

INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY

BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG, NEW DELHI - 110002

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Indian National Science Academy held on 14 October, 2017 at Bose Institute, Kolkata.

The following Fellows were present:

Professor Ajay K Sood, President, INSA
Professor Kankan Bhattacharyya, Vice-President (Science Promotion)
Professor SC Lakhota, Vice-President (Informatics and Publications)
Professor LS Shashidhara, Vice-President (Science & Society)
Professor Manindra Agrawal
Professor Nahid Ali
Professor Soumitro Banerjee
Professor US Bhalla
Professor Gautam Bhattacharyya
Professor VS Borkar
Professor Partha Pratim Chakrabarti
Professor PK Chattaraj
Dr Samit Chattopadhyay
Professor Subhasis Chaudhuri
Professor S Dattagupta
Dr Madhu Dikshit
Dr Amit Ghosh
Professor Aswini Ghosh
Dr Ashok Kumar Giri
Dr Kunal Ghosh
Professor Subrata Ghosh
Dr Swapan K Ghosh
Professor AN Lahiri Majumder
Professor Chitra Mandal
Professor Nibir Mandal
Professor Naba K Mondal
Professor Amlan J Pal
Professor G Parthasarathy
Professor Siddhartha Roy
Professor Syamal Roy
Dr Susanta Roychoudhury
Professor K Veluthambi

At 09.30 hrs : 14 October, 2017

Inaugural Session

The day long programme of the Annual meeting was inaugurated by Professor Ajay K Sood, President, INSA. Professor Sood, Professor Siddhartha Roy, FNA and Professor Anuradha Lohia, VC, Presidency University, Kolkata briefly spoke about

the genesis and major achievements over the years of INSA, Bose Institute and Presidency University, respectively.

Birth of Modern Science in India: Future Challenges

An Interactive Meeting with Science Students (schools/ colleges) of Kolkata on *Birth of Modern Science in India: Future Challenges*. This session was chaired by Professor HK Majumder, FNA (Convener: INSA Local Chapter, Kolkata). The following lectures were delivered by the speakers during the session:

CV Raman & Early Institutions in India by Professor Kankan Bhattacharyya, FNA; *Bengal Renaissance and the Birth of Modern Science in India* by Professor Partha Ghose, Formerly Professor, SN Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata; *Astrophysics to Astronomy to Space Research* by Professor Somak Raychaudhury, Director, IUCAA, Pune; *GN Ramachandran & SN De: Crystallography to Cholera* by Professor P Balaram, FNA; *Sir U. N. Brahmachari and Kala Azar Research in India* by Professor Syamal Roy, FNA; *Computation Biology & Big Data* by Professor Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, FNA and *P.C. Mahalanobis, Birth of Population Diversity Studies in India and After* by Professor Partha P Majumder, FNA, Founder Director, National Institute of Biomedical Genomics, Kalyani.

21st Century India: opportunities and challenges for science students

A Panel discussion on *Science and Technology in 21st Century India: opportunities and challenges for science students* was also organized. This panel discussion highlighted how Indian S&T enterprise is expanding, provide information on new programs and schemes (both in Industry and Academia) and to variety of new types of jobs that are being created in addition to increased opportunity for academic (teaching and research) jobs.

Annual General Meeting

At 18.00 hrs : 14 October, 2017

Professor Ajay K Sood, President, INSA welcomed all the Fellows to the General body meeting. He requested Professor SC Lakhotia, Vice-President (Publications/ Informatics) to coordinate the meeting on behalf of Professor Anurag Sharma, Vice-President (Fellowship Affairs). Thereafter, the regular agenda items were taken up.

1. Condolence at the passing away of the distinguished Fellows:

The sad demise of Professor Narendra Kumar, Professor Supriya Mohan Sengupta and Professor Pratap Narain Srivastava, distinguished Fellows of the Academy was reported. The obituary notes were read by the President, INSA and all those present stood in silence for a minute as a mark of respect to the deceased.

2. Confirmation of minutes of General Body Meeting held on 27 July, 2017.

The minutes of the General Body Meeting held on 29 July, 2016 were read by Professor SC Lakhotia, Vice-President. The minutes were confirmed.

3. Announcement of result of scrutiny of voting papers for election of Officers and Members of the Council for the year 2018.

President, INSA thanked Professor NR Jagannathan and Professor Jaya Tyagi who were appointed as scrutineers for counting the votes for the election of Fellows, Foreign Fellows and INSA Council for 2018. On receipt of the result of the counting of voting papers for election of Officers and Members of the Council for the year 2018, Professor SC Lakhotia announced names of those elected as Vice-Presidents and as members of the Council as per [Annexure-I](#).

4. Announcement of result of scrutiny of voting papers for election of Fellows and Foreign Fellows.

Professor SC Lakhotia, Vice-President announced names of those elected as Fellow and Foreign Fellow of INSA as per [Annexure-II](#). It was noted that for the year 2018 no Pravasi Fellow has been elected.

Fellows present in the meeting were informed that the Council, at its July meeting had shortlisted 32 names which were released to the fellowship. After the voting papers were released, the Academy received strong opposition from some fellows against the nomination of Professor Satish Ogale due to certain incident in past involving him during his tenure in the University of Poona. Since it involved serious ethical and moral issues, this case was referred to INSA Ethics Committee. Based on the recommendations of the Ethics Committee, the Council unanimously agreed to drop the nomination of Professor Ogale from the fellowship of INSA. The Fellows present in the General Body meeting also agreed to the Council's decision.

5. Announcement of name of recipients of the INSA Teachers Award 2017.

Professor SC Lakhotia, Vice-President announced the names of the following twelve outstanding Teachers as recipient of the INSA Teachers Award for the year 2017:

1. **Professor AL Ramanathan Alagappan**, School of Environmental Sciences Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
2. **Dr Sunita Bhagat**, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, ARSD College, University of Delhi, Delhi
3. **Professor Ajit Kumar Chaturvedi**, Sanjay and Rachna Pradhan Chair Professor and Deputy Director, Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Kanpur
4. **Professor Renu Chugh**, Department of Mathematics, MD University, Rohtak

5. **Professor Pratulananda Das**, Department of Mathematics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
6. **Professor Vikram Manohar Gadre**, Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai
7. **Dr Ajit Hazarika**, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Chaiduar College, Assam
8. **Professor Srihari Keshavamurthy**, Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Kanpur
9. **Professor Somen Misra**, Department of Ophthalmology, Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, Loni (MS)
10. **Professor Raghuram Nandula**, School of Biotechnology, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi
11. **Dr Bikram Phookun**, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, St. Stephen's College, Delhi
12. **Professor Satish Bola Sadashiva Rao**, Department of Radiation Biology and Toxicology, School of Life Sciences, Manipal University, Manipal

6. Announcement of name of recipients of the INSA Young Historian of Science Award 2017.

Professor SC Lakhota, Vice-President announced the name of the INSA Young Historian of Science Awardee for the year 2017:

Dr Nisha Yadav, Scientific Officer (C), Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai *for her statistical analysis and computational studies of the Indus Valley script, which have shed some light on its grammatical structure.*

7. Announcement of names of representatives of Cooperating Academies and the Govt. of India on the Council of INSA for the year 2018.

Professor SC Lakhota announced the names of Dr Kunal Ghosh, Professor SS Katiyar and Professor Paramjit Khurana as representatives of The Asiatic Society, The Indian Science Congress Association and The National Academy of Sciences (India), respectively. The name of representative from the Govt. of India, Department of Science & Technology is awaited.

8. Submission of the list of Fellows corrected up-to-date.

Professor SC Lakhota, Vice-President informed that the number of Fellows as on 14 October, 2017 stood at 902. A list of Fellows corrected up to date is available at www.insaindia.res.in.

9. **To read as required under Rule 40(c) the name of nominees for election as INSA Fellow / Foreign Fellow / Pravasi Fellow from 11 July, 2017 to 30 September, 2017.**

Professor SC Lakhotia, Vice-President, INSA read out the names of those whose nominations had been received for election as Indian Fellows.

10. **Presentation of Annual Report of the Academy for the year 2016-17, as per Rule 30(f).**

Professor SC Lakhotia, Vice-President presented the highlights of the Annual Report (2016-17) to the Fellowship. The soft copy of the Annual Report is available on the website and printed Annual Report will be sent to Fellows on requirement basis.

11. **Review of work of the Academy by the President, INSA.**

The highlights of the activities taken up by the Academy in the past one year (i.e. 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017) were presented by the President, INSA.

12. **Any other item.**

After taking the regular agenda items, President, INSA discussed the following issues which was discussed during the Council meeting :

- l) **INSA Distinguished Professors** : President, INSA briefed the Fellows about six INSA professorships which are available at present. Four of them are currently occupied and two chairs are vacant. There is a great demand from the fellowship for these chairs and it was proposed to increase the number of the chairs. It has now been decided that :
- a) There will be a total of ten Professorial Chairs including the present ones. This number may be increased in future depending on the financial situation.
 - b) Operative from January 1, 2018, these chairs will uniformly be called as INSA Distinguished Professors. Each professor should have an institutional attachment and the funds will be released to the institute only.
 - c) Each professor will receive an honorarium of Rs.1.00 lakh per month and the contingency of Rs.2.00 lakhs per annum
 - d) Term of all the chairs will be three years only.
 - e) Only superannuated fellows with no other source of support (except pension) will be eligible. Any fellow holding any other fellowship / chair will not be eligible.
 - f) All the INSA Distinguished Professors are expected to participate in outreach programmes for school and college students as a part of the award.

g) The present occupants of the professorial chairs will not be given the benefits of 7th Pay Commission as and when it is applicable to INSA. It was also decided that they will be given the choice to move to the new scheme.

II) **Policy Reports** : President, INSA apprised the General Body of Fellows that the following three reports are in progress:

a) *Impact of Indian Science on the Society* by Professor LS Shashidhara

b) *Dissemination and Evaluation of Research Output in India* by Professor Praveen Chaddah and Professor SC Lakhotia and

c) *Review of Cyber Security Research and Development in the Country* by Professor Sandeep Shukla and Professor Manindra Agrawal.

He requested the Fellows to suggest more such topics on which INSA can prepare the well considered authentic reports.

III) **Remote Area Lectures** : The INSA programme on delivering lectures in remote areas all over the country and in north east was discussed by the fellows. Many Fellows had availed this facility and were highly appreciative of INSA's initiative. President, INSA again requested everybody to take part in this programme which is extremely beneficial to the students and teachers in remote areas.

IV) **Strengthening School / College Science Education** : Fellows participating in General Body meeting appreciated the symposium on *Birth of Modern Science in India: Future Challenges* in the forenoon which brought out many outstanding pieces of research in the early 20th century in Bengal. They, however, expressed concern on the declining standards of science education and research in the country. In the present day scenario, there is an urgent need to augment / strengthen science education programme both at school and higher level.

President, INSA while agreeing with the views of the fellows, suggested that this issue may be taken up under the Science Education programme being operated jointly by three academies.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.