

# 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 25 July, 2018 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)  
Dr Chandrima Shaha, Vice-President (International Affairs)  
Professor AK Singhvi, Vice-President (Science & Society)  
Professor B Buti  
Professor Subhasis Chaudhuri  
Professor R Chidambaram  
Professor Anuradha Dube  
Professor Aparna Dutta Gupta  
Professor LC Gupta  
Professor Amitabh Joshi  
Dr Sushil Kumar  
Dr Madhu Dikshit  
Professor KC Malhotra  
Professor R Narasimhan  
Professor Sourav Pal  
Dr GP Pandey  
Dr Dhruv Raina  
Professor R Rajaraman  
Professor Poonam Salotra  
Professor RS Sangwan  
Professor Vinod K Singh  
Professor Yashwant Singh  
Professor BC Tripathy

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 Avinash Narayan Bhisey, Birendra Bijoy Biswas, Dharmajit Guptasarma, HY Mohan Ram, Ram Gopal Rastogi, Raghunath Prasad Rastogi, Tikaram Sharma and Digvijay Singh 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 Body Meeting held on 27 April, 2018.**

The minutes of the Ordinary General Body Meeting held on 27 April, 2018 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. To transfer Rule 40(f) to Rule 35 .**

Professor Anurag Sharma brought to the notice of the Fellows present in the General Body meeting regarding the decision of the Council to transfer the Rule 40(f) from powers and duties of Vice-President (Fellowship Affairs) to Rule 35 under powers and duties of Vice-President (Resource Management). The Fellows present unanimously approved shifting of the Rule. This modification will be reflected in the INSA Year Book 2019.

**4. To read as required under Rule 40(c) the name of nominees for election as INSA Fellow and Foreign Fellow received from 11 April, 2018 to 10 July, 2018.**

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

**5. Any other item.**

After the regular agenda items, President, INSA discussed some of the issues which were considered by the Council in the forenoon. These are:

**1. Innovation Cell**

President, INSA mentioned in the General Body meeting that he was in communication with DST about establishing an Innovation Cell in INSA which will draw support from the fellowship of NASI, IASc and INAE besides our Academy. This Cell will work under the following broad objectives :

a) To provide a platform for continuous collaborations among all cross-sections of scientific institutions and academia.

b) To act as a forum to bring together industries, government and the academia to explore, and identify and pursue innovation opportunities. It would chart a programme for creating a science, research and innovation system in India and thus provide a fresh perspective on innovation in Indian context.

c) To help bringing grass root innovations to main stream of all spheres of our society viz R & D, economic policies and business enterprises.

d) To provide necessary support to DST in getting the blue print made.

Professor Ashok K Singhvi, Vice-President (Science & Society) will monitor the activities of this cell. He is already in touch with the Presidents of IASc, NASI and INAE for their nominees who can help the Academy in this Cell. He has also sent a mail to INSA Fellows, young scientist awardees and INYAS members requesting them to volunteer their services for this cell. The response from this group is very enthusiastic.

## **2. Policy Documents**

The members were informed about the thrust being given to bring out well researched documents on topics related to science and its application to the society. Five such publications are already under preparation and few more are in pipeline. In addition, a publication on ethical conduct of science is being brought out.

President, INSA mentioned about his recent meetings with Professor K VijayRaghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt. of India. Professor VijayRaghavan has suggested that the Academy should bring out evidence based policy documents on specific issues of national importance where such inputs are useful to policy makers. These policy documents will require expertise within and outside our fellowship, accurate data generation / collection and its critical analysis etc. PSA has offered to provide some funds for this. Some of these reports will be in collaboration with the PSA office.

The above issue was discussed in the council meeting held in the forenoon. The Fellows present in the General Body meeting authorized President, INSA to take any decision about preparation of such reports.

President, INSA, at this stage, introduced Dr CM Nautiyal who has recently been appointed as a consultant for science communication / outreach activities. He will be responsible for media interaction, preparation of reports, inputs to INSA face book and twitter. Dr Nautiyal will work directly under the supervision of Vice-President, Science & Society programme. Academy will also develop an interactive website. Professor Manindra Agrawal has agreed to help the academy in developing this website at no cost to INSA.

## **3. Change in the Schedule of Council / General Body Meetings**

President, INSA explained to the Fellows that at present four general body meetings are held, two of them are ordinary general body meetings (April and July). The other two are Annual General Body meeting (October) and the Anniversary General Body meeting (December). Along with the general body meetings, the council meetings are also arranged. All Fellows are invited to attend these general body meetings. However, funds for the travel of INSA fellows and other participants are only made available for the anniversary meeting in the Academy in December. Over the years, it was felt that the work can be rescheduled in a way that only three meetings are held each year. This will save the precious man days of the

participating members besides the expenditure involved in organizing these meetings.

In order to reduce one meeting the following major changes are required:

a) There will be three meetings each year (April, July and December). The July meeting will be the Annual meeting and the December will be Anniversary meeting. The October meeting will be dropped.

b) The two sectional committee meetings will be held in February and April. The shortlisting of nominations for fellows will be in February meeting. In the April meeting the committees will recommend up to five names to the Council. In addition, interviews of young scientists nominees will be completed in April.

c) Council to finalize the selection of fellows / foreign fellows in April. Voting papers to be issued immediately. Final names to be announced in July.

d) Final selection of young scientists by Council will be in July.

e) The last date for receiving the nominations for fellows will be 15 September, 2018 (only for this year) and July 15 from 2019 onwards.

f) The nominating committee for foreign fellows and the search committee for special category of fellows will meet in February / March each year instead of June/ July.

All other meetings of the Academy will be rescheduled keeping in mind this schedule. The Fellows agreed to this revised schedule of meetings.

#### **4. MHRD Notification : Restructuring UGC**

President, INSA mentioned about the recent notification of MHRD regarding UGC into an Higher Education Commission. This is an important step that will decide the future of academia and academics in the country and the overall growth of education in the country. Professor Ashok K Singhvi is planning an Inter Academy meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August in INSA which will draft a suitable opinion on behalf of Fellowship of all the three Academies. Since the last date of forwarding the opinion to MHRD is already over, a request has been sent to them to extend the deadline. The members appreciated the efforts being putting by the Academies in this regard.

#### **5. Privileges of INSA Fellows, Foreign / Pravasi Fellows**

President, INSA mentioned that at present there are different privileges for INSA fellows / foreign and pravasi fellows (Rule 14, 15 and 16). The overseas fellows of INSA, the foreign and pravasi fellows are not invited to participate in the General Body meetings except in the year of their election. They are not allowed to vote on various issues of the Academy and also they are not invited to nominate for INSA Fellows / foreign fellows and INSA awards. This issue was discussed in the Council

in the forenoon. Members were of the opinion that we should involve our foreign and prvasi fellows in all such activities of INSA and invite them to all General Body meetings. However, no overseas travel will be provided to them.

The Fellows present in the General Body, discussed this issue and agreed to the decision of the Council. They also noted that since this change is a part of INSA Rules, it will be put to all fellows for voting.

## **6. Revision in the Transit House Accommodation Rates**

Members were also informed about minor modifications in the transit house accommodation charges primarily to include breakfast charges and GST effect. The revised rates are :

- a) INSA Fellows/INSA Young Scientists/Spouse / Spouse of deceased Fellows: Rs. 1000/- per bed (inclusive of GST & breakfast).
- b) Non-Fellows: Rs. 2500/- per room on non-sharing basis and Rs.1250/- on sharing basis (inclusive of GST & breakfast).
- c) The facility of INSA transit accommodation will be available to the INSA staff members at the same rates as to INSA Fellows/ Young Scientists.

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

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