

NATIONAL TRANSLATION MISSION

A STATUS NOTE (July 1-Oct 15, 2008)

The Background:

- After Shri Sam Pitroda (Chairman, NKC) wrote to the Prime Minister giving details of the NTM (with a tentative budget of Rs. 250 Crores) on September 1, 2006, and after the Ministry of HRD prepared a draft SFC document on December 20, 2006 (revised on January 12, 2007). the Secretary (HE) held a consultative meeting on 11th February to decide on the agency that would be entrusted with the responsibility of NTM. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister called for a meeting on 14th February, 2008 to review the progress of all project proposals (including the NTM) recommended by the NKC, and it was here that a rough figure of less than Rs. 100 Crores was agreed to. Later, CIIL was agreed by the Ministry of HRD that the nodal agency would be CIIL, Mysore. The EFC draft was accordingly revised in March 2008, and a proposal for Rs. 98.97 crore was prepared, where it was decided to remove the School texts/knowledge-books component as well as Technical Terms component which were entrusted to the NCERT and Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), respectively (See *NTM Minutes*, Item 11(iv & v), page 6, and also the observation of PAMD, reported under Para 4, Page 2). It was envisaged that Rs. 20 crore would be passed on to the CSTT for translation of technical terminology in all Indian languages, and Rs. 5 crore to the NCERT for translation of 200 school text-books. That was how, after the final EFC meeting on May 5, 2008, and a final budget of Rs. 73.97 crore was approved (see the NTM EFC-Minutes No. F.25-4/2008-IFD, dated May 22, 2008, (See *NTM Minutes*, Item 11.(i), page 6).
- It was agreed that CIIL would be “the nodal agency for setting up and operationalising of the Scheme, and the Director, CIIL would be the nodal officer for implementation of the scheme” (*Ibid.*, Item 11(ii)). The non-recurring component (with plans for building etc) was also dropped, and the amounts therein were merged with the recurring budget. It was agreed that the NTM could hire offices in both Delhi and Mysore, rather than investing any amount on capital expenditure (See *NTM Minutes*, Item 11.(ix), page 6). The separate amount shown under equipments was agreed to be included under the recurring OE head – making the entire budget only under recurring grant.

The Budget:

- As the EFC documents and the DPR for NTM showed, and as per the approved NTM Minutes, the following is the budget for this project with year-wise distribution:

		2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	TOTAL
	Recurring	1519.712	2026.305	1800.731	2050.682	7397.43
1.	Human Res	99.312	100.305	108.831	118.082	4,26.53
2.	Publ+ Other Tasks	1181.00	1901.60	1661.00	1901.60	6645.20
3.	General Maint.	14.40	14.40	14.40	14.40	57.60
4.	Equip./ Softw.	220.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	2,20.00
5.	Equip. Maint.	00.00	5.00	11.50	11.50	28.00
6.	Travel	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	20.00

Table 1: Approved overall budget for NTM with year-wise break up

- The total tasks (as referred to under Item 2 in the above table) were also detailed in the following manner:

COST OF EVENTS/TASKS (In Lakhs)

a.	Publication grant for translation of 1760 reference + 200 text books	4520.00
b.	G.I.A. Subsidies for journals on translation	200.00
c.	G.I.A. Grants to authors/translators for Copyright Fee	35.20
d.	G.I.A. Grants for Translator Training	100.00
e.	Task+G.I.A Electronic Dictionaries/Thesauri (Rs 390 cr+Rs 600 cr)	990.00
f.	G.I.A. Grants for NLP Research	400.00
g.	G.I.A. Grants for University Departments conducting Degree/Diploma courses on translation	200.00
j.	Web-Maintenance (National Register/Bulletin//Ezine /Search/Tools)	200.00
Total (in lakhs) : Rs		6645.20

Table 2: Approved Budget for Tasks, Consultancies, Outsourcing & GIA for NTM

- It was also agreed stated in the EFC Minutes that Anukriti (see www.anukriti.net) and other projects on translation (such as 'Longman-CIIL Dictionaries Project') being done in CIIL should now on be under the NTM, and that there should be no duplication of work.
- All the above would, however, begin only after the initial decisions are made by the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of the NTM.
- Meanwhile, only Rs. One Crore (out of which Rs. 16.00 lakhs was meant for the Grants-in-Aid under the NTM) was released to CIIL in July 2008 for 2008-09 to initiate action. The token amount of Rs. 100 lakhs was included for NTM in the BG 2008-09 has the following details:

	2008-09 B.G.		
Salary, incl Consultancy/ Tr.Fee/Honor	50.00	Office Ex	13.00
O.T.A.	00.00	O.A.C.	05.00
Medical	00.50	O.C.	05.00
Travel Ex	10.00	G.I.A.	16.50
Total			100.00

Table 3: Approved Token BG for NTM 2008-09

The Steps Taken So Far:

- As for the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of the NTM, a proposal was sent to the Ministry by the Institute to approve the structure of the 25-member PAC (6 ex-officio and 19 experts) on June 3, 2008, since that was left undecided in the EFC meeting. This structure was created by merging the features of both Advisory Council and Governing Body. Initially, 43 names were suggested for the 19 slots. Later, on July 21, 2008, a total of 80 names were suggested to the Ministry to select 25 out of them. In August, 2008, the Ministry had asked for CVs of all 80 experts, which was obtained and supplied by the Institute. This matter is under process, and the final approval is expected any day. In the same proposal of June 3, CIIL had also outlined the duties and responsibilities of the 'Director, NTM', and possible recruitment rules etc.
- Meanwhile, since a separate order assigning all responsibilities to the CIIL was already approved by the Hon'ble HRM on June 18, it was internally discussed (because the PAC was not yet in place) and decided that the Institute must take the following steps immediately "to set up and operationalise" the scheme without wasting any more time.

Tasks Completed (July 1-October 15, 2008):

- The following tasks were accomplished between July 1, 2008 and October 15, 2008:
 - (1) Some basic information on the NTM be put up in the existing main web-site of the institute, since there is a lot of interest among the common public who would like to participate in the mission's activity;
 - (2) The decision to merge all projects on translation and dictionaries etc be implemented under the NTM, and the personnel already engaged for these earlier projects such as Anukriti and Longman-CIIL Dictionaries etc. were taken as consultants;
 - (3) A draft 'domain'/web-site for NTM was registered,
 - (4) Some 'working groups' be created (See *NTM Minutes*, Item 11(vii), page 6) so as to convert the draft web-site with all details in 22 languages. A 22-language version web-site for NTM is at the final stage, and is nearing completion;
 - (5) All the CVs and responses that a large number of translators have begun sending would be structured and converted into a national database so that a draft 'National Register for Translators' could be in place in the NTM web-site. It is hoped that the register will be populated once the NTM site is up and running. A draft National Register for Translation be created through ASP scripting and with MySQL running as the background database; A draft National Register for Translation has been created through ASP scripting and with MySQL running as the background database;
 - (6) All these tasks are being done by outsourcing this work to the Consultants (Cf. *NTM Minutes*, Item 11(viii), page 6 as well as Secretary-HE's observations in Para 7 "to create an inbuilt system for outsourcing most of its work").
 - (7) Once this ground-work is done by end-December 2008, the whole work would be placed before the PAC for approval and eventually for launching it with the approval of the Ministry;
 - (8) The basic print-dictionaries in at least six major languages have been completed jointly with Longman group (in a PPP mode) as the final copy-editing work is going on. These would be the first set of translation tools or products under the NTM to be submitted in camera-ready form by December 31, 2008 to Pearson Education/Longman. Subsequently, the work for converting them into e-dictionaries be taken up with the same consultants;
 - (9) The syllabi of selected major universities, UGC and UPSC are being gathered now in 63 odd-disciplines to create a database of texts and reference books out of which the PAC may like to choose texts for translation; and

(10) The original DPR has been expanded for the web-pages of the NTM web-site under preparation, and it has been translated into all 22 languages in the 8th Schedule.

The Future Steps To Be Taken:

(1) Immediate steps be taken to create awareness advertisements/promotional material for media insertions in all 22 languages so that a large number of translators could respond and a network of required translators/editors/copy-editors develop. It is estimated that the NTM will require close to 8,000 translators and experts in 63 disciplines and 22 languages;

(2) Steps be taken to link up the 'anukriti' web-site (so far run by CIIL, Sahitya Akademi and NBT; see www.anukriti.net) to this new NTM web-site, and decide on segregating and upgrading its contents;

(3) As far as possible, open source software be used to create NTM site as a public domain, easily accessible in any Indian language (as advised by the Planning Commission, see NTM Minutes, Para 3, page 2); and

(4) Begin to negotiate to know the terms and conditions that major international publishing houses may offer to the NTM so that this could be further deliberated and decided at the level of PAC.

(5) Assuming that during 2009-10, 440 book translation assignments (of each book being 250 page long on average) are offered, and the submission rate is 68% to 70%, not more than 300 texts would be submitted as work completed by the translators. Under the '*Katha Bharathi*' scheme as approved during the 10th Plan, the translation rate was Rs.300 per 1000 words (=close to three printed pages). If the NTM PAC agrees to pay Rs. 500 for 1000 words – these being highly technical translation, we would have to pay about Rs. 41,665 to each translator.

(6) As the total budgetary provision for 1960 books for all works, namely adaptation & translation, evaluation, copy-editing, was kept at Rs. 4520.00 lakhs (See Table 2) which also included amounts for printing and publishing subsidies/costs, we could now calculate the requirements for 2008-09. Assuming that in 2008-08, we could only assign 440 titles, and only 300 books (into 250 pages on average) are completed and evaluated/copy-edited, we would ask for only Rs.520.00 lakhs out of Rs. 4520.00 lakhs under this head (a part of which would be shown as consultancy, and a part under the OC head);

(7) It may be noted that much less amount is being asked for under 2008-09 as the project is in the formative stage now: **Rs. 1166.88 lakhs** as against **Rs. 1519.712 lakhs**. **But it is possible that even this demand may have to be pushed to 2009-10**. In the table that follows, the figures in other years have remained the same, except that the savings from 2008-09 have been passed on to 2010-11. The justification for additionalities (of Rs.520 lakhs under salaries/honoraria) are given here:

Justification for additionalities (Out of Table 2, item a): Rs. 520.00 lakhs

1.	Translators' remuneration: (Rs.41,650x300)	124.95 lakhs
2.	Evaluation:	15.00
3.	Copy-editing:	75.00
4.	Data-input/ Publ software:	30.00
5.	Printing (adv/paper, etc):	200.05
6.	IPR/Copyright paym:	75.00

(8) A major task will be to modify the budget details and revise plans for the future years, since a lot of time has already lapsed in setting up the procedures and initiating the tasks. The following table would show the reduced amounts – year-wise in respect of the NTM:

NTM Revised Budget (In Lakhs)

	2008-09 Released	2008-09 Addl to be asked for	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	TOTAL
Salary, incl Consultancy/ Tr.Fee/Honor	50.00	49.312 100.688 <u>124.950*</u> 274.950	100.305 110.757 183.260 ⁺ 58.310 452.632	108.831 121.833 <u>331.079[#]</u> 561.743	118.082 134.016 <u>364.187</u> 616.285	1955.61
O.T.A.	00.00	00.000	00.000	00.000	00.000	000.00
Medical	00.50	00.000	00.550	00.600	00.65	002.30
Travel Ex	10.00	05.000	30.000	35.000	45.00	125.00
Office Ex	13.00	112.000	45.000	50.000	00.000	220.00
O.A.C.	05.00	09.400	14.400	14.400	14.400	057.60
O.C.	05.00	390.050	1099.923	1169.720	837.027	3501.72
G.I.A.	16.50	175.400	383.800	422.18	537.320	1535.20
Total	100.00	966.800				
Grand Total		1066.800	2026.305	2253.643	2050.682	7397.43

Note: * Translation fee for 300 books + Translation fee for 440 books plus 58.31 for a backlog payment for earlier year's 140 assignments # Fee for Fee for 580 books & 0.90 for web-based content translation

Table 1: Approved overall budget for NTM with year-wise break up



(UDAYA NARAYANA SINGH)