

GOVT APPROVES WELFARE FUND FOR WRITERS, ARTISTS

SRINAGAR, SEPT 06 2012:



The government today approved creation of a welfare fund for the writers and artists from the state, apart from an enhancement in the assistance given to them.

Chief minister Omar Abdullah also approved the publication programme of Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, of which he is the chairperson.

An increase in the scholarship for students of calligraphy, apart from cash prize for students of photography and film was also approved by the Chief Minister during the Central Committee meeting of the Cultural Academy.

Underlining the need for transparency in finalization and implementation of various programmes, Omar stressed for adherence to the set norms and procedures in this regard.

He also directed for prior vetting of all proposals by the Finance Committee of the academy before listing them for approval by the Central Committee.

Omar asked the academy to take opinion of Central Committee members representing various languages, while formulating the publication programme for these languages.

A comprehensive Rs 12.5 crore-project to upgrade Tagore Hall in Srinagar is being worked out with the Centre, Omar said, adding that a similar project for Abhinav Theatre in Jammu is also under process with the Union government.

The government has already approved Rs 2 crore for the Tagore Hall and Rs 1 crore for Abhinav Theatre for upgradation of these landmark cultural centres.

Omar asked the academy to issue a cultural calendar before the start of tourist season every year and keep it available at all tourist offices, hotels and other such establishments to appraise the tourists with various events.

He called for making best use of amphitheatres developed at Mansbal, Nigeen West, Zabervan and other tourist places to showcase programmes depicting Sufism and other cultural heritages of the state.
