

DRSC(C)-69

**DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEVELOPMENT (C) DEPARTMENTS**

2026-2027



**SIXTEENTH ASSEMBLY
SIXTY NINTH REPORT**

ON

GRANT NO. 27

**DEPARTMENT:
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Presented to the House on 22nd July, 2026

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT,
DISPUR :: GUWAHATI-781006.**

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(i)

**COMPOSITION OF THE DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEVELOPMENT (C) DEPARTMENTS, 2026-27**

CHAIRPERSON :

1. Shri Rupjyoti Kurmi, Chairperson.

MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 2. Dr. Paramananda Rajbongshi | MLA & Member |
| 3. Shri Manab Deka | MLA & Member |
| 4. Shri Diganta Kalita | MLA & Member |
| 5. Shri Diplu Ranjan Sarmah | MLA & Member |
| 6. Shri Rishiraj Hazarika | MLA & Member |
| 7. Shri SurjyaRongphar | MLA & Member |
| 8. Shri Lunsing Teron | MLA & Member |
| 9. Shri Nurul Huda | MLA & Member |
| 10. Shri Tanzil Hussain | MLA & Member |
| 11. Shri Jibesh Roy | MLA & Member |
| 12. Shri Thaneswar Basumatary | MLA & Member |
| 13. Shri Mazibur Rahman | MLA & Member |

SECRETARIAT

1. ShriRajib Bhattacharyya , Secretary.
2. Shri ProdipHandique, OSD (Joint Secretary).
3. Smti. Ruman Choudhury, Asstt. Language Officer.
4. Smti. Aporna Devi Sarmah, Asstt. Language Officer
5. Smti. Sewali Bhagawati Sarma, Committee Officer.

(ii)

INTRODUCTION

1. I, as Chairperson of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (C) Departments having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf present this 69th Report on Grant No. 27 relating to Art and Culture on the Budget estimates for the Financial Year 2026-27, Govt. of Assam.
2. The present Committee, in pursuance of Rule 260 H (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly has been constituted on 9th July, 2026 by the Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly for a term of one year and accordingly Notification was published on 10th July, 2026.
3. The committee has considered the Demand for Grant No. 27 on the Budget Estimates for the Year 2026-27 in its meeting held on 16th July, 2026.
4. The Committee has been befitted with the assistance rendered by the Government representatives during the course examination of the Budget estimates under the aforementioned Grant for the year 2026-27. The Committee has formulated its observations taking into consideration the valuable submission tendered by the Official witnesses, during the course of consideration of the Budget Estimates.
5. The committee wishes to keep in record the genuine services rendered by the Government Officials to the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Development (C) Departments, Secretary as well as the concerned Officers and Staff of Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat for their unstinted service devoted to the Committee, during the preparation of this Report.
6. The Committee has considered the Draft Reports on 18th July, 2026 and approved it on the same day.

Dispur
Dated : 18th July, 2026

Rupjyoti Kurmi
Chairperson
Departmentally Related Standing
Committee on Development (C)
Departments
Assam Legislative Assembly.

ART & CULTURE

The Budget provision under Grant No. 27 of Art & Culture Department for the year 2026-2027 is given under the following table :-

BUDGET ESTIMATES

	Revenue	Capital	Total (in lakh)
Voted	12592.72	2664.81	15257.53
Charged	0.00	0.00	0.00

Major Head of Account	Budget Estimates 2026- 2027 (Rs. In lakh)
2075 Miscellaneous General Services	200.00
2205 Art & Culture	12392.72
4202 Capital outlay on Education, Sports & Art and Culture	2664.81
Grand Total	15257.53

The DRSC on Development (C) Departments in its sitting held on 16th July, 2026 and examined the status papers and documents received from the Department and took evidences from the Departmental representatives.

**GRANT NO- 27 ART & CULTURE
DIRECTORATE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
UNDER CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT: ASSAM**

Point No. 1. Preliminary status paper relating to Grant No.27

The Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Assam, functions under the Cultural Affairs Department, Government of Assam, with the primary objective of promoting, preserving, and enriching the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the State. Budgetary provisions for the Directorate are made under **Grant No. 27 – Art & Culture**.

The Cultural Affairs Department comprises four independent Directorates. The Directorate of Cultural Affairs administers the following Government institutions:

1. Government College of Art & Crafts, Basistha, Guwahati
2. Luit Konwar Rudra Barua State College of Music, Panjabari, Guwahati
3. Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film & Television Institute, Sila, Changsari
4. Asom Sattriya Sangit Mahavidyalaya, Jorhat
5. Kokrajhar Music and Fine Arts College, Kokrajhar

In addition, the Directorate administers **37 Cultural Centres** situated across various districts and sub-divisions of Assam, along with two Cultural Centres located outside the State:

1. Cultural Centre, Madhupur, Cooch Behar, West Bengal
2. Cultural Centre, Puri, Odisha (attached to the Directorate Headquarters)

The Directorate also exercises administrative oversight over the following autonomous organizations:

1. Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra Society, Guwahati
2. Jyoti Chitraban Film Studio Society, Kahilipara, Guwahati
3. Assam State Film (Finance & Development) Corporation Ltd., Panjabari, Guwahati
4. Swargadeo Chaolung Siu-Ka-Pha Samanway Kshetra, Jorhat

The Directorate implements various schemes, programmes, and cultural initiatives for the preservation, promotion, and dissemination of Assam's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. It also extends financial assistance to cultural organizations, artists, and institutions and undertakes welfare measures for the artistic community.

During the financial year 2025-26, the sectoral allocation under EE. Estt., SOPD-G, and the Capital Budget, including CF and SD, was as follows:

Head	EE. ESTT. ETC. 2025-26	SOPD-G 2025-26
	Rs. in lakh	
104-Pension & Award in consideration of distinguished services	200.00	-
Salary & Wages	1807.61	-
Normal Work	1498.07	17139.12
Capital “4202-04”	51.30	2503.35
C.M’ Special Scheme	-	-
T.S.P Salary & Wages	211.45	-
T.S.P (Non-Salary)	45.53	27.74
Total-	3813.96	19670.21
Grand Total SOPD and EE. Estt. Etc.	23484.17 LAKH	

Point No.2. Performance Budget/Annual Report: Key Activities of the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Assam, for the Year 2025-26

During the Financial Year **2025–26**, the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, Assam, continued its efforts towards the preservation, promotion, and dissemination of the State's rich cultural heritage. In collaboration with national and regional cultural institutions such as the Sangeet Natak Akademi, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC), North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), and the National School of Drama (NSD), the Directorate successfully organized a wide range of cultural festivals, workshops, commemorative programmes, and welfare initiatives throughout the State.

The major achievements during the year are summarized below:

1. Financial Assistance to Bihu Celebration Committees

Financial assistance of **₹1.50 lakh each** was provided to **2,241 Bihu Celebration Committees** across Assam to facilitate the celebration of Rongali Bihu and promote the State's traditional cultural heritage.

2. Celebration of Bishnu Rabha Divas and State Award Ceremony

Bishnu Rabha Divas was celebrated on **20 June 2025** at the Darrang College Auditorium, Tezpur. On the occasion, prestigious National and State Awards were conferred upon eminent personalities for their outstanding contributions to art, literature, culture, and society.

National Awards

- Sri SriMadhabdev Award, 2025 – Dr. Thaneswar Sarma
- Bir Chilarai Award, 2025 – Swahid Deepak Chingakhm
- Kalicharan Brahma Award, 2025 – Shri Dhaneswar Ingti

State Awards

- Bishnu Rabha Award, 2025 – Shri Narendra Nath Das and Dr. Mallika Kandali
- Sonit Konwar Gajen Baruah Award, 2025 – Shri Sonaram Sarma BurhaBhakat
- Swargadeo Sarbananda Singha Award, 2025 – Shri Jayneswar Chetia

3. Srimanta Sankardeva Award, 2023

The prestigious National-level **Srimanta Sankaradeva Award, 2023** was conferred upon **Dr. Sonal Mansingh**, an internationally acclaimed classical dancer, on **12 June 2025** in recognition of her exceptional contribution to Indian classical dance and cultural heritage.

4. Summer Vacation Cultural Workshops

The Directorate organized Summer Vacation Cultural Workshops in every Legislative Assembly Constituency of Assam by conducting **two workshops in each constituency**. The workshops imparted training in Jyoti Sangeet, Bishnu Rabha Sangeet, Bihu, Sattriya, Bagurumba, and other traditional music and dance forms, thereby encouraging cultural awareness among children and promoting the preservation of Assam's rich cultural traditions.

5. Birth Centenary Celebration of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika

The Birth Centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika was celebrated throughout the State on **13 September 2025** through various commemorative programmes. A commemorative coin was released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in honour of the legendary cultural icon, symbolizing national recognition of his unparalleled contribution to Indian culture.

6. Statewide Observance of the Death Anniversary of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika

The Directorate organized the statewide observance of the death anniversary of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika with the participation of more than **1.50 lakh artists** in cultural performances and tribute programmes held across Assam.

7. Financial Assistance to Raas Celebration Committees

Financial assistance of **₹25,000 each** was provided to **2,063 Raas Celebration Committees** for organizing traditional Raas festivals and preserving Assam's Vaishnavite cultural heritage.

8. Financial Assistance to Durga Puja Celebration Committees

Financial assistance of **₹10,000 each** was extended to **7,932 Durga Puja Celebration Committees** across the State to support community-level celebration of the festival.

9. Artist Welfare Schemes

The Directorate implemented various welfare schemes for artists, including:

- Monthly Artist Pension of **₹8,000 to 78 artists**.
- Family Pension of **₹4,000 per month to 32 beneficiaries**.

- One-time annual assistance of **₹50,000** under *Barxik Silpi Sanman* to **178 artists**, including **three Divyang artists**.
- One-time ex gratia assistance of **₹50,000 each** to the families of **five deceased artists**.

10. The beautifully conceptualized Assam Tableau, showcased at the 77th Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path on 26 January 2026, prominently featured Asharikandi, India's largest terracotta and pottery craft cluster. The tableau celebrated the rich cultural heritage of Dhubri district, depicting artisan families engaged in traditional pottery-making with Hiramati clay, complemented by riverine motifs and vibrant Bihu performances. Rooted in the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat, Asharikandi stands as a symbol of self-reliance through cultural entrepreneurship, preserving and promoting Assam's centuries-old terracotta craftsmanship on the national stage.

11. BagurumbaDwhou 2026

The Government of Assam successfully organized **BagurumbaDwhou 2026** on **17 January 2026**, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Bodo community through the traditional Bagurumba dance.

The event witnessed the participation of **10,000 artists** from across the State in a synchronized cultural performance. It was organized with meticulous planning and effective coordination and received widespread appreciation from the public, media, and cultural organizations. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India graced the occasion and lauded the initiative, bringing national recognition to Assam's indigenous cultural heritage.

The programme emerged as a landmark initiative in promoting cultural harmony, preserving traditional art forms, and showcasing Assam's vibrant and diverse cultural legacy.

12. The 9th Assam State Film Awards ceremony was organized on 15 February 2026 at Sri SriDamodardev International Auditorium under the initiative of the Cultural Affairs Department. Awards for the years 2020 and 2021 were presented to artists and technicians

of the Assamese film industry in recognition of their contributions. The ceremony witnessed the gracious presence of several distinguished dignitaries from the cultural and

film fraternity. The event was marked by a dignified celebration of Assam's rich cinematic heritage.

13. A programme for the presentation of National and State Level Awards was organised on **28 February 2026** to honour eminent personalities for their outstanding contributions to literature, culture, theatre, cinema, and the arts.

National Awards:

- **Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi Award 2025** was conferred upon **Dr. Amalendu Chakraborty**.
- **Krishna Kanta Handique Memorial Award 2025** was conferred upon **Shri Moneswar Deori**.

State Level Awards:

- **Silpi Award 2026** was conferred upon **Smti. Dhanada Pathak** and posthumously upon **Late Samar Hazarika**.
- **Natasurjya Phani Sarma Award 2025** was conferred upon **Shri Karuna Deka**.
- **Dr. Bhabendra Nath Saikia Award 2025** was conferred upon **Shri Arup Manna**.
- **Biju Phukan Award 2025** was conferred upon **Shri Abani Ranjan Pathak**.

3. Physical Targets Achieved over Past 3 years under SOPD Capital Budget

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
		Physical target Achieved		
1	Renovation of Art Gallery	100%	-	-
2	Additional Construction of Sri SriMadhabdev Kalakshetra at Narayanpur, Lakhimpur (SPA)	46%	78%	100%
3	Preservation of Chitraban Studio at Bholaguri tea Estate, Gohpur, Biswanath District.	100%	-	-
4	Construction of Purba Bharati, Nalbari	20%	53%	100%
5	Construction of Cultural complex alongwith Cultural stage at Basanti Khola, Borazara, Nalbari	35%	60%	100%
6	Construction of Martryr's Park at Dhekiajuli	12%	38%	100%
7	Establishment of Kumar Bhaskar Barman Kshetra at Nalbari	5%	15%	45%
8	Cultural Auditorium at Matmora, Dhakuakhana	30%	48%	100%
9	Construction of Tinsukia SanskritikSamannaya Kshetra, Tinsukia	35%	68%	100%
10	Construction of Auditorium of TarajanSanmilan	35%	92%	100%
11	Infrastructure Development of LKRB State College of Music	45%	65%	100%
12	-Construction of Guest House and Boundary Wall of MayamaraAjoli Ai (Ba-Bhaga) Than Sanskritik Kendra, Majuli	50%-	90%	100%
13	Construction of Auditorium at Bihpuria, Lakhimpur	20%	35%	75%
14	Auditorium in Memory of Achyut Lahkar, Pathsala.	24%	35%	55%
15	Up-gradation of Chilarai Park, AmingaonKamrup (R)	36%	100%	-
16	Construction of Chilarai Kalakshetra,	-	86%	100%

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
		Physical target Achieved		
	Golakganj			
17	Chandi Barua Smriti Bhawan, Howly	45%	100%	-
18	Preserve The House of Swahid Kushal KowarSarupathar, Golaghat	30%	65%	75%
19	Infrastructure Development of Government Arts & Crafts College, Guwahati	30%	56%	100%
20	Installation of Statue of Bircha Munda at Sonitpur	80%	100%	-
21	Const. of Tourist Complex at Botanical Graden, Padumi Than	45%	80%	100%
23	Const. of Tourist Complex at Basudeb Than Lakhimpur	60%	90%	100%
24	Statue in Memory of Late Ratan Lahkar, Pathsala	-	100%	-
25	Repair & Renovation of MorigaonSanskritik Sangha, Gandhi Bhawan, Morigaon		53%	100%
26	Construction of Ground floor of New Academic Building for one Academic Department cum Library at Govt. College of Art & Crafts, Assam	25%	63%	100%
27	Renovation and Modernization of Jyoti Bharati, Tezpur (Phase-I)	20%	55%	100%
28	Jyoti BihsnuSanskritik Prakalpa at Naharkatia	21%	100%	-
29	Jyoti BihsnuSanskritik Prakalpa at Pathshala	50%	100%	-
30	Jyoti BihsnuSanskritik Prakalpa at Bhergaon, Udalguri	50%	70%	96%
31	Jyoti BihsnuSanskritik Prakalpa at Moran, Dibrugarh	98%	100%	-
32	Jyoti BihsnuSanskritik Prakalpa at Balipara, Sonitpur	50%	100%	-
33	Jyoti BihsnuSanskritik Prakalpa at Titabor,	30%	100%	-

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
		Physical target Achieved		
	Jorhat			
34	Jyoti BihsnuSanskritik Prkalpa at Majuli		20%	100%
35	Jyoti Bishnu Sanskritik Prkalpa at Lengeri, Tingkhong		20%	95%
36	Jyoti Bishnu Sanskritik Prkalpa at Boko		10%	100%
37	Jyoti Bishnu Sanskritik Prkalpa at Sipajhar	10%	30%	100%
38	Jyoti Bishnu Sanskritik Prkalpa at Tamulpur			59%
39	Construction of Karbi Bungthe Asem at Kamarkuchi, Tepesia	100%	—	—
40	Establishment of KhetriRangamancha, Helagog, Khetri, Kamrup	30%	66%	100%
41	Construction of First & Second Floor at Luit Konwar Rudra Barua State College of Music, Assam, Panjabari, Guwahati-37 (Vertical Extension)	—	—	30%
42	Construction and Extension of Natya Mandir of Milita Shilpi Samaj at Moranhat	—	—	100%
43	Construction of Approach Road, Walkway Pavement around Pond in Jyoti Park at Bholaguri Tea	—	—	45%
44	Construction of Brick boundary wall with iron gate at Majuli Cultural Centre, Kamalabari, Majuli	—	—	30%

4. Action taken Report on the Recommendations observed by the Committee in its last report No. 68 of (Grant No. 27) of 2025-26

		Annexure-I
Sl. No.	Observation and recommendations of DRSC	Action taken report
1	The Committee recommends for Fund allocation for promotion of Assamese traditional arts like manuscript painting, bamboo crafts, and wood carving through Training and workshops with digital archiving of manuscripts, historical documents and folk artifacts.	The Department of Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship and the Directorate of Museum are the related departments engaged in these sectors. However, as part of its commitment to preserving, promoting, and safeguarding the rich cultural heritage of Assam, the Government College of Art & Crafts (GCAC), under the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, organizes annual workshops with financial assistance provided through the annual budget allocation of the Government of Assam. In the financial year 2025–26, GCAC organized a workshop on traditional Mask Making, along with training programmes on Manuscript Painting, Grass Leaf Craft, Red and Fibre (Water Hyacinth) Craft, Cane and Bamboo Craft (including the traditional Assamese Japi), and Bamboo Jewellery. These workshops were conducted with the objective of preserving traditional art forms, enhancing artisans' skills, and encouraging the continuity of Assam's indigenous crafts. However, no adequate fund has been allocated for the same in this FY.
2	The Committee recommends for Creating digital platforms to showcase and sell Assamese artworks globally.	The Department of Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship and Directorate of Museum are the related departments. No fund has been allocated for the same under Cultural Affairs Department during the current FY.
3	The Committee after observation and careful Consideration recommends for allocation of fund for completion of Gabharu Doley Cultural Complex at Matmara. The Committee further recommends to allow sufficient fund to complete the unfinished work of the audience gallery and other essential utilities for timely completion of the project.	The pending amount of ₹20.00 lakh has been released during the financial year 2025–26. The project has been completed both physically and financially. However, for additional works relating to the auditorium shed, administrative approval for ₹199.766 lakh has been accorded (vide AA No. AA/CA_2025-26(I)_329 dtd 17/10/2025) , and execution of the said works has been initiated.

4	The Committee recommends for Strengthening Sattriya, Bihu, Bagurumba, and other indigenous dance forms through festivals, training centres, and school curriculums	The Cultural Affairs Department has been actively contributing to the promotion and preservation of Assam's rich cultural heritage through the successful organization of major cultural events such as the Mega Bihu, Karbi Youth Festival, Mega Jhumoir, and other significant programmes, which have effectively showcased the diverse cultural traditions of the State. The Luit Konwar Rudra Baruah State College of Music under the Directorate of Cultural Affairs has been organizing various cultural programmes, workshops, and training activities on a regular basis. In addition to offering Degree courses in Music, the College provides training in various traditional dance forms, including Bihu, Sattriya, and other folk arts, thereby playing a vital role in nurturing young talent and preserving the State's intangible cultural heritage. The Cultural Affairs Department also organizes Summer Vacation Cultural Workshops in every Legislative Assembly Constituency (LAC) across the State. Two workshops are conducted in each LAC, focusing on folk songs, folk dances, Bihu, Sattriya, and other traditional performing arts. These workshops provide a valuable platform for young participants to develop their artistic skills while fostering awareness and appreciation of Assam's rich cultural traditions. Further, the Government of Assam successfully organized BagurumbaDwhou 2026 on 17 January 2026 to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the Bodo community through the traditional Bagurumba dance. The event witnessed the participation of approximately 10,000 artists from across the State in a synchronized cultural performance, making it one of the largest cultural gatherings of its kind. It was organized with meticulous planning and effective coordination and received widespread appreciation from the public, media, and cultural organizations. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India graced the occasion and lauded the initiative, bringing national recognition to Assam's indigenous cultural heritage and reaffirming the State's commitment to preserving and promoting its diverse cultural traditions.
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5	The Committee recommends for Documentation of oral traditions, folk tales, and indigenous knowledge from different ethnic communities like Bodos, Misings, Karbis, and Ahoms	A documentary on AbutaniDirbi Lotta, a traditional Mising folk practice by Paramananda Atoi, was produced by the Directorate of Cultural Affairs during the Financial Year 2024–25. An MoU was signed during the Financial Year 2025–26 between the Cultural Affairs Department, Government of Assam, and the Department of Folklore Research, Gauhati University, for the preservation, restoration, and digitization of the films and songs of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika. Further, an amount of ₹12.00 lakh has been released to Gauhati University during the financial year 2025–26 for implementation of the project.
6	The Committee recommends for Government support for local theatre groups, including mobile theatre (Bhramyaman) and folk performances like Ojapali, Bhaona, and Kushan Gaan.	During the financial year 2021–22, the Government provided financial assistance amounting to Rs. 170.00 lakh to 17 (seventeen) Mobile Theatre (Bhramyaman) groups. Thereafter, no further instructions have been received from the Government regarding the provision of financial assistance to Mobile Theatre groups. The Department has, however, continued its efforts to promote and preserve traditional performing arts by organizing the OjapaliSamaroh and extending financial assistance to NGOs for organizing Bhaona, Kushan Gaan, and other traditional folk songs and dance programmes across the State. Further, the Mobile Theatre Policy is under formulation and is currently in progress. The proposed policy aims to strengthen and promote the mobile theatre tradition of Assam by providing an appropriate policy framework for its sustainable growth and development.
7	The Committee recommends for Museum Development & Heritage Conservation and Modernization of existing museums like Assam State Museum, Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra, and district museums with interactive digital exhibits.	In regard to the museum at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra is being developed and modernized with a focus on preserving Assam's cultural heritage while adopting contemporary museum practices. The initiative aims at conservation of artefacts, digitization of rare collections, improved

		display and interpretation systems, and creation of visitor-friendly facilities Through heritage conservation and modernization, the museum seeks to serve as a dynamic cultural hub that connects tradition with modern presentation techniques, making Assam's rich legacy accessible to future generations. Further, the North Eastern Council (NEC) has sanctioned an amount of ₹13.98 crore for the construction of the Bhupen Hazarika Museum at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra. The construction work is being executed by the Public Works Department (Building), Government of Assam.
8	The Committee recommends for Establishment of community-based museums in rural and tribal areas to preserve local cultural heritage with special reference to Dhakuakhana	The Directorate of Museum is the concerning department
9	The Committee recommends for Digital archiving of manuscripts, historical documents, and folk artifacts	The Department of Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship and the Directorate of Museum are the departments primarily associated with the promotion of traditional crafts and heritage. However, as part of its continued commitment to preserving and promoting Assam's rich artistic and cultural traditions, the Government College of Art & Crafts (GCAC), under the Directorate of Cultural Affairs, organizes annual workshops . During the financial year 2025–26, GCAC organized a series of workshops on traditional Mask Making, Manuscript Painting, Grass Leaf Craft, Red and Fibre (Water Hyacinth) Craft, Cane and Bamboo Craft (including the traditional Assamese Japi), and Bamboo Jewellery. These workshops were conducted with the objective of preserving traditional art forms, enhancing the skills of artisans and young practitioners, promoting indigenous craftsmanship, and ensuring the continuity of Assam's rich cultural heritage for future generations. However, no separate earmarked fund has been allocated for the same in this FY.

10	The Committee also recommends for Restoration of ancient temples, satras, and heritage sites like Rang Ghar, Kareng Ghar, and Madan Kamdev, Harhi Devalay	Matter related to Archeology Department
11	The Committee recommends to take initiatives for Promotion of Bihu, Ambubachi Mela, Majuli Festival, Dishang Patkai Festivals, Hornbill Festivals, Charikoria Festivals etc. and other indigenous celebrations to attract global tourists	The Department of Tourism is the nodal department for promoting festivals such as the Ambubachi Mela, Majuli Festival, Dishang Patkai Festival, Charikoria Festival, and other tourism-oriented events. However, the Cultural Affairs Department has also been actively promoting Assam's cultural heritage through the successful organization of major cultural events. The Department organized the Mega Bihu on 13 April 2023, with around 11,000 artists, creating a Guinness World Record for the largest Bihu dance performance. It also organized the Mega Jhumoir (JhumoirBinandini) on 24 February 2025, with the participation of nearly 8000 artists to commemorate 200 years of the Assam Tea Industry, and BagurumbaDwhou 2026 on 17 January 2026, involving more than 10,000 artists celebrating the cultural heritage of the Bodo community.
12	The Committee recommends for creating heritage tourism circuits connecting historic and cultural sites across Assam	The Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra envisions the creation a of heritage tourism circuits connecting historic and cultural sites across Assam associated with the life and philosophy of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva. This spiritual circuit will link satras, namghars, and key cultural landmarks, showcasing the saint's contributions to religion, art, literature, and social reform. The initiative aims to promote cultural tourism, preserve sacred heritage, and provide visitors with an immersive journey into the spiritual and cultural ethos of Assam.The executing authority is PWD(B), Govt. of Assam.
13	The Committee recommends for Fund allocation for Yuva Sangha to promote traditional arts, music, and crafts	The Cultural Affairs Department has been extending Financial Assistance to various youth organizations from time to time, including others during the last Financial Year, for the promotion and preservation of traditional arts, music, and crafts and is committed to do so in this current FY also.

14	The Committee also recommends to allocated fund for organizing national and international exchange programs for Assamese artists and cultural scholars	To support this initiative, the department has proposed an allocation of ₹1.00 crore during the financial year 2026–27 for organising national and international cultural exchange programmes involving Assamese artists, performers, and cultural scholars. The proposed programmes are intended to promote cultural interaction, strengthen artistic collaborations, facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices, and provide wider national and international exposure to the rich cultural heritage of Assam.
15	The Committee recommends for Allocate fund for creating a virtual museum showcasing Assam's diverse cultural heritage	The Directorate of Museum is the concerning department
16	The Committee recommends to take initiatives for Policy Implementation and funding formation of a State Cultural Council with representatives from different art and cultural fields	No fund has been earmarked during the current FY 2026-27 for the purpose. However for policy implementation various State level committee under Cultural Affairs Department has been formed for conservation of Art & Culture
17	The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation No. 13 of Report No. 67 to increase the number of silpi pensioner in the state having eminent personalities in Cultural Affairs	The number of Silpi Pensioners in the State has shown a consistent increase over the previous years, reflecting the Government's continued commitment towards the welfare and recognition of artists.
18	The Committee recommends to start construction work of 'Ajaan Peer Kalakhetra' in Nazira Revenue Circle, Sivasagar District	Work is in progress through PW(building & NH) Department, Govt. of Assam
19	The Committee recommends to preserve the traditional Lathi Khel' in the State	During the Financial Year 2025–26, the Directorate of Cultural Affairs organized workshops on Rakhal Nritya and Lathi Bari Khel in the districts of Kamrup, Bongaigaon, Dhubri, and Goalpara and proposes to do the same in this current FY also.
20	The Committee recommends to appoint one Cultural Officer and other supporting staff in every co-district	Cultural Development Officers have already been appointed and posted in almost all districts of the State. However, every Co-district could not be provided with a Cultural Officer and supporting staff due to the constraints in existing sanctioned strength of officers and staff.
21	The Committee recommends to Construct a open cultural stage at Center and to Construct cultural cottages separately for Zonal participants at Phuloni for Karbi Youth Festival	During the previous FY 2024-25 an amount of Rs. 1.5 cr was released to the Karbi Autonomous Council for organizing Karbi Youth Festival. However , the ITFC Department has been given the role of

		Nodal Department from the last Financial Year
22	The Committee recommends to pay financial assistance to the folk instrumentalists of rural areas in the State	There is no specific budget provision during the current Financial Year for extending financial assistance to folk instrumentalists in rural areas of the State. However, the Cultural Affairs Department has recently introduced the Artiste Health Insurance Scheme for the welfare and benefit of artists across the State.
23	The Committee recommends to Construct a building for office and museum at Hojai as the Hojai represents ancient cultural heritage	Matter related to the Directorate of Museum
24	The Committee recommends to promote tourism, purchase one traveling bus for domestic Tourism to promote the Rajabari, No-Nath Temple etc	Tourism Department is the concerning department for the Matter

5. Brief Note in respect of Grant No. 27

The Directorate of Cultural Affairs falls under Grant No. 27 (Art and Culture).

The Government of Assam, Finance (Budget) Department, Assam Secretariat, Janata Bhawan, Dispur, vide Letter No. **BB.E.22680/319 dated 08-06-2026**, has communicated the sectoral allocation under **State Funding for Priority Development (SFPD)** for the Directorate of Cultural Affairs.

1. Under SOPD-G Scheme of Rs.9831.07 lakh
2. Under EE (Excluding 01-Salaries & 02- Wages) for Rs.1351.48 lakh
3. Proposed under Salary and Wages Head of Rs.2241.74 lakh

Directorate of Library Services, Assam

1. Preliminary status paper relating to Grant No. 27 .

The main object of the Directorate of Library Services is to provide free reading books service along with reading facilities to the readers in the State. Now there are 20 nos. of District Libraries & 14 Nos. of Sub-Divisional Libraries & 169 Nos. of Rural Library including 2 Nos. of Branch Libraries and one Children Library that are currently functioning in the State.

The Director of Library Services, Assam falls under Grant No. 27 and Budget Head is "2205-art & Culture & Capital account-4202 – capital outlay Art & Culture.

2. Performance Budget/ Annual Report of the Department.

During the financial 2025-26 :

Head	Fund	Expenditure (up to October,2025)	Percentage of Utilization
Capital Head	Rs. 823.44 lakh	Rs. 287.22761 lakhs	35.00 %
Revenue (EE.Estt. etc.)	Rs. 2680.51 lakh	Rs. 1774.55 lakh	66.20 %

3. Physical targets achievement during the last three years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

During the year 2023-24 :

(Rs. In lakh)

Sl.No.	Schemes	Amount allotted	Unit	Physical target	Achievement / Remarks (as per budget allocation)
1	Construction of library building cum auditorium at Silchar	171.00	1	1	100%
2	Infrastructure Development of Libraries	362.38	17	13	100%
3	Establishment of Children and Adolescent Libraries and Digital Infrastructure	51940.00	2597	2597	100%

Total Rs. (SOPD-G) Rs. 5 2 5 5 7 . 2 8 lakh

Total Expenditure = Rs.52535.68 Lakh

Expenditure Percentage = 99.95%

During the year 2024-25 :

(Rs. In lakh)

Sl No.	Schemes	Amount allotted	Unit	Physical target	Achievement / Remarks (as per budget allocation)
1	Construction of library building cum auditorium at Silchar	889.00	1	1	78.74%
2	Infrastructure Development of Libraries	311.00	7	7	58.69%

Total Rs. (SOPD-G) Rs. 1 2 0 7 . 2 8 lakh

Total Expenditure = Rs.885.30656 Lakh

Expenditure Percentage = 73.33%

During the year 2025-26 :

(Rs. In lakh)

SINo.	Schemes	Amount allotted	Unit	Physical target	Achievement/ Remarks (as per budget allocation)
1	Construction of library building cum auditorium at Silchar	477.62	1	1	0.0% (FOC of Rs. 477.62 was not received).
2	Infrastructure Development of Libraries	285.00	1	1	99.72% (Repairing renovation work at Nagon, Bongaigaon, Morigoan, Mangaldai, Jorhat, Sivasagar, Barpeta, Nalbari, SDL Charaideo)

Total Rs. (SOPD-G) Rs. 762.63 lakh

Total Expenditure = Rs. 284.22761 (move for FOC to Finance)

Lakh Expenditure Percentage = 37.26%

No. 4 Action Taken Report on the Recommendation made by the Committee under Grant No. 27 in respect of Directorate of Library Services, Assam.

Sl. No.	Recommendation	Action taken Report
1	The committee observed that the most of the Sub-Divisional Library buildings of state in a deteriorated condition. Therefore the committee strongly recommends to renovate Sub-Divisional library buildings and its interior management for restoration with special reference to Dhakuakhana Sub-Divisional Library.	Based on the recent review of 14 Sub-Divisional Libraries, 11 were found to be in good condition, while 3 required repair works. Estimates have so far been received for the following locations: Charaideo – ₹20.41 lakh, South Salmara – ₹67.05 lakh. However, due to strict budgetary constraints, the Directorate has not been able to proceed with these proposed estimates. However, during the current financial year, these estimates will be placed before the Government for consideration. Sub-Divisional Library, Dhakuakhana:- Administrative approval amounting to ₹228.59 Lakhs was accorded on 09-02-2010 for the construction of the Sub-Divisional Library, Dhakuakhana. The tender value was finalized at ₹197.61071 lakhs, and the final bill payment of ₹10.42lakh was made during the financial year 2020-21. After completion of the construction, certain faults were observed in the building and the Chief Engineer, PWD (Building) was requested to inspect and prepare an estimate for repairs. The estimate is still awaited. Further enquiry was sought from the Co-District Commissioner (Letter No. eCF 543533/91 dated 04-09-2025) regarding the condition of the building. The Sub-Divisional Librarian has written to PWD (Building), Dhakuakhana (Letter No. SDLD/Building/25/02 dated 03-11-2025) requesting renovation and improvement of amenities. To support day to day operations, an officer and a staff have been engaged to the library. As per the demand from the local people, 3,600 books and essential furniture have been provided. This year additional book will be delivered to the Library as per the procurement of the books in the last FY 2025-26.

2	The Committee recommends to construct a district library with an auditorium facility in the Hojai Constituency.	The Directorate of Library Services, Assam had earlier requested the District Commissioner, Hojai (Letter No. 543533/39 dated 30-04-2025) to provide land for construction of a new District Library with an auditorium. As per the recommendation of the DRSC Committee, it was proposed to utilize the vacated Circle Office premises at Hojai for establishing the new library. In this regard, a communication was made with the District Commissioner, Hojai to examine the feasibility of utilizing the existing Circle Office structure. As per the report of the DC, Hojai(Copy Enclosed), the building was found to be unfit for use, and it was recommended that the structure be demolished and a new building constructed with proper planning. Accordingly, the District Commissioner, Hojai (vide letter ECF No 770605/121) was requested to allot the said land to the Library so that new construction may be undertaken on the site.
3	The committee after consideration recommends for sufficient budget allocation for digitization of books and manuscript in the Guwahati District Library and providing access to such digitized content to all the 33 District and Sub-Divisional Libraries in the State.	As per the recommendation of the DRSC, funds were proposed for the digitization of rare books and manuscripts in the District Library, Guwahati. However, no budgetary allocation was received from the Government for the same. In addition, new furniture has been provided to each of the libraries across the State. As per the recommendation of Clause-6 of the Assam Accord minutes, the District Library, Guwahati is to be newly constructed. In the interim, the library will be shifted to the premises of the Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Library (NCBL). In this regard, an estimate for a prefabricated structure was received from the PWD (Building) and has been forwarded to the Government for approval which will be constructed from the budget of PWD(B) global head. The shifting cost of ₹8 lakh for relocating the District Library, Guwahati to the premises of the Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Library (NCBL) Hall was proposed, and the Directorate has communicated (No. eCF No. 682049/ 816 dtd. 05-02-2026) with the Assam Accord Department to provide the required funds. As per the proposal of the State Library Planning Committee (SLPC), funds were recommended for the digitization of books through the RRRLF scheme. However, the RRRLF funds could not be received due to unavoidable reasons. In view of the budgetary constraints, e-books were procured for 20 District Libraries only .

5. Brief Note in respect of Grant No. 27

The Directorate of Library Services falls under Grant No. 27 Art and Culture Budget proposed during the year 2026-27:

Budget under Revenue Account EE. Estt. Etc.	- 2736.8 Lakhs
Budget under Capital Account (SOPD-G)	- 686.36 Lakhs

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, 2026-27
GRANT NO. 27

1. The Committee recommends for showcasing and selling Assamese artworks by providing a dedicated window on the proposed Over-The-Top (OTT) platform of Assam along with other established e-commerce platforms such as Amazon, Flipkart etc. to promote Assamese culture and provide global recognition to its artists and heritage.
2. The Committee recommends for formulating a comprehensive policy for supporting at least one existing music school or NGO in each LAC by providing ex-gratia financial assistance to conduct music classes in schools within the respective LAC. It also recommends outsourcing competent professionals to provide musical training to children and introducing a standardized notation system to facilitate more effective and accessible music education.
3. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation No. 6 of Report No. 68 and recommends for Government support for local theatre groups, including mobile theatre (Bhramyaman) and folk performances like Ojapali, Bhaona, Kushan Gaan etc.
4. The Committee strongly recommends that the Goods and Service Tax (GST) levied on mobile theatre groups be abolished as a measure to provide financial relief, enhance their economic sustainability, and safeguard this unique cultural institution, which constitutes an integral part of the State's cultural heritage.
5. The Committee recommends that the Government should make adequate budgetary provisions for organizing cultural festivals aimed at preserving, promoting, and showcasing the heritage, traditions, and cultural diversity of all regional communities and tribes of the State. The Committee after careful consideration and observation recommends to provide financial aid to those organizations who have been arranging such festivals for the last 3/4 years.

6. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation No. 13 of Report No. 68 and recommends for fund allocation for Yuva Sangha to promote traditional arts, music, and crafts.
7. The Committee recommends that necessary steps be taken to identify and include deserving persons from every community under the Silpi Pension Scheme, so as to ensure fair and equitable coverage of eligible personalities.
8. The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation No. 20 of Report No. 68 and recommends appointing one Cultural Officer and other supporting staff in every co-district.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
DIRECTORATE OF LIBRARY SERVICES, 2026-27
GRANT NO. 27

1. The Committee recommends for the establishment of mobile libraries in every village to encourage literacy, and enhance learning opportunities for rural communities.
2. The Committee recommends that the existing village libraries (Gramya Puthibharal) be upgraded into Co-district level libraries and the excess staff presently serving in the village libraries be attached to the respective Co-district libraries so as to ensure optimum utilization of human resources. The Committee also recommends for providing adequate financial assistance to village libraries run by NGO, Yuva Sangha etc.
3. The Committee recommends that a centralized digital Application be developed for all village libraries to facilitate efficient monitoring, management, and maintenance of library database.
4. The Committee recommends that adequate academic books and reference materials be provided in the Government Libraries to support and equip aspirants preparing for competitive examinations. The Committee further recommends that a dedicated section comprising such books be established in the libraries to facilitate easy access to relevant study materials for the aspiring candidates.

5. The Committee recommends the establishment of Sub-Divisional Libraries in each Sub-Division to ensure wider access to library services and promote reading and learning facilities at the grassroots level.
6. The Committee recommends to establish a library at Diphu to facilitate access to educational resources and promote academic and knowledge-based activities in the region.
7. The Committee recommends to prepare and maintain a comprehensive database on library usage, including the number of visitors, books issued, and registered library card holders. The Committee further recommends that library membership cards be issued free of charge to encourage wider public participation.
8. The Committee recommends the establishment of a Digital Archive in libraries for the systematic preservation of the significant speeches of eminent State, National and International leaders. The archive should serve as a readily accessible repository for researchers, academicians, students and other stakeholders thereby facilitating scholarly research, policy studies and academic research.

THE COMMITTEE HOWEVER RECOMMENDS THAT THE BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS PROVIDED UNDER GRANT NO. 27 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-27 BE VOTED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS BY THE AUGUST HOUSE.

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