

CULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

.....

The Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (hereafter referred to as Contracting Parties)

INSPIRED BY a common desire to establish and develop closer cultural relations, and

DESIROUS OF promoting and developing in every possible manner the relations and understanding in the realms of art, culture, education, including academic activity in the fields of science and technology, sports, public health and mass media of information and education.

HAVE AGREED to conclude the following Agreement:

ARTICLE 1

The Contracting Parties shall facilitate and encourage cooperation in the fields of art and culture, education, including academic activity in the fields of science and technology, public health, mass media of information and education, sports and games and journalism in order to contribute towards a better knowledge of their respective cultures and activities in these fields.

ARTICLE 2

The Contracting Parties shall encourage and facilitate as far as possible:

- a) reciprocal visits of professors and experts for delivering lectures, study tours and conducting special courses;
- b) reciprocal visits of representatives of educational literary, scientific, technical artistic, sports and journalists, associations and organisations and participation in congresses, conferences, symposia and seminars;

exchange of materials in the fields of culture, science, education, sports, translation and exchange of books, periodicals and other educational, scientific, technical, cultural and sports publications, and wherever possible, exchange of art specimen; and

- d) reciprocal facilities in regard to visits by archaeologists of the one country to the other to enable them to gain experience of excavation as well as preservation and display of archaeological finds, and for training purposes, and also in regard to exchange of specimens or casts.

#### ARTICLE 3

Each Contracting Party shall endeavour as far as possible to provide facilities and scholarships to students and scientific personnel of the other country seeking to study in its institutions of higher education and research laboratories.

#### ARTICLE 4

The Contracting Parties shall exchange literature/documentation in an attempt to establish parity of degrees, diplomas and certificates, etc., awarded by Universities and educational institutions in the two countries.

#### ARTICLE 5

Each Contracting Party shall endeavour to present different facets of the life and culture of the other party through the media of radio, television and press. With this end in view, the two Parties shall exchange suitable materials and programmes.

#### ARTICLE 6

The Contracting Parties shall facilitate and promote:

- a) exchange of artists, and dance and music ensembles;
- b) exchange of art and other exhibitions;
- c) exchange of films, documentaries, radio and television programme recordings and recordings on discs and tapes; and
- d) exchange of experts in the field of cinematography and participation in each other's International Film Festivals.

#### ARTICLE 7

The Contracting Parties shall encourage visits of sports teams between the two countries and shall facilitate, subject to the national laws and regulations in force, their stay and movement

### ARTICLE 8

The Contracting Parties shall, to the extent possible, ensure that text-books prescribed for their educational institutions, particularly those relating to History and Geography, do not contain any error or misrepresentation of facts about each other's country.

### ARTICLE 9

Each Contracting Party shall welcome the establishment in its territory of a friendship associations devoted to educational and cultural pursuits by the other Contracting Party, or the Contracting Parties jointly, in accordance with its laws, regulations and general policy in this regard; it being understood that prior clearance of the Government concerned would be obtained before any institution is established under this Article.

### ARTICLE 10

For the fulfilment of the objectives of the present Agreement a Joint Committee may be established by the Contracting Parties as and when considered necessary consisting of an equal number of representatives of the two Governments which shall meet as agreed upon between the Contracting Parties at the request of either of the parties alternately in New Delhi and Vientiane.

The Joint Committee will be responsible for reviewing periodically the working of the present Agreement, advising the Government concerned in formulating and recommending any item of interest to either Party in the fields envisaged in the present Agreement, as also advising the manner in which the working of the agreement may be improved upon.

### ARTICLE 11

The present agreement shall come into force on the date on which both Contracting Parties have notified each other in writing that their respective internal legal procedures have been fulfilled. It shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall be renewed automatically thereafter for a further period of five years each until either Contracting Party gives to the other six months prior notice of its intention to terminate the present Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorised representatives of the Contracting Parties have affixed their seals thereto.



Done at New Delhi on 17th day of August 1994 in Hindi, Lao and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic except that in case of doubt the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of  
The Republic of India



( ARJUN SINGH )  
MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT

For the Government of the  
Lao People's Democratic Republic



( SOMSAVAT LENGSAVAD )  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS