

Minutes of the Meeting of Expert Committee for the scheme of “Financial assistance for setting up , promotion and strengthening of regional and national museums” held on 4.5.2011

The ninth 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 4 May 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, the Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting. He provided the members an overview of proposals received for financial assistance under the scheme during last 3 years and stated that a state-wise list of these proposals had been prepared to provide a broad idea of distribution of assistance. It was seen from the list that there was only one application each from Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra; states that otherwise have a rich potential of establishing good museums and requested members from these States to enthruse State Govt. authorities in this regard. Dr. S. Mukherjee, Member & Director, CSMVS informed that he had, in fact, made such attempts with the concerned department in Maharashtra, but their responses had not been encouraging, so far.

3. The Chairman then invited member to raise general issues for discussion before the agenda items were taken up. Dr. S. Gorakshar, member felt that the curators of small museums across the country needed to be empowered and properly trained. It was suggested that a full day workshop for curators of some of the museums could be held with the assistance of the members of the committee a day before or after the next meeting of the Expert Committee. Chairman requested the members to identify the suitable curators for participation in the said workshop.

4. The issue of scrutiny of applications/DPR upon receipt of the evaluation report of the independent consultant was discussed and it was agreed that a small sub-committee may go through these reports and make observations/recommendations for the committee to take a decision in the meeting. The members welcomed the idea. Dr. S. Gorakshar, Shri Karni Singh Jasol, Dr. A.N.Reddy and Dr. B.V.Kharbade volunteered to take up the responsibility. This sub-committee will meet at least 2 weeks prior to each meeting of the Expert Committee, starting with the next meeting.

5. The Chairman noted that in a substantial number of DPRs received, the main thrust had been on civil construction/architectural design with lesser emphasis on curatorial aspect and interior design. In this regard, the need for establishing a standard DPR format was acutely felt. He further noted that despite best efforts, a standard DPR format has not so far been finalized, though a sample format was prepared in the past. In the meanwhile, the independent Consultant has prepared a comprehensive DPR format to be used for guidance by the applicants. It was decided that this format may be circulated to all members for their suggestion for improvement and when finalized, the same may be uploaded in the website alongside the scheme write-up.

6. The agenda items were then taken up for discussion as under:

6.1 Discussion on the evaluation report on the DPR received from applicant organisations.

The evaluation reports on the DPRs received from following applicant museums/organizations were discussed:-

**6.1.1 Museum at Vidhan Sabha Bhawan, Town Hall, Jaipur.
(Project Cost: Rs. 44. 98 crores)**

The evaluation report on the DPR submitted by Govt. of Rajasthan was discussed. The Committee observed that the following issues need to be elaborated by Govt. of Rajasthan before the proposals could be considered further:-

- (i) The Project cost of Rs.44.98 crores is almost 9 times the maximum admissible amount of Rs.5.00 crore for a category I museum under the Scheme. Govt. of Rajasthan has stated that they would be meeting the 20% of the cost. As such, the source of funding the remaining amount needs to be specified.
- (ii) In order to know the details about the museum as also about the proposal, Govt. of Rajasthan may be called to make a presentation before the Committee.

6.1.2 Rajendra Bhawan Trust, Delhi (Project Cost: Rs.247.39 lakhs)

The Committee discussed at length the proposal of the trust. The Committee noted that a financial assistance of Rs.176.01 lakhs was sought for by the organization and recommended that this amount may be considered for sanction. However, since the project is predominantly for carrying out renovation and building related works, as per earlier policy, 60% of the amount i.e. Rs. 105.60 lakhs can be utilized for these purposes and the remaining amount must be used for curatorial aspects. The DPR money given shall be adjusted, as perusal norms.

6.1.3 Nourhe Society, Kohima, Nagaland. (Project Cost: Rs,326.77 lakhs)

The evaluation report on the DPR submitted by the Nourhe society in respect of their museum proposal was discussed and the following observations were made:

- (i) The total project cost of the society is Rs.326.78 lakhs and maximum grant admissible for this museum (being a category II museum) is Rs.250 lakhs. The society may, therefore, be asked to demonstrate how they propose to bring in the remaining Rs.76.00 lakhs to complete the project. Alternatively, they may be advised scale down the project cost and accordingly revise the DPR.
- (ii) Since no site Plan has been provided in the DPR, they may be asked to include the site plan in the revised DPR and also demonstrate the ownership of the land, where they propose the extension of the building.

**6.1.4 Maharaja Banaras Vidya Mandir Trust, Varanasi,
(Project Cost: Rs.541.57 lakhs)**

The committee noted the observation made by the independent consultant that the DPR has not been prepared in a professional manner and hence recommended that the Trust may be asked to submit a proper DPR. It was noted that DPR must not be seen by the applicant museums as a mere formality, but it must be the main instrument of planning as well as monitoring. The observation of the consultant in his evaluation report on their DPR may be communicated to the Trust to enable them to revise the DPR accordingly.

**6.1.5 Bagnan Ananda Niketan Kirtishala, Howrah , West Bengal
(Project Cost: Rs 169.70 lakhs)**

The committee noted the observation made by the independent consultant that the DPR has not been prepared in a professional manner rather it was a reprint of the power point presentation. The Committee recommended that the organization may be asked to prepare a revised DPR. The Committee, however recommended Rs.5.00 lakhs for publication of scroll paintings as this was an important activity that could be taken up right away by the organization. The amount will of course, be adjusted in the final sanction in due course.

**6.1.6 Srinivas Malliah Memorial Theatre Crafts Trust, New Delhi
(Project Cost: Rs.591.65 lakhs)**

The Committee discussed the evaluation report of the consultant on the DPR submitted by the trust and was of the view that the Trust has a unique collection of immense value, that is quite different from the traditional ones. The Committee was of the clear view that the museum can be categorized as Category I museum. The Committee felt that immediate attention was required to be given for conservation and documentation of their collections. Based on this, following recommendation was made:

- (i) The proposal with project cost of Rs.591.65 lakhs and for release of Rs.473.32 lakhs (80 % of the project cost) may be approved.
- (ii) However, Rs.283.99 lakhs (60 % of Rs.473.32 lakhs) for civil construction be released subject to approval of their building plan by the competent authority in Delhi.
- (iii) In addition to (ii) above, in order to attend to immediate work on conservation and documentation of objects, the amount proposed for the same i.e. Rs.88.33 lakhs (62.40 +25.93) may also be released in installments.

6.1.7 Proposal from Government of Kerala in respect of three museums

The appraisal reports in respect of following 3 museum proposals submitted by Govt. of Kerala were discussed at length.

- i) Archaeological Museum, Ernakullam (**Rs.600.00 lakhs**)
- ii) Pazhassiraja Archaeological Museum, Kazhikode (**Rs.301.95 lakhs**)
- iii) Folklore and Folk Art Museum, Nedumangad, (**Rs,300.09 lakhs**)

After detailed discussions, the committee recommended that the State Government may be requested to

- (i) Submit a comprehensive vision statement in respect of all 3 museums;
- (ii) Furnish a complete list of all the treasures in the museums;
- (iii) Prepare a better DPR covering all aspects;
- (iv) To immediately take up the work on documentation, conservation of objects as also on publication work from the money already available with them.

6.1.8 St. Aloysius College, Mangalore, Karnataka (Project Cost: Rs.689.12 Lakhs)

After deliberating on the evaluation report, the Committee made following recommendations:

- (i) The part I of the estimate dealing with construction of new museum buildings need to be relooked altogether. They may realign the estimate accordingly.
- (ii) The work on documentation of entire collection and urgent conservation work to the collection were noted as activities that could be taken up immediately. Accordingly, the committee recommended a seed money of Rs.25.00 lakhs to enable them to carry out this work on urgent basis.
- (iii) In the meanwhile, conservation proposal of the institute may be reassessed by NRLC.

6.1.9 Nehru Museum of Science and Technology, IIT, Kharagpur, (Project Cost: Rs.274.44 lakhs)

The Committee was of the view that the institute needed a proper guidance to implement the project and suggested that they may be advised to approach NCSM to be the implementing agency for their project. Subject the above, the Committee recommended for approval of Rs.164.66 lakhs (60% of Rs.274.44 lakh) the project for renovation/extension of their museum.

6.1.10 Dakshinachitra Heritage Museum, Madras Craft Foundation. (Project Cost: Rs.277.29 lakhs)

After deliberating upon the report, the following recommendations were made:

- (i) The organisation may be asked to submit a revised DPR which must be comprehensive and cover all aspects;
- (ii) Notwithstanding above, Rs.10 lakhs may be released to enable the organisation to take up immediate conservation of their collections;

6.1.11 Monyul Museum , Tawang. (Project Cost: Rs.353.70 lakhs)

The Committee took note of the observation of the Consultant on the DPR submitted by the organization and desired to intimate them the shortcomings in the DPR as observed and to ask them to submit a revised DPR accordingly.

6.1.12 Purvasha Museum, Odisha. (Project Cost: Rs.397.56 lakhs)

The Committee, while appreciating the concept, desired to know from the museum the breakup of the pre-operative costs and about the working capital as shown in their estimate. The members also desired to know the reasons for usage of terms “Plant & machinery”, “Pre-operative expenses” and ‘Working capital etc. as these are not the standard terminology used in DPRs for establishment of museums through grant-in-aid. Dr Dinanath Pathy, being one of the mentors, of this project may be called to explain these details.

6.1.13 Netaji Research Bureau, Kolkatta (Project Cost: Rs.637.30 lakhs)

The Committee took note of the observation that the structure itself is an heritage building (category I) and any construction within the complex shall need a due approval from concerned authority (on heritage) in Kolkatta. The Committee recommended that the organization may be asked to get the requisite approval before a go-ahead for renovation/expansion of the heritage building could be considered. This notwithstanding, the Committee acknowledged that there were certain activities that needed urgent attention and hence recommended for grant of Rs. 43.52 lakhs as sought for by the organization on the following :

(i)	Preservation & Storage of Reserve Collection	Rs. 6.80 lakhs
(ii)	Conservation Laboratory	Rs 13.72 lakhs
(iii)	Documentation, Publication & Dissemination	Rs. 23.00 lakhs

6.1.14 J.D Centre of Art, Bhubaneswar (Project Cost:Rs.37.64 crores)

The organization has submitted an ambitious proposal with a project cost of Rs.37.64 crore whereas under the scheme a maximum assistance of Rs.3.00 crore for a category II museum can be considered. The Committee desired to know from the organization their sustainability Plan and to clearly spell out the source of funding of the remaining amount.

6.2 Discussion on those museums made presentation/additional information called for from them and received:

6.2.1 Arts Acre Foundation Arts Acre Museum & Art Gallery, Kolkatta. (Project Cost: Rs.30.00 crores)

The organization be asked for source of meeting the remaining cost of the project which they propose to construct in 3 phases entailing a cost of Rs. 30.00 crores.

6.2.2 The Madras Regiment Museum, Wellington(Nilgiris), Tamilnadu (Project Cost: Rs.82.98 lakhs)

This proposal was discussed by the Committee in its meeting on 18.02.2011 and it was decided to seek additional information on accessibility of visitors etc. The Committee was informed that the Regiment has responded to clarifications sought from them and has intimated that the Public has an unfettered access to the museum and the average footfalls in their museum is about 1.50 lakhs per annum. Taking note of this, the Committee recommended for approval of the project and for release of financial assistance of Rs. 66.38 lakhs (80% of Rs. 82.98 lakhs)

6.2.3 Mahatma Gandhi Antarrastriya Hindi Vishwavidyalay Wardha, (Project Cost: Rs.600 lakhs)

The committee recommended that the applicant organization may be called to make a presentation at the next meeting.

6.3 Discussions on proposal from Govt. Museum Chennai for refurbishment of National Art Gallery (Project Cost: Rs.14.60 crores)

The proposal submitted by Govt. of Tamil Nadu in respect of the renovation/conservation of the National Art Centre, Chennai was discussed in details by the Committee. Since it is a Govt. Museum and collections are exquisite, the Committee was of the view that it is to be categorized as a Category I Museum. Keeping in view the urgent requirement of conservation of the building which is in a dilapidated condition as also that of their collections, the Committee recommended for release of Rs. 2.00 crores as seed money to carry out the immediate work on conservation and renovation. In the meanwhile, Govt. of Tamil Nadu may also be asked to prepare a DPR and also be asked to make a presentation before the Committee to enable them to decide on the further quantum of assistance to be provided.

6.4 Museums called for Presentation

6.4.1 Rishi Bankim Granthagar O Samgrashala, West Bengal (Project Cost: Rs.518.46 lakhs)

Dr. Satyajit Chaudhury, made the presentation about the proposal. The Committee appreciated the proposal and made following recommendations :-

- (i) Rs.5.00 lakhs for preparation of a DPR
- (ii) Rs.10.00 lakhs for carrying out urgent conservation work.

6.4.2 Jawhar Bal Bhawan, Thrissur, Kerala (Project Cost: Rs.1,12,83,000/-)

The presentation could not be made as the organization expressed its inability to attend the Meeting.

**6.4.3 Mumpa Museum, Bright Future Society, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh.
(Project Cost: Rs.299.96 lakhs)**

Shri Kum Tago made the presentation about the museum proposal. The Committee recommended that the organization may be asked to prepare a DPR for which Rs 5.00 lakhs was recommended.

6.4.4 The City Palace Museum, Udaipur (Project Cost: Rs. 687.71 lakhs)

Shri Mayank Gupta and Ms. Shikha Jain made the presentation about the museum proposal. Though the organization has already submitted the DPR prepared more than a year back, the Committee asked the organization to update it by including the necessary input about the entire project the Trust plans to undertake. It is noted that the fuller project of upgradation and modernization was much larger project(over Rs.25.00 crores) and that the museum itself was meeting the larger share of the project costs. The committee recommended that all these aspect should be brought out in the DPR clearly.

**6.4.5 Shri Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Memorial National Committee, New Delhi
(Project Cost: Rs.225.88 lakhs)**

Col. Mohan Kaktikar (Retd.) made the presentation. The Committee observed the following:

- (i) The organization does not have any collection in their possession except some verbal assurances from owners for loaning of objects for display only, while the ownership still lies with the owners;
- (ii) Also, without any legally enforceable MoU with the owners, the display of artefacts cannot be assured. Moreover, they propose to establish a museum in the basement of a 5 storey building;
- (iii) The organization need to furnish the approved plan of their building indicating the 'usable spaces' permitted. Also, to justify the establishment of a museum in the basement;
- (iv) The organization needs to furnish a sustainability plan.

**6.4.6 AROUSE (Animation Rural Outreach Service), Gumla, Jharkhand
(Project Cost: Rs. 100.00 lakhs)**

Fr. Thomas Barla S.J made the presentation about their museum. Though the museum has a good collections and that the concept is good, they could not articulate their requirements clearly. The Committee felt that documentation of their collections was very relevant and essential. They also seem to need guidance of an expert to carry forward the project. It was suggested that the museums may be asked to approach a suitable expert with experience of running a similar museum to guide them in their project, if possible.

**6.4.7 Tribal Art and Textile Museum Society,Dimapur, Nagaland
(Project Cost: Rs. 168.87 lakhs)**

Ms. Rongsenla Marsosang made the presentation about the museum proposal. The Committee appreciated their effort and felt that there was strength in their project and recommended Rs.2.00 lakh to enable them to prepare a DPR. The following details may be included in the DPR:-

- (i) Justification for requirement of so much of extra space;
- (ii) Why are they proposing to have a RCC structure instead of traditional design/ method.

6.4.8 IBN Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences, Aligarh, UP (Project Cost: Rs. 365.20)

Prof. Syed Zillurrahman made presentation about their proposal. The Committee appreciated the collections of various kinds. The Trust need to rework their proposal and for this the Committee recommended Rs.5.00 lakh for preparation of DPR.

6.4.9 Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre, Bhubaneswar.

Shri Budhadeb Dash(Finance officer) made the presentation about the project. He could not articulate the requirement nor was he able to properly respond to the queries raised by the members. The Committee expressed its unhappiness on the seriousness of Govt. of Odisha for such a noble project. The Committee therefore desired to ask Govt. of Odisha to send a suitable person with adequate knowledge about the museum project, to make a presentation before the Committee.

6.5 Discussion on incomplete proposals

The Committee was informed of the receipt of the following 4 proposals from the institutions and that these will be placed before the Committee once these are complete in all respect:

- i. Govt. College of Art & Craft, Kolkata, West Bengal
- ii. Institute of De Chanernagor, Hooghly, West Bengal
- iii. Symbiosis Society Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Museum & Memorial, Pune
- iv. Research Institute of World's Ancient Traditions Cultures & Heritage, Roing, Arunachal Pradesh.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

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 Shiv Sing Meena | Deputy Advisor, Planning Commission | |
| 6. Shri Rajmani, | Archivist, NAI,(represented DG, NAI) | |
| 7. Shri Sabyasachi Mukherjee | Director, CSMVS | |
| 8. Shri Sadashiv Gorakshkar | Ex- Director, CSMVS | |
| 9. Shri Karni Singh Jasol, | Director, Mehrangarh Museum, Jodhpur | |
| 10. Shri P. Chenna Reddy | Director, Deptt. Of Archaeology & Museums, Govt. of A.P | |
| 11. Shri N.P. Joshi, | Under Secretary, Ministry of Culture. | |