

Subject: Continuation of the Scheme of Building Grants including Studio Theatre from the XI Plan to XII Plan.

ORDER

The sanction of the President is hereby accorded to the continuation of the Scheme of Building Grants including Studio Theatre from the XI Plan to XII Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 20.00 crores (Rupees Twenty Crore only).

2. The salient features of the Scheme are as under:

The objective of the Scheme is to support voluntary cultural organizations and government-aided cultural organizations in their efforts to create appropriately equipped training, rehearsal and performance spaces for artistes.

(I) Under the Scheme, financial assistance will be granted for the following purposes:-

(i) Grants will be given to projects for creating cultural spaces, which will include:

Conventional Cultural Spaces for Performing Arts:
a) Performance venues, like Auditoria, Open-air Theatres, Concert Halls.
b) Rehearsal halls for Theatre/ Music/ Dance.
c) Training Centres/ Schools for Theatre/ Music/ Dance.

(ii) Flexible Spaces, i.e., Studio Theatres, etc.:

Non-proscenium rehearsal-cum-performance spaces, referred to as Studio Theatre or Experimental Theatre, that are characterized by the following special features:

a) A small theatre, with all the essential equipment for the performance of live music, dance or theatre or combination of these arts;
b) An unconventional space that cannot qualify as an auditorium in the traditional sense; therefore, the stage or performance area is not normally placed within a proscenium arch nor raised too high or separated from the audience by a clearly demarcated division.
c) A seating arrangement for spectators that is totally flexible and can be moved fluidly from one part of the space to another depending on the artistic aim of a particular performance; therefore, the seats/chairs must not be fixed in position.

- d) A capacity that usually does not go over 100 to 200; therefore, such a space is often called a "little theatre" or "intimate theatre", because it allows for close-up and intimate viewing by spectators.
 - e) One or two adjoining greenroom(s)/dressing room(s)/makeup room(s) with toilet(s) for the performers, and a storage area; therefore, the entire unit, though minimal, functions as a theatre in every sense.
 - (ii) A project proposal to create an auditorium, a studio theatre or other cultural space(s) may include an appropriate combination of any of the following components :
 - a)New construction or purchase of a built-up space.
 - b)Renovation/ upgradation/ modernization/ extension/ alteration of an existing building/ space/facility.
 - c)Remodeling of the interiors of an existing built-up space/cultural centre.
 - d) Provision of facilities like electricals, air conditioning, acoustics, light and sound systems and other items of equipment, such as musical instruments, costumes, audio/ video equipment, furniture and stage material that may be required for a studio theatre, auditorium, rehearsal hall, classroom etc.
- (II) Following organizations will be eligible under the Scheme:
 - (i) All not-for-profit organizations that fulfill the following criteria:-
 - a) The organization has a predominantly cultural profile, working primarily for the promotion of arts and culture in fields such as dance, drama, theatre, music, fine arts, indology and literature at least for a period of three years.
 - b) The organization is registered as a society under the Registration of Societies Act (XXI of 1860) or similar Acts, or as a Trust or as a Not-for-Profit Company, at least for a period of three years.
 - c) The organization is well established and known to be doing meaningful work in the field of its activity and has gained a local, regional or national identity.
 - d) Its charter is devoted to the preservation, propagation and promotion of Indian arts and culture.
 - (ii) Government-sponsored bodies for promoting the performing arts.
 - (iii) University Departments or Centres dedicated to the performing arts.
 - (iv) Colleges set up to promote the performing arts.
 - (v)An organization that has been receiving salary grant for the last 3 years under the Ministry's Scheme of "Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals Engaged for Specified Performing Arts Projects" will be deemed to have fulfilled all the above conditions.
 - (vi)A Government-sponsored body, University Department/Centre or College dedicated to the performing arts may also be automatically

eligible, provided its record over the preceding three years is satisfactory.

(vii) Religious institutions, public libraries, museums, schools, colleges or University Departments/Centres that are not specifically dedicated for the performing arts and allied cultural activities, departments or offices of the Central Government/ State Governments/ U.T. Administrations/ Local Bodies will not be eligible.

(viii) An organization that has availed of a grant for its building project grant under the erstwhile Scheme of Building Grants to Cultural Organizations or under this scheme will not be eligible for a second grant under the Scheme before the completion of the project sanctioned earlier, except where such second grant is sought for a Studio Theatre (or Experimental Theatre) and the applicant organization has not defaulted on the ongoing sanctioned project.

(III) Eligible applicant organizations seeking financial assistance will be required to apply through prescribed application form along with requisite documents/certificates mentioned in detail at para 7 of the Scheme.

(IV) Maximum assistance under the Scheme to an organization will be restricted to a maximum of 60% of the approved estimated project cost subject to the ceilings given below and the balance of the approved estimated project cost would be incurred by the organization as its matching share.

CITIES	TYPE OF PROJECT	LIMIT OF ASSISTANCE
· Bangalore · Chennai · Delhi · Hyderabad · Kolkata · Mumbai	Projects involving new construction or purchase of built up space All other projects	Rs. 50 lakhs Rs. 25 lakhs
All non-Metro cities, towns or places	All projects	Rs. 25 lakhs

The sanctioned amount of assistance will be released in three installments as 40%, 30% & 30% subject to fulfillment of prescribed conditions.

(V) All the complete applications will be placed before a Expert Committee for determining their eligibility, worthiness and giving final recommendations on these proposals on case to case basis on merits with specific reference to the following:

- a)** Whether the applicant organization is well established in the field and has got an identity of its own.
- b)** Whether the proposal is well-conceived.
- c)** Whether the cost estimates are reasonable; and
- d)** Whether the organization has capacity or has made arrangements to bring in their matching share to complete the project. (Where the applicant organization has already spent full amount of the matching share, this requirement will be deemed to have been fulfilled).

(VI) If the project is not completed within a period of three years from the date of release of the 1st instalment, no further grant shall be released to the organization and the claim will become time barred.

(VII) Accounts of the organization will be open to audit at anytime by the CAG or his nominee at his discretion.

(VIII) If the project is found to be not conforming to the Scheme, the grants released may be refunded by the grantee along with a penal interest of 10%.

3. The expenditure involved is debitable to Major Head '2205' Demand No. 19, Ministry of Culture, Art and Culture, 002- 102-Promotion of Art and Culture, 04-Other Scheme, 04.14- Building Grants to Cultural Organisations, 04.14.31 - Grant-in-aid General (Plan) 2013-14.

4. The Scheme has been approved by the Secretary(Culture) for continuation from XIth Plan to 12th Plan period.

5. This issues with the concurrence of Integrated Finance Division. Ministry of Culture vide their Dy. No.1003 dated 27.08.2013.

Sd/-
(Maneesh Rajan)
Under Secretary to the Govt of India
Tel. No. 23382351

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Planning Commission, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi
2. Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi
3. Addl. Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Culture, Room No.173, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi

Copy also to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Culture
2. PSO to Secretary (Culture)
3. PPS to JS(COM), Ministry of Culture
4. PS to DS(IFD)