

Government of India
Ministry of Culture
National Mission on Libraries (NML)

Fourth Meeting of the National Mission on Libraries (NML) held on February 15, 2013 at the Central Secretariat Library, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi 110 001

List of Members present in the meeting is placed at Annex I.

At the outset Professor Deepak Pental, Chairman, NML welcomed the Members to the Fourth meeting of the National Mission on Libraries. The Chairman appreciated the efforts made by the various Working Groups in the interim in preparing the EFC proposal. He also appreciated the workdone by Professor ARD Prasad in preparing the Concept Note of National Virtual Library (NVL) and observed that Dr. Prasad has taken great pains to assemble the various components of NVL. Chairman then pointed out that we may look at the Concept Note so prepared to work out a feasible plan for implementation towards creation of NVL.

Ms. SangitaGairola, Secretary (Culture) in her opening remarks also appreciated the hard work done by the Members of various Working Groups and emphasized that we need to look closely at Budgeting and Funding issues lof the EFC proposal and to fast-track the NML project .

Item 1: **To confirm the Minutes of the Third Meeting of the National Mission on Libraries held on December 19, 2012**

The Minutes were confirmed.

Item 2 : **To report the progress of work since the Third Meeting of the National Mission on Libraries**

The following key issues were discussed:

i. Survey of Public Libraries

Director General, RRRLF reported the progress of work regarding the meeting held with representatives of Gates Foundation for conducting the survey of public libraries in India.

- a) It was decided that it would be useful to have foreign experts in the Survey Committee so as to obtain advice of experts from outside India to achieve global standards in the survey. The Survey Committee may accordingly be reconstituted after including the name of two experts to be nominated by the Gates Foundation. Chairman suggested that Dr. H.K. Kaul, Chairman of the Sub-Committee may write to the Gates Foundation in this regard.
- b) The Survey questionnaire, the most critical component to move the NML project ahead, has to be finalized soon and may be shared with the foreign experts. Chairman emphasized that Members of the Committee should study similar work done by other institutions, including the work done by overseas agencies.
- c) A meeting with the experts should be convened within a month.
- d) It was decided that NML would bear the cost of the survey and Gates Foundation may be approached for bearing the expenses of the expert advice and participate of the experts in the meeting.
- e) Chairman emphasized that we must use the survey data to redesign the future shape of the public libraries in India and data should be collected from the citizens of different age groups to understand their needs and expectations.

f) Data should also be collected on materials available for specially abled groups in various public libraries.

ii) **NKN Connectivity to State Central Libraries, District Libraries and Libraries under Ministry of Culture (MoC)**

a) Shri Rajesh Gupta, who attended the meeting as representative of NKN, NIC reported that the request made by Secretary (Culture) regarding NKN connectivity to the libraries will be placed before the next HLC Meeting to be held in March/April 2013 for consideration.

After detailed discussion, it was decided that all the State Central Libraries and Libraries under MoC should be provided with 1 GBPS NKN connectivity. NML will bear the cost of last mile charges towards optical fiber cabling. Router should be provided by the NKN free of cost.

c) Since the District/School Libraries may not require 1 GBPS connectivity, these libraries may be provided with 128 KBPS NICNET Connectivity.

iii) **Setting up of Model Libraries**

Chairman referred to the decision in the Third Meeting of NML vide Item III (iii) that, in phase 1, State Central Libraries, Libraries under the MoC and a few selected District Libraries may be networked, modernized and developed as model libraries. However, there is no mention of any such plan in the EFC proposal drafted. Thus, he emphasized that the EFC proposals may suitably be modified to develop 35 State Central Libraries and one District Library in each state and also one School Library in each state as model libraries under NML.

In keeping with the observation of the Chairman, following decisions were taken :

- a) EFC proposal may be modified to include development of 35 State Central Libraries, one District Library in each state and one School Library in each state as model libraries under NML
- b) HRD Ministry may be requested to provide the necessary ICT infrastructure required for school libraries for modernization.
- c) State Governments should ensure human resources requirement to run the model libraries and provide the space required. Memorandum of Understanding may be signed with the respective State Authorities/designated authority of the Institution. Task Force will finalize the format of MoU.
- d) Model Guidelines/Specifications may be drawn.
- e) Equipments required for modernization may be procured through NICS/DGS&D rate contract with three-year warranty. Specification may be finalized in consultation with NIC.
- f) EFC proposal should also include hosting of data through creation of state level data center. NIC Authority may also be approached for hosting of data, if required.

iv) **Creation of National Virtual Library**

Discussions are recorded below:

- a) Chairman, NML emphasized that National Virtual Library should contain information on tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India e.g. all the manuscripts, information on folk traditions, folk

music, dance, history of the country, film/audio materials available in AIR/Doordarshan archives etc. He also emphasized that information which need to be updated regularly need not be included in the first instance.

- b) Secretary (Culture) pointed out that NVL should also contain information on libraries and books available in public libraries. She emphasized that if electronic version of the books cannot be provided due to copyright issues the metadata should be made available. She also pointed out that information on cultural heritage are already available in the Government of India portal and need not be duplicated. It was decided that information which are already available in government portals need not be duplicated and only links will be provided through a federated searching.
- c) Dr. Ravindra Singh, Special Secretary, Ministry of Culture suggested that we may follow the model of Europeana to make available electronic version of the books to the members of the library.
- d) NVL should contain information on all books published in India.
- e) Some Members opined that regional information may be included in state level portal and respective State Authorities should remain responsible for authentication of the content. The national portal will subsequently be updated on the basis of information created in state portal. This would be taken up after the NVL has been set up.
- f) The Committee approved the creation of a post of Mission Director and support staff, as proposed in the draft EFC Memorandum, for smooth functioning of NML.

- g) Ministry of Culture was entrusted to finalize the remuneration of the Director of NVL. The Committee felt that it should not be lower than that of the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India.
- h) It was also agreed that, pending creation of the regular post of Director, NVL, a Consultant may be appointed for one-year. Remuneration of the Consultant may be fixed in accordance with the qualifications and background of the person and also taking into consideration models already adopted by the MoC for other projects.
- i) Chairman mentioned that duties and responsibilities are highly challenging and thus the remuneration should be commensurate to that. He also emphasized that a person having reasonable commitment should be engaged for the job and MoC should look into various requirements for the post of Consultant and support staff required for the project. It was also decided that the NVL should start functioning as a Center under the Ministry of Culture.
- j) Consultants will be responsible for drawing up specifications for NVL and technical partner will be responsible for undertaking the job as per specification.
- k) NVL will also engage necessary support staff required for this project.
- v) **Setting up of Secretariat of NML at Janpath**

Shri K. K. Banerjee, Director General, RRRLF briefed the Committee that the matter of renovation and refurbishing of Janpath Bhavan was discussed in the Task Force Meeting held on February 14, 2013. The Task Force noted the scope of work which includes not only maintenance and repair but also fully furnishing the premises. It was noted that a very miniscule amount of Rs. 10000/- was kept for

'minor works'. Considering the condition of the building, it was felt that this amount would be grossly insufficient to renovate the space. The Task Force also noted that, on previous occasion, RRRLF invited rates from architect firms for renovation and refurbishing of the premises at Janpath Bhavan. The drawings and the estimates worth Rs. 37.00 lakhs (approximately) had already been received. The Committee decided to give a re-look to the matter and resolved to refer the matter to the NML for the final decision.

NML also approved engagement of one Consultant and one Project Assistant for Kolkata in addition to the numbers already approved in the Third Meeting of NML held on December 19, 2012.

Item 3 : **To consider the EFC document prepared on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Group**

Keeping in view the observations made by the Members present in the meeting on the progress of work as reported under Item 2 above, it was decided that EFC proposals be modified with projection on the following area of activities:

- a) National Virtual Library
- b) Creation of Model Libraries which will include 35 State Central Libraries and one District Library in each state and also one School Library in each state as model libraries under NML.
- c) Survey of Public Libraries.
- d) Training/skill development programme.

EFC Notes thus prepared may be circulated among the Members for their comments.

Item 4 : **Consultations with stakeholders – State Governments, NGOs, Library Associations, Disability Group etc.**

It was decided that for effective implementation of the policies and to fulfill the objectives of the Mission a stakeholder meeting may be organized sometime in May 2013 to hold discussions on the relevant issues.

Item 5 : **Any other item with the permission of the Chair**

a) Provisions for persons with disabilities :

Approved. Decided that the libraries to be developed as Model Libraries should have the provision for persons with disabilities.

b) To consider a proposal to set up a Central Library Fund :

Approved. Professor Deepak Pental, Chairman, NML opined that we may take assistance of the philanthropic organizations for content creation in areas of health and hygiene, agriculture, children literature etc.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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

Annexe IMembers Present:

1.	Professor Deepak Pental	Chairman
2.	Ms. Sangita Gairola Secretary, Ministry of Culture	Member-Convener
3.	Dr. H.K. Kaul	Member
4.	Professor ARD Prasad	Member
5.	Professor Subbiah Arunachalam	Member
6.	Ms. Amrita Patwardhan	Member
7.	Shri G. Raghavender Director, Ministry of HRD	Member

Special Invitees

1. Dr. Ravindra Singh
Special Secretary
Ministry of Culture
2. Ms. Mahalaxmi Ramakrishnan

Ministry of Culture
3. Shri Pranav Khullar
Director, Ministry of Culture
6. Shree Rajesh Gupta
Representative of NKN, NIC
7. Mr. Madhava Reddy
Representative of NIC

Following Members could not attend the meeting:

1. Shri B.S. Baswan
2. Dr. Sanjiv Misra
3. Ms. Sudha Murty