institutions. Important educational institutions should also have museum corners.

3.15. A Culture Centre in each district of Manipur shall be set up. Composite infrastructural facilities like auditorium, art exhibition room, a museum, a library and spaces for performances of several art forms, etc. shall be made available for each of them. It would serve as a centre of multi-faceted activities and learning imbued with cultural ethos. A networking of cultural programmes which may include festivals, sale of traditional food items, handloom and handicraft products shall be systematically implemented in these centres to create awareness and participation by all. Emphasis should be given to cultural programmes being carried out throughout the State which would attract the attention and willing participation of the children and the youths of all communities. Children and young people should be given a cultural identity and made visible everywhere in the society. They have the right to be seen and exist in the world. Their rights include the right to rest and leisure, play and recreation and to freely participate in cultural and artistic life. Creative energy is necessary for cultural development. Children and young people have creative energy. Therefore they must be given as much opportunity as possible to participate in the cultural processes. The libraries and museums for instance, are important meeting places for children in an otherwise commercialized environment and, in practice, these can be veritably children's cultural centres with many activities.

- 3.16. Manipuri women have been playing important roles in the cultural, social and economic life of the State. Their participation and their contribution to cultural processes have been very valuable. They have extraordinary creativity and innovative power. Therefore emphasis should be given to further and strengthen their presence and contribution to cultural life as a whole. They must be given increased access to decision making positions and opportunities to enhance their status in the cultural sector.
- 3.17. Differently abled persons also have creative energy and therefore they must be given as much opportunity as possible to participate freely in the cultural and artistic life. Rural, folk and tribal artists and artisans, whose art creations generally turn into crafts, would be promoted. A more inclusive concept of art which encompasses the artistic contribution of all segments whether urban, folk, tribal and minorities shall be encouraged. Craft Melas can be frequently organized where the products may be exposed and sold.
- 3.18. While endeavouring to preserve tradition, the State would also encourage openness to new ideas, new forms and manifestations, combinations, original interpretations, experiments etc. for the emergence of new cultural expressions. Cinema, photography, contemporary architecture, theatre, arts, modern and creative music, dance, etc. are examples of such new expressions. The policy would promote the evolution of a dynamic relationship between tradition and modernity. The tradition of imparting and transmitting knowledge from Master to Pupil (Guru Shishya Parampara) had been a seminal factor in transferring vision and technique in the performing arts. This system is now facing many challenges and needs to be carefully and imaginatively strengthened in the midst of changed ethos. Efforts would be made to involve various agencies, voluntary cultural organizations, corporate bodies, etc. to provide local support and sustenance of the skill of the Gurus in various forms and styles in the several art forms like music, dance, theatre, Manipuri marital art, indigenous games & sports etc. The making of musical instruments, traditional and indigenous artistic costumes and ornaments is an important area which has not received sufficient public attention and is currently facing a grave crisis. A scheme would be prepared to ensure that young trainees and apprentices are encouraged to receive training in these activities by giving fellowships, incentives and exposure to the outside world. Trade practices which protect craftsmen who are the original producers of certain artefacts should be protected and sustained.
- 3.19. The development of fine arts has to be promoted, accelerated and strengthened. For this several branches of the fine arts have to be introduced by expanding the facilities in the Art College under the State Government. A State Art Gallery also has to be set up. Art galleries are actually dynamic centres of educating artistic taste. In the proposed composite cultural centres in each district of Manipur art

galleries and exhibition rooms should be provided. There has been an increasing number of schools and idioms of art under the influence of the West and the world at large. There is also an authentic search for roots and local cultural idioms both in the sphere of the visual and the literary arts. The policy will stress the development of ways to encourage some kind of creative interaction among the diverse streams which will give rise to vibrant and pulsating scenario of growth. Again, as folk and tribal arts constitute an important part of the total heritage in this field, their development shall have to be strengthened. A comprehensive benchmark survey and documentation of various folk and tribal arts including visual arts would be taken up. They should be properly exhibited in art galleries and museums. Organisation of programmes on fine arts in the state is few in number. There is only one Aided Art College in Manipur. The Government should take steps for its absorption. Those working there should be encouraged to bring out monographs and books on visual plastic arts, organize exhibitions, workshops and interactions at frequent intervals and expose artists and their works in national and international exhibitions. Suitable schemes are required to be taken up to sponsor deserving artists to undergo studies in reputed fine art institutions in the country.

- 3.20. The perspective and ethos of literature in the State need to be more widely disseminated and appreciated. Publication of books, literary journals, and purchase of books would be encouraged. Agencies of the State Government, voluntary organizations and corporate bodies should also be persuaded to extend support in these regards. Translation has been recognized as an important creative activity as well as an integrating medium. The programme of translation from one language to another, particularly from other languages into Manipuri including tribal languages and vice versa should be encouraged. In this connection a scheme to train and support competent translators should be launched.
- 3.21. All forms of theatre, whether traditional, contemporary or creative, both in the hills and the plains, need encouragement. The State Government would set up theatre repertories. Movement for children's theatre, school and college theatre should be encouraged. A deeply critical and appreciative attention to Sumang Leela is urgently called for to streamline and promote its growth.
- 3.22. Prestigious State Awards shall be instituted for conferment on deserving persons of distinction and eminence in the fields of Manipuri art and culture. Research fellowship for different aspects of art and culture of the state shall be instituted and a scheme for giving pension to deserving persons in the field shall also be instituted. This is an important area because without giving security to the artists and also without caring for the welfare of the artists, art will not thrive in the State. Contributory pension where the artists as well as the State contribute, scholarships, stipends and Welfare Fund for the artists should be introduced.

- 3.23. The importance of the cinema as a contemporary art form has been recognized and production of films in all formats which would enrich quality of life shall be supported. Manipur State Film Development Society should play an important role in the promotion of cinema and for this a separate film policy shall be worked out. A Film City should be established. The Manipur State Film & Television Institute should be made functional.
- 3.24. A network of libraries throughout the state shall be set up over and above the State Central Library and District Libraries to revolutionize the reading habit of the people of the land. The old Public Library located in the heart of the capital of the State should be revived and revitalised.
- 3.25. While recognizing the great importance of the media, both electronic and print, care should be taken to see to it that the consumerist tendencies of the time are not allowed to create cultural distortions and tensions. Television, film, video, internet, etc. for instance, are important in transmission of cultural processes and programmes, but loss of values, coarsening of sensibility and reduction of the masses into mere passive recipients in the cultural processes should be resisted at all costs. Websites are now-a-days necessary for dissemination of culture. It should be opened as a part of the Documentation Centre mentioned above.
- 3.26. Publication of important works of art and culture shall be encouraged. Strategies for extending support to writers shall be chalked out and the writers should be encouraged by reviving the scheme of Publication Grant.
- 3.27 Manipur Cultural Policy will be reviewed every ten years.