

## **Scheme for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Diverse Cultural Traditions of India**

### **Acharya Chhau Nrutya Bichitra**

#### **Blueprint: Training programme in Head Gear designing (Seraikella Chhau)**

##### **Brief introduction of the Project**

Head Gear is an integral part of the design and decorative part of Chhau Dance. The expressive quality of Seraikella Chhau masks increases manifold with the addition of related head gears. The important part of this scheme of design is that since the Chhau dance is primarily a character based dance, thus, not only the masks but the head gears are also created in accordance with the nuances of the character. The history of Chhau dance gives us the facts that earlier the mask and the head gear were a part of one whole piece. These were not prepared separately from the mud frame. It was from the year 1930 that the practice of making the mask and the head gear separately started. And this credit goes to the master craftsman/artiste Guru Sharad Kumar Sahu. He under the patronage of King Aditya Pratap Singh Deo of the Seraikella initiated this style which is still continuing. However, after the demise of Guru Sharad Kumar Sahu this practice was relatively limited to his family especially to his two sons- Shri Sunil and Sushil Kumar Sahu- who are the only artistes who exclusively create head gears for the Seraikella Chhau dance. The training programme in head gear designing and making is primarily envisioned under the guidance of Shri Sunil Kumar Sahu.

##### **Objectives of the Training Programme**

The training programme in head gear designing is to cultivate new students and practitioners of this tradition. The shortage of craftsmen for head gear making will adversely affect the longevity of the dance itself. This training programme with interested students is focused in nurturing young talent who will be dedicated to take this tradition forward.

##### **Implementation of the Project**

The training programme initially will be for one year but the actual extent is aimed for 5 years as after this time period the desired output related to the training programme may be seen. A training programme if it is aimed for continual sustenance of an art form can never be for one year. Therefore, this training programme will be run under the guidance of a master craftsman-teacher, Shri Sunil Kumar Sahu who will have six students under him. The said remuneration/scholarship is designated as follows:

- 1) 1 Guru/Teacher: Rs. 4000 per month
- 2) 6 Students: Rs. 1500 per month
- 3) Designated amount from the sanctioned grant kept for purchase of raw materials etc. For head gear making

##### **Time Frame of the Project: 5 years**

### **Specific areas of the respective state/Area the intended project may cover**

The primary focus will be in the state of Jharkhand where Seraikella Chhau Dance is practiced. Following districts/areas will be in focus:

- 1) Tatanagar (Singhbhum East)
- 2) Chaibasa (Singhbhum West)

### **Envisioned conclusion of the project**

This training program in Head Gear Designing & Making aspires to produce and nurture future artistes/craftsmen in head gear making of Seraikella Chhau dance. This will not only enhance productivity related to head gears and other related decorative aspects of the dance but will also foster the longevity of the Chhau dance tradition also.