

A REPORT ON STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES ORGANIZED BY DIRECTORATE OF ARCHAEOLOGY, ASSAM

2016-2017.

The Directorate of Archaeology, Assam has a scheme of participation of students in preservation of cultural and heritage of Assam. In this programme, school going children are implicated in matters related to preservation of cultural heritage of Assam by involving the students communities to visit the Archaeological sites, holding meetings, discussions among students in preservation of Archaeological sites. The sole objective of the scheme is to promote awareness among the student community upon the preservation of cultural and as archaeological heritage of the people of Assam. Participating of student and schools in such programmes are awarded from this Directorate for evolving a continuous interest and awareness among the future generation throughout the State of Assam.

In the year 2016-17, the Directorate of Archaeology has selected 100 nos. of students from Dehmaji and North Lakhimpur district along with two teacher from each district through the Inspector of schools for participating in the cultural awareness program which comprised of both boys as well as girls studying in class VII, IX and X of the respective districts. For smooth performance of the program Dr. Deepi Rekha Kouli the Director of the Directorate allotted duties and responsibilities to each official and employee. One of the officer of the Directorate namely Sri Ajit Kumar Bora, Sr Conservation Officer was deputed to bring the students from the respective districts to Guwahati for the inaugural ceremony.

As per the programme, the teachers from each district with their selected students arrived at Silpagram on 29th September 2016. They were received by the officials and employees of the Directorate and necessary dinner refreshment and accommodation was provided to them for the night.

The opening ceremony of the programme began on 30th of September 2016. On this day all the students and teachers were invited to the auditorium at Srimanta Sankerdev Kalakshetra where a formal meeting was organized by the Directorate. In the meeting the students were briefed about the details of the programme, its purpose and were asked to take advantage of such a programme of cultural learning organized by the government. The teachers and students were presented with a bag, a notebook with pen, books and brochures published by the Directorate and all the necessary items required in the journey.

Sri Naba Kumar Doley, Hon'ble Minister of culture formally declared the programme. Sri Preetom Saikia, Commisioner &Secretary, Smti Madhurima Sen, Secretary, Smti Monita Buragohain, Joint Secretary, Sri Umanada Doley, Joint Secretary of the Cultural Affairs Department was also present in the occasion.

Thereafter, the team of 100 students along with 4 teachers left for the archaeological tour headed by Sri Nabajit Deori Technical Officer, Smti Chabina Hassan Exploration Officer and Sri Kangkon Jyoti Saikia Conservation Officer, assisted by Sri Dilip Sarma, Guide Lecturer, Sri, Apurba Gogoi Photographer, Smti Bhabani Barbam LDA, Sri Hari Mohan Nath, Formen, Sri Kadam Duwarah Monument Attendant, Sri Hussain Ali Driver, and Smti Anjali Rabha of the Directorate.

The team was taken to visit the Assam State Museum followed by the Ambari archaeological site and the Guwahati planetarium on the same day.

On 1st of October the team headed for Sivasagar district via Kaziranga National Park. The students were privileged to visit the Kaziranga national park where they were briefed about the wildlife of the park by Dr. Parvez Ahmed one of the officials of an NGO named WWF. Late in the evening the team reached Sivasagar District where the girls along with the female teachers and staff of the Directorate was accommodated in the government tourist lodge and the boys along with the male teachers and staff of the Directorate in a local hotel in Sivasagar town respectively.

On 2nd of October the team was taken to visit the historic Rang Ghar where the students got a chance to participate in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan organized by the archaeological Survey of India. From there the students were taken to visit the Kareng Ghar. Sri Kangkon Jyoti Saikia , conservation Officer of the Directorate gave a lecture to the students about the conservation and restoration techniques of the monuments. There after the team was taken to Charaideo Archaeological site. There Sri Nabajit Deori, Technical Officer of the Directorate gave a lecture to the students about the history, art and architecture of the Ahom monuments.

On 3rd of October the team was taken to visit the historic Siva DouL, JoyDouL, Ghanshyam House and Talatal Ghar. After lunch the students were asked to gather in the Yuvadol auditorium located near Borpukhuri in Sivasagar for the cultural programme and the closing ceremony. The chief guest of the cultural programme was Sri Debashis Sarma, Additional Superintendent of Police, Sivasagar district. The students participated in the programme with utmost zeal and the programme was a grand success for the Directorate. All the students and teachers were given participation certificate by the Directorate.

Finally after dinner the students headed to their respective districts on the 3rd of October. Smti Chabina Hassan, Exploration Officer along with Sri Bimal Kalita, Kadam Duwarah, Sameer Sankar and Uttam Sahu were deputed by the Director to drop the team in the office of the inspector of schools of the respective Districts.