

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE FOR COMMEMORATION OF THE 150th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2012

The fourth meeting of the National Implementation Committee (NIC) for commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Defence Minister on 21st November 2012 in Room No 102, South Block, New Delhi. A list of Members of NIC and other officials who attended the meeting is given at Annexure.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the NIC and requested Member Secretary & Secretary (Culture) Smt. Sangita Gairola, to take up the Agenda items. The same were accordingly taken up as follows:

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 3rd NIC Meeting held on 24th March 2012

The Minutes were confirmed as there were no observations on the minutes from any of the members.

2. Action Taken Report on the decisions of the 3rd NIC Meeting held on 24th March 2012

The action taken till date was noted.

3. Inaugural Function

It was decided that the inaugural function of the commemoration may be organized on 12th January 2013 at Vigyan Bhawan. Hon'ble President of India may be requested to be the Chief Guest on the occasion while Hon'ble Prime Minister be invited for gracing the closing ceremony. Other activities which would form part of this event would be the release of commemorative coins and commemorative stamps.

Regarding the performance by about 15 children from the Ramakrishna Mission, New Delhi, it was decided that only one song of about 4-5 minutes may be included.

Regarding the programmes to be organized by the Department of Youth Affairs, Smt. Nita Chowdhury, Secretary (Youth Affairs) stated that they had several lakh volunteers under the NSS who could be tapped for organizing programmes from 12th January 2013 onwards all over the country.

However, availability of funds was a constraint and Ministry of Culture should make the funds available. Member Secretary clarified that under the present condition of acute shortage of funds for the commemoration, it was not possible for Ministry of Culture to release funds and suggested that Department of Youth Affairs may consider utilising their own funds for such programmes.

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare informed that blood donation camps would be organized on 12th January 2013 all over the country through the Red Cross. He also suggested that Ministry of Human Resource Development can be requested to coordinate with Department of Youth Affairs for organizing week-long theme based activities in Universities, Colleges and Schools. The themes should be those ideals propagated by Swami Vivekananda which had contemporary relevance.

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs suggested that the Minister of Human Resource Development may hold a meeting of all the State education ministers for deciding about the activities.

Shri M.M. Pallam Raju, Minister of Human Resource Development stated that his Ministry would issue appropriate advisories to all Universities and other educational institutions. Similar advisories need to be issued for organizations under ICMR, Department of Science and Technology and the National Council of Science Museums.

4. Overview of Proposals approved so far

NIC noted that so far proposals for an amount of Rs 200.58 crores have been approved whereas budgetary allocation of Rs 57.40 crores only has been made available till date in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13. In view of this, it was decided that the first priority may be to obtain additional funds from Ministry of Finance for clearing the above mentioned committed liability. The fresh proposals would be considered only if more funds are made available for this commemoration by Ministry of Finance. Smt. Anjuly Chib Duggal, Additional Secretary (Expenditure) stated that in view of precarious position of government finances, Ministry of Finance would find it very difficult to provide additional funds in 2012-13. She also suggested that Ministry of Culture may consider holding a meeting of EFC for recommending the overall expenditure under this commemoration, if required.

5. Proposals from Ramakrishna Mission related institutions already considered by NIC in earlier meetings.

- a) Proposal from Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama, Hardwar for undertaking various programmes for upgradation of hospital and corpus fund;
- b) Proposal from Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai to dedicate Vivekanandar Illam to Swami Vivekananda by launching "Experience Vivekananda" Project for renovation of Vivekanadar Illam and upgradation of the existing museum;
- c) Proposal from Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, District Sargachhi, Murshidabad for construction of a community hall within the premises of the Ashrama;
- d) Proposal from Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama, Muzaffarpur seeking financial assistance of ` 3.46 crores for upgradation of Hospital;
- e) Proposal from Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Jalpaiguri for construction of a Vivekananda Sabha, Griha;
- f) Proposals from Ramakrishna Math, Baranagar, Kolkata;

Regarding the proposal at (a) above, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health & Family Welfare informed that his Ministry was opening an AIIMS type institution in Haridwar and as such there may not be any need for upgrading this hospital. Further, in view of the budgetary constraint, NIC decided that the proposals at (a) to (f) above may be kept pending till such time that additional funds are made available.

6. Proposal from Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama (Charitable Hospital) Vrindaban for change in the equipments to be purchased.

It was decided that since a change in equipment to be purchased has been requested by the organization, the proposal be taken up with Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure for their approval since the organization had already procured the equipment for which the grant was released to them, through donations.

7. NIC considered the following overseas commemoration proposals-

- a) Proposal from ICCR;
- b) Proposal from High Commission of India, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago;

- c) **Proposal from Vedanta Society of Japan;**
- d) **Proposal from Consulate General of India in Chicago;**
- e) **Proposal from Consulate General of India in Sao Paulo;**
- f) **Proposal from Embassy of India in Switzerland;**
- g) **Proposal from High Commission of India, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea;**
- h) **Proposal from MEA/ High Commission of India, Bangladesh;**

The proposal of ICCR was not approved.

In view of shortage of funds, it was decided that a Scheme of Ministry of Culture, under which grants-in-aid are released to various Indo Friendship Societies through the Indian Missions abroad, could be used for providing funds for such overseas commemoration proposals.

NIC also approved the guidelines for overseas commemoration proposals. These would be provided to the Indian Missions abroad for considering grants for overseas celebrations to various organizations.

8. Proposal for Joint observance in UNESCO

It was decided that Dr Karan Singh, President ICCR may be requested to deliver a special lecture at UNESCO at the joint observance of the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

9. Proposals relating to performing Arts, seminars, festivals and exhibitions.

NIC noted that several proposals which had already been received were being considered under the CFGS of the Ministry of Culture as per the decision taken in the third NIC meeting, also that till date 5 proposals had been approved for an amount of Rs 5 lakhs (in all) under CFGS.

10. Proposals from various organizations/ NGOs/ Societies etc. in West Bengal-

- a) **Proposal from Malancha Youth Development Society, North 24 Parganas;**

- b) Proposal from Moynapur Sri Ramakrishna Akshaykumar Pathachakra, Moynapur, Bankura;**
- c) Proposal from Press Club, Kolkata;**
- d) Proposal from Sree Ramakrishna Satyananda Alambazar Math, Kolkata for financial assistance for renovation of Math**

NIC noted that due to non-availability of funds, it was not possible at this stage to sanction a lump sum amount of Rs 5.00 crores to the Government of West Bengal for disbursement as per the decision taken by the NIC in its third meeting. Release of funds would be considered after additional allocation has been made for this commemoration.

11. New Proposals

- a) Proposal from Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari;**
- b) Proposal from State Government of Uttarakhand;**
- c) Proposal from the State Government of Tamil Nadu;**
- d) Proposal from Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Belgaum;**
- e) Proposal from Ramakrishna Math, Yogodyan, Kolkata;**
- f) Proposal from Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Centre, Kolkata;**
- g) Proposal from Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Memorial, Vadodara;**
- h) Proposal from the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library for organizing an international conference.**
- i) Proposal from Sri Sathya Sai Orphanage Trust, Thiruvanthapuram;**
- j) Proposal from Sevalaya, Chennai for taking up Vivekananda Awareness Programme;**
- k) Proposal from INTACH;**
- l) Proposal from Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Deoghar**

- m) Proposal from IIT Kharagpur;**
- n) Proposal from Datta-Dariaton Swami Vivekananda Vidyamandir, Burdwan;**
- o) Proposal from Shree Ramakrishna Ashrama, Kalahandi, Odisha.**
- p) Proposal from SPIC MACAY**

Regarding the above proposals, NIC directed that these may be kept pending till additional funds have been provided by the Ministry of Finance for meeting the commitments already made (to the tune of Rs 200 crores approximately). After additional funds are made available for the commemoration and after clearing the committed liability, the new proposals would be examined in consultation with Ministry of Finance and R K Mission, Belur.

12. Proposal from Government of West Bengal

NIC noted that the proposal from the Government of West Bengal included items like Youth Festival, Publications, Football Matches, Blood donation camps, Illumination of government buildings, Grant of scholarships, Empowerment of women etc. Since these activities formed part of the regular work of the various departments of the State Government and also since some of these activities were already being undertaken by the Ramakrishna Mission, Belur also under the VVEP, and in view of the resource constraint, the proposal was not approved. Smt. Nita Chowdhury, Secretary (Youth Affairs) stated that Department of Youth Affairs could consider providing an amount of Rs 2 crores to the State Government of West Bengal for the Youth Festival.

13. Proposal for inclusion of a capsule on "Great thinkers of India" in the course curriculum for school

NIC took note of the views of the Ministry of Human Resource Development with respect to the inclusion of the 15 names forwarded by Ministry of Culture to Ministry of HRD, that names of several Great Thinkers were already part of the school curricula. Also that the Expert Committee for textbook development will endeavour to include names not included so far, subject to the load of syllabus and textbook material on children, remaining within acceptable limits.

14. Proposals for production of feature films and documentaries on Swami Vivekananda;

- a) Proposal of Ramakrishna Mission, Belur for production of a film on Swami Vivekananda;**
- b) Proposal from Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark for diversion of funds earmarked for documentary film to fund for animation film;**
- c) Proposal from Shri Diptendu Dey, Executive Director, Eastern News and Feature Agency, Kolkata for production of 3 films on Swami Vivekananda;**
- d) Proposal from Shri Ranjan De , News Editor, Sakalbela, Agartala for making a documentary film on Swami Vivekananda;**
- e) Proposal form One Without a Second Films LLP (OWASF) for production of a film on Swami Vivekananda;**
- f) Proposal from New Global Indian for production of an international tri-lingual film on Swami Vivekananda;**
- g) Proposal from Durga Films, Kolkata for making a Docu-Feature titled 'Path to Glory' on Swami Vivekananda;**
- h) Proposal from Kasy Films , New Delhi for making a feature film titled "Vivekananda".**

NIC noted that a proposal for production of a feature length documentary film by Public Service Broadcasting Trust, New Delhi had been approved earlier and such film was under production.

With regard to the proposals at (a) & (b) above, wherein the organizations concerned had requested for changing the scope of the earlier approved proposals for production of films, NIC agreed to the suggestion of Smt. Anjuly Chib Duggal, Additional Secretary (Expenditure) that these may be referred to Department of Expenditure for consideration. Smt. Duggal also advised that for the feature length film proposed to be made by Ramakrishna Mission, Belur, Ministry of Culture can request Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to inform about the archival footage on Swami Vivekananda which was available with the National Film Archives of India, Mumbai.

NIC did not approve the proposals at (c) to (h) above.

5. Implementation of Vivekananda Value Education Programme (VVEP) by the Ramakrishna Mission HQ, Belur and meeting of the Sub-Committee for overseeing Implementation thereof.

NIC noted the progress made in the implementation of the VVEP. It was mentioned by Swami Suvirananda that though an amount of Rs 35 crores had been released by Ministry of Culture to R K Mission, Belur, for VVEP till date it had incurred an expenditure of Rs 52 crores.

16. Proposal to declare 2013-14 as the year of National Awakening

NIC approved the sending of the Concept Note to the PMO for its consideration of the proposal of declaring 2013-14 as the year of National Awakening. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health and Family Welfare stated that out of all of Swami Vivekananda's ideals mentioned in the concept note, it would be appropriate that those relevant in the present times, should be highlighted. Further, various Ministries under Government of India can be asked to organise year-long programmes with the theme of "National Awakening."

17. Proposal to organize the Vivekananda Football Trophy

Shri Onkar Kedia, Joint Secretary, Department of Sports stated that as per the estimates submitted by All India Football Federation, the estimated expenditure on organising the Vivekananda Football Trophy for both boys and girls, from district level onwards would be about Rs 53 crores. NIC was of the view that such estimate was excessive. It would instead be appropriate if a special tournament can be organised in 2013 with a few selected teams and named after Swami Vivekananda.

The Chairman thanked the members of the NIC and declared the meeting closed.

List of NIC Members and other officials who attended the 4th NIC meeting for the Vivekananda commemoration on 21st November 2012

Chairman

1. Shri A.K. Antony, Minister of Defence

Members

2. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister of Health & Family Welfare
3. Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs
4. Shri M.M. Pallam Raju, Minister of Human Resource Development
5. Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch, Minister of Culture
6. Swami Suhitananda, General Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Belur
7. Swami Suvirananda, Trustee, Ramakrishna Mission, Belur
8. Smt. Sangita Gairola, Secretary (Culture)- Member Secretary

Special Invitees

9. Swami Shubhakarananda, Ramakrishna Mission, Belur
10. Shri Jawhar Sircar, CEO Prasar Bharati

Officials

11. Smt. Nita Chowdhury, Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs
12. Shri Ravindra Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture
13. Shri P.K. Jha, AS & FA Ministry of Culture
14. Smt Anjuli Chib Duggal, Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure
15. Shri Onkar Kedia, Joint Secretary, Department of Sports
16. Shri Bhaskar Khulbe, Principal Resident Commissioner, Government of West Bengal
17. Shri Sanjiv Mittal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture

18. Shri Kanwar Sameer Lather, Director, Ministry of Culture
19. Smt. Piyali Sen Gupta, Joint Secretary, Government of West Bengal.
20. Shri Sudesh Kumar, Project Coordinator, Ministry of Culture