

Minutes of the meeting of the Expert Committee to consider the proposals under the Scheme for Digitization of Museum Collections held on 26.11.2014

A meeting of Expert Committee to consider proposals received by the Ministry under the Scheme for Digitization of Museum Collections 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. The agenda items on the proposals received for financial assistance under the Scheme were taken up for discussion as given below.

2.1.1 Proposals of Government of Rajasthan

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee and observed that the State Government submitted 20 proposals for financial assistance under the scheme. Out of these, four proposals of the State Government namely Virat Nagar, Chandrawati, Mandore and Shahpura do not fulfill the requirements under the scheme for want of minimum collection of 500 objects. For fifteen proposals of the State Government for the museums at Udaipur, Jodhpur, Mount Abu, Ajmer, Jhalawar, Bikaner, Kota, Bharatpur, Palli, Jaisalmer, Alwar, Sikar, Ahar, Dungapur and Chottorgarh, the Committee recommended that the proposals may be approved with the project cost of Rs. 4.50 lakhs for each museum with cost of Rs. 1 lakh for installation of digital information kiosks, Rs 2 lakh for Development of a website of the museum and Rs. 1.50 lakhs for procurement of hardware and 80% of the approved project cost may be released to the State Government as per the norms of the scheme.

For museum at Albert Hall, Jaipur, it was found that State Government has not sought any financial assistance for development of website of the museum and therefore the Committee recommended that this proposal may be approved with the project cost of Rs. 2.50 lakhs with cost of Rs. 1 lakh for installation of digital information kiosks and Rs. 1.50 lakhs for procurement of hardware and 80% of the approved project cost may be released to the State Government as per the norms of the scheme.

The Committee further desired that the State Government may be advised to undertake high resolution digital photographs (image size, resolution etc) to ensure that good quality images are available for implementation of a suitable collection management software e.g. JATAN.

2.1.2 Centre for Art and Archaeology, Gurgaon

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee and the proposal of the Centre and observed that it has sought financial assistance of Rs. 99,68,860/- under the scheme whereas maximum financial assistance of Rs. 25.00 lakhs can be released to them being a Category-II Museum. Clarifications sought by the Ministry as to how they will meet the remaining expenditure has not been received. Estimates submitted by the Centre were also without endorsement of District Information Officer of NIC which is pre-requisite.

The Committee also observed that the Centre was sanctioned grants of Rs. 298.47 lakhs in 2013 under Museum Grant Scheme which includes digitization of their objects. Therefore, the Committee desired that besides above clarifications, the Centre may be asked to furnish an undertaking that the grants sought under the digitization scheme will be utilized for different set of objects.

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 | |