

NPL FORMER SCIENTISTS FORUM
Minutes of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Forum,
held in the TEC Conference Room, NPL on February 29, 2012 at 10.30 A.M.

The following Agenda for the meeting had been notified by Shri G K Arora, the Secretary of the Forum vide his letter dated 18th February 2012. As a follow-up action on the decision of the Management Committee at its meeting held on 17th January 2012, before issuing the notice for this meeting a survey had been conducted by him to ascertain as to which members it will suit if the notices for this meeting as also the other meetings of the Forum were sent to the them by e-mail only. In the light of the response to this survey notice for the meeting to members who responded in the affirmative was sent by e-mail only, and all the other members were sent the notice by ordinary post. This was also supplemented by an e-mail reminder to all the members who could be so contacted:

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President and Introductory Remarks.
2. Status Report by the Secretary
3. Status Report by the Treasurer
4. Facilitating the following Members of the 80-Plus Fraternity of the Forum and presentation of the Citations, 80-Plus Certificates & Forum's Mementoes to them by Dr. V N Bindal:
 - (i). Dr. G S Uppal
 - (ii) Dr. K C Nagpal
 - (ii) Shri Surinder Singh
5. Address by Dr. V N Bindal.
6. Highlights of the Chart on SI Units of Measurement and its release by Dr. Kailash Chandra.
7. Highlights of the Publication Committee Meeting held on 15. 02. 2012 – Dr. Amitabha Basu
8. Highlights of the Joint Meeting of the Scientific Affairs Committee and the Superstitions & Myths Committee held on 15. 02. 2012 – Dr. Kailash Chandra.
9. Resolution for increasing the life membership fee of the Forum to Rs. 1,000/-
10. Mechanism for providing copies of the Forum's Newsletter to all the Members of the Forum and meeting the expenses.
11. Effective utilization of the Forum's Room in the Force Standards Annex, NPL.
12. Constitution of a Committee to suggest any revision of the Rules & Regulations of the Forum as per Rule 18.3.
13. Any other Item with the permission of the Chair.
14. Socializing over a cup of tea and refreshments.

Attendance: The following members had attended the meeting:

(Names arranged alphabetically by the Surname)

1.	Aggarwal , Santosh (Mrs.)	16.	Gupta , Satya Vir (Dr.)	31.	Naib Singh
2.	Arora , Gyanendra Kumar	17.	Gupta , Suresh Kumar (Dr.)	32.	Panwar , Vinay Singh (Dr.)
3.	Bahuguna , Devendra Prasad	18.	Hans , Gokul Singh	33.	Raina , Mohan Krishen (Dr.)
4.	Basu , Amitabha (Dr.)	19.	Jain , Adeshwar Preshad (Dr.)	34.	Saksena , Rakesh Chandra (Dr.)
5.	Batra , Virendra Kumar (Dr.)	20.	Jain , Prakash Chandra (Dr.)	35.	Saxena , Rajan Babu
6.	Bhatia , Gopal (Dr.)	21.	Joginder Singh (Dr.)	36.	Sharma , Sham Lal
7.	Bhatnagar , Kameshwer Nath	22.	Khandekar , Ramakrishna Sitaram	37.	Shastri , Shashikala (Mrs.)
8.	Bindal , Vishwa Nath (Dr.)	23.	Kohli , Nand Kishore	38.	Singh , Shiv Nath (Dr.)
9.	Chandra , Kailash (Dr.)	24.	Kundu , Namita (Dr. Mrs.)	39.	Singh , Ved Ram (Dr.)
10.	Chandra , Subhash	25.	Mahajan , Kushal Kumar (Dr.)	40.	Tagra , Om Parkash
11.	Das Gupta , Mrinal Kanti	26.	Manrai , Santosh (Mrs.)	41.	Tripurari Lal
12.	Dhawan , Urmil (Mrs.)	27.	Mendiratta , Roshan Lal	42.	Verma , Surendra Singh
13.	Garg , Satish Chand	28.	Mittal , Pramod Kumar	43.	Verma , Tribhawan
14.	Gera , Subhash Chander	29.	Mohanani , Vellur (Dr.)	44.	
15.	Gupta , Satish Chander	30.	Nagpal , Kailash Chander (Dr.)	45.	

The Following Members had expressed either their inability to attend the meeting or else were abroad

(Names arranged alphabetically by the Surname)

1.	Agnihotry , Suhasini (Dr. Mrs.)	Abroad	2.	Agrawal , Arun Kumar (Dr.)	
3.	Bahl , Madhu (Mrs.)		4.	Balchandani , Mulchand Kewalram	
5.	Bhattacharyya , Raghunath (Dr.)		6.	Bhola , Om Parkash	
7.	Chakladar , Swapan Kumar		8.	Chaudhary , Janki Nath	
9.	Chopra , Parvati (Mrs.)		10.	Das , Bijoy Kishore (Dr.)	
11.	Das , Satya Ranjan (Dr.)		12.	Dhawan , Jagdish Kumar	
13.	Gupta , Anil Kumar (Dr.)		14.	Halder , Sujit Kumar (Dr.)	
15.	Jain , Sohan Lal (Dr.)	Abroad	16.	Kapahi , Shashi Bhushan	
17.	Jain , Sukhmal Chand (Dr.)		18.	Khanna , Radhey Kishen	
19.	Khullar , Faqir Chand		20.	Lal , Krishan (Dr.)	Abroad
21.	Mahajan , Surender Kumar (Dr.)		22.	Malhotra , Banshi Dhar (Dr.)	
23.	Malhotra , Padam Lal (Dr.)		24.	Mandal , Shikha (Mrs.)	
25.	Mathur , Sartaj Swarup (Prof.)		26.	Mitra , Ved (Dr.)	
27.	Nath , Mohinder		28.	Ram Prasad	
29.	Rathore , Hazara Singh	Abroad	30.	Reddy , Borra Madhava (Dr.)	Abroad
31.	Sarma , Kuchibhatla Subrahmanya	Abroad	32.	Shah , Vilaschandra Vithaldas (Dr.)	
33.	Sharma , Kailash Chand		34.	Sharma , Ram Gopal (Dr.)	
35.	Singhal , Raghunandan Prasad (Dr.)		36.	Srinivasan , Thirumalai Mappur (Dr.)	
37.	Surinder Singh		38.	Tewari , Shiva Gopal	Abroad
39.	Tripathi , Prabhu Shanker		40.	Uppal , Gian Singh (Dr.)	Abroad
41.	Varma , Satya Prakash (Dr.)		42.	Vasishth , Satish Chandra	
43.	Ved Singh (Dr.)		44.	Vikram Kumar (Dr.)	Abroad
45.	Wadhwa , Rajindar Pal (Dr.)		46.	Wasan , Ved Parkash	

1: Welcome by the President and Introductory Remarks: Shri S C Garg, welcomed the members to the meeting. He specially welcomed the senior members who had attained the age of 80 years since the meeting of the Forum held on 18th October 2011. He said that he was sorry that he was unable to attend the last meeting of the Management Committee on account of a lapse on his part for not having taken a specific note of it. However, Shri Arora had taken all measures to ensure that I attend this meeting by not only sending the notice both by e-mail as also by post and also through a reminder e-mail, which he sent not only to me but also to all the other members of the Forum who could be so contacted.

He said that as our dear colleague Dr. Surjeet Kumar Sharma had expired on the 27th instant the meeting will start with passing a condolence resolution on his demise. He added that Mrs. Kumudini Srinivasan, wife of Dr. T M Srinivasan had also expired on 30th December 2011 and a condolence resolution on her demise had been passed at the last meeting of the Management Committee held on 17th January 2011. He requested the Secretary to read out both the resolutions where after the members paid homage to their memory by observing two minutes silence. The Secretary, who had already sent the resolution passed at the Management Committee after the Management Committee meeting to Dr. Srinivasan, was advised to pass on the resolution in respect of Dr. S K Sharma to Mrs. Shashi Sharma and the other members of the family.

2: Status Report by the Secretary: Before starting with the Agenda for the meeting, Shri G K Arora informed the members regarding the election of Dr. Krishan Lal as a Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences at its General Meeting held on 22nd December 2011. They were also informed about the nomination of Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta, Dr. R P Singhal and Shri P K Mittal and Dr. Kailash Chandra as members of the Management Committee by the President as provided for under the Rules & Regulations of the Forum. This had also been reflected in the Forum's letterhead used for notifying the present meeting. There were also seven new additions to the membership list. These were Dr. P Banerjee, Dr. L S Tanwar, Dr. Gopal Bhatia, Dr. B D Malhotra, Dr. R S Dabas, Dr. Hari Kishan and Shri R C Anandani. The members expressed their joy at the honour given to Dr. Krishan Lal and welcomed the new members of the Management Committee as also the new members of the Forum, with the customary clapping of hands.

He briefly presented the report (Annexure – 'A'), copies of which had been circulated to the members at the time of the meeting specifically highlighted the following:

2.1 Area Committees: The Area Committees had been re-constituted by the Management Committee at its meeting held on 17. 01. 2011. As in the past, each of these Committees has a Chairman and a Co-Chairman (to Function as the Chairman in his absence), and members drawn from amongst the Members of the Management Committee and the Forum.

2.2 Get-together on the Foundation Day of the Forum: The Forum welcomed the proposal of having a get-together of the Forum each year on its Foundation Day. The first Foundation Day Get-together of the Forum was due to fall on Thursday the 17th January 2013. There was a divided opinion whether, giving sanctity to the day to have this get-together on 17th January each year, or else on a Saturday or Sunday around that date. It was decided to leave this decision, as also the other details to be taken by the Management Committee.

2.3 Renewal of CGHS Cards: The members who had already paid full 10-year contribution for availing CGHS Facilities were requested to see the instructions that had been issued to the various dispensaries, and presented in para 3 of the report.

2.4 Information about the Family Pensioners etc.: Specific attention of the members was drawn to para 10 of the report. The members were advised to furnish the information in their own interest.

3. Status Report by the Treasurer: Shri Tripurari Lal presented the report, copies of which were circulated to the members at the meeting, indicating the following position as on 28. 02. 2012:

Account	Savings Bank Account No. (Syndicate Bank, NPL)	Deposits in the Savings Bank Accounts (Rs.)	Deposits in the Fixed Deposit Accounts (Syndicate Bank, NPL) (Rs)
(A) Scholarships & Awards			
Shri Dev Kumar (Expired on 12. 04. 2010)	91002010029528	19,541.60	20,000.00
Prof. S C Jain (Expired on 10. 12. 2009)	91002010029513	6,972.30	42,198.77
Dr. P C Jain	91002010029493	3,101.50	15,000.00
Prof. S K Joshi	91002010029509	5,930.69	49,500.00
Shri Sohan Lal Gupta	91002010030259	23,997.15	60,000.00
Shri V P Wasan	91002010030244	2,325.80	15,000.00
Shri J N Chaudhary	91002010030770	1,817.44	2,500.00
Mrs. Sushila Verma (Expired on 04. 08. 2010)	91002010030765	2,578.84	28,000.00
Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta	91002010030543	3,880.02	19,000.00
Shri Balraj Singh	91002010030539	4,276.79	19,000.00
Dr. V N Bindal	91002010031420	3,075.67	20,000.00
Shri N K Kohli	91002010031487	4,155.16	65,000.00
TOTAL		81,652.96	3,55,198.77
General Scholarship Donation Fund	91002010029585	19,876.40	61,000.00
(B) NPL Former Scientists Forum			
NPL-FSF	91002010029590	1,24,432.57	1,11,631.87
GRAND TOTAL		2,25,961.93	5,27,830.64

Details of the cheques amounting to Rs. 40,411/- that had been issued for presentation by the Director, NPL, along with the Certificates to the awardees of the various Scholarships & Awards instituted by the Forum, on the CSIR Foundation Day 26. 09. 2011, as also of the total receipts by way of Membership Subscriptions, Donations, Scholarships/ Awards and Advertisements for the Newsletter since 1st April 2011, amounting to Rs. 1,45,650/-, were also provided by him in this report.

Shri Tripurari Lal was requested to open a new account with the Syndicate Bank, NPL in the light of the resolution that had been passed by the Management Committee at its meeting held on 17. 02. 2012, the relevant extracts from the minutes of which had been provided to him by the Secretary.

4. Felicitation of the New Members of the 80-Plus Fraternity: The members were informed that Dr. G S Uppal was abroad and Shri Surinder Singh had also regretted his inability to attend the meeting. Dr. K C Nagpal was felicitated, in person, by Dr. V N Bindal for his new entry to the 80-Plus Fraternity of the Forum by presenting to him the Citation, the 80-Plus Certificate and the Forum's Memento.

Dr. Nagpal, expressed his thanks to all the members in his characteristic humorous manner, and said that he shall cherish the memories of this day.

5. Address by Dr. V N Bindal: Dr. Bindal said that he was very happy to be invited to felicitate his colleagues who have turned 80. He said that this age has a very special significance in one's life. Around this age a person has the distinction of seeing 1000 full moons and also gets the opportunity of completing 80 *Parikarmas* around the sun, the mighty source of energy and light. Even the Government of India has now recognized this as an age for giving its very senior citizens a special treatment not only by increasing their basic pension by 20% but also by raising the taxable limit for them to Rs. 5,00,000/-. If one adds another Rs. 1,00,000/-, for which a person is permitted to invest in tax saver schemes, and also invests another Rs. 20,000/- in Infrastructure Bonds, a person, at this age, does not worry about any income tax payable problems if his total income is less than Rs. 6,20,000/-. He said that, especially in the Southern Parts of our country, different stages of one's life are given special significance like re-marriage of the couple at the age of 60 and then having celebrations at the age of 80. He said that he was very happy when Shri G K Arora suggested having this practice of honouring our members on attaining this age.

Another issue that was very significant particularly for the members of our Forum, all of whom are more than 60 years old. A number of them are such that it is only them and their spouse who live together, as often their children are either forced to live separately by force of circumstances, or other reasons. For them their personal safety and security gains prime importance. While the State tries to educate its senior citizens in this regard by creating the Senior Citizens Security Cell and its frequent insertions in the press advising them to take precautions, it was necessary to pay heed to them. There are various measures that could be taken. The foremost is to be alert and ensure that you are safe in your house. This could be done by installing various types of safety devices in the house like safety locks, door-viewer, CCTV etc. and not to open the door unless well acquainted with the visitor or satisfied with his credentials. A bell at the friendly neighbour's house and his at your house can be very helpful in some cases of emergency. One reads almost daily in the newspapers about the servants either killing their masters or committing thefts themselves or being instrumental in it. It is therefore desirable to have their credentials verified by the police before appointing them either as full-time or part-time helpers. It was also necessary to take precaution while discussing property matters (jewelry/money, lockers, placement of keys etc.), and other family issues when they are around, as this information with them could become a source of danger. We often ignore the presence of servants/ driver and freely discuss matters in their ear shot.

He said that the Membership Form of the Forum included one item, seeking information about the particulars of the person who could be contacted in case of emergency. Some members left it blank. It was in their interest to furnish this information and also to indicate any changes in the contact particulars of the person indicated in the Form, or furnish the contact particulars of the other person whom he would like to be named, to the Secretary in case there is a change. But this information also gets confined to the Membership Forms, and is not readily available. To overcome this limitation there is an excellent solution. Now a days almost everybody has a mobile phone where a few "**In Case of Emergency (ICE) Phone Numbers**" e.g ICE (Name of Wife).....Phone Number; ICE (Name of One Son).....Phone Number; ICE (Name of another Relative).... Phone Number; ICE.... (Name of Family Doctor).....Phone Number etc. could be added. In case of emergency, these contact numbers will be readily available and the near and dear ones can be contacted without the loss of valuable time. In addition to this, it is also desirable to note down in full knowledge of the other members of the family, the phone numbers e.g. of Police, Hospital, Ambulance, Fire etc. at some place, for immediate access.

He also mentioned about medical emergency. The Forum had requested NPL for guidelines to be followed in case of emergency and he himself had given a draft of it to Shri R P Sharma, the then COA, NPL. The matter has again been pursued with Shri T V Joshua, COA, and some response has been received, but detailed guidelines still remain to be drawn up by the Medical Affairs Committee of the Forum. He said that Shri Arora has been continuously following up this issue with the NPL Administration and expressed the hope that he will be successful in his endeavour. This is also, in a way, a part of safety & security.

He suggested that it will be worthwhile to have a special Issue of the Forum's Newsletter dedicated to "SAFETY & SECURITY" covering the various aspects of this important subject of common interest to all the members of the Forum. Articles giving tips/ suggesting methods for checking the purity of food stuff for any adulteration etc. could also be included in this issue.

He made a special mention about the contact particulars of all the members of the Forum that Shri Arora had sent so to FAO, NPL so that information about their family pensioners could be solicited from them for implementation of the recommendations of the 6th CPC. He has even sent them information regarding their PPO Numbers of all the members to facilitate the collection of such information. It is in the interest of the members themselves that they furnish this information. Referring to the Status Report presented by Shri Arora, he said that he was also making efforts that the information about the Date of Birth of the Family Pensioner also reaches the concerned Bank from where a member is presently drawing his pension, instead of this information just lying buried in the NPL records.

6. Highlights of the Chart on SI Units of Measurement and its release by Dr. Kailash Chandra: Dr. Kailash Chandra briefly presented the salient features of the Chart that had been released by Prof. R C Budhani at the time of Dr. A R Verma's 90th Birthday Celebrations on 20. 09. 2011. This was the result of a team effort by NPL and the Forum in which Dr. S V Gupta and himself had been actively involved from the side of the Forum. The first such chart on which this chart had been modeled had been prepared about 25 years back and he had been associated with the preparation of that chart also as the Head of the Standards Division, NPL. This chart is required to be widely circulated amongst students, other educational institutions and industries etc. for which NPL was taking appropriate action. The chart would need to be up-dated periodically.

7. Highlights of the Publication Committee Meeting: Dr. Basu presented the highlights of the meeting held on 15th February 2012, copies of which had also been circulated to the Members (**Annexure – 'B'**). He said that endorsing Dr. V N Bindal's idea of having a bi-annual publication of the Forum's Newsletter, in addition to the Annual Issue of the Newsletter being compiled and edited by Shri G K Arora, another mid-year issue was proposed to be brought out for which he had volunteered to take up the responsibility. In this issue there could be a regular

article on various diseases and illnesses that afflict the elderly and it will be best if we could find a doctor to contribute this article. He also informed that he had already approached Shri Hasan Jawaid Khan, Editor of "Science Report" for his permission to publish articles or parts thereof from that publication in our Newsletter, and he has given this permission subject to its being acknowledged. He was also contacting the Editor of Vigyan Prasar which also publishes articles of interest to our members for a similar permission. The members welcomed the idea of two issues of the Newsletter per year.

As for the next Regular Issue of the Forum's Newsletter, it had been decided to have "Nanotechnology for the Masses" as the theme. He informed that he had already contacted Dr. (Mrs.) Kalpana S Katti, daughter of Mrs. Shastri who is presently University Distinguished Professor at North Dakota State University, USA and is teaching nanotechnology, for an article for this issue and that she has agreed to do so.

He also said that the Committee endorsed Shri Arora's suggestion of up-dating the "Directory of Members" a draft of which had earlier been presented by Dr. R Bhattacharyya, the then Chairman of the Publication Committee to Prof R C Budhani at the time of the Forum's meeting with him on 31st March 2010, and its publication for release at the time of the First Foundation Day Get-together of the Forum in January 2013. It was also decided that Passport Size Photographs on glossy paper with the name indicated on the back may also be collected from all the members for appropriate use.

8. Highlights of the Joint Meeting of the Scientific Affairs Committee and the Superstitions & Myths Committee: Dr. Kailash Chandra presented the highlights of the meeting held on 15th February 2012, copies of which had also been circulated to the Members (**Annexure – 'C'**). He said that a Committee with Prof S S Mathur as Convener, and Dr. Amitava Sen Gupta, Dr. A K Bandopadhyay and Dr. R P Singhal as Members, had been constituted to draw up a write-up on S I Units of Measurement and the National Measurement Standards for incorporation in the NCERT Text Book for Students. It was also felt desirable to initiate, at a later date, action with the National Science Centre, as a collaborative effort jointly with the Metrology Society of India and NPL in the establishment of a Section on S I Units and Metrology in general. Efforts will also be made by the Scientific Affairs Committee in popularization of science, amongst masses in general and students in particular.

He said that work was presently on hand in compilation of scientific credence against the 120 Superstitions & myths already identified and detailed in the form of the two Survey Forms SAS-1 and SAS -2, and the articles by Dr. V N Bindal and himself published in the lat issue – Special Issue on Superstitions & Myths – of the Forum's Newsletter No. 8 dated October 2012. Its status, at the time of the meeting had already been reflected in the minutes of the meeting. Subsequently the following progress has also been made:

1. Dr. Amitabha Basu had prepared scientific evidence in English against the 50 superstitions & myths of SAS-2.
2. Mrs. Urmil Dhawan had completed the Hindi Translation of Dr. V N Bindal's article as also of his article published in the above mentioned issue of the Newsletter.
3. Dr. V N Bindal has also conducted another self assessment survey using the SAS-1 both the English and Hindi versions of it.

It has been decided to select about 100 of the superstitions and myths and edit them suitably using the results of the feedback received from the various respondents of the surveys conducted and their analysis made by Shri G K Arora, for publication of a book both in English and Hindi and to approach suitable publisher for it as no such book giving scientific justification against superstitions & myths has so far been published.

The Superstitions & Myths Committee will also be considering as to how to mitigate the ill effect of the electronic media in particular which encourages superstitions and myths for commercial gains.

9. Resolution for increasing the Life Membership of the Forum to Rs. 1,000/- : As out of 43 members present at the meeting, 22 members supported the following resolution and endorsed it in writing, it was adopted as passed by the General Body:

RESOLUTION

6. Membership Fee

There shall be a uniform Life Membership Fee of Rs. 1,000/- to be paid in full by all members.

10: Mechanism for providing copies of the Forum's Newsletter to all the Members of the Forum: This issue had been placed before the members in the context of para 5 of the Minutes of the Publication Committee Meeting, the highlights of which had been already been presented by Dr. Basu.

The members felt that the present practice may continue and the Publication Committee may decide about the number of copies of the Newsletter to be published, keeping in view the membership strength of the Forum.

11. Effective utilization of the Forum's Room: Attention was drawn to the following decision of the Management Committee which had been taken at its meeting held on 17. 01. 2012 and reported by the Secretary in his report at para 2.2 thereof, requesting the members to send their suggestions to Dr. V Mohanan, Chairman of the Welfare Committee.

"It was decided that the Welfare Committee may examine, as early as possible, as to how the room allotted to the Forum could be put to a better use."

12. Constitution of a Committee to suggest any revision of the Rules & Regulations of the Forum as per Rule 18.3: The General Body authorized the Management Committee to constitute the Committee.

13. Revised Gratuity to Pre-1996 Retirees: Shri S C Garg brought to the notice of the members a letter dated 15. 12. 2005 from Dr. B N Srivatava, which he had written to Director NPL for payment of revised gratuity to him as per Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare, Government of India, O.M. No. 45/86/-P&PW(A) Part I dated 4.12.2004, and a reminder dated 19. 12. 2011. Copies of these letters along with the relevant enclosures had been sent to him vide his letter dated 9.2.2012. It was felt that since this issue may be relevant to a number of other members of the Forum also, it may be sent by the Secretary to the Chairman, Welfare Committee to deliberate upon.

14. Socializing over a Cup of Tea: Shri Subhash Chandra (Rs. 1,000/-), Dr. M K Raina (Rs.500/-), Dr. Amitabha Basu (Rs.500/-) and Dr. K C Nagpal (Rs. 500/-) contributed towards meeting the expenditure on Tea and Refreshment and socializing.

NPL FORMER SCIENTISTS FORUM

Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Forum held on
Wednesday, the 29th February 2012 at 10.30 A.M in the TEC Conference Room, NPL

STATUS REPORT BY THE SECRETARY

(Ref: Agenda Item 2)

The following are the highlights of the progress made subsequent to the last meeting of the Forum held on 18. 10 2011.

1. Family Get-Together on 6th November 2011: This was the Second Family Get-together organized by the Forum – Dewali Get-together, at the TEC Conference Room, NPL. Contribution of Rs. 150/- per head was made by the participants as decided by the Programme Committee. Though the estimated participation at the Get-together was more, on account of some members expressing their inability to participate, arrangements were made for about 45 participants. However, the number actually participating was 40, representing 28 Members of the Forum. This included Dr. Krishan Lal and Dr. V N Bindal– two Patrons of the Forum – along with their wives, and Prof. Vikram Kumar, former Director, NPL accompanied with his wife. Prof. R C Budhani, Director, NPL had been invited to participate along with his family, but had regretted his inability.

Shri K N Bhatnagar, enthralled the members with his flute performance. Mrs. Shashikala Shastri also presented an entertaining self-composed poem in Hindi. This was followed by two rounds of 'Tambola' organized and conducted by Shri S C Garg and Shri P K Mittal. The participants enjoyed a vegetarian lunch at the NPL Guest House Canteen and exchange of pleasantries. Befitting the occasion, participants were also given *laddoo* packets arranged by Shri V P Wasan.

2. Meeting of the Management Committee held on 17th January 2012: The highlights of this meeting were:

2.1 Reconstitution of Area Committees: The various Area Committees were re-constituted as under:

Composition	Publication Committee (Pub-C)	Welfare Committee (Wel-C)	Programme Committee (Prog-C)	Scientific Affairs Committee (SAC)	Superstition & Myths Committee (S&M-C)
Chairman	Dr. Amitabha Basu	Dr. V Mohanan	Merged with the Welfare Committee	Dr. K Chandra	Dr. K Chandra
Co-Chairman	Dr. R Bhattacharyya	Dr. Ved Ram Singh		Dr. S L Jain	Dr. Amitabha Basu
Convener	Shri G K Arora	Shri Promod K Mittal		Shri G K Arora	Shri G K Arora
Member	Dr. P C Jain	Dr. A P Jain		Prof. S S Mathur	Dr. V N Bindal
Member	Shri V P Wasan	Shri S S Verma		Dr. P C Jain	Dr. A P Jain
Member	Dr. S K Gupta	Dr. Joginder Singh		Dr. (Mrs.) N Kundu	Dr. Prakash C Jain
Member	Mrs. Urmil Dhawan	Mrs. Shasikala Shastri		Dr. Amitabha Basu	Prof. S S Mathur
Member		Shri Mohd. Izhar Alam			Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta
Member		Shri V P Wasan			Shri V P Wasan
Member		Shri K N Bhatnagar			Shri S G Tewari
Member					Mrs. Urmil Dhawan
Member					Mrs. Shasikala Shastri

Composition	Medical Affairs Committee (Med-C)	Scholarship Committee (Sch-C)	Sub-Committee of Sch-C on Tree-Plantation (Sch C-Tree)
Chairman	Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta	Prof. R C Budhani, Director, NPL (Ex-Officio)	Shri G K Arora
Co-Chairman	Dr. A P Jain	Shri S C Garg, President, NPL-FSF (Ex-Officio)	Shri TV Joshua, COA, NPL
Convener	Dr. V S Panwar	Shri V P Wasan	Shri V P Wasan
Member	Shri A C Gupta	Shri T V Joshua, COA, NPL (Ex-Officio)	Dr. V N Bindal
Member	Mrs. Urmil Dhawan	Shri G K Arora, Secretary, NPL-FSF (Ex-Officio)	Dr. P C Jain
Member	Dr. Prasun Kumar Banerjee	Shri Tripurari Lal, Treasurer NPL-FSF (Ex-Officio)	Dr. R P Singhal
Member	Shri R C Dhawan	Dr. V N Bindal	Dr. (Mrs.) S A Agnihotry
Member	Dr. R P Singhal	Dr. P C Jain	Dr. J C Sharma
Member	Dr. S K Halder	Prof. S K Joshi	Dr. Harish Chandra
Member		Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta	
Member		Shri J N Chaudhary	
Member		Shri Balraj Singh	
Member		Shri Sohan Lal Gupta	
Member		Shri N K Kohli	
Member		Mrs. Madhu Lata	
Member		Shri R K Khanna	
Co-opted Member		Dr. V S Panwar	

The following may please be noted vis-à-vis the constitution of the earlier Area Committees:

1. The Programme Committee is now merged with the Welfare Committee.
2. Every Member of the Management Committee is associated with at least one Area Committee.
3. The Superstitions & Myths Committee, which earlier was a Sub-Committee of the Scientific Affairs Committee is now a Separate Committee.

4. To ensure maximum participation of the other members of the Forum, the Chairmanship of (i) Publications Committee, (ii) Welfare Committee, (iii) Scientific Affairs Committee and (iv) Superstitions & Myths Committee had been assigned to the Members who were not members of the Management Committee.
5. The Co-Chairmen of the various Committees, when acting as the Chairmen of their Committees in the absence of the Chairmen shall also be enjoying the same status as the Chairmen.

NOTE: Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta, Dr. R P Singhal and Shri P K Mittal had been nominated by the President as Members of the Management Committee before its meeting on 17. 01. 2012. Subsequent to the re-constitution of the above Area Committees at that meeting, Dr. Kailash Chandra, Chairman of the Scientific Affairs Committee and the Superstitions & Myths Committee, has also been nominated by the President as a Member of the Management Committee. The names of the nominated members have been included in the list of Members of the Committee on the Letter-head used for notifying the present meeting of the Forum.

2.2 Effective Utilization of the Room allotted to the Forum: It was decided that the Welfare Committee may examine, as early as possible, as to how the room allotted to the Forum could be put to a better use. The issue is brought before the members to express their views and give suggestions to the Committee vide Agenda Item 11.

2.3 Donation towards the Scholarship Fund: An amount of Rs. 50,000/- had been received as donation from Mrs. Sadhna Verma, w/o Late Prof. A R Verma. Another amount of Rs. 21,000/- had been received from Shri R K Khanna for instituting an Award in the memory of his daughter Mrs. Poonam Chadha.

2.4 Poonam Chadha Memorial Award: A resolution was passed for opening a separate account for the Poonam Chadha Memorial Award instituted by Shri R K Khanna in the memory of her daughter.

2.5 New Members of the Forum: The following were inducted as new members of the Forum:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Dr. P Banerjee | 2. Dr. Gopal Bhatia |
| 3. Dr. L S Tanwar | 4. Dr. B D Malhotra |
| 5. Dr. R S Dabas | 6. Dr. Hari Kishan |
| 7. Shri R C Anandani | |

2.6 Get-together of the Members on the Foundation Day of the Forum: The Management Committee welcomed the suggestion made by Dr. Kailash Chandra that, in addition to any other Get-togethers that may be organized, the Foundation Day of the Forum should be celebrated as a Get-together every year. The Forum came into existence when its First Meeting was held on 17th January 2003. It is therefore proposed to start having get-togethers of the Forum starting from 17th January 2013, when the Forum completes 10 years.

2.7 Calendar of Meetings of the Forum: It was also felt that it may be desirable to have a tentative calendar for the meetings of the Forum. The following calendar for the other three meetings of the Forum is proposed:

May 2, 2012	(Wednesday)	General Body Meeting, TEC Conference Room, 10. 30 A.M	Proposed
August 08, 2012	(Wednesday)	General Body Meeting, TEC Conference Room, 10. 30 A.M	Proposed
November 08, 2012	(Thursday)	General Body Meeting, TEC Conference Room, 10. 30 A.M	Proposed

This will be subject to the availability of the proposed venue for the meetings on these days as also other factors, viz suitability to the special invitee for the meeting etc.

3. Renewal of CGHS Cards for the Year 2012: While NPL had issued money drafts for renewal of CGHS Cards well in time to those members who had already paid their full ten-year contribution and the validity of their cards was due to expire on 31.12.2011 for getting their cards renewed for the year 2012, a number of them had been advised by their dispensaries to deposit them at Bikaner House. This was brought to the notice of the Director General, CGHS by the Secretary, as a result of which the following instructions had been sent to the various CGHS dispensaries by e-mail:

RENEWAL OF CARDS OF CGHS BENEFICIARIES FROM AUTONOMOUS BODIES

[Source: CMO-in-Charge, CGHS Dispensary (Welfare Centre No. 75), Kalkaji-II, New Delhi.]

Instructions from Dr. B Gupta, Joint Director, (HQ) issued to the CMO-in-Charges of the CGHS Welfare Centres through e-mail dated 20. 12. 2011

Sir/ Madam,

You are requested to inform all the CMO I/Cs of the W.C. under your control that they should accept the drafts submitted by the beneficiaries from the Autonomous Bodies who are entitled to CGHS benefits provided the following clauses are followed properly:-

1. The validity of drafts should be more than three months when received.
2. Invariably the drafts should be sent to the C&P Section of CGHS (HQ) every week, failing which disciplinary action will be recommended against the erring officers.
3. The renewal of the CGHS Card will be done on the basis of the information sent to the C&P Section on the same day by e-mail from the CMO I/Cs who shall inform the office same day when they received the renewal drafts. They should mail the details of the drafts with card nos. and names of beneficiaries. The Printout of the renewed card will be sent by post to the concerned beneficiary.
4. Proper record keeping must be done at the dispensary level which may be audited from time to time.
5. Those beneficiaries (who) want to visit the Head Quarter for this purpose may be, however, allowed to do so.
6. For revalidation of cards, beneficiaries are required to submit photographs (individual) along with draft and photocopy of old card in order to revalidate their plastic cards. These photographs are to be enclosed along with drafts sent to the headquarters. The photographs should be securely stapled or pasted over a plain paper with beneficiary details against each photograph.

NOTE: This is brought to the notice of the members who have still not got their CGHS Cards renewed for 2012 as also those members the validity of whose cards will expire in June 2012. The Forum's Newsletter Issue Number 8 dated October 2011, carries the Membership List on pages 92-103, which also indicates the validity of their CGHS Cards. A copy of this issue of the Newsletter has been given by the Secretary to the E-I Section to facilitate action by them. Any corrections therein may please be brought to the notice of the Secretary.

4. Felicitation of new Members of the 80-Plus Fraternity of the Forum: The following three new members of the Forum had attained the age of 80 since the last meeting of the Forum. It had been decided that they may be felicitated by Dr. V N Bindal the New Patron of the Forum, vide Agenda Item 4, and also to have the benefit of his guidance vide Agenda Item 5.

Name	Date of Birth
1. Dr. G S Uppal	25. 12. 1931
2. Dr. K C Nagpal	01. 01. 1932
3. Shri Surinder Singh	10. 01. 1932

5. Meeting of the Publication Committee held on 15. 02. 2012 at 9.30 A.M. in the TEC Conference Room: Dr. Amitabha Basu will be presenting the highlights of this meeting. (Ref: Agenda Item 7).

6. Joint Meeting of the Scientific Affairs Committee and the Superstitions & Myths Committee held on 15. 02. 2012 at 11 00 A.M in the TEC Conference Room: Dr. Kailash Chandra will be presenting the highlights of this meeting (Ref: Agenda Item 8).

7. Release of the Chart on SI Units of Measurement: Though the Chart published by NPL had been released by Prof. R C Budhani at the time of the 90th Birthday Celebrations of (Late) Prof. A R Verma, not all the members of the Forum had been invited for that function. This Chart was the result of the efforts put in by Dr. Kailash Chandra and Dr. Satya Vir Gupta in particular from the side of the Forum, and its release by Dr. S V Gupta had been planned for the last meeting of the Forum held on 18. 10. 2011. However, this could not be done at that meeting and its release by Dr. Kailash Chandra to the Members of the Forum has been included in the Agenda (Ref: Agenda Item 6).

8. Upward Revision of the Life Membership Fee of the Forum to Rs. 1000/- : Rule 6 of the Rules & Regulations reads as under:

6. Membership Fee

There shall be a uniform Life Membership Fee of Rs. 700/- to be paid in full by all members.

At the time of the Meeting of the Publication Committee held on 15th February 2012, it was felt that the Membership Fee may be revised from Rs. 700/- to Rs. 1,000/-. This was in view of the increasing costs and inflation, in order to augment the meager financial resources of the Forum.

The issue is brought before the General Body for its consideration vide Agenda Item 9. If it approves this proposal then the following resolution may be passed:

RESOLUTION

Para 6 of the Rules & Regulations is amended to read as under:

6. Membership Fee

There shall be a uniform Life Membership Fee of Rs. 1,000/- to be paid in full by all members.

Members who are in favour of this amendment are requested to sign the sheet circulated at the meeting, as this is necessary for adoption of the amendment.

9. Revision of the Rules & Regulations of the Forum: Rule 18.3 of the Rules & Regulations of the Forum which was registered as a Society in 2007, reads as under:

18.3 The Rules and Regulations shall be considered for revision at every Fifth Annual G B Meeting, in the light of the additions/ alterations that might have been carried through, and in the light of any deficiencies that might have been observed therein.

The Rules & Regulations were earlier drawn by a Committee chaired by Dr. S V Gupta, which was disbanded after the registration of the Forum as a Society. The matter is brought to the notice of the General Body for constitution of a Committee which may have a re-look at the various Rules & Regulations and suggest any modifications that need to be made therein vide Agenda Item 12.

10. Information about the Family Pensioner etc. for implementation of the 6th CPC Recommendations: Following the notification in the Newspapers, information is being collected by NPL through letters addressed to the pensioners in regard to the particulars of the family pensioners. While some members might have already furnished this information, it is in the interest of all the members to furnish this information. To ensure that all the members of the Forum have been approached for this information, an up-to-date list of all the members of the Forum indicating their PPO Numbers and their contact particulars, viz. the Residential address, Residential Telephone Number(s), Contact Number(s), Mobile Numbers and E-mail I D Numbers has been sent to Shri Sudipto Chatterjee, FAO, NPL by the Secretary and its receipt has also been acknowledged by him and he has informed that the proforma is being sent to the SBI pensioners of our Forum requesting them to send the original to FAO (Pension), CSIR Hqrs. and a copy to FAO, NPL.

11. Sameeksha: The list of Members who had expressed their desire to receive copies of Sameeksha had been passed on to the Rajbhasha Unit, NPL. It is hoped that they received a copy of January-June 2011 Issue Vol. 32, No. 1 of this publication.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15-02-2012

A meeting of the Publications Committee was held on 15-02-2012 in the TEC Conference Room. The following attended the meeting:

Dr. Amitabha Basu	Chairman
Sh. G K Arora	Convenor
Dr. P C Jain	Member
Dr. S K Gupta	Member
Mrs. Urmil Dhawan	Member

Mrs. Shashikala Shastri also attended. Dr. Kailash Chandra also joined towards the later part of the meeting. Dr. V N Bindal had also been invited for the meeting but was not able to attend. His suggestions for the meeting were put before the committee.

Sh. V P Wasan and Dr. R. Bhattacharyya had expressed inability to attend.

The following issues were discussed:

1. Dr. A Basu endorsed Dr. V N Bindal's idea of having a bi-annual publication of the Forum. Whereas we can continue the annual issue which has been coming out so well under Sh. G K Arora's painstaking and meticulous efforts, a mid-year issue can also be brought out. He volunteered to play an active contributory role in this venture. He suggested that there could be a regular article on various diseases and illnesses that afflict the elderly. If we could find a doctor to contribute this article, it will be best.
2. It was decided that Dr. A Basu would compile and edit the mid-year issue. Contributions could be sent to him.
3. Dr. A Basu would ask Dream 2047 (Vigyan Prasar) and Science Reporter (NISCAIR) whether a non-priced publication like the Forum's newsletter could re-print articles or portions from them with acknowledgement.
4. Sh. G K Arora pointed out that as per Dr. R Bhattacharya's suggestion made last year, the theme for the next newsletter could be "Nanotechnology for the Masses." It was agreed that the articles could be popular articles, not scientific articles, so that they could be appreciated by all. Mrs. Shastri suggested that her daughter, a professor of nanotechnology in the USA, could be asked to contribute articles for this issue, and this was welcomed by all. Dr. R. Bhattacharya had been giving lectures on nanotechnology to college students, so he could also contribute. Dr. R P Singhal and Dr. V N Ojha could also be approached for contributions, since they were involved in nanometrology.
5. The issue of the number of copies of the newsletter to be printed was discussed. At present, there are about 250 members but only about 80-100 members collect the newsletter from the meeting or later. So, only 200 copies were being printed. It was suggested by Dr. S K Gupta that all members be sent the newsletter by post, so that they would be encouraged to attend meetings. Sh G K Arora pointed out that the cost of doing so (by speed post as was being done for sending copies to members of the 80-Plus Fraternity and members living outside Delhi and NCR) would be quite high. Dr. S K Gupta said that bulk sending by courier would be cheaper, and he was asked to explore the possibility of this alternative.
6. It was suggested that the life membership should be increased to at least Rs. 1000 per member. There was discussion about whether it should be from new members only or made retroactive, with earlier members paying the difference; whether all members should be asked to contribute generously to meet rising costs; whether this would discourage new members, etc. It was decided to raise the issue at the next meeting of the Forum.
7. Sh Arora invited attention of the Committee to an earlier meeting of the Committee at which it was decided to publish a 'Directory of Members' of the Forum, forming a sub-set of the "Directory of R & D Associates of NPL" which was being compiled in respect of the ten points approved by the Forum, and a "Draft Directory of Members" that had already been compiled Dr. R Bhattacharyya, by the then Chairman of the Forum and presented to Prof. R C Budhani at the time of the First Meeting that the Members had with him on 31st March 2010. His suggestion to up-date this Directory and its publication for release at the time of the Get-together of the Forum on 17th January 2013, when the Forum will be completing ten years was welcomed. It was also decided that Passport Size Photographs on glossy paper with the name indicated on the back may also be collected from all the members for appropriate use at an appropriate occasion.
8. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Committee around the end of March 2012.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE SUPERSTITIONS & MYTHS COMMITTEE HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2012 IN THE TEC CONFERENCE ROOM, NPL

The following were present:

Dr. Kailash Chandra	Chairman (Both the Committees)
Dr. Amitabha Basu	Co-Chairman (Superstitions & Myths Committee & Member Scientific Affairs Committee)
Shri G K Arora	Convener (Both the Committees)
Dr. PC Jain	Member (Both the Committees)
Dr. (Mrs.) Namita Kundu	Member (Scientific Affairs Committee)
Mrs. Urmil Dhawan	Member (Superstitions & Myths Committee)
Mrs Shashikala Shastri	Member (Superstitions & Myths Committee)

Dr. S L Jain, Prof. S S Mathur, Dr. V N Bindal, Dr. A P Jain, Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta, Shri V P Wasan and Dr. S G Tewari had expressed their inability to attend the meeting.

1. The Committee noted that the Revised Chart on SI Units of Measurement prepared through the Joint Effort of the NPL and the Forum with the active involvement of Dr. Kailash Chandra and Dr. S V Gupta had already been published by NPL and released by Prof R C Budhani at the time of the 90th Birthday Celebrations of (Late) Prof A R Verma on 20th September 2011. Dr. Kailash Chandra desired to know about the publicity that had been given to the Chart other than the time of its release and was informed that Dr. A K Bhattacharyya was the best person to furnish this information. As for publicizing it among the members of the Forum it could not be done at the last meeting of the Forum held on 18th October 2011, and that it could be done at the time of the next meeting of the Forum.
2. It was decided to constitute the following Committee to draw up a write-up on S I Units of Measurement and the National Measurement Standards for incorporation in the NCERT Text Book for Students:

Prof. S S Mathur	Convener
Dr. Amitava Sen Gupta	Member
Dr. A K Bandyopadhyay	Member
Dr. R P Singhal	Member

When the write-up is ready, NCERT shall be contacted for its incorporation in the Chapter on S I Units in the Text Book for students.

3. It was also felt desirable to initiate at a later date action with the National Science Centre, as a collaborative effort jointly with the Metrology Society of India and NPL in the establishment of a Section on S I Units and Metrology in general.
4. The Committee recalled the earlier decision of the Superstitions Sub Committee of the Scientific Affairs Sub-Committee that a publication on about 100 superstitions and myths and the scientific evidence against them may be brought out both in English & Hindi. In so far as the progress in compiling information is concerned already scientific evidence had been prepared by Dr. Kailash Chandra in respect of the 50 Superstitions & Myths covered in the Survey Form SAS-1, and this had been published on pages 30-36 of the Forum Newsletter Issue No. 8 dated October 2011. 50 more superstitions & myths had also been identified by Dr. V N Bindal and reflected in the Survey Form SAS-2, published on pages 39-40 of that issue of the Newsletter. Another article on "Some Popular Myths and the Truth" by Dr. V N Bindal, published on pages 19-21 of that issue of the Newsletter carries the relevant information about 20 myths. Out of the available information, about 100 superstitions & myths can be identified for publication. In regard to the effort made in translating the identified superstitions & myths into Hindi and their typing is concerned, Dr. V N Bindal had translated the 50 superstitions & myths of SAS-1 and these Dr. M K Mittal of NPL and his colleagues had typed the SAS-1 in Hindi. This had also been published on pages 37-38 of the Forum's Newsletter No. 8 dated October 2011. Assistance of Shri Pushkar Joshi of the HRD Group, NPL had been enlisted by Sh G K Arora in translating Dr. Kailash Chandra's document into Hindi and he had already translated the first 28 items of this document. Copies of this were provided to Dr. Kailash Chandra and Mrs. Urmil Dhawan. Mrs. Dhawan who had already translated 12 items of Dr. Bindal's article in Hindi, offered to complete the translation of that document as also of Dr. Kailash Chandra's document. Dr. Amitabha Basu undertook the responsibility of providing scientific evidence of the 50 superstitions & myths covered in the Survey Form SAS-2
5. There was also some discussion on popular science lectures in Schools & Colleges on which the Committee earlier constituted with Dr. (Mrs.) Namita Kundu as the Convener, and Prof. S S Mathur, Dr. S L Jain and Dr. R G Sharma as Members, but nothing concrete could be decided. The issue was deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Forum
6. The issue regarding the role that the mass media could play in creating awareness against superstitions & myths was also deferred for a future meeting.
7. It was decided to have another joint meeting of the two committees towards the end of March 2012.