

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
SRI AUROBINDO MARG, NEW DELHI

MINUTES OF THE 53rd MEETING OF GENERAL COUNCIL

The 53rd meeting of the General Council of NCERT was held on 12th April, 2016 at 12.00 Noon in Committee Room-A, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi - 110001. The list of participants who attended the meeting is enclosed at Annexure 'I'.

Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development, Government of India and President, NCERT, chaired the meeting.

Prof. Hrushikesh Senapaty, Director, NCERT welcomed the Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development and the members of the Council, following which, with the permission of the Chair, the agenda items were taken up by the Secretary, NCERT.

Item No.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 53rd meeting of the General Council held on 3rd February, 2015

The minutes were confirmed by the General Council.

Item No.2: Action Taken Report on the minutes of the meeting of the General Council held on 3rd February, 2015

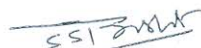
The Secretary, NCERT reported the action taken on the minutes of the last meeting, which were noted and approved by the members.

Item No.3: To consider and approve the Annual Report of NCERT for the year 2014-2015

The General Council approved the Annual Report of the NCERT for the year 2014-2015.

Item No.4: To consider and approve the Audited Annual Accounts of NCERT for the year 2014-2015

The General Council approved the Audited Annual Accounts of the NCERT for the year 2014-15.





General Discussion

1. The Hon'ble HRM initiated the discussion by appreciating the role of NCERT in Kala Utsav and publication of *Veer Gatha*. She further added that private schools from all States may also participate in the 'Kala Utsav', to give opportunities to all children. She suggested that States could make use of *Veer Gatha* as supplementary reading material in schools.
2. Referring to an international conference on the concept of zero, the Hon'ble Minister said that NCERT should conduct 'Ganit Saptah' where India's contribution to Mathematics would be celebrated. Children should be made aware of the history of mathematics of our country.
3. Hon'ble HRM said that NCERT has developed a tactile book in Geography. Similar books should be developed in Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics.
4. Hon'ble HRM shared with the States that 'Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan' is to be given more emphasis. She asked NCERT to take guidance from Prof. Mashelkar in this regard.
5. Hon'ble HRM mentioned that greater emphasis should be made in monitoring children with special needs in an inclusive class environment. She asked NCERT to work with the Ministry of Social Justice in this regard.
6. Hon'ble HRM informed that so far eight states have agreed to send their textbooks for digitization and making it available to the public in the E-Pathshala. Regarding other states, she said that their textbooks also should be part of the E-Pathshala to serve the interests of the children and requested them to provide their material. In this regard, a letter may be sent from her as the President, NCERT to all States stating that their textbooks also should be part of the E-Pathshala.
7. Hon'ble HRM stated that NCERT will undertake National Achievement Survey to assess students every year school-wise, class-wise and state-wise. Since parents may not always understand the details of Learning Outcomes in the present document, measurable and communicable Learning Outcomes will be prepared in different subject areas. A mobile app for Learning Outcomes should be developed by NCERT & made available to the general public, where any citizen can log in to assess where his / her child stands with respect to Learning Outcomes.
8. Hon'ble HRM stated that women achievers, particularly from North-East, also need to be highlighted. There is a need to study the tribal culture of the North-Eastern states. Material may be developed to create awareness about the cultural, philosophical and historical context of the region.

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9. Under NSQF, 800 courses are available. States can choose from this pool of courses as per their need.
10. Hon'ble HRM invited comments and suggestions from participating States.
11. Prof. Vasudev Devnani, Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Rajasthan remarked that various personalities such as Maharana Pratap, Veer Savarkar, etc., find little mention in NCERT textbooks of History. Referring to the Political Science textbooks of NCERT, he said that one particular political ideology has been highlighted throughout, and that this should be avoided. New curriculum should be developed, and Indian culture should be emphasized. He further said that NCERT books should be made available at the beginning of the academic year, so that various malpractices in this regard may be avoided. He also stated that supplementary readers on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi should be developed. Hon'ble HRM stated that this needs to be discussed by the expert educationists.

Prof. Vasudev Devnani, Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Rajasthan had asked for an SCERT. Hon'ble HRM agreed that those states which have obtained copyright from NCERT for textbooks may print as many as are required by that State so that students can have timely access to books.
12. Sh. Arindam Mukherjee, Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, Kolkata said that there is less material on early revolutionary movement of India. There is only one book, titled 'Cellular Jail' in Urdu version. NCERT should develop supplementary readers on early revolutionary movement.
13. Prof. Kiran Devendra, Member, expressed the need to revive the NCERT Teacher Training Programme for the army in Kargil. Hon'ble HRM asked that NCERT should strengthen links with army.
14. Shri S.R. Mohanty, Additional Chief Secretary, School Education, Madhya Pradesh, shared that the state has taken a decision to follow the NCERT curriculum from 2017-18, for which the state requires support from NCERT. He also requested for a waiver of the 5% copyright fee, which was not agreed upon.
15. Shri H. Rohluna, Hon'ble Minister for Education, Mizoram requested that the three textbooks of Social Science may be merged into one. Hon'ble HRM said that there cannot be any one decision for the entire nation, and that the States may take up the matter at their level.
16. Shri Manish Sisodia, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Delhi said that due to heavy curricular load, there is less space for activity for children. He shared that Delhi has already lessened the burden on students up to Class VIII. He added that the past is glorified too much in the present curriculum. In response, Hon'ble HRM referred to two programmes 'Bal Sansad' and 'Bal Sabha' of Chhatisgarh and Jharkhand, as these provide out-of-textbook experiences to children. Moreover, the New Education Policy would shortly be brought out and such academic matters will be dealt with accordingly.

