

**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 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

The fifth 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 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010 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, welcoming the members, Dr. Vijay S Madan, Joint Secretary & Chairman of the Committee, invited the members to a general discussion on the issues relating to scheme. He mentioned that in most of the proposals received for setting up of new museums, and even for the existing museums coming up for renovation/repairs or modernization/extension of galleries etc., undue emphasis is given to civil constructions while the curatorial aspects are some what sidelined. He informed the members that in order to have proper appraisal of the applications and the DPRs received from the applicants, these are being sent for an independent appraisal report from an expert in the field and then are placed before the committee for consideration.

3. Dr. O P Agrawal mentioned that essential functions of a Museum must include Education, conservation, communication, marketing (souvenirs, catalogues etc. through the museum shop). He suggested that all museums should must concentrate on these aspects, especially on marketing. Dr. Gautam Sengupta, DG, ASI mentioned that there is a wide range of diversity in such proposals and that no single package of financial support can serve the purpose. Since the proposals are considered by the committee mostly on the basis of information/papers provided by the museums, he suggested for specific inspection of museums to physically verify the applicants' status to have an in-depth assessment of the strength and limitations. Dr. J Sthanapati, Dy DG, NCSM mentioned that sustainability of the museums need to be stressed upon. Summing up the discussion, Dr. Madan mentioned that while the idea mooted by DG, ASI for inspections may be a step in the right direction, it was practically not feasible for variety of reasons and more so, the official commitments may not allow to discharge this. He also mentioned that the DPR format needs to be more broad-based which was being reformulated. Based on the deliberations on the issues discussed, following decisions were taken:

- a) A two-member sub-committee of experts may devise a training programme for the target group of curators of the museums in order to take up upgradation/modernization of the museums. The training programme must include the subject of preparation of marketing plans /strategy for the museums.

- b) Draw a check list for museums for examination of proposals received under category I & II museums separately for the assistance of the Expert Committee.
- c) Request the consultant to draw up a list of items/activities to be included in the Detailed Project Report.

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

**4.1 Discussion on the proposals where DPR/Appraisal report received:**

**4.1.1 Gopinath National Dance Museum, Kerala:**

The committee assessed the DPR and desired to seek further clarifications from the Museum on the following:

- a. The basis for the rates applied to various items, whether it was as per CPWD's DSR with required amendments or alternatively if Kerala Schedule of Rates or any Schedule formally published by COSTFORD has been followed, the same has to be indicated.
- b. The Service Charges indicated as 12% and amounting to Rs.65.27 Lakhs is too high if it is the equivalent of the Professional Fee to be paid to COSTFORD. The maximum fee should normally be 5%. This needs to be clarified.
- c. The Museum proposes to house objects valued at Rs. 24.70 Lakhs in the proposed Museum with a project cost of Rs 8.24 crores which appears to be incongruous. Museum management be asked to provide a comprehensive Vision Statement and a comprehensive note on future plans especially with respect to acquisitions and expansions..

**4.1.2 Arts Acre Museum & Art Gallery, Kolkata:**

The committee observed that the museum has indicated that they have 28 artefacts in their possession to be displayed in the large building and the financial assistance sought essentially towards construction only. They must demonstrate the exquisiteness of the artefacts to be

categorized as Category I. In addition, following clarifications/information from the Museum be obtained:

- a. The basis for the rates applied to various items in the estimate has to be provided as to whether they have followed CPWD Rates or not.
- b. Though the museum plans to set up a “state of the art conservation laboratory to cater to its own artifacts as well as items from other museums”, but no provision towards the same appears to have been made. This need to be clarified.
- c. Curatorial concept has to be elaborated

#### **4.2 Discussion on those museums made presentation and submitted additional information called for from them:**

##### **4.2.1 Natural and Human Resource Development. Organisation, Manipur.**

The committee took note of the revised DPR and decided to get the revised DPR for evaluated and send it the expert for independent appraisal.

##### **4.2.2 BPS Mahila Vishwavidyala Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat**

The committee appreciated that this is a unique concept of establishing a rural Museum, they have not been able to demonstrate the concept and curatorial aspect to the satisfaction of the committee. The committee recommended that the applicant may be asked to furnish additional information like photographs of the artefacts etc. and if need be, to call them for a presentation again. It was felt that the applicant must develop a good curatorial concept to give effect to their plan.

5. The committee discussed the request received from Madhavan Nayar Foundation, Kochi for allowing flexibility in utilizing the sanctioned grants. It was felt that once the museum go for installing the Air Conditioners, it has to be 24x7 uninterrupted AC, otherwise it may cause more damage than good to the objects. The committee desired that the museum may be asked to indicate whether it would be able to sustain the recurring expenditure that an uninterrupted AC supply would entail. In addition, they may also be asked to indicate the areas/items of work where they would cut the expenses to make way for AC and other equipment.

6. Chairman informed the members about the background of the proposal of Vivekananda Rock Memorial & Vivekananda Kendra, Kanayakumari and mentioned that this was an approved project for which Rs.40.00 lakhs was made available to ITDC to undertake the work. After six years ITDC has abandoned the project and has refunded the grant. The museum has now requested the Government to be permitted to carry out the work themselves and have requested for releasing the money to them. They have assured that they will meet the extra expenditure that may be incurred due to time overrun. After detailed deliberation, the committee recommended for release of Rs.40.00 lakhs to the museum.

7. While the committee commended the progress of museum movement in the North East, it was felt that the proposals that are being received from the region are not been properly prepared and that mostly the estimates relate to construction works and less emphasis is being given to the curatorial concept. In order to understand their proposal for a better appraisal as also to train them, it was suggested that a team may visit the region or some of the proposed sites to obtain first hand information as also to guide them. Dr. M V Nair volunteered to visit the region. The committee discussed the proposals placed before it one by one. The recommendations of the Committee on these proposals are as under:

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Name &amp; Address of the Museum/Organization</b>	<b>Recommendation.</b>
7.1	Cultural and Welfare Society Tangtse Gonpa Changthang, Leh J&K.  (Projected Cost:- 23.54 Lakhs)	The Museum proposes for construction of new building & a Museum hall. In order to have a proper appraisal, the committee desired to ask the museum send photographs of the existing building and that of display galleries. In addition, the Museum may also be asked to furnish a report on how they plan for conservation of their objects.
7.2	Ellen Welfare Society , Dist : Mon, Nagaland  (Projected Cost:- 26.94 Lakhs approx.)	The Museum may be asked to furnish following information/ document:  (i) Photographs of the Museum, display galleries & artifacts.  (ii) Details of documentation Plan.
7.3	Heikhas Museum by Nourhe Society, Kohima (Projected Cost - 107 Lakhs approx.)	The society may be called for making a presentation. They must also furnish Photographs of the existing building/ galleries on display and that of artefacts.

7.4	Appan Thampuran Smaraka Museum, Ayyanthole, Thrissur, (Kerala).  (Projected Cost:- 250 Lakhs )	The museum may be called for making presentation. In addition that may also be asked to furnish following information: (i) Sustainable Plan for the future.  (ii) The Museum may be asked to indicate to why the old building could not be conserved.
7.5	The Public Museum, Champanagar Village, Jiribam, Manipur.  (Projected Cost:- Rs. 13.5 Lakhs)	The Museum may be asked to provide photographic details about the Museum & the artefacts.
7.6	Bagnan Ananda Niketan Kirtishala, Howrah, West Bengal  (Projected Cost:- Rs. 153 Lakhs approx.)	Museum may be called to make a presentation.
7.7	Rishi Bankim Granthagar O Samgrashala, Pargana, West Bengal.  (Projected Cost:- Rs.518.46 Lakhs approx)	The committee decided that a two member team comprise of Dr. O P Aggarwal & Dr. Stanapati may visit the organization for inspection & to have a first hand assessment of the requirement of the organization including the following:- i) Do they actually require additional construction as proposed by them?  ii) Why do they require the quantum of fund (about Rs.100 lakhs) asked for under sub section Library?  The organization may be informed of the impending visit of the team. On receipt of a report from the sub-committee, if required, the organization may be called for a Presentation.
7.8	Srinivas Malliah Memorial Theatre Crafts, New Delhi  (Projected Cost:- Rs. 497.42 Lakhs)	Museum may be called to make a presentation.
7.9	Aloyseum, St Aloysium College, Mangalore Karnataka  (Projected Cost:- Rs.246.88 Lakhs)	Museum may be called to make a presentation.

7.10	<p>Digamber Jain Museum Campus Jaishinghpura, Ujjain (MP).</p> <p>(Projected Cost:- Rs.75.83 Lakhs)</p>	<p>The Museum may asked to furnish the following information:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Status of the conservation of the objects.</li> <li>ii) Sustainability Plan of the Museum.</li> <li>iii) Whether the publication they are planning will be priced on appear at.</li> </ul> <p>The Museum may thereafter by called for a presentation.</p>
7.11	<p>Asan Museum and Kavyagramam at kaikara, Kerala</p> <p>Projected Cost:- Rs.100.00 Lakhs</p>	<p>They may be called for a presentation.</p>
7.12	<p>Rabindra Bharati University Museum, Kolkata, West Bengal</p> <p>Projected Cost:- Rs.590 Lakhs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They may be asked for submitting for a DPR as category II Museum.</li> <li>• Rs. 10.00 Lakhs for DPR recommended presentation of DPR.</li> <li>• These may be asked to make a Presentation and they can make a plea for categorization as category I museum, by providing the exquisiteness of their artefacts.</li> </ul>
7.13	<p>Shri J.C Bose Trust, Kolkata, West Bengal</p> <p>Projected Cost:- Rs.697.75 Lakhs</p>	<p>Museum may be called to make a presentation.</p>
7.14	<p>Amar Mahal Museum and Library, Jammu Tawi(J&amp;K),</p> <p>Projected Cost:- Rs.24 Lakhs</p>	<p>Recommended release of Rs. 19.20 Lakhs. (80 % of Rs. 24.00 Lakhs). The Museum may be asked to complete the documentation of the entire data which shall be shared with the Central Database, when it is started.</p>
7.15	<p>Nehru Museum of Science &amp; Technology, IIT Khargapur, West Bengal.</p> <p>Projected Cost:- Rs.274.43 Lakhs</p>	<p>The committee was of the view that the museum does not have the possibility of attracting general public. However, they may be called for a presentation to make out their case.</p>

7.16	Karnataka Gandhi Smarak Nidhi Gandhi Bhawan, Bangolare. Projected Cost:- Rs.96.52 Lakhs	The museum may be asked to furnish Photographic evidence. In addition, they may be also furnish a clear curatorial concept for a museum as also the Sustainability Plan.
7.17	Museum of Numismatic Society of India, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.  Projected Cost:- Rs.46.2 Lakhs	The committee was not convinced on the concept of the Museum and was of the view of that the articles in possession with them can be part of another museum. They may be asked to furnish details of the coins and other articles in possession with them as also they may clarify why their objects cannot be displayed in association with another museum.
7.18	Rajendra Bhawan Trust, New Delhi (Projected Cost:- Rs.158.86 Lakhs)	The proposal is totally a renovation Project. The cost of construction @ Rs. 6850 per sq. ft. is on a very higher side. They have not indicated the number of footfalls. They may be asked to clarify these aspects.  They may be called for a presentation after furnishing the requisition documents.
7.19	<i>Maharaja Banaras Vidya Mandir Trust, Varanasi, UP</i>  (Projected Cost:- Rs.429.97 Lakhs)	The museum may be called for a presentation. Meanwhile, the committee desired to seek following information:- i) <i>Details of galleries the museum plan to extend.</i> ii) <i>No. of footfalls per day.</i> iii) <i>Commute other formalities.</i>
7.20	History Museum, Gobi Arts Science College, Erode Tamil Nadu  (Projected Cost:- Rs.9.7 Lakhs)	The committee recommended release of Rs.6.95 Lakhs. (80 % of Rs.7.76 Lakhs). The committee did not approve the proposal for purchase of touch screen for Rs 2.75 Lakhs and this amount was deducted from the overall project cost.
7.21	BBCS. SACH Museum of Arts & Crafts, Imphal-East, Manipur  (Projected Cost:- Rs.5.00 Lakhs)	The committee did not find any merit in the proposal and hence rejected.

7.22	Children's Museum in Jawahar Bal Bhawan, Thrissur, Kerala.  (Projected Cost:- Rs.60.00 Lakhs)	The museum may be asked to make the concept for a museum clear. They have to furnish a proper plan for setting up a museum with curatorial concept.
7.23	Mumpa Museum, Bright Future Society, Arunachal Pradesh.  (Projected Cost:- Rs.269.96 Lakhs)	The museum may be asked to make a concept clearer. They need to submit a Curatorial concept. Thereafter, they could be called for a presentation.
7.24	Dakshinachitra Heritage Museum, Madras Craft Foundation, Chennai,  (Projected Cost: - Rs.164.31 Lakhs).	The museum may be called for a presentation.

8. The Committee was informed that besides the proposals discussed, there are five other good proposals for setting up of museums, who have not submitted a complete proposal and hence have been issued deficiency memo to complete the documentation as required. These are:

- (i) Stok Palace & Museum, Ladakh, J&K
- (ii) The Himalayan Museum, Rishikesh by Government of Uttarakhand
- (iii) Rabindra Bhavan and
- (iv) Kala Bhawan (from Shantiniketan)
- (v) Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery Trust, Mysore

It was decided that as and when their documentation is completed, the applicants may be called for making a presentation before the committee.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

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**List of Participants**

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|-----|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | Dr. Vijay S. Madan,     | Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture. | <b>In Chair</b> |
| 2.  | Dr. Gautam Sengupta,    | Director General, ASI.                |                 |
| 3.  | Dr. Jayanta Sthanapati, | Dy DG, NCSM                           |                 |
| 4.  | Dr. M.V. Nair,          | Director, NRLC                        |                 |
| 5.  | Dr. A. N Reddy,         | Director, Salar Jung Museum           |                 |
| 6.  | S M R Baqar,            | DG(i/c), NAI                          |                 |
| 7.  | Shri Amaresh Singh,     | Director, Ministry of Culture.        |                 |
| 8.  | Shri P.R Meena,         | Director, Planning Commission         |                 |
| 9.  | Prof. C. Chenna Reddy,  | Director, D/o Arch. & Museum, AP      |                 |
| 10. | Shri O P Aggrawal,      | DG,INTACH-ICCI, Lucknow               |                 |
| 11. | Shri N.P. Joshi,        | Under Secretary, Ministry of Culture. |                 |