

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR 'SCHEME OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SETTING-UP, PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL MUSEUMS' HELD ON 18th February 2011

The eighth meeting of the Expert Committee to consider applications under the scheme of 'Financial Assistance for Setting-up, Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums' was held on 18th February 2011 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay S. Madan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture. The list of participants is at **Annexure I**.

2. At the outset, Dr. Vijay S Madan Joint Secretary & Chairman of the Committee welcomed the members and invited them to a general discussion on the issues relating to Scheme. Dr A N Reddy informed the members of a book by a foreign author on "How to Set up a Museum" that he had come across by and suggested that such a document could perhaps be good for our use. Dr Madan informed the committee that NCSM already has a set of guidelines for opening of science museums at regional levels. He therefore requested both Dr Reddy and Dr Sthanapati to prepare a draft document on "How to set up Regional & Local Museum" and to circulate to all members for their comments thereon before a final document is prepared. On a different issue, Dr S Gorakshkar suggested that the progress made by the grantee museums must be closely monitored and that they may be asked to provide photographic evidence of 'before' and 'after' the work done. The committee agreed that this information should be sought from grantee institution before the release of 3rd installment.

3. The Committee then took up the proposals for consideration of applications received for grant of financial assistance as per agenda items:

3.1 Discussion on those proposals where DPR received and sent for appraisal.

The chairman informed the committee that seven museums/organizations have submitted their Detailed Project reports and that these have been sent for appraisal by the independent consultant. He informed the committee that due to unforeseen situations including ill-health, the consultant could not complete the work yet. While sending his apology for this, he has promised to the needful in time to be placed before the committee in the next meeting. While indicating that this has been placed on the agenda for the information of the members, the Chairman apprised the members about the difficulties being faced in getting these DPRs appraised/evaluated. He noted that it would be difficult for the committee to assess the appraisal report of different evaluators as they may adopt different parameters to evaluate a proposal in the absence of any set/prescribed guideline. The committee also agreed with him that it would be difficult to formulate a foolproof set of guidelines for evaluation of DPRs/proposals to be followed by the evaluators. Secondly, it was noted that conflict of interest must be prevented at all costs. It would be difficult to find a suitable consultant who is capable of evaluating a museum proposals and at the same time agrees to refuse any assignment for preparing a DPR for a prospective applicant under this scheme. Thirdly, an evaluator must have a fair idea about all the various requirements of a museum project such as conservation,

display techniques, architectural design, engineering, costing etc. Taking into account these factors, the Committee agreed to continue with one evaluator for the time being.

3.2 Discussion of the proposal of Rishi Bankim Granthagar O Samgrashala, West Bengal.

This proposal was last discussed in the meeting held on 17.05.2010 and the committee had decided to send a two-member team comprising of Dr. O P Aggarwal & Dr. Stanapati to the organization for inspection & to have a firsthand assessment of the requirement of the organization. Dr. Stanapati visited the organization on 14.02.2011 and apprised the members briefly about his visit. He informed the committee that the centre does not appear to be in a good shape nor do they have enough storage space. He was of the opinion that in order to understand their requirement, they may be given an opportunity to make a presentation in respect of their proposal. The committee decided to call the organization for a presentation.

3.3. The requests from state governments of Rajasthan and Punjab in respect of their proposals and about the DPR of another organization were placed before the committee for consideration.

3.3.1 The chairman informed the members about the request to Govt. of Rajasthan for changing of their priority. He recalled the decision of the committee which had recommended for financial assistance to three proposals (out of 19) viz. for setting up of a new museum at Baran and up-gradation of two museums at Mandore and Bharatpur for which money has been provided for preparation of DPRs. Now they have intimated that their first priority is Museum at Vidhan Sabha Bhawan, Town Hall, Jaipur instead of the one at Baran and the other two priority remain unchanged. They have requested for allowing them for the change of priority. The committee took note of this and expressed its 'No Objection' on the proposal.

3.3.2 The committee was informed that Government of Punjab has submitted two more proposals for 'Sheesh Mahal' and 'the Qila Mubarak' both at Patiala amounting to Rs.9.17 crores and have also submitted the DPRs for these projects. They have submitted DPR for these museum and that presently one proposal i.e. Maharaja Ranjit Singh (Summer Palace Museum) at Amritsar is pending with them (Rs 25.00 lakhs have been sanctioned for this project to prepare a DPR, which is awaited). The committee appreciated the proposals and decided to send the DPRs for appraisal. The committee recommended a seed money of Rs 50 lakhs to attend to immediate work of conservation of the collections as the need for conservation appears rather urgent.

3.3.3 The committee took note of the submission of DPR by Srinivas Malliah Memorial Theatre Crafts Trust, New Delhi and recommended that this be sent for appraisal.

3.4 Discussion on those museums made presentation/additional information called for from them and received.

3.4.1 Numismatic Society of India, BHU, Varanasi

The committee was informed about the additional information furnished by the Society about their collections (about 220 in numbers). The committee desired to know if their Memorandum of Association provides for running a museum or not. Even otherwise, taking into consideration the interest shown by the society to display their collections in a gallery, the committee recommended financial assistance of Rs 3.00 lakhs as per details given below:

(i)	Documentation/cataloging	Rs 1.00 lakh
(ii)	Publication	Rs. 1.00 lakh
(iii)	Conservation of the coins/objects	Rs 1.00 lakh

The committee felt that in the current format, the proposal for expansion of galleries does not appear to be justified. If, however, the society was able to enter into any MoU with any organization/collector under which their collections are obtained on temporary or permanent loan for display in their galleries (thereby increasing their collections through this MoU), then they may come back with a proposal for expansion, with proper justification therefor.

3.4.2 BPS Mahila Vishwavidyalaya, Sonipat, Haryana

The committee was of the view that the University has not been able to present its case with a proper curatorial concept even though the idea of a rural museum appears to be a good idea. They need to plan their project with a proper executing agency. The chairman suggested that NCSM, having its unit at Kuruskhetra, can be requested to do a deposit work for them, of course, after entering into an MoU. Dr. Stahnapati assured that on receipt of such a request, decision thereon can be taken by them at appropriate level. With this background, the committee recommended that the organisation may be asked to consider approaching NCSM to be the executing agency and to revise the proposal if they are agreeable to this.

3.4.3 Children Museum, Jawahar Bal Bhawan, Thrissur, Kerala

The committee recommended the museum to be called for presentation.

3.5 Discussion on complete Proposal:

The committee discussed the proposals placed before it one by one. The recommendations of the Committee on these proposals are as under:

S.No	Name of the Museum/Organization (Project Cost)	Recommendation.
3.5.1	Bagore Ki Haveli Museum, West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur. (Project Cost:- Rs. 100 lakhs)	WZCC has already submitted a DPR which was found to be of a high quality. The Committee recommended for release of Rs 80 lakhs (80% of Rs 100 lakhs).
3.5.2	Tribal Art and Textile Museum Society, Half Nagarjan, Dimapur, Nagaland (Projected Cost:- Rs. 1,68,86,500/-)	The Committee recommended that the society may be called for making a presentation.
3.5.3	IBN Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences, Aligarh. (Project Cost:- Rs. 3.65 lakhs)	The Committee recommended the academy may be called for making a presentation.
3.5.4	Agape Christian Museum Centre, Churachandpur, Manipur. (Project Cost:- Rs.3.28 lakhs)	The Committee recommended that the museum may be called for making a presentation.
3.5.5	The Madras Regiment Museum, Wellington(Nilgiris), Tamilnadu (Project Cost:- Rs.82.98)	The Committee recommended that the Museum may be asked to furnish following information: (i) The profile of the visitors and total number of footfalls per annum; (ii) Whether the museum is open to general public through an unfettered access on a regular basis or they require some permission to visit the museum.
3.5.6	Rajendra Kirtishall Preservation and Development Society, Agartala, Tripura (Project Cost:- Rs. 3,25,000/-)	The committee did not find merit in the proposal and hence recommended that it may be rejected.

3.6 Discussion on proposals with marginal deficiencies:

The chairman informed the members that despite marginal deficiencies in their proposals, these have been placed before the committee as these have already been communicated to the

museums/organizations. As such, these proposals may be discussed and any decision taken thereon will, however, be subject to completion of these deficiencies. The proposals were then discussed one by one and decisions taken are as under:

S.No	Name of the Museum/Organization (Project Cost)	Recommendation.
3.6.1	Tribal Museum cum Heritage Centre, Khumulwng, Tripura (Project Cost:- Rs.454.25 lakhs)	The Committee recommended that subject to the organisation furnishing the bond, they may be called for a presentation.
3.6.2	Eco Museum, Madhubani, Bihar (Project Cost:- Rs.360.30 lakhs)	The Committee noted that deficiency has since been removed. The concept of the organisation of showcasing the entire life of the area through an activity of art was appreciated by the committee as through this the art will survive, there will be an ever increasing collections and at the same time it would an avenue for sustainable livelihood to the people. The committee recommended Rs 7.00 lakhs to enable the organisation to prepare a professional DPR.
3.6.3	Historical Museum of Urban Planning & Development, Rue Saint Louis, Puducherry. (Project Cost:- Rs.250.00)	The Government of Pudducherry may be asked to prepare DPRs for two of their proposals. A seed money of Rs.100 lakhs may be provided to enable them to carry out some of immediate conservation related work and also to prepare the DPRs.
3.6.4	Museum of South-Indian Civilization and Culture, Rue Romain, Rolland, Puducherry. (Projected Cost:- Rs.5,00,00,000/-)	
3.6.5	Sri Kanakadasa Museum and Art Gallery, Kaginele Development Authority, Kaginele, Haveri, Kanrataka Registration No: (Project Cost:- Rs.236.96)	The Committee recommended that on completion of papers, they may be called for a presentation.
3.6.6	Odissi Museum, Bhubaneswar (by Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre) (Project Cost:- Rs.1078.03 lakhs)	The Committee recommended that on completion of papers, they may be called for a presentation.

3.6.7	Museum and Art Gallery, University of Burdwan, West Bengal. (Project Cost: Rs.260.77 lakhs)	The committee observed that their proposal is only for civil construction and the financial assistance under the scheme is not meant for civil construction only. The committee was therefore of the view that the proposal cannot be considered in the present format.
3.6.8	Asutosh Museum, University of Calcutta, Kolkata. (Project Cost:- Rs.453.94 lakhs)	The Committee recommended that on completion of the application, Rs 10.00 Lakhs may be released to enable them to prepare a full DPR. The organisation may also be asked to demonstrate with special reasons as to why it should be categorised as category-I Museum, is they so wish.
3.6.9	Mahatma Gandhi Antarrastriya Hindi Vishwavidyalay Wardha, Maharashtra (Project Cost:- Rs.6,00,00,000/-)	The university may be asked to furnish following information: (i) Curatorial concept in support of their proposal; (ii) Reasons as to why they need an exclusive anthropological museum. (iii) Details of their collections.
3.6.10	Trimurti Science Museum Golaghat Central Art & Music College, Old Amulapatty, Golaghat, Assam (Projected Cost:- Rs.56 lakhs)	The committee observed that the proposal does not have a proper curatorial concept and approach nor have they indicated as to why a college of Art & Music wishes to develop a science museum. No systemic details of plan available. Hence recommended for rejection.
3.6.11	National Handicrafts and Handlooms Museum (Craft Museum), Pragati Maidan, New Delhi (Project Cost:- Rs.700 lakhs)	The committee was of the view that since the museum is under administrative control of Ministry of Textiles, before any financial assistance was given to them, they need to first have a separate financial identity and must have a distinct project specific account. As regards to project itself, the Committee was of the view that it was an eminently suitable proposal .
3.6.12	J.D Centre of Art, VIP colony, Nayapalli, , Bhubaneswar (Project Cost:- Rs.37.64 crores)	The Committee recommended that the project document submitted by the organisation may be sent for appraisal.

3.6.13	Academy of fine Art and Literature. New Delhi (Project Cost:- Rs.24.20 lakhs+ other elements)	The committee recommended for release of Rs 15.00 lakhs for following items: (i) Publication Rs 10.00 lakhs (ii) Preparation of DPR Rs 5.00 lakhs
3.6.14	Mahaishi Durwasa Art and Folk Culture Museum, Dubawal Allahabad. (Projected Cost:- Rs.60.00 lakhs)	The museum may be asked to furnish following information: (i) Whether it is a new museum or an existing one; (ii) Curatorial concept in support of their proposal; (iii) Details of their collections. (iv) How they intend to display their collections; (v) Who would be their target audience
3.6.15	Foundation for revitalization of local health traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore. (Institute of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine(IAIM)) (Projected Cost:- Yet to be decided)	This is a case of research on medical heritage and to convert whatever they have into a museum. It's a new concept and hence the committee recommended release of Rs 7.00 lakhs for preparation of a DPR subject to completion of the application.

3.7 Discussion on those museums made presentation:

3.7.1	Monyul Museum Arunodaya Welfare Society, Tawang Arunachal Pradesh (Projected Cost:- Rs.353.70 lakhs)	The museum was asked to rework/redesign their proposal in a suitably larger site instead of planning to have the museum building in 150 sq m so that the display spaces could be used for effective viewing.
3.7.2	Society for Development of Rural Literature, Orissa Garh, Ashram Patna, Orissa (Rural Museum). (Projected Cost:- Rs.8,60,00,000/-)	The Committee noted that there were a number of attractive elements in the proposal. However, the organisation was asked to provide further details of curatorial concept on the actual collection of the organisation. They must provide a realistic sustainability plan. These must be addressed in the DPR they would submit taking into account the phase wise development especially as the museum was eligible to be considered for a mazimum grant of Rs. 3.00 Crore out of which generally about Rs.1.8 crore can be spent on civil construction .

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

List of Participants

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| 1. Dr. Vijay S. Madan, | Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture. | In Chair |
| 2. Dr. Jayanta Sthanapati, | Dy DG, NCSM | |
| 3. Dr. B.V. Kharbade, | Director in charge, NRLC | |
| 4. Dr. A. N Reddy, | Director, Salar Jung Museum | |
| 5. Shri Sabyasachi Mukherjee | Director, CSMVS | |
| 6. Shri Sadashiv Gorakshkar | Ex- Director, CSMVS | |
| 7. Shri Amaresh Singh, | Director, Ministry of Culture. | |
| 8. Shri N.P. Joshi, | Under Secretary, Ministry of Culture. | |