

RAJA RAMMOHUN ROY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Block : DD - 34, Sector - I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata- 700 064

Minutes of the 98th meeting of the Foundation held through video conferencing on 9th July, 2020 at 3.00 p.m. under the Chairmanship of Shri Kanchan Gupta, Chairman, RRRLF.

(First meeting of the newly constituted Foundation)

Members present :

1.	Shri Kanchan Gupta	Chairman
2.	Shri Padma Lochan Sahu Joint Secretary (Lib.) Ministry of Culture, Government of India	Member
3.	Dr. K. Sreenivasarao Secretary, Sahitya Akademi	Member
4.	Prof. B.D. Kumbar President, Indian Library Association	Member
5.	Prof. Ishwar Sharan Vishwakarma	Member
6.	Shri P. Stobdan	Member
7.	Prof. Nani Gopal Mahanta	Member
8.	Shri Maalan Narayanan	Member
9.	Prof. Heeraman Tiwari	Member
10.	Prof. Rajaneesh Kumar Shukla	Member
11.	Shri Prafulla Ketkar	Member
12.	Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi	Member
13.	Shri Rantidev Sengupta	Member
14.	Shri Arunoday Saha	Member
15.	Prof. Shankar Saran	Member
16.	Smt. S.R. Leela	Member
17.	Prof. Uma Kanjilal	Member
18.	Prof. Ajay Pratap Singh Director General, RRRLF	Member-Secretary

The representatives of the following organizations could not attend the online meeting:

1. National Book Trust, New Delhi
2. Ministry of Human Resource Development, GOI, New Delhi
3. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GOI, New Delhi
4. Ministry of Finance, GOI, New Delhi

Item 1: Welcome and introductory speech by the Chairman, self-introduction by all the members about their current activities and associations.

At the very outset Chairman, Shri Kanchan Gupta extended a warm welcome to all members of the newly-constituted Foundation and informed that the Foundation meeting was being convened through video-conferencing in view of the current Covid-19 situation in the country.

He informed that Shri Ajay Pratap Singh has joined and assumed charge as Director-General of RRRLF on 8th June, 2020 in pursuance of the Ministry of Culture's Offer of Appointment letter F.No.L-37/5/2020-Lib. dated 06th May, 2020, issued with the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Government of India. The Foundation noted the appointment of Shri Ajay Pratap Singh as the Director-General of RRRLF and congratulated him.

The Foundation placed on record its sincere gratitude to Shri Vinay Kumar Srivastava, former Director-General, RRRLF, for his outstanding contribution in various spheres of activities of the organisation.

After a brief introductory session, Chairman apprised the Foundation regarding the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that the 250th birth Anniversary of Raja Rammohun Roy (22 May, 2022) would be nationally commemorated in a befitting manner.

He informed that, as part of this national commemoration, RRRLF planned the following programmes to be organized during 2020-21 and 2021-22. However, the programmes have been postponed to 2021-22 due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- 1) Commemoration of the 250th birth Anniversary of Raja Rammohun Roy
 - a) Organisation of 5 zonal conferences culminating with an international conference on knowledge systems of the future.
 - b) Offering two research fellowships, in association with a university of repute

- c) Publication of selected works by and on Raja Rammohun Roy in collaboration with a publisher of repute.
- d) Launching of the 'Raja Rammohun Roy e-Library' by January 2021. It will have rare books on Indian history, culture, society, religion, science and art/architecture, as well as a separate section of current popular and academic books under license agreement.
- e) Initiate a project for the acquisition of rare books on India and set up a centre to make them accessible to users.
- f) Collaborate with the State Library Authorities to set up Raja Rammohun Roy corners in all public libraries.

Apart from these programmes, Chairman also briefed the Foundation about two other special initiatives planned for 2020-21:

- 1. To commemorate the sesquicentennial birth anniversary of renowned scholar and historian Sir Jadunath Sarkar.
- 2. A Pilot Project of 'Boat Library' for riverside marginal communities in Varanasi which would be implemented in collaboration with the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Item 2 : To confirm the Minutes of the 97th Meeting of the Foundation held on 20th February, 2020 at New Delhi.

Minutes of the 97th Meeting of the Foundation held on February 20, 2020 were confirmed.

Item 3: To constitute various committees and sub-committees of RRRLF.

The Foundation authorized the Chairman to constitute various committees and sub-committees of RRRLF in consultation with the Foundation members.

Joint Secretary (Lib.), Ministry of Culture suggested that while constituting the committees of RRRLF, one representative from the Library Division of the MoC and AS&FA or his/her nominee from the IFD, MoC, may be included as members of those committees which will be dealing with matters having financial implications. He emphasized that Administrative Committee should be constituted as per composition mentioned in the Memorandum of Association of RRRLF.

Chairman assured that the committees would be constituted as per rules and procedure.

Item 4 : To report the progress of work since 97th Meeting of the Foundation held on 20th February, 2020 at New Delhi.

The Director-General apprised the Foundation members about the activities undertaken by RRRLF during 2019-20 and reported the progress of work since 97th Meeting of the Foundation.

The Foundation noted and approved the report on the activities undertaken.

The Chairman informed the Foundation that in compliance with the Government of India's advisories on COVID-19, RRRLF employees were attending office on the basis of a 50% rotational duty roster. He appreciated the spirited efforts put in by the employees' to keep all the activities of RRRLF operational inspite of the pandemic conditions and severe restrictions. The Chairman appreciated RRRLF's efforts to successfully organize Capacity Building Programmes of NML. He mentioned that Capacity Building Programmes would now be organized digitally.

Some of the members suggested that e-resources should be procured to create a digital repository which could be made freely accessible by the citizens.

It was mentioned that the Government of Karnataka had already created facilities for providing access to digital resources for the members of public libraries.

In this context, Joint Secretary (Lib) informed that the Ministry of Culture had created the Indian Culture Portal which hosts a huge volume of books digitized by various institutions. The portal is accessible freely through the URL indianculture.gov.in.

The Chairman strongly recommended that there should be a balance between the procurement of printed books and e-books, and all aspects of the proposal made by some Foundation members for a shift towards e-books, including the huge number of work force dependent on the book publishing industry, need to be discussed comprehensively. The Chairman proposed that a separate group would be set up to discuss this issue in detail.

Item 5 : To approve the Annual Accounts for the year 2019-20 for placing before the Principal Director General of Audit, Central Kolkata for audit purpose :

The Annual Accounts of RRRLF for the year 2019-20 was approved.

Joint Secretary (Lib) emphasized that efforts must be taken to complete the Audit in due time so that the Annual Report of 2019-20 containing the Audit report could be submitted to both the Houses of the Parliament within December 2020. After the CAG audit, AGM may be convened to approve the Audit report and Annual Report. Joint Secretary would approach CAG to expedite the finalization of the Audit Report, if required.


Item 6 : Any other item with the permission of the Chair

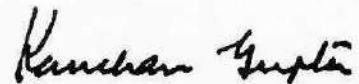
None.

All the Foundation members enthusiastically expressed their views regarding implementation of the programmes of RRRLF. The deliberations were summed up by stating that this virtual conference was an introductory meeting and members were welcome to come up with ideas/proposals in the next Foundation meeting which would have a broader agenda.

The Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to all members of the Foundation for joining the meeting.

The meeting ended with a **Vote of Thanks** to the Chair.


(Shri May Pratap Singh)
Director General, RRRLF
Member-Secretary


(Kanchan Gupta)
Chairman, RRRLF