

Proceedings of the 82nd Annual General Meeting of the Indian Ceramic Society

The 82nd Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on January 09, 2019 at the 'Pool side Conference Room' of "The Wave International" Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. Mr Shreekant Somany, President of the Society, presided over the meeting.

Welcome by the President

Mr Shreekant Somany, President, Indian Ceramic Society, extended a hearty welcome to all the members and expressed his thankfulness for kindly making it convenient to attend the meeting.

Condolence

The President, at the outset, informed the members with deep regret about the sad demise of Dr K. N. Maiti, Life member of the Society, during the last year. The Members observed one minute's silence to condole the death of the departed souls.

A.82.1: To confirm the proceedings of the 81st Annual General Meeting

Copies of the proceedings were circulated earlier among the members. No comment had been received. Dr S. N. Misra proposed confirmation of the proceedings, which Prof. Ritwik Sarkar seconded.

Thereafter, the proceedings were taken as confirmed.

A.82.2: To adopt the report on activities of the Society for the period from 1st November 2017 to 31st October 2018

Dr Atanu Ranjan Pal, Hony Secretary, placed before the members the report on activities of the Society for the period noted above. The report highlighted the salient points of the 81st Annual Session of the Society held at "College of Engineering", Pune during December 14-16, 2017, recipients



The executive committee members are busy in transaction during the Annual General Meeting: (l. to r.) Mr Swapan Kr Saha, Hony Treasurer; Dr Atanu Ranjan Pal, Hony Secretary; Mr Shreekant Somany, President; Dr K. Muraleedharan, Vice President and Dr P. Sujatha Devi, Hony Editor of the Indian Ceramic Society

Resolution

It was informed by the Hony Secretary that under unavoidable circumstances, the 82nd Annual General Meeting which was due to be held within December 2018 had to be deferred to January 2019. At the instance of the President, the Hony Secretary, therefore, moved a resolution for permitting the meeting to be held in January 2019. The following resolution was moved accordingly and unanimously approved by the General Body.

RESOLUTION-1

"It was resolved that the 82nd Annual General Meeting of the Indian Ceramic Society which circumstantially could not be held in December 2018 be held on January 09, 2019".

Thereafter, the following businesses were transacted.

of various awards conferred on each individual as recommended by the Award Committee and approved by the Council, Best Chapter Award, status of membership, activities of various Chapters, finance, etc. There were also mention about the development and future planning of the 'Transactions of the Indian Ceramic Society', publication of 'Membership Directory 2018', report on '2nd Awareness Workshop on Ceramics, Glasses and Allied Materials', held during November 07 and 16, 2017, and formation of new InCerS Students' Chapter at NIT, Rourkela.

Dr Pal made a special mention about the Income Tax issue. He stated that the parent body of the Society had been facing serious problem regarding 'Income Tax' for quite a long time due to insincerity of some of the local chapters who had been using the PAN of the parent body. The problem was mainly with three chapters, viz. Gujarat, Subarnarekha

and Visakhapatnam. The said chapters, in spite of having some savings account and/or fixed deposit account, opened using the PAN of the parent body, did not submit annual audited statement of accounts to the parent body, which resulted in 'show cause' notice from the IT office, a huge amount income tax demand, which had eventually gone up to the court.

The members realized the seriousness of the issue. Finally it was unanimously decided that henceforth no local chapter of the Indian Ceramic Society would be allowed to use the Society's PAN any further in any circumstance. The Chapters, to whom the PAN of the parent body had already been given to use for some specific purpose, should close all the bank accounts, opened with the parent body's PAN number. The defaulter Chapters would be requested once more to close all the bank accounts opened with the PAN of the parent body; if the Chapters would fail to do so, the Executive Committee of the Society would issue letters to the respective banks to invalidate the accounts opened with the PAN of the parent body or at least delink the said accounts from the PAN of the parent body.

Thereafter, Dr L. K. Sharma proposed adoption of the report, which Mr R. P. Trivikram seconded. The report was then duly adopted.

A.82.3: To adopt the audited statement of accounts for the year ended on 31st March, 2018 and approve the budget estimates for the year 2019-2020

The audited Statement of Accounts and the Budget Estimates as mentioned above were presented by Mr Swapan Kr Saha, Hony Treasurer. Mr Saha explained the important aspects under different heads of accounts.

Mr S. Chandrasekhar proposed adoption of the audited statement of accounts and approval of the budget estimates, which Dr R. N. Basu seconded.

Thereafter, the audited Statement of Accounts was adopted and the budget estimates were duly approved.

A.82.4: To appoint auditors for the year 2018-2019 and to fix their remuneration

Dr Atanu Ranjan Pal, Hony Secretary, placed the proposal to appoint M/s S. K. Sinha Chowdhury & Co, Chartered Accountant, 19/C Baishnabghata Bye Lane, Ramkrishna Apartment (1st Floor), Kolkata 700 047, as auditors for the year 2018-2019 and fix their remuneration at Rs 10,000/- (rupees ten thousand only). The proposal was unanimously adopted.

A.82.5: To report the results of election of the Office Bearers and Members of the Council for the term 2019 & 2020

Mr Shreekant Somany, President of the Society, declared the results of election of Office Bearers and Members of the Council for the term 2019 & 2020, which were as follows:

As per the Constitution, Dr K. Muraleedharan, Vice-President (2017 & 2018) had been automatically elevated to the post of President (2019 & 2020).

(a) Office Bearers:

President	: Dr K. Muraleedharan
Vice-President	: Dr L. K. Sharma
Hony Secretary	: Mr Dhiman Banerjee
Hony Jt Secretary	: Dr R. Ramachandra Rao
Hony Treasurer	: Dr Sunirmal Jana
Hony Editor	: Dr H. S. Tripathi

(b) Members elected from different zones:

EAST ZONE – 10 (TEN) Seats:

1. Dr Atanu Ranjan Pal	[EL-427]
2. Dr R. N. Basu	[EL-278]
3. Dr P. Sujatha Devi	[EL-309]
4. Prof. Ritwik Sarkar	[EL-401]
5. Mr Brijender Singh	[EL-450]
6. Dr Sanjay Kumar	[EL-426]
7. Dr Arup Ghosh	[EL-164]
8. Mr Sudip Bose	[EL-509]
9. Prof. Sukhen Das	[EL-393]
10. Mr Prithwijit Guha	[EL-351]

WEST ZONE – 5 (FIVE) Seats:

1. Prof. Parag Bhargava	[WL-180]
2. Dr Satyendra Nath Misra	[WL-221]
3. Mr Sudipta Saha	[WL-235]
4. Dr Sandeep Prabhakar Butee	[WL-295]
5. Mr G. G. Trivedi	[WL-122]

NORTH ZONE – 5 (FIVE) Seats:

1. Dr C. S. Prasad	[NL-213]
2. Mr Guljeet Singh Minhas	[NL-200]
3. Mr Tridib Kr Chakraborty	[NL-287]
4. Mr Darshan Chhatwal	[NL-196]
5. Prof. Lalit Mohan Manocha	[NL-311]

SOUTH ZONE – 7 (SEVEN) Seats:

1. Dr C. D. Madhusoodana	[SL-89]
2. Dr M. G. Ananda Kumar	[SL-127]
3. Prof. Bikramjit Basu	[SL-366]
4. Mr S. Chandrashekar	[SL-173]
5. Mr Anab Bhattacharya	[SL-216]
6. Dr Arjun Dey	[SL-381]
7. Dr U. S. Hareesh	[SL-203]

The results of the election were duly adopted.

A.82.6: To consider changes in the criteria for D. N. Agrawal Memorial Award

Dr Atanu Ranjan Pal, Hony Secretary, reported that the Award Committee (2017 & 2018) of the Society, in a meeting held on September 08, 2017 at Kolkata, decided to revise the criteria for D. N. Agrawal Memorial Award to restrict the same for Glass Industry personnel only; at present the Award

is given for lifetime contribution in the field of 'Glass and Ceramics'. Dr Pal informed the members that the matter was discussed in several Council meetings and a special committee was also formed to take a decision in this regard. However, the matter could not be resolved so far. He then invited opinions from the members present whether the proposals of the Award Committee might be approved or not.

A lot of discussion took place among the members. Prof. H. S. Maiti (Chairman, Award Committee), Dr Barundeb Mukherjee, Dr R. N. Basu, Dr Arup Ghosh, Dr C. D. Madhusoodana stated their opinions. Finally it was decided that the proposal of the Award Committee, as mentioned above, would be forwarded to the founder of the Award, i.e. the family of Late D. N. Agrawal, for their opinion. The criteria of the Award will be made final thereafter.

A.82.7: To consider sending Ballots for Council members Election electronically:

Dr Atanu Ranjan Pal, Hony Secretary, informed the members that according to the Constitution of the Society, the ballot papers for Council member election should be returned to reach the office of the Society within four weeks after the date of issue. However, it is observed that the time span, i.e. four weeks between the date of posting of ballots and last date of receiving of ballots in case of Council members Election is not sufficient. Moreover, complain regarding non-receipt of ballot from a huge number of members is received during every election year and duplicate ballots are to be issued. This makes the election process an expensive one. In this situation Dr Pal proposed to send the pdf copies of ballot papers containing the signature of the election commission via email as an attachment. However, the Ballots after casting vote should not be returned by email for violation of confidentiality. Each of the members should (i) take a print of the attached ballot paper, (ii) cast their votes according to their choice, (iii) then enclose the ballot paper in an envelope, (iv) mark the envelope as BALLOT and seal it, (v) put his/her signature on the flap of the ballot envelope, (vi) put the sealed ballot envelope in another cover envelope, and inscribe "BALLOT for Election of Office Bearers" on it, write his/her own name and address on the left hand side, (vii) send it to the office address.

The proposal was appreciated by all the members. However, some of the members proposed for introducing online voting system. Mr Shreekant Somany, President, opined that the online voting system could not be introduced immediately and it would take some time to develop a secured system. Until a secured system could be developed, sending ballots electronically, as discussed, might be introduced and continued. He also opined that correct email id's of all the members should be collected beforehand by repeated email communications, phone calls and advertising through journal and website.

All the members welcomed the proposal and it was decided to introduce the new system from the next election term.

A.82.8: Any other item with the approval of the Chair:

(i) Change of Authority for Signing all Cheques and Documents of the Society:

Introducing the item, Dr Atanu Ranjan Pal, Hony Secretary, informed the members that at present the cheques and other necessary documents are being signed by the Hony Treasurer and Hony Secretary/President. He stated that in the present system, there occurs unnecessary delay in several official works due to limited availability of the signatories. For smooth functioning of the office he proposed that the signing authority might be transferred to two of the permanent office staffs, viz. Dr Sucharita Manna (Assistant Executive Secretary-cum-Assistant Executive Editor) and Mr Debasish Majumdar (Senior Accountant-cum-Cashier), being promoted to the position of Accounts Officer. He further proposed that all the official power should be with them.

The members discussed in detail about several pros and cons of the proposal. Ultimately it was agreed upon to give the signing authority to Dr Sucharita Manna and Mr Debasish Majumdar up to a limit of Rs 50,000/- (rupees fifty thousand only) per cheque. The upper limit of such transactions should not exceed Rs 5 lakh per month. The monthly bank statement should be forwarded to the Hony Secretary and Hony Treasurer for their kind perusal and reference.

Finally at the instance of the President, the Hony Secretary proposed to take the following resolution:

RESOLUTION-2

"It is resolved to transfer the signing authority of all the documents and cheques (up to a limit of Rs 50,000/- per cheque and up to a limit of Rs 5,00,000/- per month) related to the Indian Ceramic Society to Dr Sucharita Manna, Assistant Executive Secretary, and Mr Debasish Majumdar, Accounts Officer"

The resolution was moved by Mr Dhiman Banerjee (Tata Steel, Jamshedpur and incoming Hony Secretary) and seconded by Dr L. K. Sharma (CSIR-CGCRI, Khurja and incoming Vice President).

(ii) Forthcoming Annual Session:

The President informed that the 83rd Annual Session of the Society would be organized by the Kerala Chapter of the Society at Trivandrum. The members were extremely happy to note the same.

The outgoing President, thereafter, handed over the official charges to Dr K. Muraleedharan, the new President.

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