

Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Expert Committee for the Scheme of “Financial assistance for Setting up, Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums” held on 29 October 2010.

The 7th Meeting of the Expert Committee was held on 29 October 2010 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay. S. Madan, Joint Secretary (Culture), to consider the applications submitted for financial assistance under the Scheme of “Financial assistance for setting up, promotion and strengthening of regional and local museums”. A list of participants is enclosed at Annexure.

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members and opened the discussion for general issues. He stated that several applicant museums had expressed difficulties in furnishing recommendations from the State Government and/ or District Administration. Since this is a requirement under the approved write-up of the Plan Scheme, little flexibility is available in scrutiny of these applications before putting up for consideration of the Expert Committee. In some cases, such difficulties could be genuine while in other cases there might be specific reasons why the State Government is reluctant to recommend (for example in one case such refusal by State Government emanated from pending CBI inquiries). During the deliberations, it was felt that the Expert Committee had little expertise on the subject, and that such cases must be determined by the Ministry on merits, separately.

3. Commenting on the nature of proposals being received for financial assistance, Dr. O.P. Aggarwal, Member, pointed out that most proposals largely related to construction activities and did not place adequate emphasis on conservation of objects in the collection. It was noted that the Expert Committee had recommended in a previous meeting that in the case of new museums, the expenditure on construction related activities should be restricted to 60% of the total financial assistance granted, in order that emphasis on other aspects such as display systems and techniques, documentation, conservation, library, publications, equipment, etc. is not diluted. The Committee recommended that this conditionality be adhered to strictly in all prospective cases.

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

4.1 Natural and Human Resource Development Organisation (NAHRDO), Manipur (Project cost-Rs. 198.674 lakhs)

The proposal was earlier discussed by the Committee in its 6th meeting held on 16-17 July 2010 and was granted an approval in principle. The applicant was however asked to re-design its plan keeping in mind the local Manipuri traditions and revise the DPR accordingly. The revised building plan and the DPR submitted by the organisation were sent for further appraisal by the consultant. The

committee took note of the observation of the consultant and after deliberations, the following recommendations were made:

- (i) The proposal for setting up of the museum by the organisation was recommended for approval of Rs. 178.81 lakhs i.e. 90% of project cost of Rs. 198.674 lakhs.
- (ii) However, the approved amount to be split into two components (a) construction of museum and related works with estimated cost of Rs. 106.04 (90% of Rs. 117.824 lakhs) and (b) for remaining components amounting to Rs. 72.77 lakhs i.e. 90% of Rs. 80.85 lakhs.
- (iii) The cost component entailing civil construction is as at (ii) (a) above, may be released first, while the release of amount on other component can be considered at a later stage when they come up with their plan with timeline to organize the expenditure.
- (iv) The museum may be asked to come up with their plan with timeline to organise the expenditure on other components.
- (v) The organisation be asked to submit periodic reporting of the progress of works along with photographic evidence, which could also be verified with the help of any other agency in North East.
- (vi) In the event that the museum closes down within 25 years, the entire grant-in-aid (along with interest) must be recoverable as the 'first charge'.

4.2 **Guru Gopinath National Dance Museum, Kochi** (Project cost – Rs.802.36 lakhs)

The appraisal report of GGNDM was deliberated upon by the Committee and took note of the progress of work undertaken by the organisation. The following recommendations were made by the Committee:-

- (i) Based on the collections and taking into account that it is a State supported organisation, it may be categorised as Category I as recommended by the Committee in its meeting held on 06.03.2009.
- (ii) The committee recommended sanction of grant-in-aid Rs. 600 lakhs (i.e. 80% as their project cost (Rs.802.36 lakhs) limited to Rs. 600 lakhs).
- (iii) Further, out of this amount only Rs. 360 lakhs (60% of Rs. 600 lakhs) may be released for construction and related works and the remaining Rs. 240 lakhs be earmarked for other museum related components. As such, the committee recommended for release of Rs.360 lakhs in instalment as per para 3.1.2. The amount of

Rs. 75.00 lakhs released as seed money may be adjusted from the 1st instalment.

4.3 Naga Heritage Museum & Research Society, Kohima. (Project cost- 667 lakhs)

After discussing the appraisal report furnished by the Consultant on Naga Heritage Museum, the Committee recommended that the question of categorisation of this Museum needs to be re-visited. The members recollected that a presentation had been made by the Museum almost a year ago and it was one of the first few cases to be brought before the Committee. With the experience gained through consideration of a number of cases since then, the Committee is in a better situation now to take a considered view whether the categorisation as Category 1 be retained, or the museum be categorized as a Category 2 museum as suggested by the Consultant. In the mean time, the Expert Committee recommended that the proposal be recommended as a Category 2 museum, with a maximum financial assistance of Rs. 300 lakhs (subject to adjustment of DPR assistance earlier granted) and up to 60% (Rs. 180 lakhs) of that amount may be released for construction activities subject to the following conditions:-

- i) The applicant Museum must revise its construction plans to either curtail its construction activity within the revised amount, or to demonstrate its capabilities of financing the remaining construction by itself.
- ii) A suitable outlay regarding other aspects such as display systems and techniques, documentation, conservation, proper storage of displayed items, library and other necessary equipment, publications etc. must be worked out again, taking into account the level of financial assistance.
- iii) A detailed note with necessary support documentation may be submitted by the applicant museum to seek a higher level of categorisation, if it so wishes. Such a proposal would be considered by the Committee in a subsequent meeting, after obtaining independent evaluation by an expert conversant with tribal / Naga arts.

4.4 Jadunath Sankar Museum, Kolkatta (Centre for Studies in Social Sciences) (Project cost - Rs. 380.04 lakhs)

The appraisal report of the consultant on the DPR submitted by the society was discussed. The project is mainly on construction and renovation of a heritage building and its conversion it into museum. The consultant has observed that the basis of scheduled rates provided in the estimates has not been mentioned and the drawings were preliminary in nature, which needs to be obtained from them. The committee took note of the fact that the organisation first needs to redo the building before undertaking any museum related works. After deliberating on the various aspects, the committee made following recommendations:-

- (i) The organisation may be asked to furnish the basis of scheduled rates provided in the estimates and firm up the drawing.
- (ii) Subject to above, Rs. 304.03 lakhs (80% of of the project cost of Rs. 380 lakhs) may be approved. However, as of now the committee recommended for release (in instalments) of the Rs.182.42 lakhs (60 % of Rs. 304.03 lakhs) for construction and renovation of the Building. The remaining amount on other components can be released on utilization of the grants so released.

4.5 Rural Museum, Orissa (Society for Dev. Of Rural Literature) (Project cost: Rs.860 lakhs)

The committee took note of the uniqueness of the proposal put forward by the Society for Development of Rural Literature for establishing a 'Rural Museum' to put on display the traditions and culture of villages of the East especially from Orissa, Bengal, Bihar, Assam etc. and noted the plan to supplement with sections on performing arts and culinary traditions. Taking into account the new initiative taken by the Society to create a Rural Museum, an approval in principle for the setting up of a museum was accorded. The Committee recommended for grant of Rs. 10.00 lakhs as seed money to enable the organisation to carry out the preliminary works and to prepare a DPR.

4.6 Arts Acre Museum & Art Gallery, Kolkatta.

The Chairman informed that as per the recommendation of the Committee the Arts Acre Foundation was requested to furnish additional documentation in respect of certain deficiencies pointed out earlier, including that on the title of the land. The information has still not been received from them. This was taken note by the Committee.

5. Discussions on those Museums where additional information called had been received and other completed applications.

5.1 Madhavan Nayar Foundation, Kochi

The Foundation had been asked to provide justification for air-conditioning of their galleries and whether they could meet the additional recurring expenditure that having an uninterrupted AC supply may entail. The Foundation, in their reply has indicated that the museum already has an air-conditioning plant and that now they propose to replace it with a modern energy efficient plant which would reduce the recurring cost on energy rather than increasing it. The Committee,

taking note of this, recommended to allow them to have flexibility to spend on air-conditioning from within the support already sanctioned to them.

5.2 University Museum, Khairagarh (Chattisgarh)

The University was asked to furnish the list of objects and to revisit the estimate. The University has revised their estimates from Rs.80.00 lakhs to Rs.63 lakhs and submitted additional information along with that. The information furnished were considered and the committee recommended for approval of Rs. 50.40 lakhs (80 % of Rs. 63 lakhs) for their project for development of their museum.

5.3 Cultural Welfare Society Tangtse Gonpa Changthang, Leh

The Committee deliberated upon the proposal for upgradation of the museum managed by the Society. The proposal was earlier discussed by the Committee in its meeting held on 07.05.2010, and it was decided to seek information regarding their conservation plan as also the photographs of the existing building and that of the display galleries, which they have complied with. The Committee recommended for approval of Rs. 18.83 lakhs (80 % of Rs.23.54 lakhs).

5.4 Ellen Welfare Society, Nagaland.

This proposal was earlier discussed by the Committee in the meeting held on 07.05.2010 and additional information regarding documentation and photographs of the existing building, display galleries and artefacts were called for. The society has furnished the desired information which were taken note of by the Committee. The Committee recommended for approval Rs.24.24 lakhs (90% of Rs.26.94 lakhs).

5.5 Public museum, Jiribam, Manipur

The Committee was informed that the museum had submitted a proposal for renovation and repair of the existing museum with a project cost of Rs.270.04 lakhs whereas the State Govt. has recommended for Rs. 13.50 lakhs and the reason for almost deleting the renovation cost has not been given by the State Govt. The Committee was of the view to give the museum an opportunity to present their case before them to explain the genuineness of their requirement on the proposal. As such the Museum may be called for a presentation.

5.6 Digambar Jain Museum , Ujjain, MP

The proposal was earlier discussed by the Committee in its meeting on 07.05.2010 and desired to seek additional information on conservation,

sustainability etc. which they have furnished. The Committee, after perusal of the proposal alongwith additional information recommended for approval of Rs.60.67 lakhs (80% of Rs.75.84 lakhs).

5.7 Mumpa Museum (Bright Future Society), Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

Since the project cost for setting up of the Museum is Rs.299.96 lakhs, as per the earlier decision of the Committee, the Museum may be called for a presentation.

5.8 City Palace Museum, Udaipur, Rajasthan

The proposal for development of infrastructure of the Museum with a project cost of Rs.687.71 lakhs was earlier discussed by the Committee on 16-17 July, 2010. Keeping in view the gate money the museum gets, it was desired to ask them to furnish the reasons for seeking the financial assistance from the Govt. as also regarding the ownership of the Museum Building. The Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation which manages the Museum has confirmed that the Building housing the Museum is owned by the Foundation. In addition they have mentioned that the Trust utilizes the resources in maintaining their Museum and other philanthropic activities. The Committee took note of the comments furnished by the Foundation and desired to call the Foundation for a presentation before the Committee.

5.9 Himalayan Museum, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.

The Committee took note of the proposal of Govt. Of Uttarakhand to create a museum named 'The Himalayan Museum' at Rishikesh as a Multi-cultural complex engaged in showcasing the Vibrant Himalayan Art, Heritage, Culture and Zoological diversity. Keeping in view the uniqueness of the proposal, the Committee recommended for grant of Rs. 30.00 lakhs to the Government of Uttarakhand as seed money to enable them to carry out the preliminary works and to prepare a DPR.

6. Proposals for which presentations were made:

6.1 Viswa Bharati (in respect of two museums Kala Bhavan, Rabindra Bhavan)

Shri Nilanjan Banerjee made presentation on the proposal for construction of two twin museums distinct from each other – Kala Bhavan and Rabindra Bhavan to house the various collections. The estimates provided for both the museums are preliminary. The Committee felt that keeping in view the enormous value of the Vishwa Bharati's collections on Tagore's work besides other collections, it was felt that they need to have two distinct museums. In order to

enable them to get started in this direction, the Committee recommended a sum of Rs. 100 lakh as seed money (tied to construction) to enable Viswa Bharti to start the preliminary works as also prepare the DPRs for the two projects. It was further recommended that the Viswa Bharati may incur expenditure on urgent conservation of the Tagore painting collections, provided however, that such expenditure is accounted for under conservation head in the DPR.

6.2 Netaji Research Bureau, Kolkata:

Ms Madhu Chhanda Roy from Netaji Research Bureau made the presentation about their museum as also indicating the immediate request for grant to beef up their security. The Chairman informed the members that the organization had earlier requested the Central Govt. to give immediate attention on security aspect of the museum to avoid any pilferage of their collections. The matter was taken up separately for release of Rs.15.00 lakhs asked for by the organization for security. However, since the scheme has provision for financial assistance for security purpose only in case of Category I museum and in the absence of clear recommendation from the committee, the proposal could not be approved. He sought opinion from the members on the issue in the light of the presentation made by the Museum. The Committee was of the view that with the collections in possession of the organization they can clearly be put as a Category I museum. The Committee recommended Rs.10.00 lakhs to enable them to prepare a DPR for the project. Further, as a special case, the Committee recommended for approval of Rs. 15.00 lakh to enable the organization to take up the work on security.

6.3 Rajendra Bhawan Trust, Delhi

Prof. A. K. Das made the presentation in respect of the proposal for renovation and modernization of Rajendra Bhavan. Based on the presentation, the Committee was of the view that the museum will be categorized as Category II museum. The estimates are preliminary in nature and hence they need to come up with a detailed Project Report. The Committee recommended for Sanction of Rs.10.00 lakhs to enable them to prepare a DPR for their project.

7. Discussions on other proposals

7.1 Govt. College of Art & Craft, Kolkata

The Committee was informed that there are certain deficiencies for which the college has been asked to furnish the requisite documents. The Committee observed that this case will be further discussed on receipt of the documents from the college.

7.2 Jharkhand Tribal Museum, Arouse, Gumla (Project cost - Rs. 100.00 lakhs)

As per the earlier decision of the committee to ask all applicant museums with a project cost of Rs.1.00 crores or more to make a presentation, the committee decided that the museum may be called for a presentation.

7.3 Museum of Numismatic Society of India, Varanasi, UP

The proposal was discussed at length by Committee in its meeting on 16-17 July, 2010 and desired to seek clarification from the society on(i) whether it can display its collection in collaboration with some other museum and (ii) details about the collections. However, the reply given by the society was incomplete. The Committee desired to ask the society to furnish a detail list of their collections with separate lists of coins and paper money.

7.4 Chatrapati Shivaji Musum (Shri Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Memorial National Committee), Delhi (Project cost- Rs.225.88 lakhs)

As per the earlier decision of the committee to request all applicant museums with a project cost of Rs.1.00 crores or more to make a presentation, the committee decided that the museum may be called for a presentation.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

List of Participants

1. Dr. Vijay S. Madan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture **In the Chair**
2. Prof K K Basa, Director, Indian Museum
3. Dr. Jayanta Sthanapati, Dy DG, NCSM
4. Dr. M.V. Nair, Prof. NMI (Special invitee)
5. Shri B.V. Kharbade Director, NRLC
6. Dr. A. N Reddy Director, Salar Jung Museum
7. Shri Sabyasachi Mukherjee Director, CSMVS
8. Shri Amaresh Singh, Director, Ministry of Culture.
9. Dr. Sanjay Garg, Deputy Director, NAI
(represented DG, NAI)
10. Prof. C. Chenna Reddy Director, D/o Arch. & Museum, AP
11. Shri O P Aggrawal, DG, INTACH-ICCI, Lucknow
12. Shri N.P. Joshi, Under Secretary, Ministry of Culture.