

COMMEMORATION OF 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF
SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

**Minutes of first meeting of the National Implementation Committee
held on 3rd September 2010 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship
of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Finance Minister**

The first meeting of the National Implementation Committee (NIC) for Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was held in the office chamber of Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 3rd September, 2010. Other Members of NIC present were Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, (2) Smt. Ambika Soni, Hon'ble Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, (3) Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Human Resource Development, (4) Prof. Mrinal Miri, Chairman of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies & Editor, Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research (5) Swami Prabhananda, General Secretary, Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, Belur (6) Swami Suvirananda, Trustee, Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, Belur (7) Shri Jawhar Sircar, Member Secretary NIC and Secretary, Ministry of Culture. Also attended the meeting as special invitees were, Swami Shubhakarananda of the Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, Belur and officials from the Ministry of Culture- Ms Dipali Khanna, AS&FA, Dr (Ms) T.Kumar, Joint Secretary.

Two Members- Km. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Union Minister of Railways and Shri Vayalar Ravi, Hon'ble Union Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs could not attend due to their pre-occupation.

Chairman, NIC welcomed the members and gave the background of Government's decision for Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda leading to constitution of the National Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister and of the National

Implementation Committee for implementing the decisions of the National Committee and chalking out programmes and activities for the proposed celebrations to promote renewed interest, particularly amongst the youth, in values, thoughts and ideals of Swami Vivekananda, who conceived education as a primary means of rebuilding the Nation. His message of unity and brotherhood has relevance even today. Thereafter, Chairman, NIC requested Member Secretary to take up the Agenda items.

Member Secretary & Secretary, MOC informed that Agenda Item (1) was basically a follow up of the recommendations/ decisions of the National Committee meeting of 20th May 2010. Government's decision to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and to invite proposals for that was placed on the Ministry's website and a number of proposals have been received.

Details of these proposals were given in Item 2 of the Agenda. Members of the NIC were apprised of these items as under-

- A. Proposals from Ramakrishna Mission HQ at Belur and its Branches;
- B. Proposals from State Governments;
- C. Overseas Proposals; and
- D. Proposals from non-governmental organizations/ individuals.

A.1. Proposal from Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Belur (VVEP- Vivekananda Value Education Programme).

The proposal of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Belur were supported because of their relevance and their having already been endorsed the National Committee. The proposal had an estimated outlay of Rs.100 crore for the following activities to be undertaken over a period of four years-

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Publications in Print Media	Rs 6.00 crore

Publication in Electronic Media	Rs 9.80 crore
Youth Programmes	Rs 28.50 crore
Cultural Programmes	Rs 5.07 crore
Special Service Activities	Rs 48.63 crore
Central office/ contingencies	Rs 2.00 crore

R.K. Mission provided clarifications on the Project components as sought by Minister HRD especially with respect to 'Value Education', which was already part of the school syllabus prepared by the NCERT. Minister, H & FW emphasized the importance of the programme, based on his experience in Jammu and Kashmir. Prof. Miri underlined the complexity and challenge of value education.

Member Secretary proposed that a Project Authority/sub-committees comprising Representatives of the R.K.Mission, concerned Ministries like HRD, I&B, Health & FW, Culture and some eminent scholars may be constituted to oversee and advise on the implementation of the proposals. Swami Prabhananda expressed his apprehensions that this may lead to delay. Member Secretary stated that such an arrangement was essential, since the NIC was accountable to the Government for all the decisions taken by it. It was finally agreed that a Four Member Sub- Committee would be set up with Hon'ble F.M., Swami Prabhananda, Secretary (Culture) and Justice Ashok Kumar Ganguly, to oversee this project.

Being a project-based grant, Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission would be requires to maintain separate accounts and not merge them with their regular Accounts. This was accepted.

Member Secretary informed that as the current year's budget has a provision of only Rs. 8.00 crores only for the Commemoration of Swami Vivekananda's 150th Birth Anniversary. It was agreed that this amount may be provided in advance so that the project is not delayed, Additional amounts may be provided at the supplementary grants stage, on completion of necessary procedural requirements.

The NIC approved the project and its implementation accordingly.

A.2 Proposals from Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata

Member Secretary explained that the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture has proposed programmes. Members felt that some of them overlapped with that of R.K. Mission at A-1 and that this should be avoided. Chairman requested Swami Prabhananda to look into the proposals and suggest suitable modifications, which would then be considered by the NIC.

A.3. Proposal by Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama (Charitable Hospital), Vrindaban, Dist. Mathura(U.P) for a Museum

NIC decided that further details on the proposal were needed and these may be called for. It was also observed that it would have been more appropriate for the proposal to be related to the Hospital, rather than a Museum.

A.4 Proposal of the Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Belur for a UNESCO Chair on Inclusive Education

Minister HRD informed that for creation of UNESCO Chair, the UNESCO does not provide any funds. The entire expenditure is met by HRD Ministry. It was decided that the concerned Joint Secretaries of MHRD and MOC would take a view in this regard and submit it to the Competent Authority.

A.5. Proposal from Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Sister Nivedita Girls School, Kolkata for acquisition of building and funding of a Museum.

Members noted that the proposal of Sri Sarada Math and Ramakrishna Sarada Mission involve acquisition, restoration and development of Sister Nivedita's residence at 16-A, Bosepara Lane, Baghbazar, Kolkata and setting up a Museum with financial assistance of Rs. Around 3.70 crores.

Swami Prabhananda informed that 16-A, Basepara Lane, Baghbazar has from time to time hosted many eminent personalities including Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and the Scientist, iconic Sh. J.C.Bose.

Member Secretary informed that the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) had been actively engaged in negotiations with the present owners for outright purchase of the building as the acquisition procedures entail a long drawn out process. The KMC may require an additional amount of about Rs. 25 lakhs for this, and NIC may provide this, if agreed. For restoration of the building, ASI(Archaeological Survey of India) could be entrusted the work and funds could be allocated by the Ministry of Culture, as a special case. As for establishment of the Museum, there is a separate Scheme in the Ministry from which necessary funds could be provided, after observing due formalities.

NIC approved the course of action proposed by Member Secretary, who was authorized to seek the views of the Mission and KMC.

A.6 Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Smriti, Khetri

NIC noted that the proposal for conservation of the historical heritage building "Fatteh Billass" in Khetri as a "Protected Monument of National Interest"

has been considered under the Museum upgradation Scheme of the Ministry of Culture.

B. PROPOSALS FROM STATE GOVERNMENTS

B.1 Assam Government

NIC noted that the Government of Assam have not given the estimated expenditure involved in undertaking the following programmes at State and Zonal levels.

- Youth Camp for 3 days
- Vivekgyoti Asom Yatra
- Installation of Swamiji's Statue
- Essay Competition
- Personality Development Camps
- Patriotic Song Competitions
- Extempore Speech Competitions
- Swami Vivekananda Exhibitions

NIC decided that the M/o Culture may take up the matter with Assam Government for detailed information.

B.2 Punjab Government

NIC observed that the proposals given by the Punjab Government, namely Youth Programmes, Cultural Activities and Special Service Activities were already included in the proposals of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission HQs, Belur. It was decided that the M/o Culture may obtain detailed clarification in the matter from the State Government especially as the amounts involved were high.

C. OVERSEAS PROPOSALS

C.1 Proposal from the Art Institute of Chicago

The NIC agreed, in principle, to the proposal received from the Art Institute of Chicago, a part of the University of the Chicago, for creation of an Endowment so that the Institute may fund the Annual Swami Vivekananda Memorial Lecture. The details would however be considered in consultation with the MEA, as their recommendations were somewhat different.

Minister, HRD suggested that at some later date, M/O Culture may, in consultation with the MEA, consider organizing a large event in Chicago, considering its significance in Swami Vivekananda's life. This was accepted.

NIC decided that a comprehensive with the Ministries of HRD and MEA by Ministry of Culture.

C. 2 Proposal from Hindu Temple of Creation, Chicago, through the Consul General, Chicago.

The proposal was sent by the office of Consulate General of India in Chicago for giving financial assistance to the Hindu Temple's Spiritual Centre in promoting the philosophy of Swami Vivekananda by adding yoga classes, meditation etc. The quantum of financial assistance sought has not been specified.

NIC decided that a new Consul General has joined at Chicago, she may be consulted in the matter before a decision is taken.

C. 3 Proposals from ICCR

Events proposed by ICCR, as below, were noted and approved by NIC.

- a. Conferences abroad during 2012-13 to focus on philosophy and message of Swami Vivekananda;
- b. Lecture tours abroad to focus on philosophy and message of Swami Vivekananda;
- c. An International Conference on World religions to be held in India in January 2013 on the importance of Inter Faith Dialogue;
- d. Sponsoring Indian Scholars for participation in Inter faith dialogue / conferences;
- e. Support to Indian organizations abroad promoting Inter- faith dialogue;
- f. Photo exhibition on Vivekananda, highlighting relevance of Swami Vivekananda's teachings in contemporary world;
- g. Other Commemorative Events in India/ abroad;
- h. Bust installation in interested countries.

Among these, Inter- Faith dialogues were stressed as being particularly significant. MEA would take a view in this regard.

D. Proposals from Other Non – Government Organizations/ Individuals

D.1 Proposal received from Public Service Broadcasting Trust, Nizamuddin East, New Delhi

The proposal of the Public Service Broadcasting Trust (PSBT), Nizamuddin East, New Delhi is for a feature length definitive documentary film (90-100 minutes) on Swami Vivekananda, to be made by Shri Rajiv Mehrotra, was unanimously approved for funding through Ministry of Culture, on prescribed terms and conditions, as a very special case.

D.2 Proposal from Shree Ramakrishna Ashrama, M. Rampur, Dist. Kalahandi, Orissa.

NIC considered the proposal of Shree Ramakrishna Ashrama, Kalahandi, to undertake programmes, particularly among the youth, in rural areas, including in the field of health so that the universal message of Swami Vivekananda could be spread far and wide.

NIC requested Ministry of Culture to check the credentials of the organization before considering its Proposals.

D.3 Proposal from Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Barrackpore

The project includes the following components with a total estimated cost of Rs. 1.33 crores.

1. Construct an auditorium for holding discussions, lectures etc.
2. Construct a hall for a permanent exhibitions on important event in the life of Swami Vivekananda.
3. Setting up a small publication centre.
4. Installing a life size statue of Swami Vivekananda.

The project had been supported by Hon'ble MOS, M/o Urban Development.

NIC was of the view that the projected estimated cost appears to be too low and realistic. It was decided therefore that clarifications/ details be sought as the proposals appeared support- worthy and the organization was well regarded for its work.

D. 4. Proposal from Sunil K Dutt, Photo Journalist, Kolkata

Minister, HRD observed that the proposal for creation of a PHOTO BANK was a good one and could be approved in principle.

NIC requested Swami Prabhananda and Member Secretary to go through the proposal and give their views.

D. 5. Proposal from Kasy Films, New Delhi

D. 6. Proposal from Gobind Chattopadhyay

D. 7. Proposal from Jiban Mukhopadhyay

Proposals above from D 5 to D 7 were not approved by NIC, as they lacked intrinsic merit.

Agenda items 3 & 5- Budget and Administrative Set Up in the Ministry of Culture

Member Secretary informed NIC that the outlay of Rs. 220 crore mentioned in the Agenda notes was only an ad hoc amount. Proposals for the commemoration programmes were still coming in and at this stage it may not be possible to project any definite amount as the final outlay. The National Committee in its 20th May 2010 meeting as well as NIC today agreed to the proposal of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Belur involving an cost of Rs. 100 crore. In the current year, the allocation is Rs. 8.00 crore only. In

case of additional requirement of funds, the matter will be taken up with Ministry of Finance. This was approved by NIC.

NIC also approved the proposal for engagement of a Consultant and supporting staff as well as equipment for the work relating to commemoration programmes.

Agenda item 4

NIC considered the suggestions given by various Members were as under in the National Committee meeting held on 20th May 2010.

Shri Narendra Modi

- National Service Scheme be linked with Swami Vivekananda's service ideas.
- Need to erect a Memorial of Swami Vivekananda at Somnath, the place from where he started his 'Desh Bhraman'.

NIC decided to request for more details.

Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal

- Mayawati Ashram (1897) needs to be further developed as a Resource Centre on Swami Vivekananda.
- Prabhud Bharat Patrika, started by Swamiji, to be made available in Schools/ Colleges.
- Vivekananda Vithika at the Uday Shankar Academy may be established in Almora.
- Memorial may be erected at Kakri Ghat.

NIC decided to request for more details.

Shri Mani Sankar Mukherjee

- A logo may be identified for the commemorative event.
- Reopening of Ramakrishna Mission branch in Pakistan may be explored
- Swami Vivekananda Gate be set up at Delhi or some other appropriate place.
- Commemorative Coins be issued.
- 100% tax exemption be accorded on donations towards Swami Vivekananda's funds.
- Upgrading School/College where Swami Vivekananda studied.

NIC requested Swami Prabhananda to follow up the suggestion and come up with a few logo samples with a suitable motto. As regards the proposal reopening of Ramakrishna Mission's branch in Pakistan, NIC decided that the same may not be practical at this stage.

NIC requested Swami Prabhananda to follow up the proposals for upgradation of School/College where Swami Vivekananda studied and send in suggestions.

Hon'ble Chairman agreed to the issuance of commemorative Coins.

Prof. Lokesh Chandra

- Publication of a book of memorable quotations of Swamiji on relevant contemporary issues.

NIC requested Swami Prabhananda to follow it up as it was included in R.K.Mission's approved proposal.

Dr Satkari Mukhopadhyay

- Translation of works of Swami Vivekananda in Persian as was done in the case of Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

NIC did not agree to the proposal at this stage.

Shri B.P.Singh

- Proposals for the commemorative programmes be invited from civil society through media.

NIC agreed to take it up at the appropriate stage.

Agenda item 7

Any other matter raised by Members with the permission of the Chair-

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad M/O Health & Family Welfare informed about a proposal for setting up of 300 District Welfare Centres for Yoga or “Wellness-Centres” all over the country. As suggested by Members these Centres may be set up by the 2013 and be named, “Swami Vivekananda District Wellness Centres for Yoga”. They could be formally launched on 12th January 2011, the birthday of Swami Vivekananda.

Minister also stated that they have a large plot of land (10 acres) for construction of a International Centre on Yoga at Ghaziabad, which could also be appropriately named after Swami Vivekananda. However funds would be required for it which were not presently available. NIC decided to consider this aspect at a later stage.

Members suggested development of some heritage Monuments of different religions to uphold the secular message of Swami Vivekananda. This was accepted by NIC and it was agreed that at least 3 Monuments including the iconic Fatehpuri Mosque in Delhi would be taken up during this period for restoration and upkeep by ASI/INTACH, preferably with the association of the R.K.Mission, wherever feasible.

Swami Suvirananda gave the following additional suggestions which were noted by NIC.

- A directive may be issued by the Ministry of HRD to all schools and colleges to celebrate Swami Vivekananda's 150th birth anniversary on 12th January 2013 in a befitting manner;
- To consider whether the year 2013-2014 can be declared as a National Awakening Year;
- The new terminal building at Kolkata airport be named after Swami Vivekananda and a statue of Swami Vivekananda be installed there;
- The Sealdah Railway station in Kolkata be renamed as Swami Vivekananda Railway Terminal as was done in the case of 'Mumbai Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus' and 'Bal Gangadhar Tilak Terminus' in Mumbai.;
- To explore whether a mobile exhibition, may be organized in a special train, depicting the life and message of Swami Vivekananda.

Member Secretary was requested by Chairman to inform the State Governments and seek their close association with the Commemorations which should be implemented in a decentralized manner.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.
