

Government of India

Ministry of Culture

National Mission on Libraries (NML)

Minutes of the third meeting of the National Mission on Libraries held on Wednesday, 19th December 2012 at the Central Secretariat Library, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

List of Members present in the meeting is placed at Annexure 'A'.

At the outset, Professor Deepak Pental, Chairman welcomed the Members and Special Invitees present in the meeting and said that there were some issues on which more clarity was needed. He referred to his meeting with the Hon'ble Culture Minister and mentioned that the Minister during the meeting raised the issue of lack of availability of adequate budgetary resources in the ministry. He further added that recommendations have already been made by various Working Groups and now priorities will have to be decided by the Ministry of Culture. He emphasized that the Mission must have the required budget & manpower so that the recommendations could be implemented in a time bound manner.

Smt. Sangita Gairola, Secretary to the Ministry of Culture said that the Committee should prepare the EFC report for submission to the Planning Commission. She also mentioned that the Committee should prioritize the proposals keeping in view the amount of Rs. 400 crores proposed so far, for the Plan Period. She said that the Ministry was keen to see that the Mission succeeds. Mr. Rakesh Ranjan, Joint Secretary to Ministry of Culture would coordinate action on the recommendations.

Thereafter the Agenda points were taken up.

Item I : Discussions regarding proceedings of the 2nd Meeting of the National Mission on Libraries (NML) held on September 14, 2012 at New Delhi :

The Minutes of the Second Meeting held on September 14, 2012 were approved and confirmed, with some modifications.

ITEM II : TO CONSIDER THE CRITERIA FOR CENSUS OF LIBRARIES AND FLOATING OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST :

The Committee discussed in detail the relevance and possible methodologies for conducting the Census/Survey of libraries. The advantages and disadvantages of conducting a sample survey vis a vis a complete census of libraries, were also discussed.

Chairman observed that NML at this juncture should concentrate on setting up of a National Virtual Library and Modernization. It would therefore be appropriate to conduct a Sample Survey with a representative sample of 2000-5000 libraries (approximately) through a professional agency, having prior experience in the area.

It was noted that the Gates Foundation had shown interest in conducting the survey of libraries in India and the NML may use the experience of the Gates Foundation of its survey in Latin America and other countries. A Sub-Committee consisting of the following was constituted to discuss the issue and terms & conditions with the representative of the Gates Foundation in India:

- Director General, RRRLF
- Shri H.K. Kaul
- Prof. A.R.D. Prasad
- A representative from Indian Statistical Institute

This Sub-committee will also oversee the works of sample survey. The Sub-committee would specify the objectives of the survey in clear terms before negotiating with the agency that would be selected to undertake the work.

ITEM III : TO CONSIDER THE LIST OF LIBRARIES RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS STATES SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM THE NATIONAL MISSION ON LIBRARIES :

The Committee noted that the names of 3713 libraries have been suggested by eleven States and found that the list did not contain details of existing infrastructure available in the libraries. The Committee decided that before any support was given to the States it was necessary to get lists with necessary infrastructure, staff and related details from the States about these libraries. Considering the limited allocations available during the 12th Plan, no impact would be visible if NML takes up a highly ambitious plan of improving the infrastructure. Smt. Sangita Gairola, Secretary, Ministry of Culture remarked that there must be uniformity among various States while providing assistance under NML Schemes, and also proper regional balance.

Regarding establishment of Model Libraries, Modernisation and Networking following decisions were taken:

- i) Subject to availability of funds, State Central Libraries, District Libraries , Libraries under MOC, and a few selected NGOs/ Private Libraries will be modernized and networked at the earliest.
- ii) The National Knowledge Network (NKN) will be requested by the Ministry to provide high speed network connectivity to all these Libraries.
- iii) A phase-wise approach will be adopted. In Phase 1, State/Central Libraries, Libraries under the MoC and a few

select District libraries may be networked, modernized and developed as model libraries.

- iv) Working Group will identify various parameters for a standard model library.
- v) Dr. ARD Prasad pointed out that there is a need to put the Libraries in service-oriented mode with necessary emphasis on providing local contents.
- vi) Smt. Sangita Gairola, Secretary, Ministry of Culture pointed out the need for providing facilities for persons with disabilities in public libraries. She also remarked that NML must collaborate with NCSM and NIVH in this regard since they have already done commendable work in these spheres, such as availability of material in Braille, talking books, etc. The Committee approved that facilities for persons with disabilities be introduced in public libraries.

ITEM IV : SETTING UP A SECRETARIAT FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE/MISSION AT IOC BUILDING, JANPATH – APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS :

Chairman pointed out that a full time Director in the pay scale of the level of Professor having necessary technical aptitude may be appointed for National Virtual Library.

The Chairman stressed that a mechanism must be worked out once the plans are approved and it must be clearly decided as to who will look after the progress of the projects.

After detailed deliberations, following decisions were taken :

- a) A Task Force will be constituted by the Ministry of Culture under the aegis of Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation with

the following Members to monitor the progress of implementation of various programmes of NML, including NVL :

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| 1. Rakesh Ranjan
Joint Secretary to Ministry of Culture | Chairman |
| 2. Ms. Mahalaxmi
Deputy Secretary (Finance)
Ministry of Culture | Member |
| 3. Dr. ARD Prasad | Member |
| 4. One Member of the Foundation
nominated by the Chairman, RRRLF | Member |
| 5. Shri K.K. Banerjee
Director General, RRRLF | Member-Convener |

b) RRRLF will anchor all the projects.

c) Minutes of Task Force are to be circulated to all members of NML.

Regarding creation of National Virtual Library (NVL), following decisions were taken:

- i) Identification of all digital resources available under digitisation projects already undertaken by various Agencies and Govt. Departments like MOC, HRD, DIT, CDAC, Prasar Bharati, AIR, State Govts etc and creation of a comprehensive database of all such resources.
- ii) Works of NVL may be divided in three components - Content creation/ collation, Design & Development of Search engine and Hosting of NVL.
- iii) In the 2nd meeting, it was decided that works of First Phase of NVL may be entrusted to NIC. However, Shri P.K. Jha, AS & FA, MOC pointed out that NIC is currently overburdened

and opined that CDAC or other such agencies may also be considered as one of the Agencies for the project. After detailed deliberation, it was decided that keeping in view the importance and vast extent of the project it would be appropriate to select a Technical Partner for the project. Technical Partner will be selected by adopting 'open tender process'.

- iv) Mr. ARD Prasad was entrusted to prepare a concept note for the project which will include methodology for organisation of Contents, Search mechanism to be adopted, Manpower requirements, Budgetary provision and Tender Specifications. He was authorized to engage two Research Assistants for the job as per the terms and conditions of JRF.

As against the requirements projected in the Agenda Note, the following posts of consultants and Research Assistants were approved-

- For Delhi Office- Two Consultants and two Research/ Programme Assistants
- For RRRLF, Kolkata- One Consultant and one Research/ Programme Assistant

It was decided that remunerations be flexible so as to attract competent candidates for the jobs. Payment for the consultants could be in the range of Rs 30000-50000/- p.m. and to the Research /Programme Assistanats in the range of Rs. 20000-25000/-. Exact amount may be decided depending on the suitability of the candidates. Detailed eligibility criteria may be worked out by RRRLF before issuing the advertisements.

Expenditure on manpower requirement may be borne from the Mission Fund transferred to RRRLF.

Item V : ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR:

Shri Ravindra Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture mentioned that a budget of Rs. 400 crores has been earmarked for NML projects for the 12th 5-year plan which has to be utilized during next four years. Thus all Working Groups must finalise the schemes keeping in view the operational aspects and limitations of budget. He also suggested that a seminar may be organized involving key persons with expert knowledge on libraries so as to generate further innovative ideas.

It was decided that all Working Groups will submit detail projects/schemes to Shri K.K. Banerjee, Director General, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation by January 15, 2013. Shri Banerjee will prepare the note for EFC by January 31, 2013 and the same may be placed before the NML in its meeting likely to be held in the 1st/2nd week of February, 2013. It was also decided that, to monitor the projects, Working Groups will meet once every month and NML will meet once in two months.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-

(Deepak Pental)
Chairman
High Level Committee
National Mission on Libraries

THIRD MEETING OF NATIONAL MISSION ON LIBRARIES HELD ON
DECEMBER 19, 2012 AT NEW DELHI

Members Present:

1. Prof. Deepak Pental	Chairman
2. Smt. Sangita Gairola	Member-Convener
3. Shri B.S. Baswan	Member
4. Dr. H.K. Kaul	Member
5. Dr. A.R.D. Prasad	Member
6. Ms. Amrita Patwardhan	Representative of Sir Ratan Tata
Trust	

Special Invitees:

1. Shri Ravindra Singh	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture
2. Shri P.K. Jha	Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Culture
3. Shri Rakesh Ranjan	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture
4. Ms. Nirmala Goyal	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Culture
5. Shri K.K. Banerjee	Director General, RRRLF

The following Members could not attend the meeting :

1. Ms. Sudha Murthy
2. Shri Sanjiv Misra
3. Prof. S. Arunachalam