

# INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY

BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG, NEW DELHI - 110002

**Minutes of the General Body Meeting of the Indian National Science Academy held on 27 July, 2017 in the Academy premises.**

The following Fellows were present:

Professor Ajay K Sood, President, INSA  
Professor Anurag Sharma, Vice-President (Fellowship Affairs)  
Professor Kankan Bhattacharyya, Vice-President (Science Promotion)  
Professor NR Jagannathan, Vice-President (Resource Management)  
Professor SC Lakhota, Vice-President (Informatics and Publications)  
Professor LS Shashidhara, Vice-President (Science & Society)  
Professor Faizan Ahmad  
Professor Talat Ahmad  
Dr AC Banerjea  
Professor Subhasis Chaudhuri  
Dr Madhu Dikshit  
Dr Kunal Ghosh  
Dr Swapan K Ghosh  
Professor LC Gupta  
Professor Amitabh Joshi  
Dr Sushil Kumar  
Professor Nibir Mandal  
Professor NK Mehra  
Professor HY Mohan Ram  
Dr Ganesh Pandey  
Professor G Parthasarathy  
Professor IBS Passi  
Professor Sarva Jit Singh  
Professor Somdatta Sinha  
Professor PN Tandon  
Dr KC Upadhyaya  
Professor K Veluthambi

President, INSA welcomed all the Fellows to the General body meeting. Thereafter, the regular agenda items were taken up.

## **1. Condolence at the passing away of the following distinguished Fellows:**

The sad demise of Professors Bhola Nath Dhawan, Arumugam Gnanam, Udipi Ramachandra Rao, Arun Kumar Sharma and Yash Pal distinguished Fellows of the Academy was reported. The obituary notes were read by the President and all those present stood in silence for a minute as a mark of respect to the deceased.

**2. Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary General Meeting held on 26 April, 2017.**

The minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 26 April, 2017 were read by Professor Anurag Sharma, Vice-President. These minutes were already uploaded on INSA website. No comment were received. Thereafter, the minutes were confirmed.

**3. Institution of a New Endowment Award - Professor Subramania Ranganathan Memorial Medal.**

Professor Anurag Sharma, Vice-President informed the decision of the Council to institute a new endowment award named as *Professor Subramania Ranganathan Memorial Medal*. The Medal will be awarded to an eminent scientist for outstanding contributions in any branch of *Chemistry*. The award carries an honorarium of Rs. 25,000/-, a bronze medal and a citation. The first medal will be awarded in 2018.

**4. To read as required under Rule 40(c) the name of nominees for election as INSA Fellow / Foreign Fellow / Pravasi Fellow received from 6 April, 2017 to 10 July, 2017.**

Professor Anurag Sharma, Vice-President, INSA read the names of those whose nominations were received for election as INSA Fellow, Foreign Fellow and Pravasi Fellow.

**5. Any other item.**

After taking the regular agenda items, President, INSA discussed certain recent issues. He informed the General Body meeting that all the four academies were invited by DST on July 14 to review their programmes, budget and staff structure. This review was conducted by a special committee headed by Shri BK Chaturvedi, former Cabinet Secretary to the Govt. of India. President, INSA presented the activities and other details to the committee. After the presentation the members asked a few questions, one of them about our opinion on the probable merger of the Academies. Similar questions were asked by the committee to other Academies also.

The Council of the Academy has agreed to prepare policy documents on the following three topics:

- i) **Impact of Indian Science on the Society** by Professor LS Shashidhara
- ii) **Dissemination and Evaluation of Research Output in India** by Professor Praveen Chaddah and Professor SC Lakhotia
- iii) **Review of Cyber Security Research and Development in the Country** by Professor Sandeep Shukla and Professor Manindra Agrawal.

Professor LS Shashidhara made a brief presentation on the document on *Impact of Indian Science on the Society*. He briefly mentioned few specific examples where interventions of Indian scientists have resulted in products useful to the society. Beside social, these products have huge economic benefits also.

The report on *Dissemination and Evaluation of Research Output in India* by Professor Praveen Chaddah and Professor SC Lakhotia is already ready. This report will be sent to the members of the Council for their opinion. After incorporating the opinion of the Council members, the updated report will be sent to the entire fellowship with a request to send their opinion within next 30 days. The final report will be put up to the October meeting of the Council.

The third report on *Review of Cyber Security Research and Development in the Country* by Professor Sandeep Shukla (CSE, IITK) and Professor Manindra Agrawal will now be initiated. The Council has approved the requisite budget for the preparation of this report.

President, INSA also mentioned about the book on *Indian National Science Academy's Inspirational Journey in 75 years* which has been compiled by Shri SK Sahni, former Executive Secretary and Professor PN Tandon, former INSA President. The book has been printed and it was expected that during this July meeting, Hon'ble MoST, Dr Harsh Vardhan will release this book. However, due to his busy schedule during the ongoing session of the Parliament, he could not spare time. Now the release function will be held at some other occasion at a later date.

After this, the President requested the Fellows for their comments, if any. Professor PN Tandon pointed out about the lack of formal communication channels between academicians and the parliamentarians, cabinet and the Hon'ble Prime Minister. He also lamented on the lack of representation of the fellows in the general body meetings.

Professor SC Lakhotia informed the fellowship that the *Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy* would now be indexed in Thomson Reuters ESCI Database. ESCI is the acronym for Emerging Sources Citation Index. ESCI ensures that web of science covers scientific trends and developments beyond the high impact literature. It is a collection of journals that deepens coverage of contents in web of science. The Proceedings are already indexed in SCOPUS. The members present appreciated that efforts of Professor Lakhotia and his colleagues in the editorial team.

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