

Minutes of the Forty third meeting of the NPL Former Scientist Forum

Dated: 30th Dec., 2020

The 43rd Forum meeting (General Body) was held on Tuesday the 29th December 2020 at 11 A.M. on the link <https://indianradio.webex.com/indianradio/j.php?MTID=m6cfa857e1fb57843b139c3d8c4783b85> with the following Agenda.

1. Welcome by the President and his Introductory Remarks.
2. Video presentation on ISRO
3. To condole the death of Sh. S S Kapur (03.10.2019), Sh. Tribhawan Verma (18.06.2020), Prof. Govind Swarup (07.09.2020), Sh. Navin Kr. Srivastava (14.10.2020), Dr. Satya Vir Gupta (04.11.2020), Sh. Shyam Lal Sharma (22.11.2020) and Sh. A.R.S. Vashishtha (25.11.2020).
4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 16th G B Meeting (41th Meeting of the Forum) held on 19-06-2019 & 42nd meeting of the Forum held on 1st November 2019.
5. Status Report by the Secretary (summary to be presented).
6. Report by the Treasurer on the financial situation update and presentation of the Audited report for the FY 2019-2020.
7. Update on medical issues by Dr. Anil Gupta, Chairman, Medical Affairs Committee
8. Update on Website of NPL-FSF
9. Welcoming Dr. Joginder Singh, Dr. (Mrs.) K. Balakrishnan, Dr. K.K. Mahajan, Dr. V.S. Panwar, Shri N.K. Kohli, Dr. A.V. Narlikar, Dr. Ved Singh, Sh. A.K. Ghosh, Sh. S.K. Kulsreshtha, Dr. Sharwan Kumar, Sh. P.K. Mittal and Dr. P.K. Ghosh as New members of the 80-Plus Fraternity.
10. Welcoming new members of FSF in 2020.
11. Release of 15th Issue of the Newsletter of the Forum by Prof. Krishan Lal, Patron of the Forum.
12. Enhancement of Membership fees of NPL-FSF from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 2000/-.
13. Any other issues of common interest to the Members with the permission of the Chair.
14. National Anthem

The following members attended the meeting online.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. A C Gupta | 21. Kavindra Pant | 41. R C Saxena |
| 2. A Sen Gupta | 22. K C Nagpal | 42. R G Sharma |
| 3. Amitabha Basu | 23. K.K. Mahajan | 43. R S Tanwar |
| 4. Anil Kumar Gupta | 24. Krishan Lal | 44. S C Garg |
| 5. Ashok Kumar Gupta | 25. Manya | 45. Sukhmal C Jain |
| 6. Anil Kr Suri | 26. M K Goel | 46. S K Chakladar |
| 7. Ashok Kumar | 27. M K Tiwari | 47. S K Gupta |
| 8. B C Arya | 28. Ms S A Agnihotri | 48. S L Jain |
| 9. B D Malhotra | 29. Ms Shashi Kala Sastri | 49. S P Varma |
| 10. B K Das | 30. Ms Shashi L. Bhatnagar | 50. S S Verma |
| 11. B R Chakarborty | 31. N. Balani | 51. T V Joshua |
| 12. B V Reddi | 32. N K Babbar | 52. T L Dharmi |
| 13. D P Bahuguna | 33. N K Wadhwa | 53. TRK Menon |
| 14. D P Singh | 34. Om Prakash Bahl | 54. V D Arora |
| 15. G K Arora | 35. Pardeep Mohan | 55. V K Rustogi |
| 16. H N Dutta | 36. P Banerjee | 56. V K Batra |
| 17. Hari Kishan | 37. P C Jain | 57. V N Bindal |
| 18. J C Sharma | 38. P C Kothari | 58. V P Wasan |
| 19. Jitendra Kr Gupta | 39. R Bhattacharya | 59. V T Chitnis |
| 20. Kasturi Lal | 40. Rajan Babu Saxena | 60. V R Singh |

Dr. A. Sen Gupta, Former President of FSF and presently Advisor MC, was the Administrator on WebEx for the meeting.

1. Welcome by the President and his Introductory Remarks:

The GB Meeting started with the welcome address by the President, Dr. R G Sharma. Dr. Sharma touched upon the onslaught of COVID-19 which led to unprecedented human suffering, deaths and shutdowns all around the world. India too was impacted greatly; lockdowns were enforced in the country. Delhi also suffered a great deal and we all, being senior citizens, had been confining to homes. It is for this reason that we had been holding meetings online including today's GB Meeting. He expressed his satisfaction that in spite of all these limitations the FSF team of the office bearers has been operating from homes and from outside Delhi with dedication and maintaining many of the activities of the Forum. He further said that FSF was able to hold the virtual "6th Dr. A P Mitra Memorial lecture" on Sept. 16, 2020 (Ozone Day), which was very well organized by Dr. A Sen Gupta. Besides this, FSF also held earlier a well-attended and successful virtual 55th MC meeting on July 25, 2020 and a few satellite meetings among the office bearers.

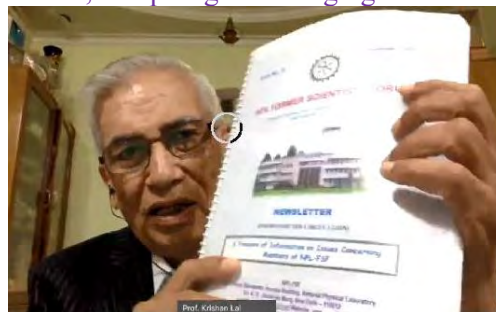
Dr. Sharma mentioned about the resolution of some of the long standing demands/issues FSF has been pursuing for quite some time. These included the direct money transfer by NPL to CGHS HQ for the annual renewal of CGHS cards of all the eligible FSF Members, issuance of pension slips, filing of ITR for last year and this year and the refund of tax paid earlier, preparation of the audited report of the FSF accounts, regular up-date of the FSF website, inclusion of NPL for cashless treatment/tests at a few empanelled hospitals and the induction of more than 30 new members in to FSF fold. The remaining issue of digital life certification is pending with NPL Administration and CSIR, which he hoped will be sorted out soon. He also mentioned about the new look Newsletter-15 which was released during the GB meeting by Dr. Krishan Lal. He however regretted that the FSF found it impossible to process the award of scholarships because the steps involved could not have been carried out online. Covid also prevented us from holding scientific lectures. We had to cancel the Forum meeting and a lecture scheduled in March 2019. Dr. Sharma further suggested that we should have a set of all the Newsletter Issues published till now as Archives in the FSF office.

Dr. Sharma thanked all the members of the Management Committee, Members of the Publication Committee, Dr. Anil Gupta (Chairman Medical Affairs Committee), Dr. J C Sharma (VP), Shri R B Saxena (Secretary), Dr. Hari Kishan (Treasurer), Shri N K Wadhwa (Joint Secretary), Dr. M K Goel, Mr. Dr. V D Arora for their dedication to the interests of our FSF Family. He also appreciated the advice received from our patrons and senior colleagues Dr. V N Bindal and Shri G K Arora in particular, from time to time.

2. **Video presentation on ISRO:** A video clip on Mars mission & ISRO was run, but due to some audio & video problem, it was stopped.
3. **The Secretary** mentioned about the sad demise of Sh. S S Kapur (03.10.2019), Sh. Tribhawan Verma (18.06.2020), Prof. Govind Swarup (07.09.2020), Sh. Navin Kr. Srivastava (14.10.2020), Dr. Satya Vir Gupta (04.11.2020), Sh. Shyam Lal Sharma (22.11.2020) and Sh. A.R.S. Vashishtha (25.11.2020).
A two minute silence was observed by the members of the forum to mourn their passing away.
4. **Confirmation of the Minutes:** The Secretary informed that the minutes of the 16th G B Meeting (41th Meeting of the Forum) held on 19-06-2019 & 42nd meeting of the Forum held on 1st November 2019 had been earlier circulated to all the members. No comments have been received. The minutes were then confirmed.
5. **Status Report by the Secretary: Please see Annexure 1**
6. **Report by the Treasurer** on the financial situation update and presentation of the Audited report for the FY 2019-2020. The Treasurer, Dr. Hari Kishan presented the financial situation of FSF and also presented the Audited report for the FY 2019-2020. There were few queries from members about interest from saving A/C and FDRs and suggestions were there to keep funds in FDR form instead of big amounts in Saving A/C. Dr. Hari Kishan told that it will be done soon. **We will try for online transactions of the FSF Account operation subject to bank authorization of our request.**
7. **Update on medical issues:** Dr. Anil Gupta, Chairman, Medical Affairs Committee, highlighted few important points e.g. 1. In emergency, one can go to any Hospital, be it empanelled or not, however reimbursement will be restricted to CGHS rates. In CGHS approved hospitals, one can go with referring by CMO or in emergency, 2. For pensioners above 75 years of age, no referral is required. They can go directly to any CGHS approved hospital. For others, referral from CGHS dispensary is required, which is valid for only OPD. If the hospital advises for any investigation pathological or radiological or any other

type, it has to be referred by the dispensary, however if investigation is on urgent basis at hospital itself, the Specialist has to certify, 3. Cashless treatment – CSIR has already signed MOA with 32 empanelled hospitals in Delhi/NCR. Initially it was for CSIR Hq. but after mid 2019, all new MOA are for all the five Delhi based Laboratories in total 7 hospitals in Delhi. After that our Laboratories have included for 13 hospitals and all new MOA, which are going to be renewed include Delhi based Laboratories. Most of all old MOAs are going to be renewed in early 2021 and 4. It has been learnt that Medanta Hospital is going to sign MOA for all CSIR HQ as well as Delhi based all Labs. Efforts are also for BLK and Delhi Heart & Lungs Institute at the moment for 5 Delhi based Labs. He concluded his updates by thanking all the members of the Medical Affairs committee and the Advisor Dr. R.G. Sharma.

8. **Update on Website of NPL-FSF:** The website presentation was given by Mr N K Wadhwa and while presenting about the efforts of the FSF Website and Digital media subcommittee, Mr. Wadhwa informed that the website development task was given to the committee and it was officially inaugurated by Prof. Vikram Kumar, Patron in the 42nd Forum meeting (Diwali Milan) on 01-11-2019. He added that the site is being maintained by M/s sGate Tech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. The domain name and web space has already been booked till 2024 and the recurring expenditure for the website maintenance & upkeep is approx. Rs. 15000/-plus taxes per year (to be borne by the FSF). Until now (2 years) we have arranged these funds from other sources. The compatibility of the site is Device independent [Mobile or Desktop]. It was also informed that all the forum related information is being updated timely under the guidance of the Web committee and working with Zero downtime till now since inauguration, with no complaint from the stakeholders with regards to its content and access related issues.
9. **Welcoming members to 80+ Fraternity:** The Forum welcomed Dr. Joginder Singh, Dr. (Mrs.) K. Balakrishnan, Dr. K.K. Mahajan, Dr. V.S. Panwar, Shri N.K. Kohli, Dr. A.V. Narlikar, Dr. Ved Singh, Sh. A.K. Ghosh, Sh. S.K. Kulsreshtha, Dr. Sharwan Kumar, Sh. P.K. Mittal and Dr. P.K. Ghosh as New members of the 80-Plus Fraternity.
10. **Welcoming new members of FSF in 2020:** Since the publication of Newsletter 14, following 33 new members have been enrolled as new members of the Forum taking the membership number to 406. Dr. Lalit Manocha, Sh. Jagdish Prasad, Dr. Ajay Dhar, Sh. M.P. Goyal, Sh. Kedar Nath Sood, Dr. B.V. Reddi, Dr. Godavathi Bhagwannarayana, Dr. Desh Raj Sharma, Mrs. Paramjit Kaur, Dr. Santa Chawla, Dr. Ravi Mehrotra, Mrs. Reeta Gupta, Sh. Ashwani Kumar Suri, Dr. Risal Singh, Sh. Hasan Haider, Sh. Tavaragiri Raghvendra, Sh. Murari Lal Sharma, Dr. Gauri Datt Sharma, Sh. Mohammad Saleem, Sh. Ram Prashad Sharma, Sh. Vijay Kumar Kaushika, Sh. Thomas John, Sh. Kamlesh Datt Sharda, Dr. (Mrs.) Prabha Johri, Sh. Surinder Kumar Kulshrestha, (Mrs.) Savita Patni, Dr. K Murali Krishna Srivatsa, Sh. Mahesh Chandra Meena, (Dr.) (Mrs.) Meena Jain, (Mrs.) Naina Awatramani, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Pant, Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Tiwari, Dr. Govind Mohan Saxena. The forum approved and welcomed all the new members.
11. **Release of 15th Issue of the Newsletter of the Forum:** Prof. Krishan Lal, Patron of the Forum, while releasing the Newsletter 15 recalled the efforts of Sh. G.K. Arora ji, who had initiated and did hard work during the years by collecting the data, compiling and bringing out the final document.



The latest Newsletter document is in my hands and I am very satisfied and appreciate the efforts of the Publication team. This document is so nicely documented and prepared that no one will like to dispose it off. I am sure that this will be a reference for the future. I through Dr. Ram Gopal Sharma wish to congratulate and thank the members of his team for doing such dedicated work. This is a good achievement. NPL has always been the great achiever. Dr. Lal then shared his reminiscences of his long association with NPL.

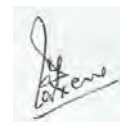
12. Enhancement of Membership fee of NPL-FSF from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 2000/- : The secretary informed that in the 55th MC meeting of the forum held on 25th July 2020 issue for the enhancement of membership fee of the forum was raised and in principal MC had recommended to raise the life membership fee from Rs, 1000/- to Rs. 2000/-, for decision by the General Body. Members discussed in details and then unanimously approved the enhancement from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 2000/- with immediate effect.

Resolution for increasing the Membership Fee of the Forum to Rs. 2000/-: "As 60 members present at the 43rd General Body meeting of the Forum held on 29th December 2020, unanimously approves the increase of membership fee from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 2000/- with immediate effect" - Rule 6 of the Rules & Regulations.

"There shall be a uniform Life Membership Fee of Rs. 2,000/- with immediate effect to be paid in full by all new members."

In his concluding remarks, President, Dr. R.G. Sharma wished the members and their families all the very best for the Year 2021 and good health. Let the New Year lead us unto light and a bright sun-shine for our children and grandchildren.

Since there was no other item to be discussed, meeting ended with thanks to the chair and National Anthem.



R B Saxena
Secretary, NPL-FSF

Status Report after 41st Forum meeting held on 19th June, 2019 and 42nd Forum meeting (Diwali Milan) on 1st November 2019

- 1. Forum's accounts audited:** Forum accounts have been audited for the financial years **2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20**.
- 2. ITR Returns:** For the first time Income Tax Return (ITR) has been filed for the financial year (FY) 2018-2019 & refund of Rs. 11810=00 has been received which was deducted as TDS. ITR for FY 2019-2020 has also been filed & refund of Rs. 16000/- is awaited that was deducted as TDS.
- 3. NPL-FSF website:** Formal launching of FSF Website (www.nplfsf.in), which was then under Beta Test, was done by Prof. Vikram Kumar on 1st November 2019 in the 42nd Forum's meeting.,
- 4. Scholarship & Awards 2019:–** This year there were very few applications received in spite of good publicity by displaying on NPL notice boards, on LAN nplall, informing FSF members etc. However the selection committee finalized for 6 scholarships and 4 Awards & 2 scholarships for children of those staff, who had expired before retirement from donor.
Due to Covid -19, Scholarship & Awards 2020 has not been possible.
- 5. Medical Affairs committee** under the Chairmanship of Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta has done efforts for the CGHS related matters. Dr. Gupta has had meetings with the COA & COFA of CSIR-NPL and CSIR and some good results have come. Dr. Gupta will present the details in this meeting
- 6. Fifth & Sixth A P Mitra Memorial Lectures:** The **5th A P Mitra Memorial Lecture**, held at the CSIR - National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi, was organized jointly by NPL-Former Scientists Forum and National Physical laboratory on 11th November 2019. Dr. Archana Bhattacharyya, Ex-Director Indian Institut of Geomagnetism, Mumbai, delivered an informative and enlightening lecture on "**Challenges of predicting low latitude ionospheric scintillations**". The **Sixth A P Mitra Memorial Lecture** (2020) has been organized jointly by the NPL Former Scientists Forum (NPL-FSF), the Indian Radio Science Society (InRaSS) and CSIR-NPL as a Webinar during 11:00 – 12:30 IST on the world Ozone day, 16th September, 2020. Dr Anil Bhardwaj, Director, PRL, Ahmadabad, one of India's most eminent Atmospheric and Planetary scientists, delivered the lecture titled "**Indian Planetary Missions**".
- 7. Newsletter 14:** With the efforts of the Publication Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.G. Sharma, the 14th Issue of Newsletter was published in December 2019.
- 8. Renewal of CGHS cards of Forum members – December 2019, June 2020 & December 2020:** For renewal of CGHS cards for December 2019 & 2020, lists of eligible members were prepared and given to E-1 section of NPL. For December 2019, E1 section issued individual letters & DDs, which were collected by FSF team and deposited at CGHS Hqrs. For June 2020 & December 2020, COFA NPL on request by the FSF planned and NPL deposited a consolidated amount to CGHS Hqrs. by RTGS. Member beneficiaries did not have to go to NPL and collect draft individually.