



Updated Master Craftsman Scheme

Commerce and Industries Department
Government of Meghalaya

1. Executive Summary

The updated Mastercraftsman Scheme modernizes Meghalaya's artisanal ecosystem by pairing short, intensive skill development with standardized financial support, digital governance, and market-oriented interventions, while safeguarding the state's indigenous heritage. Focusing on bamboo and cane crafts, weaving, pottery, woodwork, metalwork, terracotta and natural fibre products, the initiative prioritizes the inclusion of women, youth, and artisans from remote and tribal communities, while aligning with Meghalaya's Vision @2032 of building a USD 16-billion economy grounded in cultural heritage, inclusivity, and sustainable growth.

Implementation is anchored in a three-month training cycle with a minimum batch size of ten trainees and at least four hours of daily instruction, with scheduling flexibility around seasonal livelihoods. Each trainee receives a stipend of ₹3,000 per month (₹9,000 over three months) to offset opportunity costs and improve retention among economically weaker households. Empanelled Mastercraftsmen are paid an honorarium of ₹20,000 per month for structured delivery, hands-on mentoring, and quality supervision, ensuring training is consistent, practice-oriented, and accountable.

To enable effective learning and a smooth transition toward entrepreneurship, the scheme provides one-time toolkit support of ₹10,000 per trainee to be disbursed in kind through DCIC and raw material assistance of ₹5,000 per trainee to be reimbursed to the Mastercraftsmen to ensure adequate consumables throughout the training period. These inputs standardize the training environment, reduce drop-offs caused by material shortages, and help trainees focus on quality and productivity rather than input access.

A single source of truth is created through the designated MIS/State MSME Portal, capturing enrolments, attendance, fund releases, toolkit and raw-material distribution, monitoring visit reports, and completion records. DCICs conduct monthly field visits to verify delivery and document compliance, while the Directorate undertakes risk-based inspections and dashboard reviews. Standardized monthly and quarterly reporting, together with utilization certificates, strengthens financial discipline and transparency, and enables timely course-corrections where required.

The standardized costing for one three-month batch (10 trainees) is ₹3,05,000/- at a planned scale of 50 batches annually, the annual budget is ₹1,52,50,000/- exclusive of inflation and administrative overheads. This parity with departmental skilling norms simplifies budgeting and audits across districts, provides predictability for annual work plans, and ensures that benefits are delivered efficiently and equitably at scale.

Beyond training and financing, the scheme strengthens the craft value chain through contemporary design inputs, quality standardization, cluster-based development with shared facilities where feasible, and improved market linkages via exhibitions, branding, and e-commerce onboarding. With post-training handholding by DCICs for enterprise setup, credit facilitation, and buyer connections, the scheme is expected to raise artisan incomes, revive endangered traditions, broaden participation of women and youth, and enhance livelihood resilience—positioning crafts as a strategic contributor to Meghalaya’s green and inclusive development pathway.



2. Background & Context

2.1. Craft sector in Meghalaya

The indigenous craft sector in Meghalaya represents a vibrant and living tradition that reflects the cultural identity, ecological knowledge, and livelihood practices of the state's tribal communities. Predominantly practiced by the Khasi, Jaintia, Garo and other sub-tribes, traditional crafts are deeply integrated into daily life, rituals, agriculture, and local economies. These crafts are not merely decorative or commercial products, but functional items used in farming, storage, food preparation, music, and community ceremonies. Meghalaya's craft ecosystem is primarily rural and community-based, with production occurring at the household or village level using locally sourced raw materials such as bamboo, cane, wood, clay, natural fibers, forest waste and organic dyes. The state's rich forest resources make bamboo and cane crafts particularly dominant, with artisans producing baskets, furniture, fishing tools, musical instruments, and utility items essential for rural livelihoods. Other significant crafts include weaving, embroidery, pottery, wood carving, blacksmithy, and emerging eco-friendly crafts such as water hyacinth and pineapple fiber products. The above proved that the artisans of the State from one generation to the other are enabled to use and value add the resource available in the surrounding.

The sector plays a crucial role in livelihood generation, especially for women, elderly artisans, and marginal farmers who rely on craft activities as a supplementary or primary source of income. Craft production provides flexible, home-based employment that supports household economies while allowing communities to maintain traditional lifestyles. In several districts, craft income contributes significantly to rural financial resilience, particularly in areas with limited access to formal employment opportunities.

Despite its cultural and economic importance, the craft sector in Meghalaya faces multiple challenges. These include limited access to modern tools and technology, inadequate design innovation, weak market linkages, lack of branding and quality standardization, and declining interest among present youths due to low-income potential. Additionally, the absence of structured training systems and documentation threatens the continuity of traditional knowledge and endangered crafts.

However, the sector holds significant potential for growth through value addition, design development, eco-friendly product positioning, tourism linkages, and digital market access. With increasing global demand for sustainable and handmade products, Meghalaya's crafts can be positioned as premium, culturally rich, and environmentally responsible products.

Strengthening the craft sector is therefore critical not only for preserving cultural heritage but also for promoting inclusive rural development, women empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods. A structured and modernized support framework—such as the updated MasterCraftsman Scheme—can play a transformative role in revitalizing the sector while ensuring that traditional knowledge continues to thrive in a contemporary market environment.



2.2. Role in culture & livelihoods

The craft traditions of Meghalaya are deeply embedded in the cultural fabric and livelihood systems of the state's tribal communities. Among the Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo tribes, crafts are not isolated economic activities but integral components of social identity, customary practices, and everyday life. Handmade items such as bamboo baskets, mats, traditional textiles, musical instruments, and ceremonial artifacts are used in agriculture, food storage, festivals, and rituals, reinforcing the close relationship between craft, culture, and community life.

Crafts serve as carriers of indigenous knowledge, preserving traditional techniques, motifs, and material practices passed down through generations. Designs often reflect local ecology, clan symbols, and spiritual beliefs, making each product a repository of cultural narratives. For instance, weaving patterns and embroidery styles signify community identity, while bamboo and cane products are essential to traditional farming, fishing, and household activities.

By continuing these practices, artisans sustain not only craft skills but also the intangible cultural heritage associated with them. From a livelihood perspective, the craft sector provides critical income opportunities, particularly in rural and remote areas where formal employment options are limited. Craft production is often home-based and flexible, enabling participation by women, elderly artisans, and persons with limited mobility. In many households, income from handicrafts supplements agricultural earnings, helping families manage seasonal income fluctuations and enhancing financial resilience.

Women play a central role in the craft economy, especially in weaving, embroidery, and value-added bamboo and cane products. Their involvement contributes to household income, strengthens decision-making power within families, and promotes gender-inclusive economic growth. Youth engagement in crafts also supports skill development and entrepreneurship, although declining interest due to low returns highlights the need for modernization and market integration. In addition to household livelihoods, crafts contribute to the local economy through village-level trade, weekly markets, and participation in fairs and exhibitions. Craft products also hold potential for tourism-linked income, as visitors seek authentic handmade items that reflect Meghalaya's cultural uniqueness. Strengthening these linkages can enhance income generation while promoting the state's cultural identity.

Overall, the craft sector functions as both a cultural anchor and an economic lifeline for Meghalaya's communities. By preserving traditional knowledge and providing sustainable livelihood opportunities, crafts play a vital role in maintaining social cohesion, empowering marginalized groups, and supporting inclusive rural development. Strengthening this sector through targeted interventions will ensure that cultural heritage remains a living tradition while improving the economic well-being of artisan households.

2.3. Challenges faced by artisans

- i. **Income Insecurity:** Artisans in Meghalaya often face low and unpredictable earnings due to limited pricing power and dependence on local markets. Seasonal demand for craft products results in irregular cash flows, making it difficult for artisan households to achieve financial stability or invest in improving production.
- ii. **Restricted Market Reach:** Most artisans lack direct access to national and international markets and rely heavily on intermediaries to sell their products. This dependence significantly reduces their profit margins. Additionally, limited presence on digital and e-commerce platforms restricts their ability to reach wider customer bases.

- iii. **Design and Product Development Gaps:** Artisans have limited exposure to contemporary design trends and evolving consumer preferences. As a result, products often remain confined to traditional forms, which, while culturally significant, may not align with modern market demand or utility-based consumption patterns.
- iv. **Absence of Branding and Quality Assurance:** The lack of standardized quality control systems affects product consistency and market competitiveness. Furthermore, the absence of a collective brand identity for Meghalaya's crafts limits recognition, value addition, and positioning in premium markets.
- v. **Outdated Production Tools and Technology:** The continued use of traditional tools restricts productivity, precision, and uniformity in craft production. Limited access to improved equipment for processing, finishing, and preservation further affects product quality and scalability.
- vi. **Raw Material Supply Challenges:** Artisans face irregular access to quality raw materials such as bamboo, cane, and natural fibres. The absence of scientific treatment, storage, and seasoning facilities leads to wastage, reduced durability, and inconsistent product quality.
- vii. **Financial Exclusion:** Access to formal credit remains a significant challenge due to lack of collateral, documentation, and financial literacy. Many artisans are unaware of government credit schemes, subsidies, and financial assistance programs that could support enterprise growth.
- viii. **Institutional and Capacity Gaps:** There is a lack of structured training systems, certification mechanisms, and standardized curricula to ensure skill enhancement. Moreover, limited post-training support in areas such as entrepreneurship, marketing, and business management hinders artisans from scaling their enterprises.
- ix. **Declining Youth Engagement:** Younger generations increasingly perceive crafts as low-income and labour-intensive occupations. This perception, combined with migration to urban areas for better employment opportunities, threatens the continuity of traditional skills and knowledge.
- x. **Gender-Based Constraints:** Women play a significant role in the craft sector but face barriers in accessing finance, markets, training, and mobility. Their contributions are often undervalued, limiting their economic empowerment and participation in decision-making processes.

- xi. **Infrastructure Deficiencies:** The absence of Common Facility Centres (CFCs) for processing, storage, and finishing restricts value addition and quality improvement. Poor transport and digital connectivity in remote areas further constrain market access and supply chain efficiency.
- xii. **Low Digital Adoption:** Limited digital literacy prevents artisans from leveraging online marketing, digital payments, and e-commerce platforms. This digital gap restricts business expansion and reduces competitiveness in an increasingly digital marketplace.

2.4. Alignment with state development priorities

The updated Mastercraftsman Scheme aligns with the Government of Meghalaya’s Vision @ 2032, which aims to transform the state into a USD 16 billion economy through inclusive, sustainable, and culturally rooted growth. The craft sector—particularly bamboo, cane, textiles, and eco-friendly products—leverages Meghalaya’s natural resources and indigenous knowledge to create value-added products with strong domestic and export potential. By strengthening artisan livelihoods in rural and remote areas, the scheme supports poverty reduction, income diversification, and decentralized economic development, all key state priorities. Its focus on women artisans’ advances, gender-inclusive growth and household financial resilience.

The promotion of sustainable raw materials and eco-friendly production aligns with the state’s green economy and climate resilience goals. Additionally, integrating crafts with tourism enhances cultural branding and visitor experiences, contributing to the service economy. Through skill development, entrepreneurship support, and digital market access, the scheme fosters enterprise-led growth and positions the craft sector as a strategic driver of Meghalaya’s economic transformation.



3. Overview of the Existing Mastercraftsman Scheme

3.1. Introduction

The Mastercraftsman Scheme is a vital initiative aimed at preserving and promoting the traditional skills, techniques, and art forms practiced by the diverse tribes of Meghalaya. These crafts are deeply intertwined with the cultural identity of the state and have been an essential source of livelihood for generations. Beyond their economic value, these crafts represent a heritage of national importance and pride, reflecting the artistry and traditions of Meghalaya's tribal communities.

The primary objective of the scheme is to retain and enrich traditional Craftsmanship by supporting master artisans and State awardees who possess invaluable knowledge and expertise. These artisans play a critical role in sustaining the craft ecosystem and ensuring its continuity. By providing opportunities for Mastercraftsmen to train younger generations, the scheme fosters skill transmission and safeguards cultural practices from the risk of extinction. This mentorship model not only preserves heritage but also creates sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural artisans. Training under the scheme is concentrated mainly in rural areas, with limited interventions in urban pockets. Activities are often carried out in cottage-based settings, maintaining authenticity and community engagement. This approach strengthens rural economies while promoting self-reliance among artisans. In addition to skill preservation, the scheme emphasizes economic empowerment. By sustaining the livelihoods of Mastercraftsmen and artisans, it contributes to poverty alleviation and rural development. Furthermore, the initiative enhances the visibility of Meghalaya's crafts at the national level, reinforcing their cultural significance and market potential. Ultimately, the Mastercraftsman Scheme serves as a bridge between tradition and modernity. It ensures that the rich craft heritage of Meghalaya remains vibrant, relevant, and economically viable for future generations. Through skill development, cultural preservation, and livelihood support, the scheme stands as a cornerstone for safeguarding the identity and pride of the state's tribal communities.

3.2. Objectives

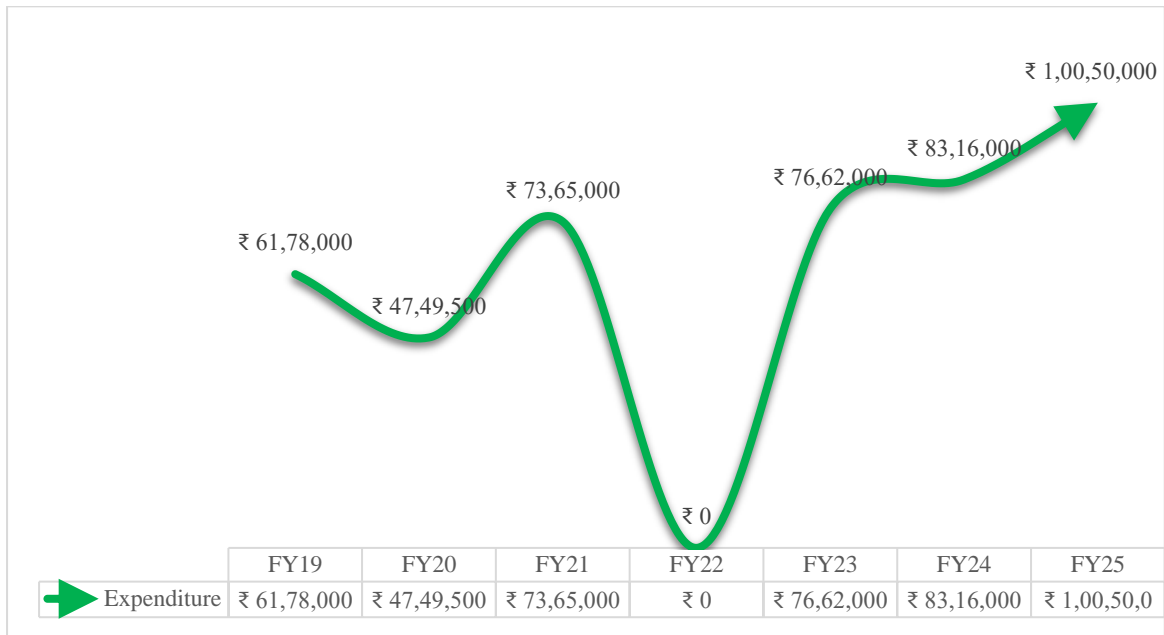
- I. **Recognition and Financial Support:** The scheme seeks to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of Mastercraftsmen and State awardees who possess deep knowledge and expertise in traditional crafts. By providing financial assistance, it ensures that these artisans can continue their work without economic constraints, thereby safeguarding their role as custodians of cultural heritage.

- II. **Structured Training Platform:** A key objective is to establish a well-organized platform where Mastercraftsmen can impart hands-on training to apprentices and emerging artisans. This structured approach facilitates skill transmission, encourages innovation within traditional frameworks, and builds a strong pipeline of skilled artisans for the future.
- III. **Preservation of Endangered Crafts and Indigenous Knowledge:** The scheme emphasizes the urgent need to protect crafts that are on the verge of extinction, along with the indigenous knowledge systems associated with them. By documenting, promoting, and revitalizing these practices, the initiative ensures that the cultural identity of Meghalaya's tribes remains intact and vibrant.
- IV. **Socio-Economic Upliftment through Market Linkages:** Beyond skill development, the scheme aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of Mastercraftsmen and their trainees. This is achieved by connecting them to markets, exhibitions, and promotional platforms, enabling better income opportunities and wider recognition for their craft products.

3.3. Key Features

- I. **Financial Assistance:** The scheme provides direct financial support to both Mastercraftsmen and their trainees. Each Mastercraftsman receives a monthly honorarium of ₹1,500 for conducting training sessions, while apprentices are granted a monthly stipend of ₹500. This financial pattern ensures that artisans can dedicate time and resources to skill development without economic hardship.
- II. **Comprehensive Training Component:** The training emphasizes hands-on practical learning, enabling apprentices to gain proficiency in traditional craft techniques. In addition to preserving age-old methods, the program integrates modern design inputs to enhance product appeal and market competitiveness. This dual approach ensures that artisans maintain cultural authenticity while adapting to contemporary consumer preferences.
- III. **Training Duration:** The structured training program typically spans one year, providing sufficient time for apprentices to acquire in-depth knowledge and practical experience under the guidance of Mastercraftsmen.
- IV. **Market Support and Promotion:** To strengthen the economic viability of traditional crafts, the scheme actively encourages artisans to participate in craft fairs, exhibitions, and buyer-seller meets. These platforms help artisans showcase their products, establish market linkages, and generate income, thereby promoting sustainable livelihoods and cultural visibility.

3.4. Financial Performance (Year-wise)



The financial performance of the Mastercraftsman Scheme over the past six financial years reflects a consistent commitment by the Government of Meghalaya towards preserving and promoting the traditional crafts of the state. The expenditure trends indicate steady scaling of the scheme, enhanced outreach, and increased support to master artisans and trainees across districts. The total expenditure in last 6 years is ₹ 4,43,20,500.

3.5. Physical Progress (Beneficiaries & Coverage)

The beneficiary data over the past six financial years reflects a sustained effort to strengthen skill development and capacity building. The number of trainees has grown from 660 in FY19 to 837 in FY25, while trainers have increased from 136 to 213, indicating a steady expansion of outreach and training infrastructure. Despite a gap in FY22 reporting, the overall trend demonstrates continuity and growth, highlighting the program’s commitment to enhancing workforce capabilities and supporting livelihood opportunities.

Year	Beneficiaries	
	Trainees	Trainers
FY19	660	136
FY20	818	171
FY21	749	169
FY22	0	0
FY23	749	169
FY24	746	177
FY25	837	213

These figures underscore the increasing demand for structured training and the emphasis on improving quality through skilled trainers.

3.6. Outcomes & Achievements

- i. **Revival and Preservation of Traditional Crafts:** The scheme focuses on restoring endangered and age-old craft practices, ensuring that indigenous techniques and cultural heritage are safeguarded for future generations.
- ii. **Creation of Sustainable Livelihoods:** By empowering Mastercraftsmen and their trainees with training and financial support, the initiative promotes long-term economic stability and self-reliance within artisan communities.
- iii. **Development of a Skilled Workforce:** Through structured training programs, the scheme nurtures a new generation of artisans equipped with both traditional expertise and modern design sensibilities, strengthening the handicrafts sector.
- iv. **Enhanced Market Visibility and Demand:** The program actively works to increase awareness and appreciation for authentic handmade products by facilitating participation in exhibitions, craft fairs, and buyer-seller meets, thereby boosting market demand and income opportunities

4. Gap Analysis & Need for Updating

- i. **Outdated Framework and Low Impact:** The current Mastercraftsman Scheme has become obsolete and fails to deliver satisfactory results, necessitating a comprehensive update for better performance and relevance.
- ii. **Absence of Clear Guidelines:** The lack of standardized implementation guidelines has led to inconsistencies and inefficiencies, highlighting the need for a structured framework.
- iii. **No Defined Selection Process:** The absence of a transparent and merit-based procedure for selecting Mastercraftsman undermines the credibility and effectiveness of the scheme.
- iv. **Limited Outreach:** The scheme has not reached all artisans, leaving many skilled individuals without support or opportunities for training and livelihood enhancement.
- v. **Upgradation of Skills and Designs:** Traditional techniques must be modernized to meet current market demands by incorporating contemporary designs and utility-based products.
- vi. **Obsolete Tools and Equipment:** The tools currently used during training are outdated, restricting quality, uniformity, and scalability of production. Modern equipment is essential for refined products and efficiency.
- vii. **Need for Advanced Tools:** Introducing modern tools and machinery will improve productivity and reduce production time. For example, specialized cutting tools can replace common knives for better precision and uniformity.
- viii. **Entrepreneurship and Awareness Support:** Post-training handholding through entrepreneurship programs is critical to help artisans transition into successful craft-based entrepreneurs.



5. About Updated Mastercraftsman Scheme

5.1. Vision

To preserve and promote Meghalaya's traditional crafts by building a resilient, market-responsive, and inclusive artisanal ecosystem that enhances livelihoods and sustains cultural heritage.

5.2. Mission

To strengthen the craft sector through structured training, financial support, digital enablement, and market integration, enabling artisans to achieve sustainable self-employment and improved income levels.

5.3. Guiding Principles

- i. **Inclusivity:** Ensure equitable access for artisans across regions, communities, and skill levels.
- ii. **Transparency & Merit:** Adopt fair, merit-based selection and clear implementation processes.
- iii. **Quality & Innovation:** Promote skill upgradation, contemporary design integration, and improved product standards.
- iv. **Sustainability:** Encourage environmentally responsible practices and long-term livelihood security.
- v. **Market Orientation:** Align training and production with market demand and value chain opportunities.
- vi. **Digital Enablement:** Leverage digital tools for database creation, monitoring, and service delivery.
- vii. **Cluster-Based Development:** Foster collective growth through cluster strengthening and shared infrastructure.

5.4. Objectives of the Updated Scheme

- i. **Enhance Skill Development:** Upgrade the technical and design capabilities of artisans through structured, high-quality training led by certified Mastercraftsmen.
- ii. **Preserve Traditional Knowledge:** Safeguard and transmit indigenous craft techniques and cultural heritage to the next generation of artisans.
- iii. **Improve Artisan Livelihoods:** Increase income opportunities by enhancing productivity, product quality, and access to remunerative markets.

- iv. **Promote Market-Oriented Production:** Integrate contemporary designs, quality standards, and consumer preferences to align craft products with evolving market demand.
- v. **Strengthen Training Ecosystem:** Modernize training infrastructure, tools, and curricula to ensure relevance, efficiency, and scalability.
- vi. **Enable Entrepreneurship & Self-Employment:** Facilitate post-training support including enterprise development, access to credit, and market linkages to promote sustainable self-employment.
- vii. **Leverage Digital Systems:** Establish a digital database of Mastercraftsmen and trainees to support planning, monitoring, transparency, and cluster-based development.
- viii. **Encourage Cluster-Based Development:** Promote collective growth through cluster strengthening, shared resources, and value chain integration.
- ix. **Ensure Inclusive Access:** Extend scheme benefits to artisans across districts, with special focus on women, youth, and marginalized communities.



6. Scope & Coverage

6.1. Mastercraftsman

Mastercraftsmen form the cornerstone of the updated Mastercraftsman Scheme, serving as custodians of Meghalaya's rich craft heritage and as primary trainers responsible for skill transmission. These individuals possess extensive hands-on experience, deep knowledge of traditional techniques, and demonstrated excellence in their respective crafts. Under the scheme, eligible Mastercraftsmen will be empanelled through a transparent and merit-based selection process that evaluates technical proficiency, training aptitude, and community standing. The scheme provides enhanced stipends and financial assistance to support their role as trainers, along with access to modern tools, upgraded workspaces, and training infrastructure. Institutional recognition and certification will further strengthen their professional credibility, enabling them to access broader market opportunities and participate in exhibitions, workshops, and design interventions. Mastercraftsmen will also play a key role in curriculum delivery, quality assurance, and mentoring trainees in entrepreneurship and market readiness.

By formalizing their role within the training ecosystem, the scheme not only preserves traditional knowledge but also elevates the socio-economic status of Mastercraftsmen. Their engagement ensures continuity of indigenous skills while fostering innovation through the integration of contemporary design and production practices aligned with evolving market demands.

6.2. Apprentices/trainees

Apprentices and trainees represent the future of Meghalaya's craft sector and are central to the scheme's objective of building a skilled and sustainable artisan workforce. The scheme targets youth, unemployed individuals, and aspiring artisans who seek to acquire new skills or upgrade existing ones in traditional and contemporary crafts. Trainees will undergo structured, hands-on training under certified Mastercraftsmen, ensuring practical learning and real-world exposure.

Support mechanisms include stipends to offset opportunity costs, provision of raw materials and toolkits for training, and access to modern equipment and infrastructure. The curriculum will integrate traditional techniques with contemporary design trends, quality standards, and basic business skills, enabling trainees to produce market-ready products. Exposure visits, design workshops, and interactions with industry experts will further broaden their understanding of market dynamics and consumer preferences.

Upon completion, trainees will receive certification to enhance their employability and credibility in the marketplace. Post-training support provided by DCICs will include entrepreneurship guidance, facilitation of credit linkages, and access to marketing platforms. By equipping trainees with technical, entrepreneurial, and market-oriented skills, the scheme aims to create a new generation of artisans capable of sustaining and evolving Meghalaya's craft traditions.



7. Eligibility Criteria

7.1. Criteria for Mastercraftsman

- i. No age bar & qualification
- ii. **Experience & Expertise:** Minimum of 5 years of demonstrated experience in a recognized traditional craft practiced in Meghalaya, with proven technical proficiency and product quality.
- iii. No criteria for State awardee of handicraft artisans
- iv. **Recognition & Community Standing:** Preference will be given to artisans recognized by government bodies, cooperatives, or reputable institutions, or those with a strong record of community engagement and mentorship.
- v. **Training Aptitude:** Demonstrated ability and willingness to train apprentices, including prior experience in skill transfer, workshops, or informal mentoring.
- vi. **Quality & Market Readiness:** Evidence of producing marketable products that meet quality standards and reflect adaptability to contemporary designs and consumer preferences.
- vii. **Compliance & Documentation:** Submission of required documents including identity proof, craft portfolio, references, and bank account details for direct benefit transfer.
- viii. **Commitment to Scheme Guidelines:** Willingness to adhere to training schedules, reporting requirements, and quality standards prescribed under the scheme.

7.2. Criteria for trainees

Applicants seeking training support under the scheme must fulfil the following:

- i. **Residency:** Must be a permanent resident of Meghalaya
- ii. **Age Group:** Typically, between 14–60 years; flexibility may be provided for exceptional candidates or traditional artisans outside this range.
- iii. **Interest & Aptitude:** Demonstrated interest in learning or upgrading skills in traditional or contemporary crafts, assessed through interaction, prior experience, or community recommendations.
- iv. **Educational Qualification:** No minimum formal education required.
- v. **Commitment to Completion:** Willingness to complete the full training cycle and participate in post-training activities such as assessments, exhibitions, or entrepreneurship programs.
- vi. **Documentation:** Submission of identity proof, residency certificate, and bank account details for stipend disbursement.

8. Proposed Trades / Craft Domains

#	Trade / Craft	Scope / Examples
1	Cane and Bamboo Craft and other forest produce	Utility items, decorative pieces, traditional sports equipment, musical instruments, jewellery
2	Woodcarving	Artistic and functional woodwork with tribal motifs
3	Pottery	Traditional earthenware and modern household designs
4	Stone Carving	Cultural artifacts and utility products crafted from stone
5	Water Hyacinth Craft	Eco-friendly products made from water hyacinth fibres
6	Blacksmithy	Traditional ironwork including locks and indigenous metal crafts
7	Terracotta Crafts	Handmade terracotta items showcasing traditional artistry
8	Khngeng Embroidery	Unique embroidery style native to Meghalaya
9	Tynrong Pineapple Crafts	Innovative craft products using pineapple leaves and fibres
10	Natural Dye Craft	Textiles and handicrafts using organic and traditional dyeing techniques

The table presents the illustrated trades and crafts identified under the updated Mastercraftsman Scheme and any other traditional crafts of Meghalaya can be included. These trades reflect Meghalaya's rich artisanal heritage, diverse natural resources, and evolving market opportunities. The selection aims to preserve traditional knowledge while promoting innovation, sustainability, and value addition across the craft sector. Each trade has been mapped with its scope and practical applications to guide training design, cluster development, and market linkage strategies. By standardizing the list of eligible crafts, the scheme ensures focused implementation, better resource allocation, and enhanced support for artisans, enabling them to produce high-quality, market-responsive products and achieve sustainable livelihoods.

9. Training Framework and Financial Assistance

9.1. Duration & Batch Size

- **Batch Size:** Minimum of 10 trainees per batch
- **Minimum Training Duration:** 3 months
- **Training Hours:** Minimum of 4 hours per day

9.2. Honorarium for Mastercraftsman

Empanelled Mastercraftsmen & State awardees will receive an honorarium of **₹20,000 per month** in recognition of their role as trainers and mentors. This support compensates for their time, expertise, and responsibility in delivering structured training, mentoring trainees, and ensuring quality production. The honorarium aims to enhance the socio-economic status of Mastercraftsmen, incentivize skill transfer, and encourage experienced artisans to participate in formal training initiatives.

9.3. Stipend for Trainees

Trainees enrolled under the scheme shall receive a stipend of ₹3,000 per month, amounting to ₹9,000 for the three-month training duration. This financial support is intended to ease the opportunity costs faced by participants, particularly those from economically weaker sections, enabling them to attend training regularly without financial hardship. The stipend rate has been kept at par with other skilling initiatives implemented by the Commerce & Industries Department, ensuring uniformity across programmes and maintaining administrative consistency. This provision is expected to improve trainee retention, promote wider participation, and strengthen the overall effectiveness of the training programme.

9.4. Toolkit Support

Each trainee will receive a one-time toolkit support of ₹10,000 to procure the essential tools required for hands-on training and initial production. This assistance ensures that trainees can practice skills effectively and smoothly transition into self-employment after completing the programme. Common consumables required during training may be provided separately at the batch level to ensure uninterrupted delivery.

9.5. Raw Material Support

Raw material support of ₹5,000 per trainee shall be provided to the Master Craftsperson, who will utilise this amount to procure the required raw materials and ensure that these are adequately supplied to all trainees for effective training delivery. This provision is intended to cover essential consumables needed throughout the training period and to maintain uniformity and continuity in hands-on practice.

9.6. Rent Support for Training Facility

To ensure that training activities are conducted in safe, accessible, and suitable environments, the scheme provides a rent support provision of **₹5,000 per batch**. This amount enables Mastercraftsmen to arrange an appropriate training space—such as community halls, work sheds, cluster production units, or other locally available facilities—needed to conduct practical, hands-on sessions. The rent component is included as a fixed cost within the standardized three-month batch budget to ensure uniformity and ease of implementation across districts. By allowing Mastercraftsmen to secure proper training premises, this support strengthens the quality of instruction, improves trainee attendance, and ensures that training can be delivered even in areas where dedicated craft infrastructure is not available.

9.7. Estimated Budget

#	Cost Component	Unit Norm	Monthly Calculation	Total Cost (₹)
a	Stipend for trainees x10	₹3,000 per month	₹3,000 × 3 months x 10 trainees	₹90,000
b	Honorarium to Master Craftsperson	₹20,000 per month	₹20,000 x3 months	₹60,000
c	Toolkit support (one-time)	₹10,000 per trainee	₹10,000 × 10 trainee	₹1,00,000
d	Raw Material Support (one-time)	₹5,000 per trainee	₹5,000 × 10 trainee	₹50,000
e	Rent for training area	₹5,000 per batch	₹5,000	₹5,000
Total Budget for one batch (3 months)				₹3,05,000
Total Annual Budget for 50 Batches per year				₹1,52,50,000

The above cost estimates are derived from standardized training norms adopted from the State Award Scheme for Handicraft Artisans and are intended to ensure uniformity, financial discipline, and consistency across all batches. Under the three-month training cycle, each batch of 10 trainees is provided a monthly stipend of ₹3,000, totalling ₹90,000, which is at par with other skilling and livelihood-promotion programmes implemented by the Commerce &

Industries Department. This stipend is designed to offset opportunity costs, reduce income-loss barriers, and encourage participation from economically weaker households across districts.

An honorarium of ₹20,000 per month (₹60,000 for three months) is extended to the Master Craftsperson to compensate for structured training delivery, hands-on demonstration, mentoring, and continuous quality supervision. In addition, toolkit assistance of ₹10,000 per trainee (₹1,00,000 per batch) and raw material support of ₹5,000 per trainee (₹50,000 per batch) are provided to the Master Craftsperson to ensure adequate tools and consumables throughout the training period. A fixed provision of ₹5,000 per batch is also included for renting an appropriate training facility. Except for the trainee stipend, all remaining financial components—honorarium, toolkit support, raw material support, and rent—are released directly to the Master Craftsperson for effective training delivery in advance.

Taken together, the total cost per batch amounts to **₹3,05,000**, and based on this standardised norm, the annual budget requirement for 50 batches is **₹1,52,50,000** excluding inflationary adjustments or administrative overheads that may be incorporated during implementation.



10. Implementation & Governance / Implementation Framework

10.1. District Commerce & Industries Centres (DCICs)

DCICs represent the ground-level implementing arm of the scheme, responsible for direct engagement with Mastercraftsmen, trainees, and local institutions.

- i. **Implementation at District Level:** DCICs shall execute all scheme activities in alignment with approved guidelines, including mobilisation of trainees, empanelment of Mastercraftsmen, and facilitation of training delivery.
- ii. **Verification & Approvals:** They shall verify trainee lists, inspect training locations, and ensure that all eligibility and documentation requirements are duly met prior to commencement of training.
- iii. **Fund Disbursement & Tracking:** DCICs shall release honoraria, stipends, toolkit support, and raw material assistance to Mastercraftsmen, maintain financial records, and ensure full compliance with State treasury norms.
- iv. **Field Monitoring:** Monthly field visits shall be conducted to verify training attendance, inspect toolkit usage, assess raw material utilisation, and ensure adherence to daily training schedules.
- v. **Record-Keeping & Reporting:** DCICs shall maintain detailed records of trainees, attendance sheets, financial disbursements, photographs, and progress reports, submitting consolidated monthly updates to the Directorate.
- vi. **MIS Updates:** They shall ensure timely and accurate entry of all scheme-related information on the designated MIS platform, enabling real-time monitoring at state and directorate levels.
- vii. **Issue Resolution:** DCICs shall address operational challenges faced by Mastercraftsmen or trainees and escalate unresolved issues to the Directorate for further action.
- viii. **Ensuring Compliance:** In cases of non-performance, fraud, misuse of funds, or poor-quality training, DCICs shall recommend suspension, replacement, or corrective measures as per scheme norms.

10.2. Directorate of Commerce & Industries

The Directorate functions as the supervisory and technical authority responsible for translating state-level policy decisions into actionable instructions for district implementation.

- i. **□Operational Supervision:** The Directorate shall oversee day-to-day functioning of the scheme across districts, ensuring uniform adherence to guidelines, training norms, and financial protocols.
- ii. **Consolidation of Reports:** It shall receive monthly and quarterly reports from all DCICs, consolidate district-wise performance, and conduct analytical assessments for review by the State Department.
- iii. **Issuing Instructions & Clarifications:** The Directorate shall issue notifications, circulars, operational guidelines, and corrective instructions based on field observations and monitoring data.
- iv. **Performance Monitoring:** Through dashboard reviews, data analysis, and scheduled or surprise inspections, the Directorate shall ensure quality of training, compliance with norms, and timely delivery of benefits.
- v. **Capacity Building:** It shall organise orientation programmes, review workshops, and capacity-building sessions for DCIC officers and Mastercraftsmen to enhance scheme delivery.
- vi. **Financial Compliance:** The Directorate shall verify district-level fund utilisation, ensure timely submission of UCs, and coordinate with the State Department for fund release, audits, and financial approvals.
- vii. **Grievance Redressal & Escalation:** It shall process grievances escalated from DCICs and ensure timely resolution through coordination with relevant authorities.

10.3. State Department of Commerce & Industries

The State Department shall serve as the apex administrative authority responsible for the overall governance, policy direction, and strategic oversight of the scheme. Its functions extend beyond routine supervision and focus on ensuring statewide coherence, quality, and transparency in implementation.

- i. **Policy Formulation & Approvals:** The Department shall issue policy directives, approve annual implementation plans, and sanction financial allocations required for the scheme's smooth execution.
- ii. **Strategic Oversight:** It shall regularly review statewide progress, analyse performance against key indicators, and ensure alignment of the scheme with broader state development priorities such as livelihood generation, skill strengthening, and artisan welfare.
- iii. **Inter-Departmental Coordination:** The Department shall coordinate with the Finance Department, Planning Department, Treasury, and Digital Governance units for approvals, budgeting, audits, and MIS integration.
- iv. **Governance & Accountability:** It shall ensure compliance with statutory norms, initiate third-party evaluations, and carry out periodic audits to reinforce transparency and integrity in scheme operations.
- v. **High-Level Review Mechanisms:** The Department shall convene State-level Steering Committee meetings to evaluate outcomes, address major implementation gaps, and introduce structural reforms or guideline revisions where required.
- vi. **Facilitation & Support:** It shall provide necessary administrative support to the Directorate and DCICs, including capacity-building measures, training, circulars, clarifications, and resolutions of escalated matters.



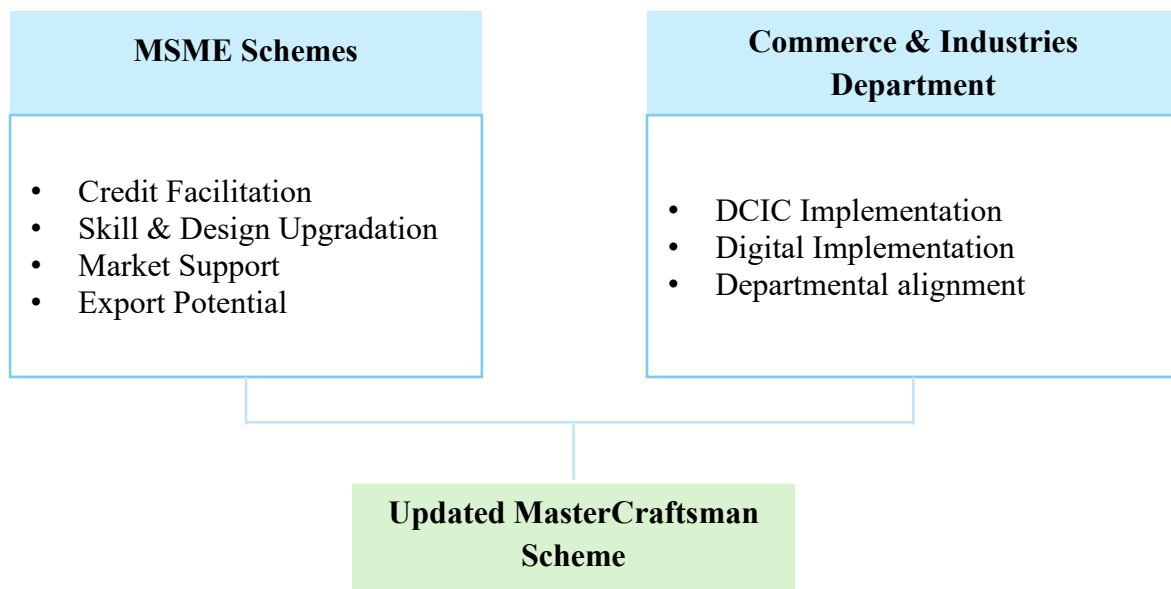
11. Application & Selection Process

- i. **Notification of the Scheme:** The Department of Commerce & Industries shall issue a public notification inviting applications under the updated Mastercraftsman Scheme through District Commerce & Industries Centres (DCICs), the official website, and local information channels to ensure wide outreach.
- ii. **Submission of Applications:** Eligible Mastercraftsmen may submit applications online through the designated portal or offline at the respective DCIC. The application shall include:
 - a) Completed application form
 - b) Proof of identity and domicile
 - c) Experience certificates and/or portfolio of work
 - d) Proposed list of trainees
 - e) Requirements for tools, raw materials, and training infrastructure
- iii. **Document Verification:** DCIC officials shall conduct preliminary scrutiny to verify completeness and authenticity of submitted documents. Incomplete applications will be returned for rectification within a stipulated timeframe.
- iv. **Skill Assessment and Evaluation:** A District-Level Evaluation Committee comprising craft experts, DCIC representatives, and sector specialists shall assess applicants based on technical proficiency, training capability, product quality, and market relevance.
- v. **Approval by District-Level Committee:** Based on the evaluation, eligible applicants will be recommended for approval. The final list of selected Mastercraftsmen shall be approved by the district-level Selection Committee and forwarded to the State Directorate for record and further action.
- vi. **Registration in Digital Database:** Approved Mastercraftsmen shall be registered in the State Mastercraftsman Digital Registry and assigned a unique identification number to enable monitoring, reporting, and future support.
- vii. **Agreement and Onboarding:** Selected Mastercraftsmen shall sign a formal agreement outlining roles, responsibilities, training standards, financial provisions, and monitoring requirements prior to commencement of training.

12. Expected Outcomes & Impact

- i. **Skill Development & Human Capital Enhancement:** The scheme will build a skilled artisan workforce through structured training and effective transfer of traditional knowledge. It will enhance technical proficiency, design capabilities, and product quality, ensuring long-term sustainability of craft skills.
- ii. **Livelihood Generation & Income Enhancement:** By improving productivity and market access, the scheme will enhance artisan incomes and promote sustainable self-employment. It will create local livelihood opportunities and help reduce seasonal unemployment and migration
- iii. **Preservation of Cultural Heritage:** The scheme will safeguard indigenous craft traditions by supporting their documentation, practice, and transmission to future generations, thereby strengthening cultural identity and continuity.
- iv. **Inclusive & Equitable Development:** The scheme will promote participation of women, youth, and artisans from remote and tribal areas through targeted outreach and flexible training models, ensuring equitable access to livelihood opportunities.
- v. **Institutional Strengthening & Governance:** The creation of digital databases on State Level MSME Portal (SLM Portal) and improved inter-departmental coordination will enhance transparency, monitoring, and efficient scheme implementation.

12.1 Convergence with Other Schemes



Director of Commerce & Industries