

INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG, NEW DELHI - 110002

Minutes of the Virtual General Body Meeting of the Indian National Science Academy held on 10 July, 2021.

The following Fellows were attended the meeting:

Professor Chandrima Shaha, President
Dr Amit Ghosh, Vice-President (Publications)
Professor Gaiti Hasan, Vice-President (Fellowship Affairs)
Professor DV Khakhar, Vice-President (Science & Society)
Professor Madhoolika Agrawal
Professor Faizan Ahmad
Professor Nahid Ali
Professor R Balasubramanian
Professor DM Banerjee
Professor G Baskaran
Dr Anirban Basu
Professor Santanu Bhattacharya
Professor Bimla Buti
Professor Pinakpani Chakrabarti
Professor Supriya Chakraborty
Professor NV Chalapathi Rao
Professor Debashish Chowdhury
Dr Pijush K Das
Professor Sampa Das
Professor Suman K Dhar
Professor Amol Dighe
Professor Rajiv V Gavai
Professor Aswini Ghosh
Professor Kunal Ghosh
Professor Subrata Ghosh
Professor S Gourinath
Professor ED Jemmis
Professor Chanda J Jog
Professor Tarun Kant
Professor M Lakshmi Kantam
Professor SC Lakhota
Professor Shyam Lal
Dr HK Majumder
Dr Subeer S Majumdar
Professor Chitra Mandal
Professor Narinder K Mehra
Professor NB Mehta
Professor Sushmita Mitra
Professor K Muralidhar
Professor V Nagaraja
Professor J Padmanabhan
Professor Sankar K Pal

Professor MK Pandit
Professor Kapil Paranjape
Dr T Ramamurthy
Professor Madhubala Rentala
Professor EV Sampathkumaran
Professor Milan K Sanyal
Professor G Narahari Sastry
Professor Abhijit Sen
Professor Maithili Sharan
Professor Anurag Sharma
Dr Tilak Raj Sharma
Dr Kulinder Pal Singh
Professor RN Singh
Professor Vinod K Singh
Professor Ashok K Singhvi
Professor Somdatta Sinha
Professor Sudeshna Sinha
Professor SK Sopory
Professor Kandaswamy Subramanian
Professor PN Takkar
Professor KC Upadhyaya
Professor Jugal K Verma
Professor Sandeep Verma
Dr Mohan Wani
Professor GD Yadav

President, INSA welcomed all the participant Fellows. She mentioned, unfortunately, the Academy has lost 23 INSA Fellows due to COVID. In spite of these difficulties, the Academy continued to organize several programmes. The activities were mainly webinars, discussions, outreach programmes in collaboration with National Centre for Mathematics (NCM) and contagion with Science Gallery Bengaluru. The lecture series featuring Fellows and Foreign Fellows has been initiated by the Academy. The next lecture of the series will be delivered by Professor AR Ravishankara, Foreign Fellow, INSA on 5th August, 2021. President requested all Fellows to attend as many online lectures as time permits. Further, she mentioned an INSA-SERB Photo and Film competition organized by the Academy. Thereafter, the regular agenda items were taken up.

1. Condolence at the passing away of the following distinguished INSA Fellows and Foreign Fellows:

The sad demise of Professors Srikumar Banerjee, Kalyan Banerjee, Dewan Singh Bhakuni, Bhabatarak Bhattacharyya, Shashikumar Madhusudan Chitre, Kasturi Lal Chopra, Guru Prakash Dutta, Ram Prakash Gandhi, Deepak Gaur, Manapurathu Verghese George, Amolak Chand Jain, Sudhanshu Kumar Jain, Sushil Kumar, Chander Prakash Malik, Roddam Narasimha, Mudumbai Seshachalu Narasimhan, Indra Bir Singh, Mandakolathor Subramanya Srinivasan, Onkar Nath Srivastava, Kalluri Subbarao, Makarla Udaykumar (Fellows) and Sir Peter Julius Lachmann, Richard Robert Ernst (Foreign Fellows) were 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 Anniversary General Meeting held on 14 December, 2020.

The minutes of the Anniversary General Meeting held on 14 December, 2020 were presented by Professor Gaiti Hasan, Vice-President, INSA. These minutes were already uploaded on INSA website. No comments were received. Thereafter, the minutes were confirmed.

3. To read as required under Rule 40(c) the name of nominees for election as INSA Fellow and Foreign Fellow received from 2nd December, 2020 to 22nd May, 2021.

Professor Gaiti Hasan read the names of those whose nominations were received for election as INSA Fellow.

4. Any other item.

After taking the regular agenda items, President, INSA discussed some of the issues which were considered by the Council during 09-10 July.

She apprised the members regarding the need to include foreign citizens holding OCI/PIO cards and working in India for 10 or more years as nominees for a regular INSA fellowship. Presently, foreign citizens can only be nominated for the foreign fellowship of INSA, when they are members of a foreign national academy. For the OCI/PIO scientists election to a foreign national academy is highly unlikely if they are working in India for a long time. Hence, they may be considered for regular Indian fellowship. It was decided, that any foreign scientist holding an OCI/PIO card and working in India for at least 10 years will be considered eligible for nomination to the regular Indian fellowship of INSA.

According to the INSA Rule 6 (a) the present eligibility for election to the fellowship shall be restricted to Indian Citizens. The modified Rule is to be sent to all Fellows for voting.

President, INSA mentioned that since the Academy will be including OCI/ PIO scientists in regular INSA fellowship, the intake of number of fellows to be elected per year needs to be increased from 40 to 50. It was also felt, that the limit of total number of living fellows may be increased up to 1500 in place of the present limit of 1000.

Accordingly, the rule 6(b) may be modified and is to be sent for voting to all Fellows.

Further President, INSA informed the Fellows about the proposal of merger of four academies namely Indian National Science Academy (INSA), National Academy of Sciences – India (NASI), Indian Academy of Sciences (IASc), Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) and Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA). Since ISCA is a different body, it may not be included in the cluster of academies.

DST has proposed to create an umbrella structure under which the autonomous bodies could function maintaining their autonomy. She mentioned that right now there is very little clarity about the process and the formation of the autonomous body. A better understanding should be available before the October GB meeting and the Fellows will be intimated in due course.

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