
**STATE AWARD SCHEME FOR
HANDICRAFT ARTISANS.**

**IMPLEMENTED
BY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE &
INDUSTRIES, MEGHALAYA**

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1. Introduction:

Handicraft is one of the means of livelihood of our tribals residing both in urban and in far flung rural areas. The designs and quality of Handicrafts produced by our craftsmen has been recognized upto the National Level through the National Award scheme from the office of Development Commissioner Handicraft, New Delhi and some of the National Awardees in the field of Handicraft from our state are (1) Shri. Rk. Bs. Thangkhiew, Vill-Umlyngka who received National Award in Woodcraft (2) Shri. Donborlin Blah, Vill. Mawkawah, and (3) Shri. Marlon F. Blah, Mission Compound and (4) Shri. Asuk Suting, Bankamar, West Jaintia Hills, these Artisans are merits certificate holders in Stone Carving and Fabric Flower, Cane & Bamboo respectively.

So far, specifically in the field of Handicraft the Department has implemented schemes only in training sector namely, Mastercraftsman Training Programme which comprises of a stipend @ Rs. 500/- pm for trainees and Rs. 1500/- pm for Mastercraftsman/Instructor, some raw materials and hand tools and the other scheme like GIA, Incentives, Promotion Programme in Marketing etc, are in general form with other types of micro, small and medium enterprises. It is expected that introduction of State Awards as another scheme for Handicrafts artisans will be very useful in recognizing of workmanship, quality and skill, etc and this in a long way will inspire them to be more competitive and take the trade in a more serious way.

2. Aims and Objective:

The basic concept of this scheme is to **recognize** the outstanding achievement of the mastercraftsman towards the quality and innovative ideas they have contributed in the field of handicraft. The state award can be selected from innumerable products made by our Handicraft Artisans which can be utilitarian, aesthetic, artistic, creative, culturally attached decorative, functional, traditional, religiously and socially symbolic and significant and through this Award it will help and encourage them to compete for national award with products from other states and in the meantime it will showcase our culture and tradition

through Handicraft in the National platform. It may also be noted that the office of the Development Commissioner (Handicraft), Govt. of India is implementing the schemes namely (1) “**Support to artisans in indigent circumstances**” which provides financial support to the old age Handicraft Artisan @ Rs. 2000/- p.m. when they attained 60 years of age and (2) “**Training through Guru Shishya Parampara**” where financial assistance include:

- a. Wage compensation/stipend for trainees - Rs.100/- pr day per trainee
- b. Travel allowance to trainees - Rs.1500/- per trainee
- c. Honorarium to Master Craftsperson - Rs.20,000/- per month
- d. Compensation for wastage of raw material - Rs.1000/- pr month/per trainee
- e. Tool kit to trainees - Rs.2,000/- per toolkit for each trainee
- f. Miscellaneous expenditure (stationery, telephone, refreshments, publicity, repair of machinery, videography, etc) - 10% of total recurring (total (a) to (e) excluding the items not admitted from a to e above)

However, for both the schemes one of the eligibility criteria must be that the handicraft artisan must be the State Awardees and hence by introduction of this scheme it will give an opportunity to our Handicraft Artisans to become eligible in availing these benefits as offered by the Central Government from time to time.

3. Importance of the Award:

Once the government has given due recognition through the state Award of their Skill and **workmanship** in Handicraft sector, it will encourage our Artisans to be more enterprising and **Innovative** and thereby enhance the volume of their products and employment opportunities. Also this Award will also play a vital role in representing the culture and Tradition of the tribals of our state through their distinguish Handicrafts in the National Level and is one of the criteria for selection of National Award.

4. Eligibility Criteria:

There will be no educational and age limit for entries eligibility , except that the craft persons must be a local Tribal who belongs from the state of Meghalaya and the unit must be permanently registered or filed entrepreneur memorandum part- 2/Udyog Aadhaar Momerandum with the respective DCICS.

5. Criteria for Selection:

- (a) Craftsperson must be a local tribal of the state of Meghalaya.
- (b) Crafts should be physically verified that it is produce by craftsman using his own skill who applied for the Award and has to be certified by a first class magistrate.
- (c) Preference will be given to crafts which is traditionally attached or associated to the culture of the indigenous tribals of Meghalaya.
- (d) While producing the crafts Mechanical tools may be allowed to be used as long as direct manual contribution of the Artisans remains the most substantial component of the finished product.
- (e) Degree of skill and technique in the craft
- (f) Performance of the craftsman whether he has imparted training to others in this trade.
- (g) Preference will also be given to physically handicapped Craftsperson.

6. Award Contents:

Award will consist of a cash prize of Rs 50,000/- (Rs Fifty Thousand) only for each Awardees, a trophy/citation and a Certificate. A maximum of 5 nos. of Awards at state level will be selected in a year by the State Level Committee.

7. Publicity:

Wide publicity through print and electronic media have to be taken up about the scheme so that it will cover to the craft persons residing in the far flung areas. Awareness programme among the craft pockets can also be taken up to **sensitize** about the scheme.

8. Mode of application:

Crafts along with its write up accompanied with the completed application form with necessary documents may be submitted through DCIC, MHHDC, MKVIB and Directorate of Commerce & Industries.

9. STATE LEVEL COMMITTEE

I.	Principal Secretary	-	Chairman
II.	Director of Commerce & Industries	-	Convener
III.	Director, National Institute Fashion Technology, NIFT, Shillong	-	Member
IV.	Assistant Director O/o D.C. Handicraft, Marketing & Extension Centre, Shillong	-	Member
V.	M.D. Meghalaya Handloom & Handicraft Development Corporation Ltd., Shillong	-	Member
VI.	General Manager, Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. Shillong and i/c integrated Craft complex, Nongrim Hills.	-	Member
VII.	Director Don Bosco Museum, Shillong	-	Member
VIII.	National Awardees	-	Member

Members may be changed or incorporated from time to time as and when required and deem fit to the scheme by the State Level Committee.