



Minutes of the National Executive (NE) Meeting

August 17 and 18, 2012, Swami Rama Sadhaka Grama Ashram, Rishikesh

Day 1, Friday, 17th August 2012

1. Meeting was brought to the order by the Chairperson **Kiran Seth (KS)** at 09.00 am.
2. The meeting started with the reporting of major events in last three months, given by various participants present there. The session was led by **KS**. He wanted to point out to the NE few major observations:-
 - For proposal of any event- state convention/coordinators' meetings/school intensive, the organizers should make a budget and inform the centre about the sources of money. Who will pay which part of the expenditure, should be decided well-in-advance from now onwards, so that centre does not have to be burdened at the eleventh hour.
 - In every state, the respective central state facilitator (CSF) and state coordinator should nurture a 10-member committee which works to plan and reinforce activities for whole of the state.
 - Heritage walk module has not been implemented well, as it has been said again and again. It is very important to focus on this and give priority to conducting heritage walks at the end of conventions.Before detailed reports of major activities were presented, **KS** further wanted to announce the four pillars of our yearlong plan:-
 - We should have at least 1 rural school intensive (RSI) in every state.
 - With the support of state governments, Workshop Demonstration (WoDe) should be utilized for events as much as possible, given the favourable economics and outreach-capacity of the module.
 - Cinema Classics is the second module which has can be the medium of outreach for us. The ideas like that of the bus, suggested for events in Bihar, need to be worked upon.
 - One Tiny Drop (OTD) is the scheme which defines the true nature of our movement. This has the capacity of taking SM to every corner of the country.
- (1) Coordinators' Meeting in Madhya Pradesh- **KS** started by saying that every state should, mandatorily, have 1 day meeting of coordinators every year. Bhopal meeting, in Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT) Bhopal, was a well-conducted event. OTD scheme was started with the participants in the meetings. **KS** wanted to share that at least 20% of the events of state can be organized solely by participants of the OTD, if the scheme is successful. Secretaries of school education, higher education, Sarwa Siksha Abhiyaan (SSA) etc. were also present at the meeting. The meeting of education secretaries which was conducted in Delhi, where Sh Sanjay Singh (Secy, School Education, MP) was present, turned out to be a critical incident towards ensuring that education

ministries of various states take interest in our society. Finances for four RSIs were sanctioned, straightforward.

- **KS** said that the benefit of conducting 1 RSI in each district of the state is that, the national school intensive will be a redundant event. We have to work hard in order to get support of state-wise SSA, **Supriti** pointed out. **Harsh Narayan (HN)** said that we should call these intensives as SM intensive instead of adding prefixes like national or rural. **Gangadeviji (GD)** added in by saying that this structure of intensives will help promote the local artistes. Elaborating the previously said sanction, made in MANIT Bhopal meeting, **Vikas Nagrare (VN)** told the NE that this was just a beginning. In a later meeting, districts will also be finalized. **KS** appreciated the job of organizers of Kolkata RSI, which he talked about later in the meeting.
- (2) **Ankit Babbar (AB)** was one of the chief coordinators of Mini-North-zone coordinators' meeting held in Modern School Delhi. The meeting saw participation from Western Uttar Pradesh (UP), Hisar, Amritsar, Kurukshetra and Delhi. An important element of the meeting was to discuss the major causes leading to decline of the number of events in north zone in last financial year. Many rose to say that the inter-personal conflicts have affected the movement in the region to much extent. Solutions to similar roadblocks were discussed, and once implemented **AB** can tell the NE if states are in acceptance of the decisions taken in the meeting or not. IIT Roorkee was selected to be the nodal centre of the region. It was also announced that Mappedle's Academy Khatauli, in UP, has agreed to hold RSI in October. **Pankaj Malhotra (PM)** talked about the budgeting of this proposed event and said that till now, an amount of 1.5 lac is available from the academy.
- At this point, **Supriti** wanted to bring to the notice of everyone, the states in which Jansankhya Sthirta Kosh (JSK) is present and can support us. It includes Rajasthan, UP, MP, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Bihar. **Radha Mohan Tiwari (RMT)** said that they are looking for government support. Manglayatan University in Aligarh has also been found to be a good candidate for nodal centre. **PM** said that conflicts between organizers are a major issue stopping them from going ahead with any decisions. The issue of territorial upsetting is present in Jharkhand also, added in **Manish Singh Thakur (MST)**.
- (3) Gujarat State Convention- **KS** declared that the recently concluded state convention in Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad is a model convention. The highlights included participation of more than 20 chapters, well-scheduled and limited programming (with 1 program/day), excellent participation of volunteers, good intensives, productive organizational session (with concentrated work on the roadmap for Gujarat), completely financed event with 3-4 lac Rs saved out of more than Rs 10 lac which was raised. A special mention of holistic food was made, for which **HN** thanked Su Anisha Pucadyil and her team. **HN** raised an objection to the huge amount spent on a state convention, to which **KS** agreed while justifying by saying that IIMA is a costly place and the money was spent well. **KS** took name of a few main organizers, out of which Sabyasachi (a student) was given a special mention because he worked excellently even being a busy student of IIM. The support from the director of the institute was also commendable.

(4) Rajasthan State Convention- The convention held in Mount Aabu was disappointing, everyone agreed. **KS** said that the whole event went off in programs, as it was scheduled for 1 and half day only. Neither the participation was good nor was the programming according to the template schedule of conventions, said **AB**. **KS** told that IIT Jodhpur should be a featured institute as it can perform as nodal centre. **Kunda Mahurkar (KM)** and **HN** said that the convention was never discussed also, prior to the decision of its organization.

(5) Rajasthan State Convention- Jaipur convention was one of the usual state conventions, and was far better than the other one conducted in the state, said **KS**. It was a completely self-supported event, which is praiseworthy. This region of the state is functioning well with the leadership of people like Sh Ashok Jain. Sh Jain's work with Bhutte Khan and co and WoDes, was mentioned by **KS**.

- **MST** said that Bhutte Khan and co are not reliable as they have seen a case in Bihar/Jharkhand in which Khan called upon the organizers to report an event on paper and distribute the allocated amount amongst each other without actually having the concert. **VN** also raised this issue about the evidence of programs, and talked about the importance of feedback from the institutions.

(6) RSI Kolkata- RSI was hosted by a government school in Kolkata, and Su Sreyashi Mitra was the chief organizer of the intensive. **KS** says that this was one of the best intensives of SM, and requested **Ranjana Nagrare (RN)** to present the report. **RN** shared with the NE, the details of the event. The tussle between SSA and SM was a disturbing element. Intensives were conducted very nicely, said **KS**. There is also a need of reinforcing team of experts for intensives, because selection of artistes and art forms has always been tough. There were some problems due to shifting of slots in the originally decided schedule. **KS** wanted to put on the record some of the negative points, so that we take care in future intensives. Food was not good. Students were served oily food, like aaloo-pudie initially, which is not acceptable. Students and teachers were not oriented well. Orientation is imperative. There was no concept of cleanliness in students. Bathrooms were unclean and in unhygienic conditions. Use of plastics should be prohibited in our intensives, and every student should be provided with a bottle for water to be used throughout the week. A list of Do's and Dont's should be made in the regional language as well. Wastes should be managed. There should be racks provided to keep the footwear.

3. Gurukul Anubhav Scholarship Scheme (GASS) was successfully concluded at various locations with a big set attending it at Chinmaya Vibhooti Ashram, Kolwan. **RMT** led the discussion which contained report of the important features of 2012 edition and planning of 2013 edition of GASS. He was supported by **PM** and **Pranshu Samdarshi (PS)**. **RMT** thanked **PS** and **HN** for coming and helping him at the Kolwan ashram in streamlining the activities. 42 students were selected for the scheme, of which only 34 stayed for the whole month to complete it. Among the gurus were, Pt Birju maharaj, sh Munna Shukla and Smt Rani Khanam for Kathak, Guru Ghanakanta Bora for Sattriya, Vid R Vedavalli for carnatic music, Us Fareeduddin Dagar for Dhrupad, and Dr C V Chandrashekhar for Bharatnatyam. Each day, 7 hours were dedicated to intensives. We need to work harder in order to achieve more from this scheme, said **RMT**.

PS shared a video and also led a session, later, on planning the publicity of GASS in colleges. Number of applications received by SM, were very less, and there is a need to focus much more on publicity. Only 285 applications were there after short listing, because of which there was lack of applicants to fill the available seats towards the end. **Sh Joshi** who is a school principal in Saharanpur, said that a small introduction about the scheme should be given after every programme. School Intensives and State Conventions are also good occasions for selecting *supaatras*. **KS** was dissatisfied with this year's GASS in Kolwan. He thinks that the outcome compared to the huge amount spent on the venture, is minimal. Students of classes 6th to 9th are ideal candidates. **Supriti** said the selection process depends solely on the guidelines provided. Our guidelines are not designed well to select good candidates. To cite an example, they had to reject two good singers because trained students were not preferred as per the guidelines. **PS** responded to it by saying that their experience with two dancers selected from north zone, was not good and therefore, this point is perfectly valid. However, work is required to make solid selection criteria and justify each and every step of the procedure. Following points were shared by **RMT**-

- 11-16 yr and extended to 18 yr old students will be selected.
- Candidates should be aware of the basics of the art form to some extent, and should not be professionally ambitious. **Supriti** said that this usually does not happen.
- **KS** emphasized upon the significance of observing parents, and home-level awareness of the child. He said we should make efforts to see what *samskara* the child is provided with.
- The GASS will be conducted in two parts again, one in an ashram and other at various locations decided by gurus. It will happen from June 3 to July 3. Pt Venkatesh Kr, Us F Dagar, Sh C V Chandrashekhar, Sh Margi Madhu, Smt Sunaina Hazarilal, Vid Vedavalli etc. will be participating. **RMT** also shared important rules, for example medical report will be asked for from every student. The security amount for Kolwan, will be Rs 10,000/-. **PS** said that taking of dates from the artistes and application procedure should begin right now.
- On request of **KS**, a new venue will be sought for the scheme of this year. It should be a perfect ashram standard place with good weather during summers.
- **PM** suggested some plans. Letters will be sent to schools and colleges soon. List of art forms will be included in the letters. **KS** made a mention of north eastern region, where good candidates are available but we are not able to perform good search. It was decided that PM and RMT will finalize the dates of the scheme, gurus, detailed publicity plan and guidelines for selection of candidates by 25th September 2012. In the meantime, they will come up with necessary publicity materials viz. video, ppt and posters. The video and ppt, it was decided, will be mandatorily screened in all the conventions, intensives, meetings and events. PM will ensure this, and also agreed to make a team which will look for *supaatras* in workshop demonstrations from now onwards for the whole year.

4. The session right after the lunch was dedicated to accounts and related discussions. None of the national executive representatives of the accounts and treasury were present. **Sangeeta Kalra (SK)** spoke on behalf of them. She shared the common feeling of the group that the streamlining of accounts has not

been achieved even after a year of concerted effort of two people, because of lack of proper input from coordinators and volunteers. **MST**, on the other hand, shared the point of view of coordinators, who think that there is no clear cut mention of the responsibility of coordinators. They do not know what is to be done and how. Accounting and finance is coming as a major roadblock in many regions. Many have been unable to conduct RSIs, and many pending cheques have not been released due to this confusion. **KS** said that the payments are getting delayed because of financial problems faced by the centre.

- In case of loss of bills from artistes, one can get a signed and stamped bill from them to replace, shared **SK**. Similar issues are being faced by coordinators day-to-day. It is possible to get them solved with the help of accounting team placed at Delhi. **MST** rose to say that the accounts team has failed to reply properly to mails, over last few months. **SK** agreed to take accounts-related queries in future. **KS** requested **VN** to make sure that the in-charge of accounts in Delhi office takes a note of this complain and mails are replied to in a proper manner.
- Regarding closure of old and opening of new accounts, **KS** said that no one other than people present will be able to do it. Not more than 7 accounts have been opened in last many months, and it is not known how many old accounts are still functioning. Each one will have to do his/her bit in order to get the accounts streamlined. We should distribute regions amongst ourselves, trace old accounts and get them closed within a month's time. Subsequently, **SK** should be informed about it. Sh H M Raut of DPS is not ready to work according to the working strategy of UP coordinators, and he wants a separate account in his institution. **KS** requested UP coordinators to allow him to do so, based on his experience and contributions in the past. In case of difficulty, **SK** agreed to intervene and help. **MST** (Bihar), **PM** (4 north Indian states), **GD** (AP), **Aditya Gupta (AG)** (Rajasthan) were among those who took the responsibility on spot.
- **SK** specifically mentioned some of the issues. She said that the mail regarding presentation of vouchers and balance sheets was sent in May 2012, to which no responses have been received from coordinators till now. **Supriti** raised a question regarding the current accounting procedure implemented at the centre. Many a times, non-audited accounts are acceptable as opposed to presentation of audited consolidated account given by the centre. Big figures make it tough for the fund-raisers to convince sponsors and state governments. Moreover, no training for accounting has been conducted till now. Accounting manual, FAQs, Dos and Dents etc. are still awaited. **SK** agreed to make ppt presentations and share with the coordinators which will clarify a number of doubts and make accounting procedure simpler. She also made small presentations on some of the topics. The presentations are going to be made during workshops of accounting and they will be made available in the form of CDs also.

5. **Supriti**, bringing in an old issue, wanted to ask why north Indian states were not making effort to conduct circuits of Carnatic musicians. She believes that this behaviour is leading to damage to the movement, because this is sidelining the interest of a good number of volunteers and artistes, who can contribute to the movement. **KS** said that the sudden weakening of Chennai chapter led to this problem. There is no

one who can convince Carnatic musicians to come all the way to north, and perform in circuits. After some discussion, **Supriti** was requested to take the role of facilitator in south India, who will help organise these events in north India and she dully accepted it.

6. **KM** shared with the NE the drawbacks of not having proper rules regarding signatories of the letters. A letter was sent to another coordinator instead of her, because her name was not mentioned as the signatory. This practice leads to confusion and also results in loss of trust of many stakeholders in our system. It was decided that the name of heads of chapters should not be called chairperson, as we already have a chairperson of all India SPIC MACAY. **GD** brought in another issue. There is a practice of signing in ones name, on the letters which is wrong. It was decided that no one can sign a letter in someone else's name. Instead of this, one can sign for her/him, or mention her/his contact details in the body of the letter, added **Kalpana Khaund(KKh)**. Everyone agreed that it will make the system foolproof.
7. **KS** led a session on fund raising. He allocated duties to different people present.
 - Letters have been sent to chief ministers of states led by congress, through Sh Rahul Gandhi. **KM** (Maharashtra), **GD** and **Arun Sahay (AS)** (Andhra Pradesh), **KKh** (Assam, and NE states), **SK** (Uttarakhand), **AG** (Rajasthan), **Usha Ravichandran** (Kerala) were amongst those who were requested to do the job of follow up with the state ministries. **PM** agreed to work in the north Indian states, again, through state coordinators.
 - Centre will also meet Sh Nitin Gadkari and follow same procedure for BJP ruled states.
 - Sh Nitish Kumar (CM, Bihar), Sh D L Joshi (Governor, UP) and Sh Akhilesh Yadav (CM, UP) should also be met for state government grants. We should conduct RSI in each state and take help of SSA and RMSA. Central government PSUs should not be missed out. The habit of loading Delhi team with fund-raising issues is disturbing. Each volunteer has to take initiatives.
 - **AG** will write to directors of all the Zonal Cultural Centres for fund, while they are celebrating silver jubilee year. Schemes similar to one which was used for Pandvani, through the support of EZCC, should be tried with other art forms as well. Malwai gidda, Biraha, Thullal, Mangiar group, Sattriya etc. are examples. A sum of Rs 5 Lac/ZCC should be asked for, to start with.
 - Public Sector Units (PSUs) are being missed out. BHEL, MMTC, RINL etc. should be proposed for money once more.
 - The condition of our financial base is very bad, said **KS**. All fixed deposits have been broken and the only amount remaining is the corpus amount from Ford foundation which should be avoided, in all circumstances. We will have to increase the number of programmes because of which the demand for money will definitely increase. Considering the current status of bank-balance there might be delays in release of money from the centre, the coordinators are requested to plan accordingly.
8. The recent events of forgery of cheques of SPIC MACAY in Mumbai, Patna and Kolkata have put the system into a difficult condition. There have been attempts of illegal cashing of more than Rs 4 lac, in

Mumbai. Similarly, two cheques were forged in Patna. We were fortunate to have received information regarding similar activity in Kolkata, from a photocopier. The accounts have been frozen and the withdrawal has been suspended by the bank. If the person has to be apprehended, we will have to act quickly and there is a high probability of a person from SPIC MACAY being involved in it. **HN** will do the scrutiny with the help of Sh C S Pancham and DIG of CBI (who is a friend of **AG**).

9. Head of CRC, **VN** presented his appraisal, as he started working on the position for second consecutive year. Notable points from this session included achievements and unresolved issues in CRC:-
- Acceptance of employees in a system which was solely run by volunteers for more than 3 decades is still a big challenge. This system is very delicate, and it has been an achievement of **VN** to be able to implement the jobs of resource centre, without hurting sentiments of volunteers, at different levels. **KS** congratulated him for his efforts and said that he is capable of taking people along. The understanding between volunteers and CRC is growing.
 - The employees were nurtured in the best possible manner, and their skills have improved over time. Weekly meeting have been helpful and the attendance of employees has also been exemplary.
 - The CRC has taken steps to orient the volunteers and help them fulfil their responsibilities. CRC also got volunteers inspired to work full-time.
 - An appreciable amount of work for the development of website and admin portal was looked after by the CRC.
 - It is one of the achievements of the CRC that the pace of growth of the movement is still the same even after removal of three of the employees. Recruitment of employees in the CRC is in the process of getting streamlined.
 - CRC has presented exhaustive budgets of all the states, based on the 12th five year plan and sent letters of sponsorship proposal.
 - The module of Cinema classics has been strengthened to a lot extent by the CRC. They are working hard to do so with the modules of talks, walks and crafts also.
 - Infrastructural problems have created inconvenience; however attempts were made to resolve them from time-to-time. Furniture was donated to the office by a well-wisher. **KS** suggested getting computers in kind from HCL, as we have good relation with the company. The electricity wiring in the house is not good enough to handle the office consumption, and the RC has not got any help to settle this issue. Similarly, no person competent of writing good letters is present in the office because of which the head himself has to write letters sidelining other important works, which is very difficult to manage. **AS** advised **VN** to not wait for appraisals, in order to bring these issues to notice of executive body, but solve them in real-time. A sanction of Rs 16,000/- was made right at the moment with the consent of NE to repair the electrical wiring of RC. **KS** suggested gathering a group of volunteers to write letters, or find similar solution.
 - With regard to the parallel working strategies of **KS**, **VN** pointed out that senior coordinators have taken steps without taking CRC into consideration. **VN** shared the situations in which simultaneous

decisions taken by **KS** have created problematic situations for CRC. Amongst the cited examples were the issues related to salary-restructuring, giving of personal loan to an employee which was earlier rejected by the CRC, decision upon the venue of Virasat inauguration without asking the CRC etc. **KS** said that these decisions, mostly, were urgent ones. A major mistake was to not take **VN** or CRC in confidence, which he apologized for.

- **KS** stated the guideline for the support centres once again, and said that no more centres should be formed. Instead, a responsible volunteer can opt to conduct programmes with the help of a support staff. There is no modification of the voluntary structure of SM, if it is done in this manner. **AG** wanted to take a staff for empowerment, which can be requested with proper proposals.
- A number of other plans are there for the rest of the year. **VN** said that lot of efforts are to be made for production of roadmaps, planning the course of action and training volunteers/staffs to follow Vision 2020. OTD scheme has to be designed with robust strategies. There are issues related to Sandesh to be resolved. Recruitment of competent staff in CRC, is another of big jobs to be done in coming months.
- **KS** once more stated the four pillars for the CRC to focus upon. He says that OTD is of utmost importance. The only way to make our movement work is by firing the minds of the young.

10. The meeting continued till 8PM after which the NE members proceeded for the dinner. There was presentation made by a representative of Swami Ram Sadhaka Grama Ashram about the Swami Ram and his works.

Day 2, Saturday, 18th August 2012

11. Meeting was brought to the order by the Chairperson **KS** at 09.00 am.

12. The first session of the day was about the National Convention, closure of NatCon 2012 and planning for NatCon 2013. **Dhruv Deshmukh (DD)**, one of the chief coordinators of NatCon 2012 held at National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Suratkhal was present over phone for some time to give the report of the convention mentioning observations regarding participation, organization, funding and feedback. Following points were told by him:

- **KS** wanted to know about the funding issues. Major chunk of payments to the vendors have yet not been done. However, there is partial knowledge of the money received from the sponsors. So, details were sought. **Supriti** responded with some numbers. The person working in the culture department of State government of Karnataka has changed recently, because of which the coordinators are facing problem in getting the promised amount remitted. The cheque for Rs 10 Lac has been passed, however it is waiting the go ahead from the commissioner. Ministry of tourism is delaying the payment of Rs 13 Lac. There is possibility of Rs 10 Lac coming from few other sources, explicitly known to Dr Mayya. **KS** wanted to know about the expenditure of approximately Rs 25 Lac which has been received. And the team should get the amounts remitted as soon as possible. The secretary

Prasoon Raj (PR) agreed to request the organizers for these details and report back in the next meeting.

- **Yashwant Parashar (YP)** said that the participation was not really great to be happy about. We have to work hard for publicity for future NatCons.
- Webcast was solely handled by the students of NITK and it was appreciable job. However, it was not received well enough, contrary to the expectation. **YP** said that the issue of professionalism is not much significant, as far as the quality of webcast is concerned. The major problem, here also, was publicity.
- **RN** observed ego and arrogance in the students of NITK, and the coordinators did not show interest in working along with volunteers who had come from far away chapters. **YP** added to the point saying that there is always a tussle in the beginning. **KS** said that we should try to adapt to the working strategy of the local coordinators and it is usually by the second day that the issues settle down and it is easier for outsiders to work with the locals.
- **Supriti** said that the support from the administration of NITK was zero and there was no great feedback from the earlier convention also, which led to many problems. However, everything went fine by the end.
- A point regarding the gifts (tiffin boxes) given to the artistes was also raised. None of the performers were happy with it and many did not take it with them. The discussion ended with a decision that gifts should be decided upon very carefully and should not be a topic to be taken casually.
- NatCon 2013 will take place in May-June 2013 and it is imperative at this moment to finalize a venue. **KS** suggested having it in Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta, considering the status of the institute and its presence in one of the metropolitan cities. Excellent working group led by Su Sreyashi Mitra is also a strong point of the Calcutta chapter. The present governor of the state is a supporter of SM and it will be of great help. Moreover, there is high prospect of the honourable President's (Sh Pranab Mukherjee) presence in the convention, given that it is his home city. **RN** will follow up with IIMC for this. HE Pranab Mukherjee has to be contacted for inauguration, which again will be done **RN**.
- Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT) Gangtok was proposed for the venue of NatCon 2013 long back. **Supriti** said that the university is ready to bear expenses of all in-campus needs. As it was told earlier also, the heads of the Sikkim Manipal group of institutions (Pai's) are our good supporters. However, issues raised by **KS** in previous meeting have to be considered, including the fact that Gangtok is a hill station posing transportation problems. **Supriti** will find out the details and report about the feasibility of NatCon in SMIT.

13. Dynamic National Executive was formed in first NE meeting in April 2011 and NE members have worked in their respective modules with help of other volunteers. After more than a year of stress on this process of working in NE, **PR** looked for feedback of the members present there. It can be concluded

from the response of the members that the structure tried out was productive to some extent, but focus of individuals is required. Individual NE members talked about their modules and developments:-

- (1) **KM (Yoga and meditation):** She will meet every yoga guru before including him/her for our module. **KS** suggested trying *vipasana* for our camps and finding a suitable design for such events. **KM** said that she is trying to set up links with Shri Shri Ravi Shankar and group for our activities. **KS** advised not looking for such things, and meet people who are known for their understanding of yoga, instead. A number of good gurus can be sitting at places like Rishikesh, Patna, Munger etc. If attempts are made Swami Tyagaraja (Bihar School of yoga) can also be got. **KM** agreed to explore the region of Rishikesh etc. with help from **Siddhartha Chakravorty (SC)**. When discussion regarding problems in getting yoga events conducted with support of institutions like BSY was going on, **YP** said that we should not bother much about the influence which the school tries to have on the event because they also look for publicity. Similar places to explore will be Yoga Society of Karnataka, Shivanand Ashram etc. **KS** said that the intensive conducted by Vivekananda Ashram was not good, at the NatCon 2012 and there is no appraisal of their morning yoga sessions as well.
- (2) **HN (Minority Inclusion):** The work has started and proceeded well in including Darool group in our society. He is trying to get a chapter opened in Devband. **RMT** 's point was that the group is specifically focussing on Islam and Islamic institutions. **SC** requested the group also to attend to the possible use of religious symbols in our events, which should not affect our movement in wrong way. **KS** keeps a different belief, but. He said that as we practice our own religion, we should also respect those of others'. Therefore, the symbols should, rather, be included. But, care should be taken that they do not become too important. **YP** talked about inclusion of non-Hindu performers in mainstream of SM. Including all the points spoken above, **HN** promised to give immediate update on the developments regarding inclusion of new institutions, volunteers and art forms which belong to minorities.
- (3) **AS (SM Foundation):** He read the resolution regarding authorization of four member team (**AS, KS, Su Rashmi Malik, Sh C S Pancham**) for taking decisions related to artiste honoraria and expenditure of funds raised for SM Foundation events.
 - Initially, there were apprehensions from many members. The question was that why is a group of only four (non-elected) members given such a huge responsibility when the money and work involved in the activities is of so much significance to the society at large. **KS** made it a point to explain to NE, why is this justified. According to him, it is not an issue to create so much mess about. SM foundation is an excellent example of voluntary system, and if disturbed, it leads to loss of responsible and experienced volunteers. The working principles of this group might not be acceptable for everyone but it is at the core of our society to give space to every individual (cut the coat according to the size). As observed till now, the group led by Su Rashmi Mallik is working in best possible method. Music in the Park are self-supported, well-organized events providing plenty of positive inputs to the society at

large. It has generated a lot of goodwill for us, also. Following the spirit of our movement, **KS** requested members, to fit into their system and facilitate them.

- **AS** pointed out that CAG rejects the decisions taken by the group if it is not authorized by the NE. The resolution along with the guidelines was read, once more, by him. **PR** conducted a voting in which 1 out of 14 voters stood against the resolution.
- **Supriti** put light on the points which could be questionable, once the resolution is passed. First of all, she requested for a two year's term added to this team. Secondly, there is no transparency in their way of working, specifically with regard to the money. **KS** replied by saying that the artiste remuneration is a sensitive topic and it is ought to be kept private. There can be cases of mishandling of money, observed once or twice, but by and large the money is spent carefully and is not questionable.
- With the addition of a pre-decided term of the group, 12 out of 14 voted for the resolution. Two of the NE had issues against certain points in the guidelines. The detailed guideline for the system, as proposed by **AS**, was read to the NE by **PR**. Suggestions were given for change by few members including **SC** and **YP**. Point 3, was changed to: "the volunteer responsible for conducting the Foundation programs will not be the chapter coordinator, as far as possible, so that there is no dilution in the focus of SPIC MACAY activities in schools and colleges in the chapter. The chapter coordinator will only monitor....." Another point was added to the guideline: "A concerted attempt will be made by the team to develop and nurture a new team to take over and train more people for the job".
- In the final voting, the resolution (with a promise to make necessary changes in guideline, by **AS**) was passed by the NE, without any disagreements.

(4) **MST(Artiste care):-** The group is working in order to introduce the feedback system for each programme from the artiste, coordinator and the host institute. **SC** requested **MST** to share the ideas by email with the NE, so that other experienced seniors can give important inputs. More important thing is to implement the system, added **KS**. It could not be done in the NatCon as was promised in earlier meeting due to multiple responsibilities of **MST**, but he promised to find a method to implement artiste feedback system by next meeting.

(5) **AB (Conventions):-** Taking suggestion of the NE, **AB**, from now onwards, will point out the success and failure of state coordinators in conducting State conventions and coordinators meetings, during each NE meeting. He is working on the guidelines for conducting state and national convention for which he had requested feedback from important organizers. He made the request once again, as the NatCon team and **PR** have not given any response till now, as they had promised. **KS** asked him to ensure that the conventions are strengthening the chapters and not only adding to our events' list.

- (6) **PR (Cinema Classics):-** The list of Cinema Classics for Virasat 2012, was shared by him. He said that no changes can be made to the list, which contains newly included films in regional languages. The films were selected with the help of **SC**, Sh Nandan Kudhyadi and other experts of regional language films. Further additions will be made by the team in future. Theme-based and age-based sorting of the films is necessary and it will be done as soon as possible, said **SC**. **PR** said that a list of possible documentaries for the module is also being worked upon.
- (7) **YP (Intensives):-** He led a discussion on the module and recent developments, majorly related to rural school intensives. RSI is a generic name and he congratulated various organizers for having made-up names like *Ananddhara*, *Sambharam*, *Chetana* etc. When he said that National Service Scheme (NSS) should be linked up with, and not only SSA/RMSA, then **VN** requested for a special schedule for NSS school intensives. **KS** said that the specific schedule for NSS students can be done by fitting in new things into the old one, and twisting certain things to some extent. Credits can be provided to students if they are capable of getting one event organized. **VN** informed the NE about the progress of work in collaboration with NSS in Guahati. There is a provision of getting voluntary work from NSS cadets in return of certificates/credits. **YP** requested to not hand over any such project to government agencies, there is good chance of failure if they handle SPIC MACAY events. Moreover, making commitment of such deliverables like certificates is short term and should not be our goal. **YP** also promised to focus on folk arts and crafts for intensives, exclusively. He will document meaningful intensives for future use, as **KS** requested.
- (8) **AG (Sponsorships):-** This group is working in order to make a framework for fund raising on national level, at first. The job of sponsorship collection is not new but there is no track record of what has already been done. The details of sponsors and prospective ones, is scattered with the coordinators of different regions. There is no national level collaboration for the purpose, which the team is trying to establish. He will make a list of old and new prospective sponsors for all over India and share it in two week's time. He will make a document with all the letters, proposals and deals, from past. **KS** said that an equally important work for the time is to follow up all the proposals sent. And a list of initiatives is also to be made. Sh Parwez diwan, Sh N C Goel, Sh S C Khuntia, Sh Baligar (HUDCO), Sh Naveen Patnaik, governors, Sh Nitish Kr, etc were the names taken for this. They should be met and proposed for support, immediately. The goodwill of SM will have to be utilized. **AG** promised to do that. **KS** further said that there is no one accountable enough to be trusted for all the follow ups. We have faced trouble with significant ministries, e.g. culture, because of this. **Anil K Ray**, **AB**, and **AG** agreed to lead the national level team for follow up of sponsorships. **AS** suggested having weekly meetings and keep thinking upon it time to time. There is a need of training volunteers for this work as well.

14. A group of students from Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT) attended the meeting on the second day. They were accompanied by two teachers. **KS** introduced to them the concept of One tiny drop (OTD) and took example of NITK Suratkhal as the model chapter. The chapter at NITK is self-supported and is inspired by the three hard working teachers. A similar chapter can be positioned at IIT Roorkee. Because three teachers, including **SC**, were present along with four senior students, the NE discussed with them the likelihood of setting up the nodal centre at their institute. OTD is the ultimate solution; there is no doubt in it. The team should try to find out a practicable prototype of nodal centre of SM so that it can be replicated in other regions. It needs a consorted effort of the students and the teachers. A serious case study has to be performed at first, and then a step by step algorithm for this has to be formulated. **PM** suggested a starting point. The team can find the outreach in a particular region and work on the list of schools, for example. One of the teachers Sh **Manish** asked for time to think about it, because it is not easy to manage academic stress and large amount of extra-curricular work at the same time. The faculty will respond to the secretary by September 15th if they can do it on such a large scale or not. **SC** took over to motivate the students and the teachers of his college. He says that the effort has to be made by individuals/volunteers. The job of seniors will be to fire their minds. There was a time when a lot of work was being done in whole of UP, Kumaun and Garhwal region, now even whole of Roorkee is not covered. There is a lack of structure in SM at the chapter level. It is significant to set up an office in IIT Roorkee, so as to keep volunteers informed. We have to start now or it will be too late. **KS** responded to the question of students regarding the support of IIT administration, by saying that if students want everything can be done.
15. The panel working on amendments in Handbook of Guidelines (HoG), presented its work. The only member present at the meeting was **SC**, who talked in detail about important aspects of the HoG. He made specific mention of the suggested amendments which can be discussed upon and final voting can be conducted in last NE meeting.
- Firstly the ambiguity regarding the position of chairperson has to be resolved. According to memorandum of understanding Dr Kiran Seth (**KS**) is the chairperson and it should be notified to all, once more.
 - **YP** requested the team to collate all the recent amendments and get it filed with the registrar of the societies.
 - **SC** talked about the specific sections to be amended in the HoG.
 - (1) Intensive has to be added in the section of activities. **YP** was requested to write about RSI.
 - (2) **HN** pointed out that there is nothing about communications etc.
 - (3) **SC** defined the General Body of the SM. A small discussion followed, which led to the following definition. It is the most powerful and most general body of SM, which comprises of NE members, State Coordinators, Central State Facilitators, Advisors and all past NE members. NE is the apex executive body of SM. However, all significant decisions have to be brought for consideration and

approval of the general body. **AB** requested the team to add definitions of CSF, state coordinators also, if they are not there already.

- (4) **YP** pointed out that the concept and structure of Resource and Support centres is also not there. Moreover, a separate chain of commands has to be formally included, besides HoG and **KS**.

16. **PM** took next half an hour to discuss some important issues.

- One of them concerned the outcome of conventions. The point is that we spend large chunks of money in the conventions but never think about the result in terms of outreach and growth of volunteer base. Many a times a person works very hard to organize such an event but does not show up after that. **KM** took such an example, as happened after 2008 state convention of Goa- there was not more than 3-4 events after that. **RMT** talked, similarly, about IIT Kanpur convention. **KS** said that the conventions have become mere events now. It is difficult to get a venue now because we tend to organize them as frequently as we can. There were marginal increases in number of events in many regions after the convention. The society also gets mileage in some particular areas, for example the mileage achieved in Cuttack and Suratkhali. We forget to focus on development of volunteer because of which the working groups of conventions these days are small and the expected cascade effect of volunteer-base-growth is also not seen. We have missed out this point in most of the recent conventions.
- Why are Virasat series of events being conducted in big institutions only? **PM** goes on to say that it is wrong to target only important schools/colleges for such big fests. Instead of this, we can have big sets of events in a number of small institutions starting with a good inauguration. **KS** answered by saying that this practice helps generate more funds and there is no issue in doing in the format being suggested by **PM**, if sponsorship is ensured.

17. It was decided earlier that the activities of year 2012 will be dedicated to the spirit of volunteerism.

Supriti announced crucial points from the special programme to celebrate the spirit of *nishkaam* seva, in association with India@75. The detailed document was made by Sh Ricky Srivastava, the copies of which were distributed. **SM** will promote 2nd October, birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi, as the day of volunteers and each of the supporters should do her/his bit of voluntary work on the day. The concept is similar to the one of world dance day, and it will be conducted in an equivalent style also. **KS** and **SC** addressed the NE to give a little background of the thought. Because we are working in the intangible domain of things and it is painstaking job to introduce intangible *nishkaam sewa* to people, we have to take part in it actively.

18. There was a short discussion on the promotional/introduction video of **SM**. Anubhuti is good, but a new, crispier and shorter one should be produced now. **RMT** suggested having a video of **KS**. **KS** believes that point that should be brought out in such a video should be able to influence students. Interviews can be boring. **YP** said that it is possible to have a story based video made, like *Manthan*. **Supriti** pointed out the

importance of having a non-SM person for the job. An oldie like Sh Rajeev Mehrotra can do it, for which Sh Nandan Kudhyadi should be requested. **Kalpana Khaund (KKh)** said that the idea behind such a movie should be capable of connecting people of different regions. The forthcoming season of Virasat has to be dedicated to legends whose centenaries are around- Lt Sh Amir Khan, Lt Sh Palghat Mani Ayyar, Lt Sh Saddat Hassan Manto and Lt Sh Vempati Chinna Satyam. **MST**, with help from **RMT** and **GD**, will make a dedication video for Virasat 2012, and release it before inauguration event on 6th Sept.

19. **Supriti** proposed a resolution to the NE stating the policy of not accepting defamatory mails in SM. The intent of the resolution is to state to the stakeholders the prevention and redressal mechanism of defamatory conversations through emails and phone messages. **KS** said that such things should not happen and Conflict Resolution Group is already in existence to address such issues. Only 5% of coordinators indulge in it, if at all. **AS** says that it is already being tackled and there is no need of spending time in formulating a mechanism in an NE meeting. However, **Supriti's** aim was to get a mail sent to all the stakeholders stating this policy, by the chairperson. **KS** accepted to do it. No communication, cleverly written, blatant or not, but defamatory in any sense should be tolerated. Any such occurrence will be seen by the conflict resolution group in totality. The provoker and the responder are equally responsible, for such misconducts. NE passed the resolution with all votes in favour.
20. **HN** announced the decision of Heritage tours of SM, in the meeting. First train will go through Rajasthan and Gujarat from 28th September to 7th October. The IRCTC is organizing the logistics and accommodation of the students. Rs 1,000/- will be charged per head for the tour. The second train will start from Howrah and go through ShantiNiketan, Gaya, Rajgir, Varanasi etc. This will run between 4th and 11th November. The National cultural fund and Archaeological survey of India is also involved in this project, besides IRCTC. **MST** requested **HN** to share the details of profits and details of expenditure with the NE. Initially apprehensive of sharing the details, **HN** had to be convinced by **KS** and **SC** to do so. In post dinner session, **HN** apologised for not being courteous and talked in brief about the development in SM Corporation under which this project comes. Luthra and Luthra Co advised to register the corporation as a trust, after another set of study. Therefore, it will be not-for-profit Company which can generate revenue for its purpose. No share-holding and no remuneration will be permitted if this is done. It is going to take time. The abovementioned project is not generating any good amount of revenue.
21. **HN** agreed to work with producers of Satyamev jayate to bring aspects of Indian heritage in one of the forthcoming episodes. He needs a month's time to give feedback. **PR** agreed to work with Big synergy (S Basu) for an All-India heritage quiz. He needs a month's time to give feedback.
22. As a response to **HN's** request to have a rule passed for payment of travel expenditure, because the treasurer, many a times, humiliates volunteers for not having spent money from own pocket. It was

resolved that the Central State Facilitator should approve the travel of a volunteer before the convention/meeting in the respective state and inform the treasury.

23. We ended the second day of the meeting with a small session of storytelling by the NE members.