

NPL FORMER SCIENTISTS FORUM

Minutes of the Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Management Committee

held on Tuesday, the 10th September, 2013 at 10.30 A.M.

in the TEC Conference Room, NPL

This was the First Meeting of the Members of the Management Committee Re-constituted at the General Body Meeting held on 9th July 2013 which had been enlarged with the nomination of Shri P K Mittal, Dr. A P Jain and Shri A C Gupta by the President to fill the three vacancies of Members of the Management Committee, jointly with the Members of the Out-going Management Committee.

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 31. 08. 2013, sent to Shri P K Mittal, Shri R C Dhawan and Shri K N Bhatnagar by post and to the others by e-mail. Additionally, copies of this notice were sent to Shri S C Garg, Dr. V S Panwar, Dr. P C Jain, Dr. V N Bindal and Dr. A P Jain and Mrs. Urmil Dhawan by post also, as well as placed on the table for ready reference for all the members and invitees at the time of the meeting.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks by the President.
2. Condolence Resolutions on the Demise of Dr. P L Malhotra on 11. 06. 2013; Dr. Chhotey Lal on 26. 07. 2013; and Shri K K Datta on 14. 08. 2013.
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 6th June 2013.
4. Follow-up Action on the decisions taken at the Meeting of the Management Committee held on 6th June 2013.
5. Formal taking over of Charge by the New Management Committee.
6. Status Report by the Secretary.
7. Status Report by the Treasurer.
8. Induction of New Members to the Forum.
9. Re-constitution of the Area Committees.
10. Photographic Album of the Forum
11. Opening of a Website of the Forum
12. Agenda for the next meeting of the Forum to be held on 10th October 2013.
13. Re-scheduling of the Dewali Get-together planned for 10th November 2013 and its notification.
14. 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. V S Panwar	Joint Secretary
3. Shri Tripurari Lal	Treasurer
4. Dr. Amitabha Basu	Member
5. Mrs. Urmil Dhawan	Member
6. Dr. R K Garg	Member.
7. Dr. Hari Kishan	Member.
8. Dr. P C Jain	Member
9. Mrs. Santosh Manrai	Member
10. Shri H R Mehta	Member
11. Shri R B Saxena	Member
12. Mrs. Shashikala Shastri	Member
13. Shri V P Wasan	Member
14. Shri K N Bhatnagar	Invitee
15. Dr. R Bhattacharyya	Invitee
16. Shri R C Dhawan	Invitee
17. Dr. V R Singh	Invitee
18. Dr. R P Singhal	Invitee
19. Shri G K Arora	Secretary

NOTE: Shri P Subrahmanyam who had enlisted as a new member of the Forum had also signed the Attendance Record but did not participate in the deliberations of the meeting.

From Among the Members, Shri S S Verma was abroad and Dr. S K Halder, Shri A C Gupta and Shri P K Mittal and Dr. A P Jain had regretted their inability to attend. No intimation was received from Dr. Ashok Kumar.

Similarly, from among the Invitees, Dr. Kailash Chandra and Dr. S L Jain were abroad and Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta and Dr. V N Bindal had regretted their inability to participate. No intimation had been received from Dr. Joginder Singh.

1. Introductory Remarks by the Chairman: Shri S C Garg welcomed the members to the meeting and said that since the last meeting of the Forum a number of issues received specific attention. One was regarding the A P Mitra Memorial Lecture which was being planned to be held on 21st February 2014 at the time of the next Birth Anniversary of Dr. A P Mitra, to be organized jointly by NPL and the Forum for which the Forum's financial commitment was to the extent of the interest earned on the Fixed Deposit of Rs. 4 lakhs with the Syndicate Bank. Director, NPL had approached CSIR for financial support in this regard. Another was a proposal to institute an Annual Award for the best popular science article published in Hindi in Vigyan Pragati.

As for the Items on the Agenda for the Meeting, he said that Re-constitution of the Area Committees was very significant, and he looked forward to the association of all the Members of the Management Committee with one or more Area Committees as had been the practice so far and also decide about the date for the Next Dewali Family Get-together in particular.

2. Condolence Resolutions: Members observed two-minutes silence after the Condolence Resolutions on the Demise of Dr. P L Malhotra on 11. 06. 2013; Dr. Chhotey Lal on 26. 07. 2013; and Shri K K Datta on 14. 08. 2013 had been read out by the Secretary and were passed at the meeting for their being sent by him to the members of the bereaved families by the Secretary.

3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 6th June, 2013: The minutes of that meeting which had already been circulated by the Secretary to the Members and Invitees vide his letter dated 25th June 2013, inviting comments by 8th July, 2013 were placed before the members at the time of the meeting. As there were no comments, the Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed.

4 Follow-up Action on the decisions taken at the Management Committee Meeting held on 6th June, 2013: The Committee noted the follow-up action taken as reported by the Secretary in his Status Report.

5. Formal taking over of Charge by the New Management Committee: As the President, the Secretary, the Joint Secretary and the Treasurer had got re-elected, the taking over of Charge by the New Management Committee was formalized. It was also decided that Shri R C Dhawan will be a special invitee to the meetings of the Management Committee.

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

6.1 New Membership List: Draft Entries of the New Membership list for up-dating have been sent by the Secretary to all the members of the Forum who could be contacted by e-mail, and their hard copies have also been sent to all the other members who could either not be contacted by e-mail or else had not responded to their draft entries in the Membership List as attachments to the e-mails, along the notice for this meeting.

6.2 Cashless Facility to CGHS Beneficiaries: It has unofficially been learnt by the Secretary that various CGHS Empanelled Private Hospitals have been approached for entering into MOUs with NPL, and response from some hospitals have already been received.

6.3 Other Medical Issues: Shri S C Garg informed about the difficulties that he had faced in getting a new CGHS Plastic Card in replacement of his old card which he had lost. Dr. Bhattacharyya raised the issue of admissibility of the CGHS Beneficiaries registered in Delhi, getting the prescribed medicines in cities other than Delhi. It was decided that the Members may send such information to the Welfare Committee with which the Medical Affairs Committee will be getting merged, and that Committee may prepare suitable write-ups on them for publication in the Forum's Newsletter, for the benefit of other members also. The Secretary was also advised to pass on all such issues to the Welfare Committee.

6.4 Tree Plantation: It was noted that ensuring survival of trees had been a problem due to shortage and old age of Horticulture Staff as indicated by Prof. R C Budhani at the Scholarships Committee meeting held on 29.07.2013. At that meeting, it was also decided to plan for the next Tree Plantation under the Joint Programme of NPL and the Forum for 15th August 2014.

6.5: Articles on Popularization of Science: Articles from Dr. Amitabha Basu, Dr. H N Dutta, Mrs Shashikala Shastri and Dr. V R Singh who had offered to write popular science articles are awaited. Other members of the Forum are also requested to write popular science articles on the following topics, to start with, identified by the Scientific Affairs Committee:

1. About 10 Gadgets/ Domestic Appliances
2. Measurement Standards
3. Water Pollution
4. Air Pollution
5. Global & Environmental Changes
6. Digital Communication
7. Satellite Communication
8. Superstitions & Myths.

In this context, Members are also requested to contribute popular Science Articles in Hindi for publication in Vigyan Pragati, for which institution of an Annual Award for the Best Contribution on popularization of Science is being mooted as pointed out by the President in his Introductory Remarks.

6.6: Dialogue with National Science Museum: The Status as reported in the secretary's Report was noted. Dr. Kailash Chandra was expected to meet Prof. R C Budhani, Director, NPL after his return from USA in January 2014.

6.7 Draft Document on Superstitions & Myths: The English Version of the Draft Document which had been prepared was placed before the Members at the Meeting. It was decided that the Superstitions & Myths Committee may decide about the future course of action in this regard.

7. Status Report by the Treasurer: The Committee noted that as on 31. 08. 2013, the total receipts during the financial Year 2013-14 had been **Rs. 1,90,800/-** of which **Rs. 1,45,200/-** were for Scholarships & Awards. [**Rs. 1,25,000/-** contributed by Shri R K Luthra for institution of Bawa Barkha Nath Memorial Scholarships; **Rs. 19,200/-** contributed by Mrs Madhu Lata for continuation of Astronaut Kalpana Chawla Samman Chhatravritti and the Dev Kumar Memorial Award; and **Rs. 1,000/-** contributed by Shri R K Khanna to the General Scholarship Fund]. Another **Rs. 12,000/-** had been received by way of Donations and **Rs. 8,600/-** towards the Membership Fee [8 Members @ Rs 700/- plus 3 Members at the new enhanced rate @Rs 1,000/- approved by the Forum at the Annual General Body Meeting held on 9th July 2013]. The balance amount of **Rs. 25,000/-** was on account of the Advertisement Charges for publication in the Forum's News letter No. 10 dated May 2013 [**Rs. 15,000/-** from NPL and **Rs. 10,000/-** from CSIR]. The Committee was informed that an amount of **Rs. 10,000/- still remained to be paid by NPL** for publication of its Advertisement in the Directory of Members of the Forum which was released by Dr. Krishan Lal on 5th April 2013.

It was also noted that against the receipts of **Rs. 1,90,800/-** the expenditure incurred till 31. 08. 2013 was **Rs. 86,294/-**. Of these **Rs. 47,650/-** were spent on the publication of the Directory of Members and the Forum's Newsletter No. 10; **Rs. 15,600/-** towards Continuation of Scholarships already awarded in earlier years.; **Rs. 12,204/-** towards Meeting Expenses; **Rs. 5,859/-** towards Postage; **Rs. 2,598/-** towards Photostat Copies; **Rs. 2038/-** towards Stationery and **Rs. 345/-** towards Other Minor Expenses.

Detailed information about the funds positioning the individual Scholarship/Award Funds and in the Fixed Deposits, and the interest earned thereon, was also noted. This included the newly opened FDs for **Rs. 4 lakhs** for the A P Mitra Memorial Lecture; **Rs. 90,000/-** received from Shri Rajiv Vema for instituting Urmil Verma and C L Verma Memorial Scholarship & Ramo Devi and Sohan Lal Memorial Award; **Rs. 1,25,000/-** received from Shri R K Luthra for instituting Bawa Barkha Nath Memorial Scholarship. An amount of **Rs. 1,11,631.87** was also now in Fixed Deposit in the Forum's General Account. A Premium Account had also been recently opened with the Syndicate Bank to earn

higher rate of interest on the unused amount while having the facility of operation as a Savings Fund Account. The intension is gradually to close the individual Saving Funds Accounts and transfer the money to this Premium Account. The Total Amount of Fixed Deposits was Rs. 1,42,830.64, and another Rs. 47,834.51 was earning higher than the Savings Fund Accounts, in the Premium Account.

8. Induction of New Members to the Forum: The Committee approved the induction of the 7 new members of the Forum as detailed by the Secretary in his Status Report.

9. Re-Constitution of Area Committee: 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)	Superstitions & Myths Committee (S&M-C)
Chairman	Dr. Amitabha Basu	Dr. S L Jain	Merged with the Welfare Committee	Prof. Vikram Kumar	Dr. K Chandra
Co-Chairman	Dr. Ashok Kumar	Dr. S K Halder		Dr. K Chandra	Dr. Amitabha Basu
Convener	Shri G K Arora	Dr. Hari Kishan		Dr. Amitabha Basu	Dr. M K D Rao
Member	Dr. P C Jain	Dr. A P Jain		Dr. S L Jain	Dr. V N Bindal
Member	Shri V P Wasan	Shri S S Verma		Shri G K Arora	Dr. Prakash C Jain
Member	Mrs. Urmil Dhawan	Mrs. Shasikala Shastri		Dr. P C Jain	Dr. A P Jain
Member	Shri R C Dhawan	Shri V P Wasan		Dr. S K Halder	Shri V P Wasan
Member	Shri R B Saxena	Dr. P C Jain		Shri R B Saxena	Mrs. Urmil Dhawan
Member	Shri A C Gupta	Shri H R Mehta		Prof. S S Mathur	Mrs. Shasikala Shastri
Member	Shri S K Sharma	Shri Promod K Mittal		Dr. Gopal Bhatia	Mrs. Santosh Manrai
Member	Shri Subodh K Singhal	Shri K N Bhatnagar		Dr. R K Garg	Shri G K Arora
Member	Dr. R K Garg	Dr. V R Singh		Dr. Ashok Kumar	Prof. S S Mathur
Member	Dr. R Bhattacharyya	Dr. R K Garg		Dr. Sunil K Singhal	Shri R C Dhawan
Member					Dr. R Bhattacharyya
	Committee On Forum;s Website is planned	Geographical Area Committee – Coordinator – Shri S S Verma			
	A Committee on Photographic Album is Proposed				

Composition	Medical Affairs Committee (Med-C)	Scholarships Committee (Sch-C)	Sub-Committee of (Sch-C) on Tree-Plantation (Sch C-Tree)
Chairman	Merged with the Welfare Committee	Prof. R C Budhani, Director, NPL (Ex-Officio)	Shri G K Arora
Co-Chairman		Shri S C Garg, President, NPL-FSF (Ex-Officio)	Shri TV Joshua, COA, NPL
Convener		Shri V P Wasan	Shri V P Wasan
Member		Shri T V Joshua, COA, NPL (Ex-Officio)	Dr. V N Bindal
Member		Shri G K Arora, Secretary, NPL-FSF (Ex-Officio)	Dr. P C Jain
Member		Shri Tripurari Lal ,Treasurer NPL-FSF (Ex-Officio)	Dr. R P Singhal
Member		Dr. V N Bindal	Mrs. Urmil Dhawan
Member		Dr. P C Jain	Mrs. Santosh Manrai
Member		Prof. S K Joshi	Dr. J C Sharma
Member		Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta	Dr. Harish Chandra
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		
Member	Shri Rajeev Verma		
Member	Shri R K Luthra		
Co-Convener		Dr. V S Panwar	

10. Photographic Album of the Forum: The Management Committee approved the association of Shri R C Dhawan and Shri Subhash Chandra with this task, with the details to be decided by the Publications Committee.

11. Opening of Website of the Forum: The Management Committee approved the Opening of its Own Website and association of Shri R B Saxena and Dr. Ashok Kumar with this task, with the details being decided by the Publication Committee.

12. Agenda for the Forum Meeting on 10th October 2013: It was decided to felicitate Shri V P Wasan and Dr. J K N Sharma as New Members of the 80-Plus Fraternity and to explore the possibility of arranging an invited talk on Organ Donation, failing which Dr. Amitabha Basu may give a talk on this topic.

13. Re-scheduling of Dewali Get-together: The Committee noted that it was necessary to re-schedule the Dewali Family Get-together which had been planned for Sunday the 10th November. 2013. The Welfare Committee was requested to re-schedule this get-together and inform the Secretary, so that it could be notified along with the notice for the meeting, to enable collection of contributions for the same.

14. Geographical Area Coordinators: As Shri S S Verma, who had offered to coordinate the activities was abroad, he shall be attending to this task after his return. This will be done under the umbrella of the Welfare Committee.

STATUS REPORT BY THE SECRETARY

(Ref: Agenda Item 6)

1. Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Management Committee (Ref: Agenda Item 3): The Minutes of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of the Management Committee held on 6th June 2013, (as approved by the Chairman), had been circulated by the Secretary vide his letter dated 25th June 2013 by post/ courier (as also by e-mail to those who could be so contacted), inviting comments by 8th July 2013. No comments were received from any of the members.

Copies of this letter and the Minutes of that Meeting will be tabled at the time of the meeting.

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

2.1 Condolence Resolution: Condolence Resolution which was passed at the meeting in respect of Shri Dewan Singh's demise on 4th May 2013 was sent to his daughter Mrs. Anjali Sanon by the Secretary.

2.2. New Membership List: The Membership List has been re-cast as per the decision taken at the meeting. A draft copy of it will be placed before the Members at the time of the Meeting. In so far as the entries relating to the members invited for the present meeting, and who could be contacted by e-mail, draft entries in respect of them have been sent to them for verification of information and return.

2.3 Cashless Facility to CGHS Beneficiaries: The list of hospitals identified for reference to Director, NPL to explore the possibility of their entering into Memoranda of Understanding with CSIR-NPL for providing cashless facilities to staff members and pensioners from NPL was sent to Prof. Budhani vide letter dated 8th June 2013 from the Secretary. It was subsequently learnt that Shri V K Kaushik, COA-2, NPL had been passed on this letter for necessary action. As no action in this regard appeared to have been taken, an e-mail reminder was sent to Prof. Budhani, by the Secretary, on 30th July 2013 requesting him to get action expedited on the letter of 8th June. Since there was no response, attention of Shri V K Kaushik was drawn again to this letter by the Secretary vide his e-mail dated 01. 09. 2013 (with copy endorsed to Director, NPL) to ascertain the status of action taken in this regard, so that the same could be presented at this meeting of the MC.

A copy of the Letter dated 8th June 2013 sent to Prof. Budhani will be placed before the members at the time of the meeting.

2.4: Treatment Under Medical Emergency: After the Annual General Body Meeting of the Forum held on 9th July 2013, at which the elections for the New Management Committee were held, The Secretary met, Shri V K Kaushik, COA-2, NPL in the afternoon and discussed with him the issue relating to guidelines that may be followed in case of treatment under medical emergency. As decided at that meeting, a letter was sent to him with the relevant information that could be drawn from the various OMs, and the draft guidelines which had been prepared by Dr. V N Bindal, to facilitate a response from NPL thereon. As no response had been received, an e-mail reminder was also sent to him in this regard on 1st September 2013.

A copy of the letter dated 20th July 2013 which had been sent to Shri V K Kaushik, will be placed before the members at the time of the meeting.

2.5 Other Medical Issues: A number of members of the Forum have complained about the delay in re-imburement of their medical claims. It is learnt that Shri Vijay Kumar Gupta, who had been attending to such cases is no longer on the rolls of NPL. Some other person appears to have been assigned this work. Perhaps this might be partially responsible for the delay. In addition, there are other issues viz. (i) admissibility of re-imburement of expenditure incurred on getting physio-therapy treatment at CGHS Hospitals (brought to the notice of the Secretary by Dr. J K Gupta), (ii) the procedure for getting Medical Advance (brought to the notice of the Secretary by Dr. S P Singal). In so far as the issue of re-imburement of expenditure incurred on physio-therapy, the issue had been discussed by the Secretary with Shri V K Kaushik on the afternoon of 9th July 2013, where-after a letter was also written to him in this regard on 19th July 2013. As there was no response, an e-mail reminder was also sent to him on 1st September 2013.

A copy of the letter dated 19th July 2013 which was sent to Shri V K Kaushik, will be placed before the members at the time of the meeting. The e-mail received from Dr. S P Singal regarding the procedure being followed by NPL for Medical Advance will also be placed before the members at that time.

2.6 Tree Plantation: The suggestions that had been made by the Management Committee regarding the maintenance of trees planted on 15. 08. 2010 and 25. 09. 2012, (and subsequently also endorsed at the Annual General Body Meeting held on 9th July 2013), were placed before the Scholarships Committee at its meeting held on 29th July 2013. Prof. Budhani said that the survival of trees has been a problem due to shortage and old age of the horticulture staff.

It was decided to plan for the next tree plantation (under the Joint Programme of NPL and the Forum) for 15th August 2014 as per the decision of having it in every alternate year.

In so far as the representation of the Members from the Forum, as office bearers of the Tea Plantation Sub-Committee of the Scholarships Committee is concerned, it is suggested that the same members may continue in the re-constituted Sub-Committee. However, the representation from NPL on this Committee may need changes as Dr. J C Sharma will be attaining the age of superannuation in October 2013 and Shri T V Joshi attaining this age in November 2013. Perhaps the COA, NPL who replaces Shri Joshua may get nominated as his replacement on this Committee and the person who is assigned the overall charge of various services, may be nominated as replacement of Dr. J C Sharma. Dr. Harish Chandra is expected to continue as a member of this Sub-Committee.

2.7 Articles on Popularization of Science: Following the meeting of the Management Committee, Prof. S S Mathur had spoken to Mr. Mahavir Singh (who has been publishing magazines: Physics Today, Chemistry Today, Mathematics Today, etc. in all science subjects

for over thirty years), about publishing articles on topics of interest to school kids and arranging lectures etc. Shri Mahavir Singh had indicated that he could include our articles of about 4-6 printed pages in the relevant magazine. This was also brought to the notice of the members of the forum at the Annual General Body Meeting held on 9th July 2013. At that meeting, Dr. Amitabha Basu, Dr. H N Dutta, Mrs. Shashikala Shastri and Dr. V R Singh offered to contribute popular articles. However, no progress in this regard has been made so far.

As for the Chart on S I Units of Measurement a copy of the Chart had been provided to Prof. Mathur soon after the meeting, which he had also shown to Shri Mahavir Singh. Shri Mahavir Singh had suggested that he could get it printed and mailed to about 20,000 schools all over India. He had also suggested that if this chart is printed in a bigger size, it can be displayed in the senior class rooms of the schools also.

As for the Charts in bigger size, it was learnt by Shri G K Arora from Dr. A K Bandyopadhyay that copies of the Chart of 1.0m x 1.0m (which cost Rs. 900/- per chart) can be provided by NPL to the Forum on a specific request from the Forum, indicating also their quantity, as there are no such charts in stock, and their printing will need to be re-ordered.

To give impetus to this activity, Dr. Amitabha Basu had suggested constitution of a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Mathur, with himself, Dr. Hari Kishan, Dr. Ashok Kumar, Shri R B Saxena and Dr. R K Garg also included as members of the Committee.

2.8 Dialogue with the National Science Museum: A letter had been sent by the Secretary, to Prof. Budhani on 7th June 2013 to solicit his views in regard to having a dialogue with the National Science Museum for display of items highlighting the importance of precise measurements in everyday life, and also to nominate some persons from NPL who could be associated with this activity particularly in regard to Measurements as also the role that NPL and other bodies such as the Directorate of Weights & Measures and the Regional Laboratories etc. play in this regard.

In response, while welcoming the proposal vide his e-mail dated 17th June 2013, Prof. Budhani had indicated that issues such as cost, equipment, publicity materials need to be discussed and that he would be happy to involve NPL Scientists if we could send him a draft proposal.

He was informed that Dr. Kailash Chandra will be discussing these with him, but as Dr. Kailash Chandra left for USA on 9th July 2013, this discussion with Prof. Budhani could not be held. The following is the text of the e-mail dated 7th August 2013 which Dr. Chandra had sent to Prof. Budhani:

"Kindly refer to the letter from Mr. G K Arora on the above subject (Display/ Exhibits related to National Measurement Standards and S I Units at the National Science Centre/ Museum, New Delhi) and your very positive response. I was supposed to have a meeting with you in the month of June for further discussions. Since I am a Green Card Holder, I had to leave for USA on July 9 to meet the requirements of visit and stay in USA for a certain period every year. I am sending this e-mail from Chicago, where I am staying with my Son, a consultant in Biomedical Engineering. I am sorry for not being able to meet you before leaving for USA."

"The National Science Museum/ Centre (NSC) at Pragati Maidan is visited by a large number of students and general public. The proposed display by NPL related to the S I Units and National measurement Standards will assist in enhancing the awareness about the role of accurate measurements in daily life, scientific and technical activities, and in industry for quality control, and how NPL assists in this activity. This display may consist of Charts, Models, Photographs and Write-ups on 'The need for Accurate measurements', 'Weights & Measures before Independence', 'Weights & Measures Act', 'Role of NPL as Custodian of National Measurement Standards', and the progress made in achieving the accuracies of S I Units. To start with, I suggest that a team of three/ four scientists from NPL and Former Scientists Forum may visit the NSC, Pragati Maidan and discuss with the authorities regarding space availability and financial support. This would assist in making a final proposal. I shall be looking forward to meeting you when I return to India on January 9, 2014. Waiting for your response and with best regards, Kailash Chandra"

2.9: Draft Document on Superstitions & Myths: Dr. Amitabha Basu has prepared a draft document on Superstitions & Myths, and the same had been circulated by the Secretary to the members of the Superstitions & Myths Committee and a couple of others for their comments. Shri Arora had indicated the response that had been received in respect of the various Superstitions & Myths in the self assessment surveys that had so far been conducted in respect of these Superstitions & Myths, to help in their sequencing. A copy of this will be made available to the superstitions & Myths Committee for further action.

3. Formal Taking Over of Charge by the New Management Committee (Ref: Agenda Item 5): The Following members had been elected at the Annual General Body Meeting held on 9th July 2013:

President	Shri S C Garg
Vice President	Dr. S K Halder
Secretary	Shri G K Arora
Joint Secretary	Dr. V S Panwar
Treasurer	Shri Tripurari Lal
Members	
	1. Mrs. Shashikalsa Shastri
	2. Shri H R Mehta
	3. Shri S S Verma
	4. Dr. R K Garg
	5. Shri V P Wasan
	6. Shri R B Saxena
	7. Mrs. Santosh Manrai
	8. Dr. P C Jain
	9. Mrs. Urmil Dhawan
	10. Dr. Ashok Kumar
	11. Dr. Amitabha Bassu
	12. Dr. Hari Kishan

The President had nominated **Shri P K Mittal, Dr. A P Jain and Shri A C Gupta** as Members of the Management Committee to fill the three vacancies of Members.

As the earlier President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Joint Secretary had been re-elected, the taking over of the Charge by the New Management Committee is only a formality.

4. Induction of New Members to the Forum (Ref: Agenda Item 8): Filled up Membership Forms have been received from the following persons, whose induction as New Members of the Forum is proposed:

Sr. No.	Name & Date of Birth	Amount Received	Last Post Held	Remarks
1.	Sharma, Omkar [20. 01. 1952]	Rs. 700/- (Cheque)	Chief Scientist	Retired from NPL on 31. 01. 2012
2.	Rai, Ramji (Dr.) [01. 01. 1943]	Rs. 700/- (Cheque)	Scientist 'F'	Retired from NPL on 31. 12. 2002
3.	Bhatnagar, Abha (Mrs.) [06. 07. 1952]	Rs. 1,000/- (Cash)	Sr. Tech Offcr (2)	Retired from NPL on 31. 07. 2012
4.	Singhal, Subodh Kumar [21. 07. 1953]	Rs. 1,000/- (Cash)	Chief Scientist	Retired from NPL on 31. 07. 2013
5.	Subhash Chander [15. 07. 1953]	Rs. 1,000/- (Cash)	Sr. Tech (2) Equivalent to Tech Offcr (A)	Retired from NPL on 31. 07. 2013
6.	Singhal, Sunil Kumar (Dr.) [05. 06. 1953]	Rs. 1,000/- (Cheque)	Chief Scientist	Retired from NPL on 30. 06. 2013
7.	Subrahmanyam, Pattamatta [21. 07. 1953]	Rs. 1,000/-	Chief Scientist	Retired from NPL on 31. 07. 2013

5. Re-constitution of Area Committees (Ref: Agenda Item 9): Members of the New MC as also of the Out-going MC were approached by the Secretary to indicate the Area Committees that they would like to be associated with. The compiled information received in response from most of them has been passed on to the President, to place the same before the members at the time of the meeting so that they have an opportunity to give their views and suggestions. It is suggested that the activities undertaken by the various Area Committees may be made more relevant towards the achievement of the stated objectives of the Forum which are reproduced below:

1. To organize lectures / talks of common interest to the Members and to the General Public, by experts in various fields for exchange of ideas and opinion.
2. To contribute towards the promotion of science by arranging talks and demonstration-lectures on career counseling in schools & colleges to create interest in pursuing science.
3. To publish articles, books and arrange talks for the popularization of science and for creating awareness against social drawbacks like 'superstition' etc in the interest of society, in general.
4. To associate with NPL and other organizations for undertaking scientific/ technical projects of relevance to the socio-economic fabric or development of the country.
5. To organize independently, or in association with other scientific and technical institutions/ organizations, activities like symposia, seminars, conferences, training courses and workshops and to publish the proceedings etc. for the advancement of knowledge and education.
6. To invite any Indian/ Foreign Scientist/ Dignitary to share his/ her expertise with Members, and to interact with them from time-to-time in the interest of General Public.
7. To institute awards and scholarships for the advancement of education.

6. Photographic Album of the Forum (Ref: Agenda Item 10): The proposal of associating **Shri R C Dhawan** and **Shri Subhash Chander** with the task of preparation of an album of photographs of Members was welcomed at the Annual General Body Meeting held on 9th July 2013. This Album would, in addition to the photographs of individual members that had been collected for the Directory of Members of the Forum may also carry photographs taken at various events.

It was decided that the Management Committee may constitute the team to identify the various photographs for which prints may be got prepared, their titling, as also preparation of the estimates of expenditure that may need to be incurred for preparation of this album.

As this idea of collecting photographs from individual members of the Forum was mooted at the meeting of the Publication Committee held on 15th February 2012, the team of members associated with this task may also be members of the Publications Committee.

7. Opening of Website of the Forum (Ref: Agenda Item 11): The Forum had been toying with the idea of putting it on the Website of NPL. In the meeting of the Management Committee held on 22nd November 2010 it was even decided to have a Forum's Website under the name **npl-fsf.org** if the expenditure involved was within Rs. 1,000/-. Dr. S N Singh, the then Co-Chairman of the Publication Committee, had been requested to collect the relevant information in this regard and also regarding the Forum's Website being provided a link by NPL on its own website. However, in the event of the expenditure exceeding Rs. 1,000/- the matter was to be put up again to the Management Committee.

Speaking at the time of the release of the 10th Issue of the Forum's Newsletter on 16th May 2013, Prof. Joshi also suggested putting the so very well documented information on medical issues published in the various issues of the Forum's Newsletter on a Website.

This issue can be taken up now with **Shri R B Saxena**, who had earlier offered to handle the information to go on Forum's Website and its up-dating, and with **Dr. Ashok Kumar** also offering his services in this regard. Some other members of the Forum may also offer their services. The team of members associated with this task may also be members of the Publications Committee.

8. Geographical Area Coordinators: Shri S S Verma had offered to be one of the Geographical Area Coordinators as also to be the Overall coordinator of this decentralized activity and to identify various areas and their coordinators for the following:

- (i) Distribution of copies of the Forum's Newsletter and other Publications of the Forum
- (ii) Mobilizing participation in meetings of the Forum
- (iii) Reaching out to other prospective members of the Forum for enrolling them as members

(iv) Periodical socializing among members in the area, and enquiring about their welfare.

This Idea was mooted at the Joint Meeting of the Welfare Committee and the Medical Affairs Committee held on 25th April 2013. Since it has been decided to merge the Medical Affairs Committee with the Welfare Committee, this activity falls under the purview of the Welfare Committee to be re-constituted at this meeting. The Members of the Management Committee could also take up the responsibility of serving as Geographical Area Coordinators.

As Shri S S Verma is presently abroad and has regretted his inability to participate in this meeting, he has been sent a list of members of the Forum by e-mail by the Secretary, so that he could contact at least those members of the Forum who can be contacted by e-mail. Conversely, the members of the MC who would like to take up this responsibility may get in touch with him.

9. Agenda for the next meeting of the Forum (Ref: Agenda Item 12): As per the Calendar of meetings drawn up by the Management Committee for 2013, the next meeting of the Forum will be held on 10th October 2013 at 10.30. A M in the TEC Conference Room, NPL. For this meeting, it was decided that the Welfare Committee may arrange for an invited lecture.

In this connection, a lecture on "Dark Energy and Dark Matter for Creation of Universe" had been suggested by Dr. S K Majumdar for which Dr. S L Jain, the then Chairman, Welfare Committee had been requested by the Secretary vide his e-mail dated 11th April 2013 for approaching Dr. R P Tandan or Dr. Kirti Ranjan, Department of Physics & Astrophysics, University of Delhi, to suggest the name of the person to be invited for this talk, which could be arranged in the NPL Auditorium, involving also the staff members of NPL after consulting professor Budhani.

As it has not been possible to do so, Dr. Amitabha Basu has suggested an invited lecture on "Organ Donation". Attention to this topic had been drawn by Dr. R P Wadhwa, to a lecture on this topic by Dr. Krishna S. Iyer, (Pediatric-Cardiologist, and also the Nodal Officer at Fortis-Escorts for ORBO, the Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation, set up by AIIMS), which he had delivered at the Rotary Club on 7th August 2013. Dr. Basu has indicated that he is collecting articles and information on Organ and Body Donation and can get more than enough material on it. As for the talk, we could approach an eminent person to give an invited talk on this subject, failing which he himself could give this talk.

In addition to the invited lecture **Shri V P Wasan** (db. 05. 10. 1933) and **Dr. J K N Sharma** (db. 09. 10. 1933) could be felicitated as new Members of the 80-Plus Fraternity of the Forum at this meeting.

10. Re-scheduling of Contributory Dewali Get-together (Ref: Agenda Item 13): As per the Calendar approved by the Management Committee for 2013, the Dewali Get-together was planned for Sunday, the 10th November 2013 for which the TEC Conference Room was planned to be booked for the forenoon on that day. However, it has been learnt that all the possible venues where the proposed Family Get-together could be held have been booked for an International Conference – "Acoustics 2013 New Delhi" – Technologies for a Quieter India, from November 10 -15., 2013.

Dewali falls on Sunday, the 3rd November 2013 with Goverdhan Puja and Bhai Dooj on the following two days. Therefore, it has become necessary to re-schedule the Dewali Get-together for a different date which may be decided by the Management Committee. Depending upon that the Welfare Committee may advise the Secretary about its notification along with the notification for the forum meeting on 10th October, 2013, so that the collection of contributions from the participants in the Get-together could also be made on 10th October 2013.

11. Superstitions: Assassination of Dr. Narendra Dabholkar on 20th August 2013 has focused attention on the ill effects of superstition. Dr. V N Bindal had been in contact with Dr. Dabholkar and had also and had sounded him about the manner in which NPL Former Scientists Forum could also contribute in his efforts in his fight for creating awareness against Superstitions prevailing in the society. On his demise, Dr. Bindal has also sent the following e -male to conveying condolence to Shri Milind Joshi on 23rd August 2013.

"We are deeply grieved to learn about the brutal assassination of Dr Dabholkar. He had been engaged in the pioneering work for removing blind superstitions. This has been a terrible shock to all the opponents of the evil practices.

You may be able to remember that I had a number of telephonic conversations with you, while I was trying to contact Dr Dabholkar, in Sept 2009, as we are also engaged in an humble way in creating awareness against the deep rooted superstitions prevailing in the Society. I fortunately could talk to him a couple of times and sent a letter also to him at that time.

The best tribute to him would be that, we should work with greater zeal for the mission for which his life has been sacrificed.

We would be glad to contribute as much as possible in this noble effort and look toward to the Anhashradha Nirmulan Samiti (ANS) to lead the way. We would like to establish a contact with A N S and any communication/guidance from you would be very welcome.

Kindly convey our heart felt condolences to all the concerned people in ANS, on this irreparable loss."

Dr. R Bhattacharyya's suggestion to include something in our newsletter on late Dr. Narendra Dabholkar who was an active crusader against Superstitions and Blind Faith, is very valid and relevant, as observed by Dr. Amitabha Basu, Chairman, Publications Committee. However, Dr. Bhattacharyya has gone a step further and has suggested need to target TV channels and other media in an imaginative way. For this he has suggested

collating all information, and make a video clip professionally. This way we can disseminate information in an efficient way. We may make this clip available to teachers of school and colleges though internet. This may first be bilingual, then also made in other languages. For this the Physics Teachers Association could also be roped in. We may also approach Dr. Krishan Lal, President INSA, for support and suggestions, and also other Academies and professional association like MRSI.

This is brought to the notice of the members of the Management Committee to solicit their reaction.