

NPL FORMER SCIENTISTS FORUM

Minutes of the Thirty-First Meeting of the Management Committee

held on Thursday, the 12th April, 2012 at 10.30 A.M.

in the TEC Conference Room, NPL

The following Agenda for the meeting had been notified by Shri G K Arora, the Secretary of the Forum to the members and invitees, vide his letter dated 02.04.2012 sent to Shri P K Mittal, Mrs. Urmil Dhawan, Shri R C Dhawan and Shri K N Bhatnagar by post and to the others by e-mail. Additionally as had been desired in response to the survey relating to the notification of the meetings, copies of this notice were sent to Shri S C Garg, Dr. V S Panwar, Dr. P C Jain, Dr. R P Singhal, Dr. V N Bindal and Dr. A P Jain by post also, as well as placed on the table for ready reference at the time of the meeting.

Agenda

1. Introductory Remarks by the President.
2. Condolence Resolution on the demise of Dr. V D Dandawate on 19th March 2012.
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 17th January 2012.
4. Follow-up Action on the decisions taken at the Meeting of the Management Committee held on 17th January 2012.
5. Status Report by the Secretary.
6. Induction of New Members to the Forum.
7. Increasing the Life Membership of the Forum to Rs. 1,000/- and modification of the Membership Form
8. Planning for the Get-together on the Foundation Day of the Forum
9. Constitution of a Committee to suggest any revision of the Rules & Regulations of the Forum as per Rule 18.3
10. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

Minutes of the Meeting

Attendance: The following attended the meeting

1. Shri S C Garg	President
2. Dr. A P Jain	Vice President
3. Dr V S Panwar	Joint Secretary
4. Shri K N Bhatnagar	Member
5. Dr. Kailash Chandra	Member
6. Shri R C Dhawan	Member
7. Mrs. Urmil Dhawan	Member
8. Shri A C Gupta	Member
9. Dr. S K Halder	Member.
10. Dr. P C Jain	Member
11. Shri P K Mittal	Member
11. Mrs. Shashikala Shastri	Member
12. Shri V P Wasan	Member
13. Dr. Amitabha Basu	Invitee
14. Shri G K Arora	Secretary

From amongst the Members of the Forum Shri Tripurari Lal, Shri S S Verma, Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta and Dr. R P Singhal, had regretted their inability to attend the meeting. From among the invitees, Dr. S L Jain, Dr. R Bhattacharyya, and Dr. V N Bindal had also regretted their inability to participate. Dr. V R Singh (Member), Dr. Joginder Singh (Member) and Dr. V Mohanan (Invitee) were absent.

1. Introductory Remarks by the Chairman: Shri S C Garg welcomed the members to the meeting, expressing regret for his inability to participate in the earlier meeting of the Committee held on 17th January 2012.

He was very happy to announce that Dr. Vikram Kumar, President, Dr. P Banerjee, Secretary and Dr. Amitava Sen Gupta, Treasurer of URSI, which was having an Account GA 2005 with the Syndicate Bank, NPL, had decided to transfer the amount at the closure of that Account to the NPL Former Scientists Forum, and an amount of Rs. 2,84,632.81 had been transferred to the Forum's Account No. 91002010025950 on 30th March 2012, after a written agreement in this regard, duly signed by him, Shri G K Arora and Shri Tripurari Lal had been furnished to the Syndicate Bank, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.

The Committee endorsed this action and expressed their joy about the receipt of this donation to the Forum with the customary clapping of hands. The Committee felt that this amount could be fruitfully utilized for the Forum's activity on Scholarships & Awards.

2. Condolence Resolution on the demise of Dr. V D Dandawate: Shri G K Arora informed the members about the demise of Dr. V D Dandawate on 19th March 2012. The members paid their tribute to Dandawate by passing a Condolence Resolution on his demise and observing two minutes silence. The Secretary was advised to send a copy of this Resolution to Mrs. Vasudha Dandawate.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 17th January 2012: The Minutes of the Thirtieth Meeting of the Management Committee held on 17th January 2012, (as approved by the Chairman), had been circulated by the Secretary vide his letter dated 31st January 2012 by post (as also by e-mail to those who could be so contacted), inviting comments by 12th February, 2012. Copies of this letter and the Minutes of that Meeting were tabled at the time of the meeting.

As there were no comments from any of the members, the Minutes of that meeting were confirmed.

4. Follow-up Action on the decisions taken at the Management Committee Meeting held 17th January 2012: The Committee noted the follow-up action taken as reported by the Secretary in his Status Report.

5. Status Report by the Secretary: Status Report (Annexure 'A') was noted with the following specific decisions/ suggestions:

5.1 Notification of Meetings of the Forum by e-mail: The Committee noted that 111 members (Including those who were staying outside the National Capital Territory of Delhi or else abroad) needed to be sent notices by e-mail. However, 37 of them desired sending notices to them additionally by post. This had been kept in view while issuing notices for the present meeting.

5.2 Calendar of Meetings: The Calendar for the meetings/ programme presented by the Secretary in his Status Report was generally approved with the following specific observations:

1. **The Forum's Foundation Day Celebrations** may be held on the 17th January 2013 (Thursday) at 11. 00 A.M in the TEC Conference Room instead of in the NPL Auditorium as had been proposed, and it shall **not be a contributory get-together** of the members of the Forum. The Directory of Members shall also be released at that meeting for which the necessary up-dating and collection of the missing information about the new members of the Forum and other information may be ensured by the Publication Committee. 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.

Further, the future Foundation Day Celebrations will also be held on 17th January each year giving sanctity to this date, unless it falls on a Saturday or Sunday when the infrastructure facilities of NPL may be difficult to arrange.

2. **Re-constitution of the Tree-Plantation Committee of the Scholarship Committee:** As Dr. (Mrs.) S A Agnihorty had indicated to Shri G K Arora her inability to participate in the planned meeting on July 18, 2012 (Wednesday) as she would be going abroad in early May 2012, Mrs. Urmil Dhawan and Mrs Santosh Manrai will replace her as the lady-representative of the Forum on that Committee.

5.3 Publication Committee Meetings: The theme of the next Annual Issue of the Newsletter will be “Nanotechnology for the Masses”. Hence-forth there shall be two issues of the Newsletter for which the detailed bifurcation of the material to go into the two issues could be decided by Dr. Amitabha Basu and Sh G K Arora.

5.4 Scientific Affairs Committee & Superstitions & Myths Committee: The efforts made by Mrs. Urmil Dhawan in the translation of the material into Hindi and the assistance rendered by Shri M K Mittal and his colleagues in the typing of the translated material in Devnagri Script was highly appreciated. The decision of publication of a book on Superstitions & Myths both in English and Hindi for which efforts were being made was endorsed, and it was also decided to subject the SAS-2 Form on Superstitions & Myths to a survey at the time of the next Annual General Body Meeting to be held on 2nd May 2012 by circulating it initially among the members of the Forum. Additionally, members could also print it and carry out surveys among different sections of the society as had been done earlier by Dr. P C Jain, Sh V P Wasan and Dr. V N Bindal in the surveys conducted by them using SAS-1 Form.

5.5 Opening of NPL-FSF A/c R K Khanna with Syndicate Bank: It was decided that the necessary action for operating this account may be ensured so that the Poonam Chadha Memorial Award could be also notified for 2012. Further it was felt that instead of maintaining separate accounts for each of the Scholarship & Awards, a simplified procedure may be evolved by the Scholarship Committee.

5.6 Guidelines to be followed in case of Medical Emergency: It was decided that the Medical Affairs Committee, with help from Dr. V N Bindal and Shri G K Arora, may draw up draft guidelines preferably separately for (a) Medical Treatment for General Cases as also (b) Treatment under Medical Emergency for sending to the NPL for according approval thereof with any changes that may be necessary as per the rules.

The Committee was also informed that the following decisions had been taken by Director, NPL:

1. **Entertainment of Medical Refund Claims:** Henceforth the outside time limit for filing of medical re-imburement claims shall be three months for normal cases and one month for emergency cases.
2. **e-Payment:** Henceforth payments will be made directly to the banks instead of cheques issued by sped-post. A Proform for submitting claims has also been evolved.

Dr. A P Jain informed that the Re-imburement of the medical claims for the tests done by Lal's Path Labs conducted only at their main branch at Eskay House, Hanuman Road (CP) was being made and not in respect of the tests on the samples collected through its collection centres. It was desired that this issue may be taken up with NPL.

6. Induction of New Members to the Forum: No new proposals was there for according approval.

7. Increasing the Life Membership of the Forum to Rs. 1,000/- and modification of the Membership Form: It was decided not to increase the membership fee and retain it as Rs. 700/- for the new members.

8. Planning for the Get-together on the Foundation Day of the Forum: As the policy issue had already been decided, the details were left for decision at a later date.

9. Constitution of a Committee to suggest any revision of the Rules & Regulations of the Forum as per Rule 18.3: The following Committee was constituted:

Dr. A P Jain	Chairman
Dr. P C Jain	Member
Dr. V N Bindal	Member
Shri G K Arora	Member
Shri V P Wasan	Member
Dr. V S Panwar	Convener

10. Participation in 'Vaigyanic Drishtikon tatha Chetna Jagane main Sanchar Madhyamon ki Bhumika Par Antar-Rashtriya Sannam: It was decided to participate in this International Conference with Dr. Amitabha Basu as the Coordinator for working out the details of the participation. It was also decided to explore the possibility of having the necessary documents prepared in the Devnagri Script on payment of suitable honorarium for which Shri Arora may ensure necessary action.

STATUS REPORT BY THE SECRETARY

1. Thirtieth Meeting of the Management Committee (Ref: Agenda Item 3): The Minutes of the Thirtieth Meeting of the Management Committee held on 17th January 2012, (as approved by the Chairman), had been circulated by the Secretary vide his letter dated 31st January 2012 by post (as also by e-mail to those who could be so contacted), inviting comments by 12th February, 2012. Copies of this letter and the Minutes of that Meeting will be tabled at the time of the meeting.

As there were no comments from any of the members, the Minutes of that meeting may be confirmed.

2. Follow-up Action on the Decisions taken at the above Meeting (Ref: Agenda Item 4): This is given below:

2.1 Condolence Resolution on the demise of Mrs. Kumudini Srinivaan: The Resolution passed at the meeting was sent to Dr. T M Srinivasan on 20th January 2012.

2.2 Notification of Meetings of the Forum by e-mail: A survey has been conducted to ascertain, whether as a measure of economy, it will suit if the notices for the various meetings of the Forum are sent to them by e-mail only at their e-mail addresses available with the Forum. In response 110 members have responded in the affirmative – either through a written response or orally as on the date of this meeting. This also includes the members settled abroad or in cities other than the National Capital territory of Delhi. Another 37 members have desired to be sent notices to be sent to them additionally by post. Some members have also indicated their additional e-mail addresses. The notices for the next meeting of the Forum tentatively scheduled to be held on 2nd May 2012 are proposed to be sent keeping this response in mind.

2.3 Calendar of Meetings: The following Tentative Calendar of Meetings/ Programmes has been drawn up for the meetings to be held in remaining part of 2012 and in January 2013.

May 2, 2012 (Wednesday)	General Body Meeting, TEC Conference Room, 10. 30 A.M
July 12, 2012 (Thursday)	Management Committee Meeting, TEC Conference Room, 10. 30 A.M
July 18, 2012 (Wednesday)	Meeting of the Tree Plantation Sub-Committee of the Scientific Affairs Committee, TEC Conference Room, 10. 30 A.M
August 08, 2012 (Wednesday)	General Body Meeting, TEC Conference Room, 10. 30 A.M
August 15, 2012 (Wednesday)	Tree Plantation in Memory & Honour of persons who had/ have contributed significantly to the growth of NPL, as a part of the Independence Day Celebrations by NPL
September 26, 2012 (Wednesday)	Presentation of Scholarship & Awards 2012 by Director, NPL at the time of the CSIR Foundation Day as a part of the celebrations organized by NPL
October 12, 2012 (Friday)	Management Committee Meeting, TEC Conference Room, 10. 30 A.M
November 08, 2012 (Thursday)	General Body Meeting, TEC Conference Room, 10. 30 A.M
November 18, 2012 (Sunday)	Dewali Family Get-together, TEC Conference Room, 11. 00 A.M
January 17, 2013 (Thursday)	Forum's Foundation Day Celebrations (Forum will complete ten years on this day), NPL Auditorium, 11.00 A. M.

The General Body Meeting proposed to be held in May 2012 could be the Annual General Body Meeting at which the Audited Statement of Accounts for the Financial Year 2011-12 could be passed.

2.4 Publication Committee: Two meetings of the Publication Committee were held on 15th February and 28th March 2012. The highlights of these meetings were:

1. **Two issues of the Forum's Newsletter** may be published in a year - the annual issue and the mid-year issue. The theme for the next Annual issue of the Newsletter would be "**Nanotechnology for Masses**" for which Dr. Kalpana S Katti D/o Mrs. Shashikala Shastri University, Distinguished Professor Department of Civil Engineering, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105, USA had already been approached by Dr. Basu for a contribution of a lead article. Dr. R P Singhal has also agreed to contribute an article. Additionally Dr. Virendra Shanker has assured that he will contribute an article on nano-phosphors (his speciality). Dr. R Bhattacharyya has been approached for an article on nano-energy, and Dr. V N Ojha and Dr. Rina Sharma have also been approached for an article on nano-metrology and its usefulness for the common person. Mr. Hasan Jawiad Khan, Editor of Science Reporter has also permitted drawing from their February 2011 issue, which carried articles on nano-medicine, nano-energy, nano applications in defence and a good general article on nanotechnology, with due acknowledgement. In addition this issue may include all important annual events like the CSIR Foundation Day scholarships and awards, tree planting ceremonies, etc. This issue could be targeted for release at the General Body meeting planned for August 2012. The other proposed bi-yearly issue to be started now could contain other articles as well as important announcements, news or information for members which have come out in the later part of 2012 or in early 2013. The detailed bifurcation of the material to go into the two issues could be decided by Dr. Amitabha Basu and Sh G K Arora.

2. 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, 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.

2.5 Scientific Affairs Committee & Superstitions & Myths Committee: Two joint meetings of the Scientific Affairs Committee and the Superstitions & Myths Committee were held on 15th February and 28th March 2012. The highlights of these meetings were:

1. 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**. Prof. Mathur, Dr. Singhal and Dr. A P Jain had discussions about the treatment of SI units of Measurement in Chapter Two 'Units & Measurement' published by the "NCERT Physics Part-I, Textbook for Class XI" prescribed last year, so that the shortcomings and ambiguities could be corrected and the explanations made understandable to Class XI and XII students in the NCERT books. Dr. Singhal had offered to prepare the first draft for further action in this direction.

2. It was decided to bring out a **Publication on about 100 Superstitions and Myths** and the scientific evidence against them both in English & Hindi, using the following:

(i) *the scientific evidence already prepared by Dr. Kailash Chandra in respect of the 50 Superstitions & Myths covered in the Survey Form SAS-1,*

(ii) *the scientific evidence in respect of 50 more superstitions & myths reflected in the Survey Form SAS-2 which had been prepared by Dr. Amitabha Basu and subsequently finalized incorporating the suggestions made by Dr. V N Bindal and Dr., Kailash Chandra, and*

(iii) *article on "Some Popular Myths and the Truth" by Dr. V N Bindal, which carries the relevant information about 20 myths.*

It was however felt that the various Superstitions and Myths could be arranged according to some criterion. One **Categorization** could be according to **Astrology, Eclipses and Gender Bias etc.** as done by Sh Biman Basu in his article debunking some of the superstitions and myths and published in the March 2012 issue of DREAM 2047 (Vigyan Prasara). Another could be their **Prevalence** as revealed by the self assessment surveys – four of which had already been carried out and analysed by Sh G K Arora in respect of the 50 superstitions/ myths of SAS-1.

3. Using the new format suggested by Dr. Bindal, the attached **Format of SAS-2** has been drawn up. It was decided to **subject it to survey initially among the members of the Forum**. Additionally, members could also print it out and carry out surveys among different sections of the society as had been done earlier by Dr. P C Jain, Sh V P Wasan and Dr. V N Bindal in the surveys conducted by them.

4. Dr. Bindal had himself translated the SAS-1 Form into Hindi, for which help had been received From Shri M K Mittal and Shri Jai Kishan for typing in the Devnagri Script. Dr. Bindal had used this Form also in the Survey conducted by him. Some help had earlier been received from Shri Pushkar Joshi in translation of the scientific evidence of Superstitions & Myths prepared by Dr. Kailash Chandra but he had regretted his inability to continue helping the Forum in this regard. **Mrs. Urmil Dhawan** had subsequently taken up the responsibility of **translating the material** collected for the proposed publication. Except for a small portion of the Scientific Evidence prepared by Dr. Basu in respect of the 50 superstitions & myths covered by SAS-2, she has already completed this task, and the translated matter has been passed on to **Shri P K Mittal** for his help in getting it typed in the **Devnagri Script**. A portion of the typed version of Dr. Kailash Chandra's document had already been typed in the Devnagri Script and copies of it had been given to Mrs. Dhawan and Dr. V N Bindal for corrections. It is proposed to involve **Sh Jai Narain Upadhyay**, who has recently joined the Rajbhasha Unit of NPL as **Hindi Officer** in this task. When approached by the Secretary, his response appeared to be favourable.

2.6: Opening of NPL-FSF A/c R K Khanna with Syndicate Bank: The necessary formalities for opening the account were initiated on 30th March 2012 for opening the Account. It has not been possible to open that account as the Bank has desired some more additional formalities to be completed viz. photographs of the President, Secretary and Treasurer etc.

2.7 Guidelines to be followed in case of Medical Emergency: The President, in a formal letter to COA, NPL, has once again requested him for crisp guidelines to be followed in case of medical emergency, and also to ensure that the members of the Forum do not get adversely affected in regard to their medical re-imbursment claims with the retirement of Shri Ravinder Kumar Raheja due at the end of April 2012.

2.8 Forum Meeting held on 29th February 2012: The 26th Meeting of the Forum was held on 29th February 2012. The highlights of that meeting were:

1. Dr. V N Bindal felicitated Dr. K C Nagpal in person and Dr. G S Uppal and Sh Surinder Singh in absentia as new members of the 80-Plus Fraternity of the Forum.
2. The Chart on S I Units of Measurement was formally released to the Members of the Forum by Dr. Kailash Chandra.
3. 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 Ds had been sent to Shri Sudipto Chatterjee, FAO, NPL by the Secretary and its receipt had also been acknowledged by him. He had informed that a proforma shall be 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.

Following the Forum Meeting, the following points also deserve attention:

Shri S C Gupta has brought to the notice of the Secretary the CSIR letter No. 34-1(11)/CSIR/Pen/2011-12 dated 24. 12. 2011, from the Financial Adviser, CSIR addressed to all the Controllers of Finance & Accounts/ Finance & Accounts Officers of the National Labs./Instts. signed by C S Malik, Sr. Dy Financial Adviser on the subject "**Creation of Data Bank of CSIR Pensioners/ Family Pensioners**", in which two proformas – one seeking **PENSIONER'S BASIC DETAILS** and the other **FAMILY PENSIONER'S BASIC DETAILS** from all the pensioners. This has also been brought to the notice of Accounts Branch, NPL.

3. Induction of New Members to the Forum (Ref: Agenda Item 6): This Item had been included in the agenda in anticipation of some new retirees from NPL who had been approached by the Secretary will send their filled up forms at the enhanced membership Fee of Rs. 1,000/-. No response has so far been received.

4. Increasing the Life Membership of the Forum to Rs. 1,000/- and modification of the Membership Form (Ref: Agenda Item 6): At the Last meeting of the Forum held on 29. 02. 2012, while approval had generally been given to the enhancement of the Membership Fee of the Forum to Rs. 1,000/-, it was not supported in writing by at-least 2/3rd of the member present at that meeting as required under Rule 18.2 of the Rules & Regulations of the Forum. As such, this issue will need to be placed before the General Body again. Accordingly the Forum's Membership Form will also need to be modified. The reverse side of the Form will also need to be modified in the context of the re-constitution of the Area Committees.

Another issue which is pertinent to be considered is the framing of the revised Rule No. 6, which was earlier proposed to be as under:

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

However, since the increase in membership Fee is only in respect of the New Members of the Forum, it is suggested that the amended Rule may read as under:

“There shall be a Life Membership Fee of Rs. 1,000/- to be paid at the time of enrolment as a Member.”

5. Planning for the Get-together on the Foundation Day of the Forum (Ref: Agenda Item 7): This item is placed before the Committee in the context of the following extract from the Minutes of the General Body Meeting of the Forum held on 29. 02. 2012:

“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.”

6. Constitution of a Committee to suggest any revision of the Rules & Regulations of the Forum as per Rule 18.3 (Ref: Agenda Item 8): This item is also placed before the Management Committee in the context of the following decision taken at the General Body Meeting of the Forum held on 29. 02. 2012:

“The General Body authorized the Management Committee to constitute the Committee.”

It may help the Management Committee to decide about the Constitution of the Committee for Revision of Rules & Regulations of the Forum in the context of the following Committee which had drafted the Rules & Regulations for getting the Forum registered as a Society:

Dr. Satya Vir Gupta	Chairman
Dr. P C Jain	Member
Shri G K Arora	Member
Shri V P Wasan	Member
Dr. V S Panwar, Joint Secretary (Ex Officio)	Convenor

Since the above Committee had no significant role to play after the documents finalized by it had been sent to the Registrar of Societies, it had no effective role to play and it had become dormant.

It may be added that Dr. V N Bindal had played a very significant role in assisting the above committee for finalizing the Memorandum of Association of the Forum as also of the Rules & Regulations of the Forum and the subsequent amendments that had taken place in both these documents.

Dr. S V Gupta had been sounded by the Secretary for assuming again the role of the Chairman of the Committee for revision of the Rules & Regulations. While he has agreed to give his suggestions to any Committee that the Management Committee may decide to constitute, he has regretted his inability for active participation in the meetings of the Committee in any capacity on account of his present state of health.

7. Participation in ‘Vaigyanic Drishtikon tatha Chetna Jagane main Sanchar Madhyamon ki Bhumika Par Antar-Rashtriya Sammelan: Attention of the Secretary to the organization of this International Conference by the NISCAIR at NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi on May 29-30, 2012, which appears on page 30 of Science Reporter has been drawn by Dr. V N Bindal in a e-mail sent to him which is reproduced below:

I had a talk with Mrs Meenakshi Gour, who is one of the organisers, as Mrs Diksha Bist is on leave this week, regarding our interest in creating awareness against the Superstitions & Myths prevalent in the society and we could most probably contribute in the this effort. Her response is very positive. I feel that we can take the advantage of this opportunity. May be we can discuss this in the meeting on 12.4.12, also.

A copy of the notification of this International Conference is placed before the members of the Committee.