

Minutes of the First Meeting of the National Mission Monitoring Committee on National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities

**Venue: Chamber of Secretary (Culture), Shastri Bhawan
(22nd November 2007)**

The first meeting of the National Mission Monitoring Committee on National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities was convened under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Culture) in his chamber in Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, was held on 22nd November, 2007 at 3.00 pm, to review the progress of work that have been carried out so far by the National Mission and discuss on various issues pertaining to the functioning of National Mission, and physical and financial targets for the current financial year.

The following members were present in the Meeting -

1. Abhijit Sengupta, Secretary (Culture) - Chairman of the Committee
2. Anshu Vaish, Director General, ASI - Vice-Chairman of the Committee
3. V.S.Madan, Addl. Director General, ASI - Member of the Committee
4. R.C.Mishra, Jt. Secretary (Culture) - Member of the Committee
5. S.B.Ota, Director (Mission) - Member Secretary of the Committee
6. Shubhra Pramanik, Superintending Archaeologist (Mission)

Secretary (Culture) as Chairman of the Monitoring Committee welcomed the members to the first meeting of the National Mission Monitoring Committee, followed by a briefing on the background of the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities and also its mandate by Director (Mission).

Director (Mission) as Member Secretary of the Monitoring Committee briefed about the work that have been carried out so far by the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities and laid the agenda and budget expenditure of the Mission before the committee for discussion and approval.

The following were the decisions taken in the meeting.

1. As per the provisions made in the Mission document, it was suggested that both staff from ASI and contract personnel need to be filled up immediately. It was also felt that the provisions made for the staff components in the Mission document are quite insufficient to carry out the mandate of the Mission within a stipulated timeframe.
2. Secretary (Culture) felt that F.A. (Culture) should have been a member of the Mission Monitoring Committee. Besides, a review and restructuring of the Mission was also suggested.
3. Secretary (Culture) suggested that a national level sub-committee of experts from different domains could be constituted for the specialized works like digital mapping, creating appropriate software, digital database and management etc. to be undertaken by National Mission.

4. It was decided that Director (Mission) should obtain due approval by the Finance Committee over the requirement of man power to carry out documentation of antiquities, compilation of data on monuments etc. before placing the proposal to the Monitoring Committee.
5. The proposal for digitization of documents of registered antiquities was agreed upon subject to its due approval by the Finance Committee.
6. The proposal for digitization of archival drawings on built heritage and sites as available with ASI has been agreed upon.
7. The proposal of bringing out biannual Newsletter of the National Mission has been agreed upon.
8. The proposal to initiate Web-site by the National Mission has been agreed upon.
9. It was decided that National Mission could collaborate with ISRO to obtain exact geo-coordinates towards the preparation of digital thematic map on centrally protected monuments under ASI.
10. It was decided that the complete digital database on *Indian Archaeology – A Review* prepared by IGNCA shall be in the public domain through web-site. DG, ASI shall take final decision in the matter.
11. It was decided that the compilation of the state archaeological legislations shall be incorporated in the web site of the National Mission.
12. The proposal to create a logo for National Mission has been agreed upon.

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

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the National Mission Monitoring Committee on National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities

**Venue: National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities
24, Tilak Marg, New Delhi
(13th June 2008)**

The second meeting of the National Mission Monitoring Committee on National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities was convened under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Culture) at O/o National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities, New Delhi, on 13th June, 2008 at 10.00 AM, to review the progress of work that have been carried out so far by the National Mission and discuss on various issues pertaining to the functioning of National Mission for the current financial year.

The following members were present in the Meeting -

1. Shri. Abhijit Sengupta, Secretary (Culture)
2. Smt. Anshu Vaish, Director General, ASI
3. Shri. R.C.Mishra, Jt. Secretary (Culture)
4. Shri. V.S.Madan, Addl. Director General, ASI
5. Dr. B.R. Mani, Joint Director General, ASI
6. Ms. Tanuja Pande, Director (Finance) & Representative of FA
7. Shri. S.B.Ota, Director (Mission)

Shri. D.R. Gehlot, Jt. DG, ASI could not attend the meeting.

Secretary (Culture) welcomed the members to the second meeting of the National Mission Monitoring Committee and invited Dr. Anupam Saraph, CIO Pune City to give a presentation on the concept of 'Archaeopaedia'.

Subsequently Director (Mission) briefed about the work that have been carried out so far by the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities and laid the agenda before the committee for discussion.

The following were the observations / decisions taken in the meeting.

1. Dr. Anupam Saraph gave a brief presentation on the history of the creation of Wikipaedia and suggested creating 'Archaeopaedia' on the same lines. He said that the project would help in creating a database of built heritage and sites within the mandate of the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities. It was pointed out that the implications of such a project need to

be considered in a wider perspective and other concerned government organizations and NGOs like INTACH should be consulted on the 'Archaeopaedia' concept. It was suggested that perhaps a pilot project can be initiated for one State.

The Committee recommended that Dr. Anupam Saraph may be requested to prepare a concrete proposal comprising the working plan, modalities, infrastructure, technical, financial, administrative requirements etc. for the proposed 'Archaeopaedia', which would be presented in a meeting of domain experts. For this, experts from related domains like NIC, CDAC, Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Culture and other departments/NGOs connected with archaeology could be invited to discuss the modalities involved.

Thereafter the main agenda was taken up.

2. The minutes of the first National Mission Monitoring Committee on National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities was confirmed by the members.
3. It was noted by the committee that the appointment of the contract personnel's for various posts in National Mission has taken far too long. This should be taken up on a priority basis and the relevant advertisement ought to be made within 15 days.
4. The committee felt that a sub committee should be constituted under the under the chairmanship of DG, ASI along with JS (M), Ministry of Culture, DG, ASI, FA / Representative of FA, Chief Controller of Accounts, Director (National Mission) to sort out issues regarding the structure of the National Mission, distribution / allocation of funds for undertaking various projects / programmes of the Mission in the States / UTs.
5. The Chairman desired that ADG, ASI should be co – opted as a member of the Finance Committee for the National Mission.
6. Keeping in view of the enormous budgetary allocation to the National Mission, it was agreed that instead of a contractual appointment, a suitable Finance Officer should be appointed on deputation basis from the O/o Chief Controller of Accounts. A request should be made in this regard to CCA, MOC.

7. The committee desired that wherever the State Level Implementation Committee (SLIC) has already been approved, National Mission should start interacting with the respective committee(s) and initiate action on various activities as per its mandate.
8. The committee felt that National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities should take initiatives to conduct training workshops on capacity building, awareness generation, heritage out reach programmes etc at headquarters level.

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