

**Chief Minister at the State-Level Cultural Advisory Committee Meeting**

**"Steps must be taken to modernize our culture with innovative thinking in line with the present times"**

Culture plays a vital role in attaining mental and spiritual peace. Efforts must be made to present the state's rich composite culture on the global platform. For this, the Permutation of culture should be transformed into a mass movement. Chief Minister Professor (Dr.) Manik Saha stated this while addressing the first meeting of the reconstituted State-Level Cultural Advisory Committee held on August 5<sup>th</sup> at Conference Hall No. 2 The Secretariat. Notably, the Chief Minister is the Chairman of the State-Level Cultural Advisory Committee, which now comprises 39 members.

Before the discussion began, the Chief Minister got acquainted with the newly appointed committee members. In his address, Chief Minister said that culture is the ornament of a society. Steps should be taken to modernize our culture with innovative thinking, keeping in tune with the present times. There must also be conscious efforts to carefully preserve and nurture the state's traditional composite culture. In this context, attempts should be made to bring innovation to cultural activities while preserving the heritage of the indigenous communities. Only then can the youth be attracted to our traditional culture.

The Chief Minister mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi often emphasizes skill development. Therefore, importance must be given to skill enhancement in every field, including culture. The focus should be on improving the skills and aesthetic presentation of artistes from all parts of the state. Talented artistes must be identified at the village level and provided with the necessary support.

He further noted that traditional cultural forms like Kirtan, puppet shows, and Jatra are fading under the pressure of modernity. These should be revitalized through innovative thinking. The Chief Minister called upon everyone to practice healthy culture and to preserve, promote, and widely disseminate the state's heritage and traditions. During the meeting, Vice Chairman of the State-Level Cultural Advisory Committee, Subrata Chakraborty, urged everyone regardless of community or ethnicity to come forward to protect the state's rich cultural heritage. In his welcome address, Dr. P. K. Chakravarty, Secretary of the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, spoke in detail about different year-round programs. He mentioned that for the financial year 2025-26, 19 new cultural programs have been included in the department's annual calendar. Through this department, different cultural organizations in the state are provided financial assistance for conducting cultural activities. So far, this fiscal year, 24 such organizations have been granted financial aid. He also proposed initiatives such as organizing the state's signature festival, conducting Tripura Idol competitions from block to state level, and formulating a cultural policy. Other committee members also shared their opinions on advancing the cultural landscape of the state.

Among others who spoke at the meeting was the Director of the Tourism Department, Prashant Badal Negi. Director of the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Bimbisar Bhattacharya, along with officials from various levels of the department, were also present.