

MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE HELD IN ROOM NO.41, NORTH BLOCK, NEW DELHI ON 26th MAY, 2011 FOR THE 150th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

The second meeting of the National Implementation Committee (NIC) for Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was held in Room No 41, North Block under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 26th May 2011. Members present were Kumari Selja, Hon'ble Union Minister of Culture and Minister of HUPA, Smt. Ambika Soni, Hon'ble Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development and Minister of Communications & IT, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Prof. Mrinal Miri, Chairman of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Swami Prabhananda, General Secretary, Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, Belur, Shri Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Culture (Member Secretary), and Swami Suvirananda, Trustee, Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, Belur along with Dr (Ms) T.Kumar, Joint Secretary.

2. Chairman, NIC welcomed the Members and requested Member Secretary to take up the Agenda items.
3. Minutes of the first NIC meeting held on 3rd September 2010, were confirmed.

4. Member Secretary took up the Report on Action Taken on the decisions at the first NIC meeting (Annexure II). All the items therein were discussed. It was informed that the VVEP of R.K. Mission for Rs.100 crores had been approved by the EFC on 23 May 2011. The Review Sub Committee for the VVEP had met twice on 11th January 2011 and 26th May 2011. These were noted by NIC.

5. On specific proposals, the following were agreed to by the NIC.

a) Proposal of Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata - the revised budget and content to ensure that there was no overlap with the VVEP, would be awaited from the Institute, through R.K. Mission, Belur and examined, on file, for an appropriate decision.

b) Proposal of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Belur for establishing a UNESCO Chair – the decision of MHRD about present non-availability of funds to support, it would be communicated to R.K. Mission.

c) Proposal of Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Sister Nivedita Girls School, Kolkata for acquisition and renovation of Sister Nivedita's residence – Member Secretary would take up the matter again with the new State Government and renew support for restoration and conservation of the premises through the Archaeological Survey of India.

- d) Proposal of Shri Sunil Kr. Dutt for production of DVDs on Swami Vivekananda for Ramakrishna Mission, Belur – may be kept open for the time being.
- e) Proposals of ICCR for their overseas programmes – details may be sought by Ministry of Culture.
- f) Proposal for a logo – since in the case of the Tagore Commemorations in 2011-12, no logo was adopted, the matter may be deferred for a suitable decision to 2013-14, the 150th year of Swami Vivekananda.
- g) Proposal for upgrading School/ College where Swami Vivekananda studied – views of the new State Government of West Bengal may be sought.

6. Member Secretary tabled the main decisions of the Review Sub-Committee at their meetings of 11th January 2011 and 26th May 2011. He highlighted that the accounts of the VVEP would be audited and scrutinised according to Guidelines to be issued by the Ministry of Culture. The release of funds for 2011-12 would be based on satisfactory Audit Reports and Utilisation Certificate of the first instalment of Rs.8 crores released in 2010 (out of Rs.12 crores).

7. The decisions on the proposal relating to the conservation of the four heritage Monuments - Pothimalar Building, Ferozepur, Punjab, Fatehpuri Mosque, Delhi, Rachol Seminary, Goa, & Kodalmankam Temple, Kerala were presented by Member-Secretary. The Archaeological Survey of India

would take up conservation work after ascertaining the respective State Governments' views and those of the community and put in place mechanisms for ensuring proper maintenance of these Monuments, on a self-sustaining basis preferably, through local Committees. Two more Monuments may be added to the list, tentatively including, inter-alia, Patna Sahib Gurudwara and Tawang Monastery in Arunachal Pradesh.

These were approved by NIC.

8. Consideration of two proposals for extension of Hospitals:

a) Proposal of Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama (Charitable Hospital), Vrindaban

b) Proposal of Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratisthan, Kolkata.

a) NIC was informed that Ministry of Culture had sought comments of the Ministry of Health and FW and of the Government of Uttar Pradesh on the revised proposal submitted by Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama (Charitable Hospital), Vrindaban, for upgradation/ extension of the Hospital and setting up of an Auditorium, at an estimated cost of Rs 269.86 lakhs, as had been advised by the first meeting of NIC of 3rd September 2010. Whereas Ministry of Health & FW had no objection to the proposal, the Government of Uttar Pradesh had not responded despite several reminders. NIC observed that there was no need to make further

references to the State Government as it was a private charitable Institution.

NIC approved the proposal.

b) The proposal of extension of Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratisthan, Kolkata, by construction of a Swami Vivekananda Diagnostic Cardiac Care Centre at an estimated cost of Rs 20.21 crores as given in Annexure IV of the Agenda was taken up. NIC advised that since a new Government was in position, it may be appropriate to seek its comments. Those of the Ramakrishna Mission, Belur may also be obtained. The proposal may be submitted, on file, to the Chairman, thereafter, for a decision.

9. Consideration of Proposals from State Governments

a) NIC approved the proposal of Government of Assam as given in Annexure V of the Agenda, for financial assistance of Rs 59,19,500 for taking up various Commemorative activities at the State and Zonal levels. This had been taken up at the first meeting of the NIC on 3rd September 2010.

b) The proposal of the Government of Chhattisgarh for development of places in Raipur associated with Swami Vivekananda as Tourist Centres, setting up of a Study Centre of international standards and bringing out publications etc. as given in Annexure VI of the Agenda, at an estimated cost of Rs 45 crores - and thereafter involving yearly grant of Rs 5 crores -

was considered. However, the estimates were assessed to be on the higher side. NIC did not approve it.

10. Consideration of Proposal from Shree Ramakrishna Ashrama, M. Rampur, Distt. Kalahandi, Odisha.

The proposal of Shree Ramakrishna Ashrama, M. Rampur, Kalahandi in Odisha for construction of an additional floor on the Vivekananda Memorial Building and taking up various other programmes at an estimated cost of Rs 301 lakhs, which had been considered at the first meeting of the NIC on 3rd September 2010, was approved by the NIC, as the Institution had since been recommended by the State Government and was reportedly doing commendable work in a tribal and backward District of the State.

11. Consideration of proposal from Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Barrackpore

The proposal of Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Barrackpore for construction of an Auditorium, which had been considered at the first meeting of the NIC on 3rd September 2010, was taken up. The revised estimated cost of Rs. 1.36 crores as per Annexure VII of the Agenda was approved by NIC as it was assessed to be a good Project, being proposed at a reasonable cost.

12. Consideration of the Proposal from Ramakrishna Mission, Khetri

The proposal of Ramakrishna Mission, Khetri for financial assistance of Rs 72.80 lakhs (as drawn up by the Archaeological Survey of India) for conservation of the heritage building as per details in Annexure VIII of the Agenda was approved by the NIC as a "last - mile" assistance for setting up of a Museum related to Swami Vivekananda's life, which was being supported by the Ministry of Culture, under its 'Scheme for Regional Museums'.

13. Consideration of Overseas Proposals: (2)

a) Proposal from the Art Institute of Chicago for an Endowment for an Annual Vivekananda Lecture

&

b) Consideration of Proposal from the University of Chicago for an Endowment for establishment of a Visiting Professorship in honour of Swami Vivekananda

NIC considered two following proposals -

(a) Proposal from the Art Institute of Chicago for an Endowment of US \$ 3,00,000 (Rs 1.35 crores approx.) for an Annual Vivekananda Lecture and

(b) Proposal from the University of Chicago for an Endowment of USD 1.5 million (Rs 6.75 crores approx) for establishing a Chair/ Visiting

Professorship in the field of Indian Culture and Studies as per details in Annexure X of the Agenda.

NIC approved the proposal from the University of Chicago for an Endowment in honour of Swami Vivekananda of USD 1.5 million for a Chair, to be suitably named, which would focus inter-alia, on Vivekananda and also hold Lectures, Seminars and suitable, related academic activities on Indian Culture and Indian Studies, on the lines presented in the revised proposal of the University in May 2011. MEA would be consulted. The selection of the distinguished Professor for the Visiting Chair would be made after taking inputs from the Ministry of Culture, from a panel of three, to be shortlisted according to the University of Chicago's established procedures. Consul General of India at Chicago would co-ordinate and oversee the Project, in consultation with the Ministry of Culture and submit regular Reports to it.

14. Consideration of BUDGET and its enhancement

NIC approved the proposal for projecting a requirement of additional funds of about Rs 30 crores for the first Supplementary Demand for Grants, keeping in mind the Projects approved by it today and the committed support for the Commemorations.

15. Consideration of a policy decision on proposals from different R.K. Mission Centres, NGOs, Universities and Institutes etc.

NIC noted the proposals received directly by the Ministry as listed at Annexure XI of the Agenda. Chairman advised that the endeavour of the Ministry should be to expand the commemoration activities to many more civil society groups and Organisations/ Institutions of repute, national and international. Proposals received may be scrutinised, on merit, after obtaining recommendations from State Governments and relevant Competent Authorities and processed on file appropriately.

This was approved by NIC.

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