

Minutes of the meeting to discuss Action Plan of Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), Centres of Excellence (CoE) and Tribal Chairs on 9th July, 2015 at 10.30 AM in the Conference Hall of Central Secretariat Library, 'G' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

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A meeting with heads of Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) and Centres of Excellence (COEs) was convened on 9th July, 2015 at 10.30 AM in the Conference Room at the Central Secretariat Library, 'G' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi to discuss re-defining the roles and responsibilities of the TRIs and COEs, review their performances and to revisit and strengthen research activities. This was chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA). List of participants is enclosed at Annex-I.

2. At the outset JS (MKP) welcomed the members and mentioned about the objectives of the meeting. He told the meeting that though Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) had been set up in States for providing planning inputs to the State Governments for overall development of the Scheduled Tribes in the state, these institutions had become weak and lost direction over a period of time. He said that TRIs are even not publishing journals, which reflects that priority and commitment is missing. He also narrated the roles of Centres of Excellence recognized by the Ministry and hoped that the meeting would help in setting the focus right and result in better deliverables.

3. Secretary (TA) while addressing the participants highlighted the importance of role TRIs in formulation of policy, planning and implementation of development schemes for tribals. He expressed concern about the negativity that has emerged about the functioning of the TRIs and hoped that TRIs would overcome the challenge. He underlined that critical areas like education, health, nutrition, trafficking, livelihood needed special attention for overall development of the tribal and TRIs need to focus their activities around these issues.

4. The meeting then had following issues for discussion:

a. Review of activities of TRIs:

The Directors of all TRIs submitted summaries of activities undertaken by them during the last three years. All the TRIs had followed the guidelines issued by the Ministry regarding Common

Minimum Programme and several TRIs had taken measures of inducting personnel through State Provincial Services. TRI, West Bengal informed that they have managed to get good number of Ph.D holders with the institute. TRI, Tamil Nadu thanked the Ministry for their initiatives in getting a permanent Director posted there. TRI, Andaman & Nicobar expressed that this year they need more money to establish new institutes. Both Directors of TRI, Jharkhand and Rajasthan pointed out that there is an acute shortage of staff there. TRI, Odisha told the meeting that issue of shortage of manpower may not be solved immediately, hence, they take care that resourceful person from other institution are hired by the TRI and engaged for the activities. TRI, Gujarat stated that survey on all the tribal community has been made and condition of Ashram schools is good in Gujarat. However, internal migration(with in the State) is a matter of concern. TRI, Kerala expressed that one defining problem of tribals in Kerala is that a number of tribals are still living in rock shelter. TRI, Tamilnadu said that they are conducting evaluation of EMRS, National seminar of FRA etc. The Director, TRI, Uttarakhand informed there their TRI is a new entity and yet to start functioning. They have prepared a draft for the establishment of TRI Uttarakhand in Society mode and requested other TRIs to supply/facilitate the required information/documents to enable them to draft Byelaws. TRI, Odisha intimated that they are concentrating on policy research, evaluation of CCD plan of 5 States, evaluation of EMRS, implementation of FRA and PESA, Dropout rates etc. Almost all the TRIs maintained that it take a long time for them to get funds from the state Government after the Ministry sanctioned it to them. JS, MoTA told that the matter was taken at highest level through a DO from Minister, TA to the Chief Minister of States with TRI. It was decided that the matter may be followed up with the Secretaries of the States.

Secretary (TA) asked TRI, Maharashtra to have an assessment of Ashram schools in the state and submit the study within within two months of time. For Madhya Pradesh, Secy (TA) advised that the FRA study in Madhya Pradesh should be on the denial of FRA entitlement. Chhattisgarh stated that survey have been made by the TRI itself and FRA survey is being conducted in 24 Districts. Secretary (TA) suggested that documentation of success-stories and stories of tribal achievers in different fields like academics, sports, art, dance etc. should be done and the proposals in this regard should be sent to this Ministry.

TRIs are also required to suggest nominations for National Tribal Awards as specified under para 5 of the extant guidelines. The proposal may also be sent to this Ministry to rejuvenate the TRI Jharkhand. Secy (TA) appreciated TRI, Karnataka for imparting training to Ashram School teachers on refresher course and testing of their performance by an examination at the end of training course. He asked other TRIs to adopt the idea of TRI, Karnataka, so that the output of school-teachers could be enhanced.

b. Workshops/ studies assigned specially by the Ministry to the TRIs

The meeting then discussed the progress of Sickle Cell Anaemia training and workshops which started from the Month of March this year. TRIs of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, MP, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan and West Bengal had already organized workshop on the subject and health and district officials were made aware of the protocol developed by the ICMR for screening of tribal children. The workshop needs to be followed by training of master trainers and action for screening would be followed. Complete action needs to be completed in one year and TRIs were asked to work accordingly.

TRIs were also asked to complete the study on the Status of Implementation of TSP in States with Schedule-V areas in given time. It was decided that the Ministry would approve uniform methodology to be adopted by all TRIs who are undertaking the study. TRI, Tamil Nadu expressed willingness for conducting such study. It was decided that since TRI, AP had not responded to the communication of the Ministry regarding the study, the same may be assigned to TRI, Tamil Nadu.

c. Proposals of Centres of Excellences:

While speaking about their activities, HoD, department of Odia, Shanti Niketan stated that they had contracted publishers and sorted out a list of tribal literature for creating a Library on tribal literature. A comparative study of creative Literature on tribal issues in three languages-Odia, Bengali & Assamese has been proposed. They have planned to hold a National Seminar on tribal literature in the month of November, 2015. They expressed that due to the workspace problems, they have not been able to deliver maximum productivity, but they have assured that all the work in pipe line will be successfully completed. National Institute of Rural Development stated that they want to make tribal libraries and also want to do a comparative study on tribal issues. BAIF

and BHASA also presented brief account of activities they undertook during the last three years. They told the Chair that they had come to the meeting with action plan for the year 2015-16 and requested the Ministry for early approval and sanction of funds.

d. State level and National Tribal Festival

Deputy Secretary, MoTA informed the meeting that the national Tribal festival has been made part of the annual calendar of the Ministry and in the year 2016 also, it will be held from the second Wednesday to third Friday of February. She requested TRIs to give their proposal of participation in the Festival within 15th august, 2015. She also made a proposal that TRIs shall also make the State Tribal Festival part of their annual calendar as being done by Odisha. This will enable other states and TRIs to have a glimpse of the festivals of other states and encourage co-operation.

e. Apex Research Co-Ordination Committee (ARCC)

As decided in December, 2013, the meeting discussed the idea of formation of the ARCC Centre of excellences, ASI and TRIs as its members. ARCC would meet twice a year- first meeting to finalise research priority areas for each members and the second meeting shall review the progress of the decision. Representative of Anthropological Survey of India volunteered to co-ordinate the meetings of the committee and expressed the hope that it will help in rejuvenating the TRIs and other such important institutions.

5. Secretary (TA) concluded that these institutions have to be more meaningful and effective. He indicated that role of TRIs in the development of Tribals has been emphasized during meeting with Prime Minister and their action is being reviewed at that level also. He articulated that challenges vary according to geography and culture also and TRIs will have to keep it in mind while taking responsibility. He urged all TRIs to submit a position paper on the problems being faced by the tribals and how to make TRIs to be turned around and how to make them more-productive and result-oriented. He also asked the TRIs to prepare a robust roadmap to rejuvenate these institutions so that they can be a repository for the tribal issues, a knowledge base and share the same with us. Secretary has also elucidated that the success story/best practices and research study should be shared between all the TRIs and with this Ministry and there should be actionable research made by the TRIs. He also stated that multi-disciplinary

experts are needed in the TRIs. Secy(TA) also revealed that there is a need to study the problems/lacuna in the TRIs, by a reputed institution.

6. In the end, following decisions were taken:-

- (i) Annual Report and major research work of TRIs to be shared with the Ministry.
- (ii) All TRIs to open and maintain their website and upload all important events including training capacity building activities.
- (iii) Activities undertaken/ to be taken as part of screening of Sickle Cell Anemia to be uploaded in the website of the TRI.
- (iv) TRIs to take prompt measures to complete documentation of medicinal-plants should within one/ two year.
- (v) TRIs to share study on Mapping of sports talents amongst tribals if done- if not proposal to be submitted within this months
- (vi) State Tribal Festival to be made part of annual calendar- all aspects of tribal life including work done by the state on tribal issue, live performance etc. shall be included
- (vii) Participation in National Tribal Festival- details to be submitted to the Ministry within August, 2015 along with funds requirement
- (viii) Research and seminar shall focus the issues prioritized in the Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana, such as Educational status and challenge, health, livelihood, security, urbanization etc.
- (ix) Complete proposals for 2015-16 along with Utilisation Certificate, Physical progress report shall be submitted urgently so that maximum funds could be released during the 2nd quarter of this financial year.
- (x) An apex committee has to be formed for all the TRIs/COEs. BHASHA and Archeological Survey of India to coordinate it. Proposal of constitution, specific role and assignment shall be submitted to the Ministry for approval in two months.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to chair.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sl. No.	Name and designation	States/ Organisation
1.	Shri Arun Jha, Secretary	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
2.	Shri Manoj Kumar Pingua, Joint Secretary	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
3.	Shri Lal Sanglur, Economic Adviser	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
4.	Shri Sushilesh Mohan Sahai, Director	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
5.	Ms. Nivedita Giri, Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
6.	Shri Pramod Kumar Sahoo, Under Secretary	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
7.	Dr. P. Debbarman, Director	West Bengal, Culture Research Institute, Govt. of West Bengal
8.	Dr. C.R. Sathya Narayanan Dep. Director	Anthropological Survey of India Kolkata
9.	Shri R.N. Chahil Director,	TRI,Rajasthan
10.	Dr. P. Subramaniam Director,	TRI-Tamilnadu
11.	Dr. Binu.S Director, Kirtads, Chevayoor, Kerala	TRI- Kerala
12.	Dr. H.S. Gupta, Director JTWRTI, Jharkhand	JTWRTI-Jharkhand Ranchi
13.	Dr. T.T. Basayana Gouda, Director	TRI, Mysore, Karnataka
14.	Shri Arun Gupta Director(T.W.)	Andaman & Nicobar Island
15.	Shri Neetiraj Singh Jt. Director	TRI, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
16.	Shri G.M. Jha Dy. Director	TRI, Chhattisgarh, Raipur
17.	Prof. A.B. OTA, Director, TRI, Odisha	SCSTRTI, Odisha
18.	Shri G.N. Payodhi Asstt. Research officer	TRI, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
19.	Shri S.M. Sarkunde, Commissioner	TRI Pune, Maharashtra
20.	Shri S. Sahoo,	TRI, Gujarat
21.	Shri Ali Raza Secy, Deptt of Tribal Affairs,	Jammu & Kashmir
22.	Shri Guljar Hussain Department of Tribal Affairs	Jammu & Kashmir
23.	Dr. B.M. Harbola Registrar	Uttarakhand, Doon TRI, Uttarakhand University, Deharadun
24.	Dr. Rajashree	COE/BAIF Pune
25.	Smt. Sabita Pradhan Director	Deptt of ODIA, COE, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal
26.	Shri Manoranjan Pradhan Professor	Deptt of ODIA, COE, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal
27.	Shri R.R. Prasad Professor	NIRD &PR, Hyderabad ,Telengana,
28.	Shri G.N. Devy	Bhasha Research Centre Baroda, COE