

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of NRVP held on September 22, 2024

The meeting commenced at 11.10 am at the Swami Asaktananda Auditorium.

Attendance: 142 NRVP members. Swami Shastrajnananda, the revered secretary of RKMA, Narendrapur, and Swami Isteshananda, the revered headmaster of RKMV, joined the meeting at 11.35 am.

1. NRVP secretary's address:

The meeting started with paying homage to the memory of former teachers and alumni members whom we have lost since the previous AGM. Two teachers and 24 alumni members have left us during this period.

The secretary's report was circulated among the members through the WhatsApp groups. It was not read out by secretary Sri Debdut Ghosh Thakur since he had recently undergone an eye operation. The report was taken as read and was accepted by the members.

The secretary proposed that going forward, Sri Aruni Chakraborty carries on the practice of recording names of deceased alumni.

The secretary apprised the members of the NRVPS' efforts in bringing in young faces into the EC. This is also required in view of the increased workload of the NRVP office.

The secretary conveyed his decision to voluntarily quit from the post and pass on the baton of the NRVP office to the next generation of office bearers. He welcomed and introduced the new committee comprising of:

Joint Secretaries: Sri Shivaji Basu Roy (1987) and Sri Anirban Bagchi (1994).

Vice-president: Sri Debabrata Roychowdhury (1982)

Assistant secretary: Sri Indradeep Bhattacharyya (2002)

Joint treasurer: Sri Alope Nag (1980)

Sri Sarad Kumar Mirani (1968) will continue as president and Sri Rajat Nath (1975) will continue as treasurer. Sri Alope Nag will assist the treasurer and the joint secretaries particularly in matters concerning 80G certificate and its compliance.

The outgoing secretary informed the members that both the joint secretaries have a proven track record of leading their respective batches in charitable works. He reminded the new committee that the upcoming reunion was going to be an acid test for them. He also wished that the new committee fulfil expectations that the former committee could not.

The outgoing secretary informed the members of the newly introduced life member badge. Batch coordinators were requested to collect the badges.

The outgoing secretary also raised the issue of inactive batch coordinators. In such cases, batch coordinators may be changed. This is particularly applicable to recent

batches from 2000 onwards. Active enthusiasts from these batches (2000-2019 MP) are invited to approach executive committee, NRVP and join as batch coordinators to strengthen the alumni fraternity.

The outgoing secretary confirmed the new committee of his continued support and thanked everyone for supporting him during his tenure. He then invited the treasurer to present the audit report.

The secretary also added that the NRVP auditor N Saha and Associates for the year 2023-24 has been requested to continue as the auditor for the current financial year, i.e., 2024-2025.

2. Audit report:

Treasurer Sri Rajat Nath read out the audit report already circulated to members on WhatsApp through the official batch coordinators group and the executive committee group of the NRVP. He requested the members to use the website regularly and to perform all transactions online through the payment gateway at the official website of NRVP : <https://narendrapurpraktani.com/>

4. Discussion on 80 G:

Sri Aloke Nag d the members of the status of 80G/12A certificates. He reminded the members that compliance is a perpetual issue, not a one-time affair. He informed that NRVP had received provisional certificates which are valid till AY 2025-2026. The last date of application for permanent certificates has lapsed. Several experts were consulted on this. It was decided that we would still apply. The Income Tax Act 1961 as amended by Finance Act 2024 empowered the authorities to condone delay in filing application for registration u/s 12A in suitable cases from 01.10.2024. He also flagged that NRVP is also defaulting on other counts in relation to Income Tax matters. He sought the opinion of the members on whether a new CA/Tax Consultant is to be hired or the present CA would be continued with.

A member opined that a new CA/Tax Consultant be hired. Another member suggested forming a calendar for internal use so that we do not default on compliance matters. The ever-changing I-T rules and regulations are an obstacle, it was noted. Whoever is hired, the delivery will have to be ensured from the NRVP side.

It was decided that a new CA/Tax Consultant would be appointed considering experience of handling trust-related matters.

5. Discussion on NRVP office:

The outgoing secretary invited Sri Kamal Banerjee (1974) to raise the issue of Praktani office renovation. He informed the members, much to their delight, that the 1974 batch had raised and handed over Rs 9.76 lakh to the Vidyalaya for various development works on the 50th year of their passing out. The Praktani office needed a renovation. Rs 8.18 Lakh is needed for this. Rs 3.35 Lakh of that had already been handed over to NRVP, he informed. The contractor has been paid an advance of Rs 2

Lakh. Permission and Cooperation from the Ashrama was sought from the secretary, RKMA regarding planning and execution of this renovation.

The revered secretary maharaj responded to this. He proposed that he visits the praktani office physically before taking a call. He apprised the members of the recent stringent Belur Math rules regarding making a permanent structure (with brick walls and concrete roofing). For example, municipal permission first and then Belur Math's permission have to be taken. These apart, the ashrama has no objection, he maintained. Ideally, felling full grown trees should be avoided, he added.

There is around Rs 5 Lakh deficit in terms of the planned expenditure proposal of the NRVP office renovation. Sri Kamal Banerjee and the revered headmaster maharaj requested everyone to contribute to this purpose.

The revered secretary maharaj and the headmaster maharaj assured financial support from Vidyalaya and Ashrama for the renovation.

The outgoing secretary, NRVP, requested the Vidyalaya to allot a room to NRVP within the school building for the safety and security of their important documents.

The revered secretary maharaj and the headmaster maharaj assured to allot a room for the NRVP office in Vidyalaya school building.

6. Introduction of new EC members with monastic members of the Vidyalaya:

Five respected members of the monastic staff of the Vidyalaya were present at the meeting. Headmaster maharaj introduced them. They were Swami Tatparananda, Swami Mahidharananda, Br. Nityachaitanya, Swami Divyeshwarananda and Swami Madhaveshananda. The newly appointed EC members were also introduced to them.

7. Discussion on website:

EC member Sri Suvadeep Sarkar addressed the members regarding the NRVP website and issues faced for Reunion organisation. He informed that 72 life members registered online in the last one and a half year. Their data is systematically stored. Older data (of those who enrolled by filling up paper-forms and paying in cash or cheque) is not organised. So life membership through the NRVP website is to be encouraged. He also informed the members that NRVP introduced an automated welcome email for new life membership registrations through the NRVP website. It was noted that only 37-40 life members are registered on average per batch; membership drive may be taken up for increasing the number of life members.

8. Miscellaneous discussions:

A) EC member Suvadeep Sarkar made specific proposals about the upcoming reunion:

1. Breakfast: Specific time should be mentioned, beyond which, requests for breakfast cannot be entertained.
2. Lunch: Since lunch is served at multiple venues, directional arrows can be placed for ease of transit.

3. Registration: Life members' free lunch should be foregone to avoid chaos and difficulty in verification.

The members agreed at this point that no free lunch should be offered. The proposal was accepted.

B) A member proposed that breakfast timing on the reunion day can be increased and there is a need to rethink on the lunch coupon issue.

C) In response to several objections, the lunch coupon decision was reversed. Life Members will not have to pay for a lunch coupon, as has been the practice in previous years.

D) A member proposed that 'Late' be added with the names of deceased life members and they may continue to remain in the list.

E) A member proposed that the life member list of all batches should be visible on the website.

F) 1975 batch will complete 50 years next year. Their batch representative apprised the members of their initiatives. From their batch, they had already paid Rs 9 lakh for repairing the roof of Abhedanananda Bhavana and installation of grille. He also informed the members of their initiative to felicitate teachers. The issue of overpopulation in rooms in junior section was raised. He proposed that all batches may consider coming forward to build a new hostel.

G) The 1999 batch donated Rs 3.5 lakh to the Vidyalaya for renovation of the gymnasium.

H) A member from 2008 madhyamaik and 2010 HS raised the issue of confusion in Praktani life member list because of the two passout years. Students who studied only HS are listed as 2010 instead of 2008, which prevents the batch coordinator of batch 2008 from accessing their details as his access is limited to his passing year.

I) A member proposed that the website is maintained more rigorously. Annual reports, names of deceased alumni may be updated may be updated on the website regularly.

9. Address by revered Swami Shastrajnananda, secretary, RKMA:

The revered secretary maharaj shared his happiness with the members about the presence of so many alumni and the overall functioning of the NRVP. He proposed that present students be apprised of NRVP activities so that they are aware of the legacy they are going to be part of. He requested everyone to come to the ashrama as frequently as possible with family.

10. Discussion on winter retreat:

The outgoing secretary, NRVP, informed the members that winter retreat would be held on 24-25 December, 2024. Subscription fee for the Retreat is Rs. 550. 24th

evening tiffin, 24th dinner and 25th breakfast will be included in retreat programme. The 25th lunch will be at senior section (reunion lunch).

11. Address by revered Swami Isteshananda, headmaster, RKMV:

The revered headmaster maharaj acknowledged his gratefulness to the NRVP for continuous support to the Vidyalaya. He apprised the members of the need for repair of roofs of hostels. Maharaj thanked various batches for financial assistance for ongoing projects. He invited everyone to visit the newly built archive. He also informed the members of the Vidyalaya managing committee's decision to appoint a psychological counsellor.

Maharaj also raised the issue of the need for a medical officer. For the time being alumnus Dr Sayak Jati is performing the role. He informed that the Vidyalaya has introduced an NSS unit. He wishes to hold medical camps in areas outside Narendrapur with the help of Praktani doctors. He also informed the house that roof shading needed in senior section hostels. Members were requested to try and seek CSR project funds for the various development activities. He also raised the issue of space crunch for students in hostels, particularly in December-January with two Class 10 batches present. The unused two-storeyed building (Jam Jelly building) behind Vigyanananda Bhavan can be renovated to accommodate around 80 students. Around Rs 40 Lakh is needed for the renovation, he again requested CSR funds for the same. He also informed the house of the good performance of students in various examinations and the various innovative projects taken up by the Vidyalaya, like media literacy program for Class VIII.

12. Vote of thanks

The outgoing secretary requested the Vidyalaya that NRVP be informed about various vidyalaya programmes through circulation of notices via WhatsApp.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the secretary. He paid his homage to former teacher, the Late Nilachal Samanta Da, on the occasion of his death anniversary and also expressed NRVP's sincere gratitude to his sons and Praktanis Partha Priyo Samanta (1980) and Siddhartha Samanta (1982) for sponsoring the AGM lunch in their father's memory, like every year.

The meeting was followed by lunch at Shivananda and Yogananda Bhavana.