

Ministry of Culture

Minutes of the 9th meeting of Expert Committee on Museum Grant Scheme held on 26.11.2014

The 9th meeting of Expert Committee to consider applications received by the Ministry under the 'Museum Grant Scheme' was held on 26.11.2014 under the Chairmanship of Sh. K.K. Mittal, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Culture. List of participants is enclosed at Annexure-1.

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the participants and informed that Ministry has devised a check list to ensure that the proposals received are critically examined by the Sub-Committee in order to ensure that the number and quality of artifacts justify the establishment of museum, especially in the context of their value and importance in the region it is proposed to be set up, potential to attract the visitors etc.

3. Thereafter, the agenda items on the proposals received for financial assistance under the Scheme were taken up for discussion as given below.

3.1 Discussion on the evaluation report of the Consultant

The reports of the Evaluator alongwith report of the Sub-Committee were placed before the Expert Committee. The Expert Committee deliberated upon the reports and based on further discussion held during the meeting, the following recommendations were made.

3.1.1 Shantinath Museum, Shri 1008 Digambar Jain Siddha Kashetra Ahar Ji, District Teekam Garh, Madhya Pradesh (Project Cost: Rs 294.13 lakhs)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee and the evaluation report and observed that the objects of the organization are of historical importance and in need of adequate protection. It also observed that the Revised Detailed Project Report submitted by the organization is satisfactory envisaging commitment and vision of the organization. Sustainability plan of the organization was also found

to be satisfactory. However the Committee noted that the estimates include certain inadmissible items to the tune of Rs. 40.50 lakhs for purchase of generators, bus and cycles. Further, the Committee desired that the organization may be advised to utilize the amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs proposed in DPR for museum and gallery signage instead of road signage. After due deliberations, the Committee recommended that the proposal may be approved under Category-II and 80% of the approved grant may be released as per norms after excluding inadmissible components of Rs. 40.50 lakhs.

3.1.2 North East Heritage Museum at North-East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Nagaland (Project cost: Rs. 737.37 lakhs)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee and the evaluation report and observed that the proposal has not been submitted in the formats prescribed by the Ministry. The details of collections were also not given by the NEZCC and their estimates were also not endorsed by any government engineer. Therefore, the Committee desired that NEZCC may be advised to submit the proposal in the format prescribed by the Ministry alongwith Detailed Project Report incorporating complete details of their objects alongwith photographs and the estimates duly endorsed by government engineer. Thereafter on receipt of revised proposals, the same may be placed before the Committee for their consideration.

4. Discussion on proposals for which additional information/documents received

4.1 Indian Music Experience Trust, MLR Convention Centre, Bangalore (Project Cost: Rs. 3500.00 lakhs)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee on the proposal and found that the proposal was earlier considered by the Expert committee in its meeting held on 17.1.2014 and the trust was informed that the proposed museum does not fall under the definition of traditional museum. However keeping in view that the proposed museum is a novel type of museum, the trust was advised to come up with a fresh proposal for setting up/development of 2-3 galleries with the financial assistance of this Ministry. However the Committee observed that the trust did not

work on the suggestion of the Ministry and simply approached the Ministry again requesting for financial assistance of Rs. 10 Crore for setting up of one instrument gallery at an estimated cost of Rs. 2 Crore and eight exhibit galleries at an estimated cost of Rs. 1 Crore each. It was also found that the proposal was not presented in the format prescribed by the Ministry and hence it is difficult to ascertain the details of estimates which were submitted without endorsement by government engineer. All these shortcomings are to be communicated to the organization for resolution. Further, it was observed that IMET had now projected the estimates of Rs. 2 Crore for instrument gallery whereas in the original budget there was a provision of only Rs. 16,06,000/- and consultancy of Rs. 39,85,500/- for this gallery.

Keeping in view the aim of the trust to propagate India's rich musical diversity and to inspire creativity through music, members of the Committee were of the opinion that the proposal deserves consideration of the Ministry. After due deliberations, the Committee desired that Ministry of Culture should limit its assistance for setting up of 'Instrument gallery' only for which the trust may be advised to submit a fresh proposal in the prescribed format alongwith display plan, budget estimates duly endorsed by government engineer. The Committee also desired that Prof. Naman Ahuja (Member of the Expert Committee) may be deputed to examine the potential of the museum and the report alongwith the revised proposal of the trust be submitted for consideration of the Committee during the next meeting.

4.2 Regional Museum of Buddhist Heritage, Nagarjunasagar, Telengana (Project cost : Rs 825.20 lakhs)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee on the proposal and found that the proposal was earlier considered by the Expert Committee in its meeting held on 6.5.2014 and had desired that the issues related to ownership of the objects, jurisdiction of the State may be got clarified from concerned State Government. It was also desired to obtain clarification from the State Government as to how the proposed museum will be different from the museum of ASI at Nagarjunasagar.

The Committee after going through the clarifications furnished by the State Government, found that the ownership of the objects is with Department of Archaeology & Museums, Government of Telengana and that Department will look after the proposed museum. State Government has also clarified that the artefacts to be displayed in the proposed museum are different from the artefacts being displayed in the museum of ASI at Nagarjuna Konda. The Committee found the clarifications furnished by the State Government satisfactory and recommended that that the proposal may be approved under Category-I and 80% of the approved grant may be released as per norms. The Committee further desired that the Government of Telengana may be advised to ensure that the exhibits of other museums are not displayed in the proposed museum. It was also decided that Dr. R Panth, Director of Nav Nalanda Mahavihara may be asked to suitably guide the organization in setting up of the museum.

4.3 Tagore Library, Art Gallery & Museum, Lucknow University, Lucknow) (Project Cost: Rs. 342.49 lakh)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee on the proposal and found that the proposal was earlier considered by the Expert Committee in its meeting held on 6.5.2014 and had desired the university to re-submit the estimates duly endorsed by Government engineer after excluding the cost towards Construction of clock Tower. The Committee after going through the revised estimates furnished by the university authorities found that the estimates have been revised downwards from Rs. 395.30 lakhs to Rs. 342.49 lakhs after excluding the cost towards construction of clock tower and the same had also been endorsed by government engineer now.

The Committee found the estimates furnished by the university authorities justified and recommended that that the proposal may be approved under Category-II and 80% of the approved grants may be released as per norms. The Committee further desired that the university authorities may be advised to appoint a museum professional (Curator) to manage the museum, at least on contract basis, before approaching the Ministry for release of second instalment of grant.

4.4 Research Institute of World's Ancients Traditions Cultures & Heritage (RIWATCH), Arunachal Pradesh (Project cost: Rs. 350.46 lakhs)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee on the proposal and found that the proposal was placed in the Expert Committee meeting held on 6.5.2014. The Committee had desired to seek clarification from the institute regarding ownership of the objects and display area. In response to that, the institute has submitted undertaking from different individuals in respect of 208 objects stating that they are the sole owners of these objects and that the same will be transferred to the museum voluntarily on completion of the museum building with further condition that these objects will be displayed in the proposed museum with respective contributor's name.

While discussing the proposal, members were of the view that the museums of NE region are having collections of their living traditions and the proposal of that regions should be considered in different prospective. It was mentioned that art objects which are original and distinctive of a particular culture including art objects from Tibetan Region and available in NE Region need to be collected in museums. However their imitations usually available in plenty and are not worth museum collection. Therefore, in order to ensure the genuineness and originality of the objects, the Committee desired that a team of officers comprising of Director, IGRMS, Bhopal, Director, NEZCC and one expert member from Anthropological Survey of India may be deputed. Based on report of the team, the proposal may be placed before the Expert Committee for consideration.

4.5 Khursheed Memorial Museum at La Martiniere Girls' College, Lucknow (Revised Project Cost: Rs 191.06 lakhs)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee on the proposal and noted that the proposal was earlier considered by the Expert Committee in its meeting held on 17.1.2014 and had been recommended for release of grants for development of museum and conservation of artefacts and establishment of site laboratory with an estimated cost of Rs. 58.26 lakhs. The proposal for other components was considered by the Expert Committee in its meeting held on 7.8.2014. However the estimates were found to be on higher side and therefore the Committee desired that the estimates may be restricted and apportioned to the area

on which museum is proposed to be set up. Thereafter the College authorities have submitted the revised estimates of Rs. 132.80 lakhs for remaining components.

The Committee after going through the estimates submitted by the college authorities found that the total estimates have been revised downwards to Rs. 191.06 lakhs from Rs. 281.01 lakhs thus reduced by about Rs. 90.00 lakhs. After due deliberations the Committee recommended that the revised proposal for the remaining components may be approved and admissible amount may be released as per norms. The Committee further desired that the college authorities may be advised to appoint a museum professional (Curator) to manage the museum, at least on contract basis, before approaching the Ministry for release of second instalment of grant.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of participants who attended the Meeting held on 26.11.2014

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| 1. | Sh. K.K. Mittal | Additional Secretary
Ministry of Culture | In the Chair |
| 2. | Shri Pramod Jain | Joint Secretary
Ministry of Culture | |
| 3. | Dr. Venu V | Administrator,
National Museum | |
| 4. | Dr. B.R. Mani | ADG, Archaeological Survey of India | |
| 5. | Sh. Deepak Ashish Kaul | Director,
Ministry of Culture | |
| 6. | Shri Naman Ahuja | Expert Member | |
| 7. | Ms. Tasneem Mehta | Expert Member | |
| 8. | Sh. A. Nagender Reddy | Director in Charge
Salarjung Museum,
Hyderabad | |
| 9. | Dr. B.V. Kharbade | Director in Charge
NRLC, Lucknow | |
| 10. | Sh. Surya Kumar Pandey | IGRMS, Bhopal | |
| 11. | Ms. Hena Usman | Director, M/O Tourism | |
| 12. | Sh. Inder Sain | Scientist C, Deptt of Electronics & IT | |
| 13. | Shri Sanjay Kumar | Under Secretary,
Ministry of Culture | |

