



**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 for the Tribals of Meghalaya residing both in urban and in far flung rural areas. The designs and quality of Handicrafts produced by our Craftsmen has been recognized in the National Level through the National Award scheme from the office of Development Commissioner (Handicraft), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, New Delhi and some of the Recipients in the National Award 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, Bamkamar, West Jaintia Hills, these Artisans are merits certificate holders in Stone Carving and Fabric Flower, Cane & Bamboo respectively.

In Handicraft sector, the Department of Commerce & Industries has implemented schemes in training activities viz Mastercraftsman Training Programme which comprises of a stipend @ Rs. 500/- pm for Trainees and Rs. 1500/- pm for Mastercraftsman/ Instructor and also provided with some raw materials and hand tools and the other scheme like GIA, Incentives, promotional programme in marketing, etc. It is important to implement the Scheme of State Awards for Handicrafts Artisans as it 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), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India is implementing the schemes namely (1) “**Support to artisans in indigent circumstances**” which provides financial support to the old age Handicraft Artisan @ ₹ 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/- per 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 - e above)

However, for both the above Schemes, the eligibility criteria is also that the Handicraft Artisan must be the State Awardees and hence implementation of this Scheme will give an opportunity to our Handicraft Artisans to become eligible in availing these benefits as offered by the Government of India 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. This Award will also play a vital role in representing the Culture and Tradition of the Tribal of our State through their distinguish Handicrafts in the National Level and most importantly to qualify

for the State Award is one of the criteria for selection of National Award for Handicraft.

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/ Udyam registration with the respective DCICs.

Handloom products and also its ancillary products like Embroidery, Motifs, etc on the Handloom materials are not eligible for application under the Scheme.

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 Tribal of Meghalaya.
- (d) While producing the Crafts, mechanical tools may be allowed to be used but manual contribution towards production of the Crafts by the Artisans shall 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.
- (h) The Recipient of the State Handicraft Award is eligible only for one time.
- (i) An Artisan is eligible to apply for a maximum of 3 (three) entries in a single year.

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 the Offices of District Commerce & Industries Centers (DCICs), Meghalaya Handloom & Handicraft Development Corporation Ltd. (MHHDC), Meghalaya Khadi & Village Industries Board (MKVIB), Development Commissioner (Handicraft), Government of India, Shillong and Directorate of Commerce & Industries.

9. STATE LEVEL COMMITTEE

I.	Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, i/c Commerce & Industries Department	-	Chairman
II.	Director of Commerce & Industries	-	Convener
III.	Director, National Institute Fashion Technology, NIFT, Shillong	-	Member
IV.	Handicraft Promotion Officer/Assistant Director(H) O/o Development Commissioner (Handicraft), Ministry of Textiles, Gol, Shillong	-	Member
V.	Managing Director, Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. Shillong and i/c integrated craft complex, Nongrim Hills	-	Member
VI.	Managing Director, Meghalaya Handloom & Handicraft Development Corporation Ltd., Shillong	-	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.