

CURRENT SCIENCE

Editorial Board Meeting

Venue: Academy House

Date: 16 July 1998

Time: 4.30 P.M.

A G E N D A

1. Editors' report
2. General comments by Editorial Board Members
3. Issues regarding manuscript handling by Editorial Board Members and Editorial Office (Referees lists)
4. Balance between the "general" and "original research" sections of the journal.
5. Special Sections
6. Role and functions of the Editorial Board
7. Restructuring of the Editorial Board
8. Financial position, Raising resources by advertisements, institutional memberships etc.
9. Any other matters

Issues raised by Dr V. Siddhartha, Editorial Board Member

1. Matters of policy and practices. If we must refer to a foreign 'model' then 'Science' rather than 'Nature' is the appropriate model. It is of importance that the 'first-half' CS be devoted to, and carry scientific material of general interest to the scientific community; or be of policy significance, as also developments in the world of S&T that have societal and/or economic and/or 'strategic' (e.g. the nuclear tests) significance. (It is another matter that candidate material of the requisite quality and topicality may not always be available for consideration)
2. The role and functions of the members of the Board (beyond advising the editors when asked) needs some elaboration. For example, if the Editorial Board members solicit a writing on behalf of the editors, there must be some assurance that the writing will be carried in CS if it meets median standards. Does this requirement transgress the prerogative of the editors?
3. What is the role of the Editorial Board as a Board? There is no question that the Board cannot (and must not be allowed to) 'back-seat drive' the editors. But then is the Board another name for "knowledgeable friends and discreet critics of the editors of CS, acting collectively?
4. Individual members of the Board exist as such to assist the editors. Desirable practices regarding solicitation, correspondence/refereeing etc. need written down guidelines/procedures for the guidance of members of the Board. When, and in what (specified) circumstances are the members acting on behalf of CS?
5. Would quality improve if we reduced the frequency to twelve (12) regular issues plus three (3) special issues a year?

Brief minutes of the meeting held on Fri, 24 Dec 1999 at the SERC

Purpose : to discuss the possibility of making the academy journals available on the web.

Report at meeting:

(1) The webpages of Pramana were demonstrated. They also described the many advanced features of computerized manuscript handling which are being implemented for Pramana (e.g. database of referees, tracking of manuscript progress, making style files for LaTeX processing available at the website for authors to download, providing facility for authors to upload the manuscripts etc.)

The webpages of Pramana were originally designed by 'Earthweb'; and are being maintained in-house by Dr. Mrs. Shukre. Another agency was involved in the preparation of software for manuscript processing etc.

(2) The web pages of Current Science were also demonstrated. Many of the features of the design were similar to Pramana, since this page too was developed by Earthweb. The pages have improved considerably with many critical inputs from Prof. Ramakrishna Ramaswamy of JNU and Mr. Mohan of the Hindu.

The maintenance (regular updating) of the Current Science web pages is also being done by Earthweb.

(3) The contents pages of all the academy journals are already being made available on the web. These pages were also shown. It was felt that this was a very creditable effort, and should be made more widely known.

(4) It was generally felt that while there is scope for improvement, the webpages of Pramana and Current Science are close to the final form, and bringing the other journals of the academy at least to this stage would be desirable.

(5) Prof. N. Balakrishnan pointed out that since the webpages of these two journals are already available, they would serve as 'templates', and putting the web pages of other journals would be quite easy once their articles are available in a computer-readable form (e.g. as pdf, or MSWord files)

(6) It was felt that for most of the journals of the academy, such files would be available any way, since most printing presses would need to have the articles in this form for their own processing. The first priority was then to obtain the information on this aspect for all the academy journals.

Another point that needs attention in this regard was about illustrations. For Current Science, in some instances the press provided files (of the final printed form) with the illustrations embedded within the text. At other times, this was not done, and the illustrations then had to be scanned and integrated. Prof. Ramakrishnan was worried about the uniformity of quality of chemical structure diagrams. So there was a need to better understand aspects of illustration handling for the different journals.

(7) Prof. Sitaram asked how soon the web edition could be put up and if it could be up **before** the print edition appeared. It was felt that this depended to a large extent on how soon the file could be made available. If authors themselves submitted files, and the journal had styles or page templates ready, then web content could be created quickly.

Presently the material for web pages is made available by press or other file creator **after** the press has finished at least the preparation for printing, and these would need to be converted to web-standard formats.

(8) Prof. N. Mukunda mentioned that it might be desirable to achieve some similarity in the web pages of the different Academy journals. In discussion of this point it was mentioned that 'similarity' meant consistency in use of links such as 'Instructions to authors', 'Editorial board', and so on (in wording etc.), and in file formats in which the web content was stored (e.g. html for contents pages and abstracts and preferably pdf for full text). In essence, the pages should not look inhomogeneous and 'ugly'.

(9) It was generally agreed that in the long run, it would be good to have the maintenance of the web pages done in-house. However, it was strongly felt that it would be impossible to do so with the existing personnel, since they are already overburdened. It was suggested that as in interim measure, with the target of putting all the journals of the academy on the web by March 2000, the work might be entrusted to some professional agency.

Prof. N. Mukunda indicated that he would discuss all these aspects and then write to the editors of the journals about what needs to be done and could be done to achieve the target.

MINUTES of the meeting of the Editorial Board of *Current Science* held on 13 July 2000 at the Council Room of the Academy House at 5.30 pm.

The following members were present :

1. S. Ramaseshan (Editor)
2. P. Balaram (Editor)
3. S. Arunachalam
4. D. Chatterji
5. R. Gadagkar
6. K. N. Ganeshaiyah
7. V. K. Gaur
8. K. Gopalan
9. N. V. Joshi
10. C. C. Kartha
11. S. S. Krishnamurthy
12. A. V. Khare
13. R. Nityananda
14. T. J. Pandian
15. G. Prathap
16. M. Ramakrishnan
17. K. R. Rao (Consulting Editor)
18. G. S. Ranganath
19. P. N. Shankar
20. S. R. Shetye
21. V. Siddharatha
22. R. Uma Shaanker
23. K. S. Valdiya

S. Ramaseshan (SR) welcomed the members and requested P. Balaram (PB) to conduct the proceedings. Presenting a brief report on the publication of *Current Science*, PB stated that there has been no major changes in the number of papers received, accepted and rejected as compared to previous years. The circulation figures also remained roughly the same. In view of the increase in the number of printed pages following the publication of several special sections, the finances need attention, and invited suggestions from members to improve finances. *Current Science* is already on the web, and beginning next issue, efforts are being made to put it at least 3 days ahead of the date of publication of the journal. He then invited comments from members on any matter relating to *Current Science*.

K. Gopalan said that promotional effort has to be increased. PB replied that presently promotion of the journal is handled by the meagre staff to the extent possible. V. K. Gaur

felt that the visibility of Indian science has to be improved at least in the developing countries.

V. Siddhartha suggested that *Current Science* can be promoted at venues of various conferences and seminars held in the country, and more especially in Bangalore by putting up small stalls. Discounts could be offered for subscriptions received at such stalls. He volunteered to provide addresses of various diplomatic missions in the country which have science attaches. Sample issues can be sent to them seeking subscriptions.

P. N. Shankar was of the view that active scientists must be encouraged to write for *Current Science* and this will naturally increase subscriptions.

PB informed members that a special section on Third World Science is being considered in consultation with C. N. R. Rao, the new President of TWAS.

T.J. Pandian was of the view that one should write to funding agencies such as DBT, UGC, etc. to make recipients of funds to compulsorily advertise in *Current Science*. He wanted to know the impact of the Special Sections. PB replied that it is difficult to judge the impact. There has been an uneven distribution of subjects covered in the journal and the special sections help to partly remedy this problem. V. Siddhartha stated that special sections have had some impact from the point of view of scientific policy and science perspective. PB stated that some of the special sections such as on surface characterisation have clearly brought out the nature of activities pursued in various centres in the country. Such sections help funding agencies in assessing the impact of various funded projects.

K. Gopalan felt that we can invite prominent persons from abroad to write their personal reminiscences as is being done in the *Annual Reviews*. We could make a beginning by inviting the Honorary Fellows of the Academies to write for *Current Science*. He also felt that some reprints of well-known papers published abroad be printed and circulated to *Current Science* subscribers.

PB informed that in addition to special sections, plans are on to bring out supplements, paginated and printed separately and distributed free to subscribers. Supplements accepted will be fully sponsored and funded by other agencies. The first one on 'Diabetes' is under preparation.

The home page of *Current Science* was shown to the members. The latest issue of the journal (10 July 2000) is already uploaded with the full text freely available. S. Arunachalam said that the site must be properly registered so that search engines can easily access the site. This is bound to have a positive effect on subscriptions. R. Gadagkar said that search engines should be able to incorporate keywords, names of authors, etc. not only for retrieval purposes but for archival purposes. He and S. Arunachalam felt *Current Science* should have its own domain name besides being a link to the Academy home page.

K. Gopalan was of the view that there should be a separate category for publication of rapid communications. PB responded that regular contributions that fulfil this category can be quickly processed and published under Research Communications. It will help if referees take the minimum amount of time to review papers sent to them. K. Gopalan also suggested a user-friendly checklist for the use of referees which could be supplemented by a detailed review.

In conclusion, PB summarised the proceedings.

- * Request active scientists to contribute
- * Faster publication
- * Involvement of third world countries
- * Personal reminiscences by renowned scientists
- * Quality of articles and uneven distribution of subjects, a matter for concern
- * To improve journal visibility by better web access.
- * Checklist for referees

These issues will be further examined and suitable action initiated. P. Balaram thanked members for their comments and suggestions.

CURRENT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
Bengaluru

General Body Meeting

Date: 17 December 2016
(Saturday)
Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Council Room
Indian Academy of Sciences

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the last General Body meeting on 19 December 2015
2. Approve the report for the period January–December 2016
3. Approve the audited Statements of Accounts for the financial year 2015–16
4. Matters relating to *Current Science*
5. Revision of subscription rates w.e.f. January 2018
6. Any other matter

- Encl:
1. Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 December 2015
 2. Report for the year 2016
 3. Audited statements of accounts for the financial year 2015–16
 4. Note regarding revision of subscription rates

**Minutes of the Meeting of the General Body of Current Science Association
held on 19 December 2015 at 1600 hrs in the Council Room of
the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru**

Members present

VS Ramamurthy (President, in the Chair)
P Balaram
Dipankar Chatterji
NR Jagannathan
V Krishnan
N Mukunda
V Nagaraja

VNR Pillai
R Narasimha
T Ramasami
R Ramaswamy
S Ranganathan
R Srinivasan

The following members could not attend the meeting:

R Gadagkar
KN Ganeshiah
SE Hasnain
Shailesh Nayak

K Radhakrishnan
SR Shetye
Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath

VS Ramamurthy, the President welcomed the members to this last meeting of the present General Body. The items on the agenda were then taken up.

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 December 2014

The Minutes of the meeting were circulated to members in February 2015. Since no comments were received, the Minutes were taken as approved.

2. Report for the period January–December 2015

The President requested the Editor (R Srinivasan) to present the highlights of the report. R Srinivasan made the following points:

2.1 The Editorial Board (EB) has been expanded and now has 71 members. Even so, some of the areas such as medical sciences need to be strengthened. Also, some of the present members have requested to be relieved from EB due to their preoccupations with other duties. These will be considered and some changes will be made in the EB during 2016.

2.2 Although the number of submissions to the journal has gone up in 2015, the number of articles received in certain areas like physics, chemistry, mathematics, etc. has been small. This needs to be looked into.

2.3 Eleven Special Sections in various disciplines were brought out during 2015.

2.4 For the first time in the history of the Association, a meeting of the full EB was convened and a scientific session was organized at IISc, Bengaluru on 28/29 November 2015. The session consisted of lectures by EB members and a public lecture by P Balaram, the previous Editor of the Journal. Local students and teachers from Bengaluru also attended the lectures. The general feedback was that this is a good beginning and should be continued.

2.5 An MoU was signed with M/s Informatics, Bengaluru, under which (a) all general articles, review articles, research accounts, research articles and research communications recommended for acceptance, would be subject to plagiarism check from September 2015; and (b) DOI numbers would be printed for all general articles, review articles, research accounts, research articles/communications. An amount of Rs 150 per article would be paid to Informatics for this service.

2.6 It was proposed to approach PubMed again for including *Current Science* for indexing. For this purpose, attempts are being made to commission more medicine-related articles in the journal, and expand the EB to include more medical scientists.

2.7 JSTOR: Following the MoU signed with JSTOR in June 2014, the articles published in *Current Science* since 1932 (with gaps in respect of those issues where hard copies of the journal were not available) have been included in the online JSTOR archives. It is currently available as a limited trial in their 'Sustainability Trial' collection. It is hoped that the official release of *Current Science* articles would be launched this year.

In the discussions that followed, members made several comments and suggestions:

2.8 A few members enquired whether it is possible to get the plagiarism check done before an article is sent to reviewers. However, this was not considered feasible because the number of articles to be checked would become far too many and would also cost a large amount of money.

2.9 R Narasimha enquired whether it is time to consider a collaboration with international publishers such as Nature, Springer, etc. as it is over 10 years since the last negotiations with them took place and the situation may have now changed. Some members felt that it may not be a bad idea to re-open the negotiations particularly since it will bring in greater visibility and additional revenues to the journal. R Ramaswamy mentioned the positive effects of the Academy journals which are published in collaboration with Springer since 2007. T Ramasami initially felt that we could try *Current Science* associating with Springer/Nature because it might bring substantial revenues to the journal. V Nagaraja mentioned that despite collaborating with Springer, some of the Academy journals have not shown any visible improvement in quality in terms of Impact Factor while others have shown only marginal improvement. P Balaram, who was instrumental in leading the negotiations with Nature as the then Editor, briefly mentioned the background of the talks held in 2007. After several rounds of talks, it was felt that while there would be some advantages, some of the conditions imposed by Nature were unacceptable as it would harm the interests of the journal. Also, some of the Nature journals have been taken over by Springer. It was felt that in any association with foreign publishers, *Current Science* would not be considered an equal partner as it would just be one more of the large list of their journals. *Current Science* would also lose its identity as an Indian journal which was an important consideration when the journal was founded in 1932.

The General Body finally decided that we should retain the present status quo and need not consider collaboration with any international publisher for the present.

3. Matters relating to *Current Science*

The President requested members to have their say on any aspect concerning the journal. The following comments were made by members:

(a) The editorial process needs to be speeded up as this is one of the important considerations for researchers to submit articles to the journal.

(b) N Mukunda mentioned that *Current Science* should not be seen to be in competition with other Academy journals and this is also true vice versa.

(c) Dipankar Chatterji recalled the statement made by the late S Ramaseshan that the quality of papers published in a journal only reflects the quality of science produced in the country.

(d) R Narasimha mentioned that the Editor and Associate Editors perform an important role in running the journal and they should also help in improving the visibility of the journal.

(e) V Krishnan mentioned that we are in a state of transition and it is important to encourage the interdisciplinary nature of *Current Science*.

(f) R Srinivasan mentioned that there has been a suggestion to bring out a special volume containing significant papers published in the journal since Vol. 1 (1932). This idea is being pursued.

(g) R Srinivasan also encouraged members to write Guest Editorials for *Current Science*.

4. Finances of the Association and the audited statement of accounts for the year 2014–15

G Madhavan mentioned that there has been a marginal increase of 15% in the printing expenditure in 2014–15 as compared to 2013–14. This was met, out of the interest earned from investment from the Journal Development Account, which was created out of surplus earned during previous years, to meet such contingencies. Otherwise the finances of the Association for 2014–15 are in a reasonably good shape.

The General Body approved the audited statement of accounts for the financial year 2014–15.

Members stressed the importance of strengthening the finances of the Association, so that the journal is not only fully independent, but can create a good corpus for meeting the future needs of the journal.

R Srinivasan mentioned that a concerted drive is being made to increase the number of institutional members. Guest Editors of Special Sections are being requested to provide funding support to meet the additional production costs for bringing out the Special Sections. Authors who would like their illustrations printed in colour are being requested to pay for the additional printing costs. Marginal increase in subscription rates and advertisement tariff were effected only in January 2015 and this could be reviewed after a year or two.

5. Institutional Membership fees

There was a proposal to increase the existing fees for institutional membership which were last revised in January 2004. The present rates are: Rs 50,000 for universities and institutions and Rs 100,000 for private institutions and corporates. The General Body discussed this matter and felt that our objective should be to increase the number of members rather than increasing the membership fees. It was therefore decided to continue with the existing rates.

6. MoU between IASc and CSA

It was mentioned that this matter was discussed in detail at the December 2014 meeting of the General Body. It was therefore decided that this item need not be taken up again.

7. Any other matter

R. Srinivasan brought up the question of the Current Science Association organizing Science Writing Workshops in the country. He mentioned that there is a general need in the country to improve the

quality of science writing in the country. Many articles accepted for publication in *Current Science* require extensive editing and corrections to improve their presentation to make them readable. KP Madhu, who is writing the column 'In this Issue' has offered to hold such Workshops which would be useful not only to those who have taken science communication as a profession but also to college teachers, students and researchers. R Srinivasan mentioned that the EB has also supported this proposal. The participants who will be given a certificate at the end of the course will pay a fee for attending the Workshop. The fee proposed is Rs 10,000/- for a one-week Course and Rs 20,000 to Rs 25,000 for a two-week Course.

The General Body approved this idea and authorized R Srinivasan to work out the details.

The President, Professor VS Ramamurthy, thanked all the members of the present General Body for their help and suggestions for the Association and the publication of the journal.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Date: 15 January 2016

G Madhavan
Executive Secretary

CURRENT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION BENGALURU

Report for the period January to December 2016

The Current Science Association was registered under the Societies' Registration Act (1860) on 1 October 1942. The first issue of *Current Science* was published in July 1932. It was a monthly until 1963 and became a fortnightly from January 1964. From 1964 to 1990, the fortnightly had one volume per year while from 1991 it became two volumes every year (January to June; and July to December). The journal is now in its 84th year of publication and will complete 111 volumes with the issue dated 25 December 2016.

The Current Science Association currently has 94 members on its roll including 15 members of the Working Committee.

A. Working Committee

The Working Committee was reconstituted and a new Working Committee for the triennium 2016–2018 assumed office in January 2016. The following is the membership of the new Working Committee:

Balaram P, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
Balakrishnan N, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (**Vice-President**)
Gadagkar R, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
Ganesh KN, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune
Grover RB, Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai
Kiran Kumar AS, Indian Space Research Organisation, Bengaluru
Mashelkar RA, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune (**Vice-President**)
Nagaraja V, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru (**Secretary**)
Narasimha R, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru
(**Previous President**)
Rajeevan Nair M, Ministry of Earth Sciences, New Delhi
Ramamurthy VS, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru (**President**)
Ramaswamy R, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Ashutosh Sharma, Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi
Srinivasan R, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru (**Treasurer**)

B. Editorial Board

The Editorial Board has the following members arranged according to their broad area of specialization:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. R Srinivasan, IISc, Bengaluru (Editor) | 12. JN Goswami, PRL, Ahmedabad |
| 2. SK Satheesh, IISc, Bengaluru (Co-Editor) | 13. Sulabha Kulkarni, IISER, Pune |
| 3. B Ananthanarayan, IISc, Bengaluru (Associate Editor) | 14. Sunil Mukhi, TIFR, Mumbai |
| 4. E Arunan, IISc, Bengaluru (Associate Editor) | 15. Srikanth Sastry, JNCASR, Bengaluru |
| 5. PC Kesavan, MSSRF, Chennai (Associate Editor) | 16. KP Singh, TIFR, Mumbai |
| 6. Giridhar Madras, IISc, Bengaluru (Associate Editor) | 17. R Srikanand, IUCAA, Pune |
| 7. PP Mujumdar, IISc, Bengaluru (Associate Editor) | 18. K Subramanian, IUCAA, Pune |
| 8. V Nagaraja, JNCASR, Bengaluru (Associate Editor) | 19. V Venkataraman, IISc, Bengaluru |
| 9. G Rangarajan, IISc, Bengaluru (Associate Editor) | 20. Paul J Wiita, The College of New Jersey, New Jersey |
| 10. M Sanjappa, UAS, Bengaluru | 21. S Chandrasekhar, ICT, Hyderabad |
| 11. Anil Bhardwaj, VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram | 22. V Chandrasekhar, NISER, Bhubaneswar |

23. Arun Chattopadhyay, IIT, Guwahati
24. G Mugesh, IISc, Bengaluru
25. Shobhana Narasimhan, JNCASR, Bengaluru
26. N Sathyamurthy, IISER, Mohali
27. Richard N Zare, Stanford University, USA
28. NV Joshi, IISc, Bengaluru
29. Aparna Datta-Gupta, UoH, Hyderabad
30. Gaiti Hasan, NCBS, Bengaluru
31. S Krishnaswamy, IMSc, Chennai
32. Shyamala Mani, IISc, Bengaluru
33. TR Sharma, National Res. Centre on Plant Biotechnology, New Delhi
34. LS Shashidhara, IISER, Pune
35. Yogesh Shouche, NCCS, Pune
36. Vidita Vaidya, TIFR, Mumbai
37. Deepak Barua, IISER, Pune
38. K Chandrashekara, UAS, Bengaluru
39. Krushnamegh Kunte, NCBS, Bengaluru
40. Naveen Namboothri, IISc, Bengaluru
41. Barry Noon, Colorado State University, Colorado, USA
42. Suhel Quader, NCF, Mysuru
43. VV Ramamurthy, IARI, New Delhi
44. TR Shankar Raman, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru
45. Vijay Kumar Sharma, JNCASR, Bengaluru (Deceased – 24 October 2016)
46. Mewa Singh, University of Mysore, Mysuru
47. Hema Somanathan, IISER, Thiruvananthapuram
48. Maria Thaker, IISc, Bengaluru
49. Abi Tamim Vanak, Ashoka Trust for Res. in Ecology & Environment, Bengaluru
50. Sunil Bajpai, BSIP, Lucknow
51. R Ramesh, PRL, Ahmedabad
52. Ashok Sahni, 98, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Lucknow
53. Somnath Dasgupta, Assam University, Silchar
54. NV Chalapathi Rao, BHU, Varanasi
55. Saibal Gupta, IIT, Kharagpur
56. Malay Mukul, IIT-Bombay, Mumbai
57. Dilip Saha, ISI, Kolkata
58. Biswajit Mishra, IIT, Kharagpur
59. Rajiv Sinha, IIT, Kanpur
60. Ravi Korisetar, Karnatak University, Dharwad
61. K Krishnamoorthy, IISc, Bengaluru
62. Anil V Kulkarni, IISc, Bengaluru
63. AR Ravishankara, Colorado State University, USA
64. J Srinivasan, IISc, Bengaluru
65. PN Vinayachandran, IISc, Bengaluru
66. AC Anil, NIO, Goa
67. Srinivas V Kaveri, Centre de Recherche des Cordeliers, Paris, France
68. G Balakrish Nair, Translational Health Sci. & Tech. Institute, Gurgaon
69. Alok Srivastava, Christian Medical College, Vellore
70. Soumya Swaminathan, ICMR, New Delhi
71. RR Navalgund, ISRO, Bengaluru
72. Atul H Chokshi, IISc, Bengaluru
73. Gopalan Jagadeesh, IISc, Bengaluru
74. G Prathap, IIIST, Thiruvananthapuram
75. AG Ramakrishnan, IISc, Bengaluru
76. K Ramamurthy, IIT, Chennai
77. Ashutosh Sharma, Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi
78. S Lingaraju, UAS, Bengaluru
79. M Anandaraj, Bengaluru
80. MH Bala Subrahmanya, IISc, Bengaluru
81. Dhruv Raina, JNU, New Delhi

C. Steps taken in 2016

1. The steps taken by the journal as reported in the 2015 Annual Report were continued in 2016.
2. Since the issue starting from 25 March 2016, a new section 'Science Last Fortnight' is being published. This consists of 6–8 news items (totally 2–4 printed pages) on important articles published in various journals.
3. The journal website now includes 'Abstracts of forthcoming articles' soon after the articles are accepted for publication.
4. A one-week Science Writing Workshop, the first ever to be organized by the Current Science Association, was held in Bengaluru from 20 to 25 June 2016. There was an overwhelming number of applications, however the number of participants had to be restricted to 14. Besides tutorial sessions by KP Madhu, the Workshop also had six resource persons who delivered lectures at the Workshop. An amount of Rs 10,000/- was collected from each participant as Registration, which was sufficient to take care of the expenses connected with the Workshop. A full report on the Workshop has appeared in the 25 July 2016 issue of *Current Science*.
5. The Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore has offered to hold the second Science Writing Workshop from 17 to 22 January 2017.
6. It is proposed to continue these Workshops not only in Bengaluru but other institutions in the country.
7. Articles accepted by reviewers are now subjected to plagiarism check before they are formally accepted for publication. Where an article exceeds a reasonable amount of plagiarized material, they are either returned to the author or sent for revision.
8. DOI numbering for general articles, review articles, research account, research articles/communications continued to be printed in the journal.
9. Four Special Sections were published during 2016 as against eleven in 2015 (see Annexure 1).

D. Publication of *Current Science*

(a) The journal continues to appear punctually on the 10th and 25th of every month. It will be completing 111 volumes with the publication of the 25 December 2016 issue. The online version appears about 3 days in advance.

(b) The numbers of printed pages of the journal from January to 25 November 2016 are as follows (previous year's figures in brackets):

Vol. 110 January to June 2016 : 2328 (2296 from January–June 2015)

Vol. 111 July to 25 November 2016 : 1724 (2348 from July–December 2015)

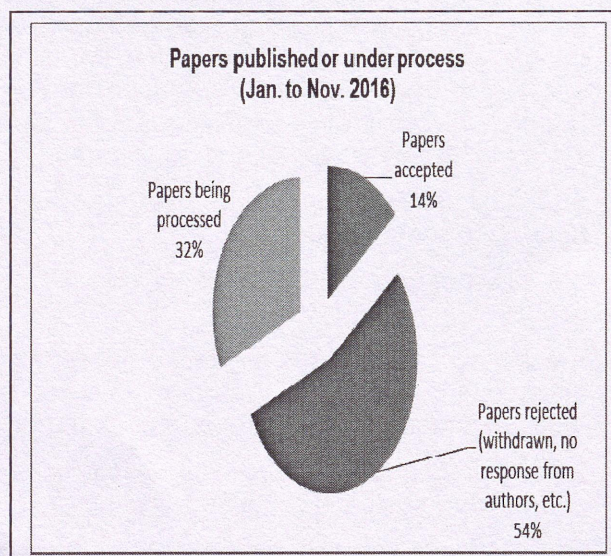
(c) Special Sections (Annexure 1)

Sl. no.	Title	Guest Editors	No. of articles	Issue	No. of printed pages
1.	Advancements in Biotechnology	K VijayRaghavan and Archita Bhatta	10	25 February	51
2.	Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation	Pinki Mondal, Harini Nagendra and Ruth DeFries	09	10 April	89
3.	Soil and Water Management Research	Tapas Bhattacharya, SP Wani, K. L. Sahrawat and D. K. Pal	16	10 May	138
4.	RAWEX-GVAX	K. Krishna Moorthy, S. K. Satheesh and V. R. Kotamarthi	09	10 July	89

The journal's endeavour towards planning Special Sections in advance helped to bring out the special sections within the scheduled period.

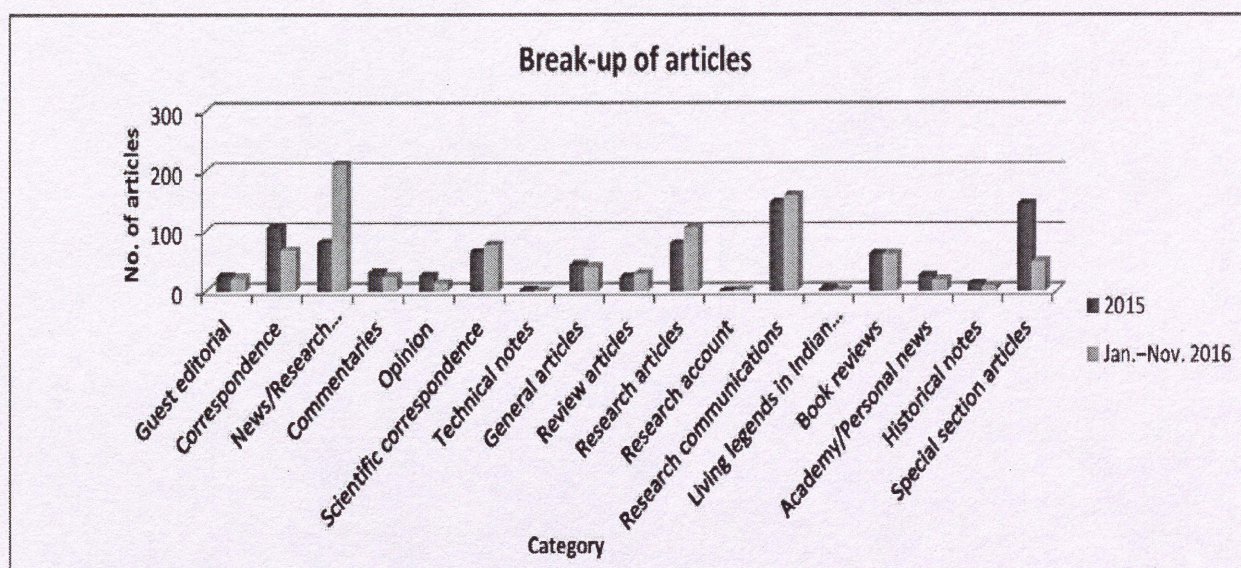
(d) Papers published or under process during 1 January–30 November 2016

	1 Jan. to 30 Nov. 2015	1 Jan. to 30 Nov. 2016
Total papers submitted	3256	3140
Papers accepted	0457	0365
Papers rejected (withdrawn, no response from authors, etc.)	1766	1662
Papers being processed	1033	1113



(e) Break-up of articles published under different categories (2015 vs 2016)

Sl. no.	Type of articles	No. of articles	
		2015	Jan.-Nov. 2016
1.	Guest editorial	024	022
2.	Correspondence	106	068
3.	News/Research news/Meeting reports/In conversation	081	211
4.	Commentaries	031	025
5.	Opinion	025	014
6.	Scientific correspondence	065	077
7.	Technical notes	002	001
8.	General articles	044	041
9.	Review articles	023	029
10.	Research articles	079	106
11.	Research account	001	002
12.	Research communications	147	159
13.	Living legends in Indian science	004	002
14.	Book reviews	061	062
15.	Academy/Personal news	025	019
16.	Historical notes	012	008
17.	Special section articles	145	049
Total no. of articles		875	895



(f) Subject classification of articles published

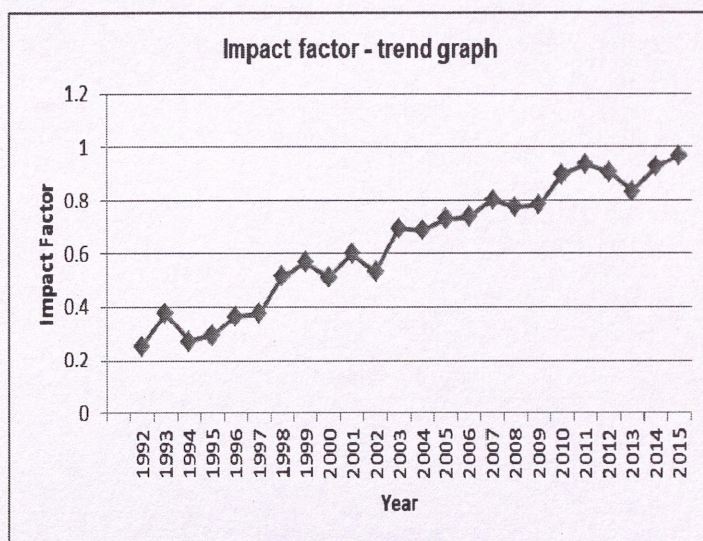
Subject	Total no. of articles	
	2015	Jan.-Nov. 2016
Life Sciences (includes Agriculture, Plant Sciences, Animal Sciences, Microbiology, Medicine, Molecular Biology, Biotechnology, etc.)	272	271
Physical Sciences (includes Physics and Astronomy, Chemistry, Mathematics, etc.)	169	046
Engineering and Technology (Chemical, Civil, Electrical, Mechanical, Aerospace)	Added with Phys. Sci.	064
Earth and Planetary Sciences	160	203
Education, Research, Policy, Management, People, Journals, Publications, etc.	169	073
Others (Unclassified, Guest Editorials, News Items, Academy/Personal News, etc.)	105	238
Total	875	895

(g) Classification of institutions that contributed to *Current Science*

		No. of articles	
1. Universities	Central	43	148
	State	75	
	Agriculture	12	
	Private	18	
2. Institutions	MHRD, IMD, IISc, IITs, NITs, IISER, etc.	71	133
	Private & State Government	62	
3. ICAR, ICMR, etc.		78 + 6	84
4. Govt R&D Institutes	Dept of Science & Technology	20	108
	Dept of Space / ISRO	23	
	Dept of Biotechnology	8	
	Dept of Earth Sciences	6	
	Dept of Atomic Energy (TIFR, BARC, etc.)	20	
	Defence Research and Development Organization	2	
	Home, Mines, Electr. IT, Women & Child, Environment, Culture, etc.	29	
5. Colleges			42
6. Unaffiliated persons			18
7. From abroad (China, Malaysia, Europe, America, etc.)			140
Total			673

(h) Impact factor figures during the past 24 years

Sl. no.	Year	Impact Factor
1.	1992	0.253
2.	1993	0.376
3.	1994	0.271
4.	1995	0.292
5.	1996	0.364
6.	1997	0.376
7.	1998	0.515
8.	1999	0.567
9.	2000	0.512
10.	2001	0.6
11.	2002	0.533
12.	2003	0.694
13.	2004	0.688
14.	2005	0.728
15.	2006	0.737
16.	2007	0.8
17.	2008	0.774
18.	2009	0.782
19.	2010	0.897
20.	2011	0.935
21.	2012	0.905
22.	2013	0.833
23.	2014	0.926
24.	2015	0.967



Total citations: 8289 in 2015 (8014 in 2014)
Impact factor for 2015: 0.967 (0.926 in 2014)

E. Journal Circulation

		2015	2016
India	Institutions	2834	2579 ↓
	Personal	944	800 ↓
Foreign	Institutions	42	18 ↓
	Personal	4	1 ↓
Institutional Members		454	500 ↑
Complimentaries		195	197 ↑
Total		4473	4095 ↓

As can be seen from the above figures, the number of print subscription has been going down over the years, in spite of sending promotion letters/sample copies to institutions and colleges.

However, visibility of the journal has increased. *Current Science* continues to be a free open-access journal in India and abroad. The number of visitors to our website has been growing. Between January and November 2016, there were 2.37 lakh visitors to the site, the majority of whom were from USA (79%) followed by UK (10.5%).

F. Institutional Members

During the year 2016, the number of Institutional Members has gone up from 454 to 500. The full list of members classified according to the category of institutions is given below.

Sl. no.	Members	2015	2016
1.	Universities/Institutions		
	(a) Universities funded by MHRD/UGC	29	31
	(b) Institutions funded by MHRD/UGC	40	44
	(c) Universities State Government	88	95
	(d) Private funded	18	20
2.	CSIR Laboratories	41	41
3.	DRDO Labs & Institutions	21	23
4.	Department of Space/Atomic Energy	29	36
5.	ICAR Institutions	45	53
6.	ICMR/AYUSH Institutions	20	21
7.	Under Union Ministries		
	(a) Ministry of Agriculture	02	02
	(b) Ministry of Ayush	00	01
	(c) Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers	02	02
	(d) Ministry of Commerce & Industries	01	01
	(e) Ministry of Communication & Information Tech.	00	01
	(f) Ministry of Culture	00	01
	(g) Ministry of Earth Sciences	06	07
	(h) Ministry of Environment & Forests	14	14
	(i) Ministry of Family Health & Welfare	04	04
	(j) Ministry of Home Affairs	01	01
	(k) Ministry of Mines	02	02
	(l) Ministry of New & Renewable Energy	01	01
	(m) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas	00	01
	(n) Ministry of Power	01	01
	(o) Ministry of Science & Technology	33	36
	(p) Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation	01	01
	(q) Ministry of Water Resources	01	01
	(r) Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports	00	01
8.	Under various departments of the State Government	08	09
9.	State Council	02	02
10.	Reserve Bank of India	01	01
11.	Public – Private R&D Centres & Institutions	40	41
12.	Others	03	05
	Total	454	500 ↑

The number has gone up by 46 from 2015.

G. Science Writing Fellowships

The following Fellows were on roll in 2016:

Sandhya B Rani, Bengaluru (November 2014–July 2016)

Swetha Gopal, Madurai (October 2015–December 2016)

Rajashree Ramaswamy, Jamshedpur (October 2015–December 2016)

H. Information on the number of articles published by Science Writing Fellows (2015 vs 2016)

Category	Number	
	2015	Jan.–Nov. 2016
News (General)	05	01
Research News	04	–
Meeting Reports	–	01
In Conversation	04	05
Book Review	01	–
Personal News	–	01
Science Last Fortnight	–	01
Total	14	09

I. Finances

1. The Statements of Accounts for the financial year 2015–16 were duly audited and a copy is enclosed. A summary of income and expenditure as well as balance sheet is given below.

Income (Rs in lakhs)	2014–2015	2015–2016
Dept. of Atomic Energy	02.00	02.00
Dept. of Space	12.00	12.00
Journal subscriptions	69.96	72.95
Sale of special publications	01.56	05.96
Sale of reprints	01.47	03.43
Advertisements	39.87	42.79
Interest on investments	37.75	29.60
Miscellaneous	01.72	16.07
Excess of expenditure over income met by Journal Development Account	13.60	09.16
Total	179.93	193.96 ↑

Expenditure (Rs in lakhs)	2014–2015	2015–2016
Journal printing	113.20	112.40
Packing and postage	008.35	005.43
Printing of reprints	000.38	000.41
Administrative expenses	008.88	014.37
Salaries, Honoraria, etc.	043.16	053.20
Science Writing Fellowships	005.96	008.15
Excess of income over expenditure	-	-
Total	179.93	193.96 ↑

2. The finances continue to be reasonably stable.

- (a) The total expenditure on printing of journals, reprints and postage was Rs 118.24 lakhs (as against 121.93 lakhs in the previous year).
- (b) Income from subscriptions, advertisements, etc. was Rs 125.13 lakhs (as against Rs 112.86 lakhs during the previous year).
- (c) Following our special requests, the Departments of Space and Atomic Energy have communicated an increase in their annual contribution from Rs 12.00 lakhs to Rs 15.00 lakhs and from Rs 2.00 lakhs to Rs 5.00 lakhs respectively. This will take effect from 2016–17.
- (d) Income from colour page printing charges (paid by authors) and income from organizers who paid towards cost of printing of Special Sections also contributed to the revenue.
- (e) There was also a marginal increase in revenues from journal subscriptions and advertisements in 2015–16.
- (f) Salaries of editorial staff and fellowship of Science Writing Fellows came to Rs 61.35 lakhs as against Rs 49.12 lakhs in the previous year.
- (g) There was a net deficit of Rs 9.16 lakhs which was met out of the Journal Development Fund which now stands at Rs 68.85 lakhs.

J. Acknowledgements

The Association acknowledges financial support received from Departments of Space and Atomic Energy. The Editors, Members of the Editorial Board and Reviewers helped the journal in maintaining the quality. The editorial staff, typesetters and printers have worked to bring out the journal on time throughout the year. Also, the Indian Academy of Sciences helped the Association by providing the infrastructure and staff.



AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Current Science Association

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of the "CURRENT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION", Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bangalore -560 012, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2016 and the Statement of Income and Expenditure Account for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts give the information required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:

- 1) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of Current Science Association, as at 31st March, 2016.
- 2) In the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended on that date.

We further report that:

- a) The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account dealt with by this report, are in agreement with the books of accounts.
- b) In our opinion, proper books of account as required have been kept by the Institute so far as appears from our examination of those books.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 03/08/2016

for B.R.V. GOUD & CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
FRN No. 000992S



(Handwritten signature)

(A.B. SHIVA SUBRAMANYAM)

PARTNER

M No. 201108

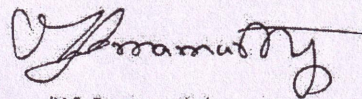
CURRENT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
C.V.RAMAN AVENUE, BENGALURU 560 080
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

(Amount in Rupees)

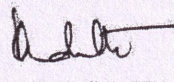
EXPENDITURE		2015-16	2014-15	INCOME		2015-16	2014-15
To PUBLICATIONS				BY GRANTS-IN-AID			
Printing of Journals	1,12,39,911		1,13,20,038	Department of Atomic Energy	2,00,000		2,00,000
Printing of Reprints	40,997		37,598	Department of Space (ISRO)	15,00,000		12,00,000
Postage	5,42,759		8,34,996			17,00,000	
		1,18,23,667		" PUBLICATIONS			
" ADMINISTRATION				Subscriptions	72,94,964		69,96,545
Salaries	53,20,522		43,16,614	Colour Printing Income	1,81,408		1,47,317
Audit fee	11,400		11,236	Reprints	3,43,528		39,86,835
Conveyance	3,77,629		3,48,172	Advertisements	42,79,205		1,56,600
Telephone charges	56,300		15,750	Special publications	5,95,950		
Medical reimbursement	74,389		35,917			1,26,95,055	
Miscellaneous	2,76,922		1,76,329	Funds from RRI - for SWI	1,08,000		1,08,000
Working Committee Expenses	12,641		1,109	Interest on Investments	29,68,044		37,74,524
Scientific Meeting Expenses	2,86,834		-	Bank SB Interest	89,496		52,372
Stationery	10,188		40,806	Lease Rent recovery	1,53,000		-
Bank charges	5,759		2,734	Royalty	1,000		-
		64,32,584		Interest on vehicle loan	1,000		-
				Rebate from Post Office	11,324		10,569
				License fee	1,728		1,728
						33,34,592	
" Ramaseshan fellowship		3,94,877	3,77,325	Transfer from Journal Development Fund		7,50,000	
" Science writing internship		4,20,433	2,19,249				
" Lease rent		2,83,600	2,22,400	Excess of expenditure over income		9,16,607	13,59,105
" Depreciation		41,093	32,322				
TOTAL		1,93,96,254	1,79,93,595	TOTAL		1,93,96,254	1,79,93,595

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 03.08.2016

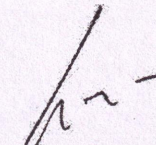
As per our Report of even date
For B.R.V.Goud & Co.,
Chartered Accountants



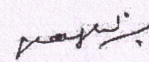
(V.S. Ramamurthy)
President



(Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath)
Treasurer

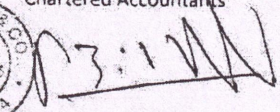


(V. Nagaraja)
Secretary



(A. Shashidhar)
Accounts Officer





(A.B. Shiva Subramanyam)
Partner

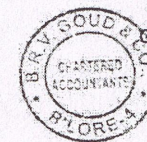
CURRENT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
C.V.RAMAN AVENUE, BENGALURU 560 080
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2016

(Amount in Rupees)

Liabilities	Sch.No.	2015-16	2014-15	Assets	Sch.No.	2015-16	2014-15
GENERAL FUNDS				FIXED ASSETS:			
a) Life subscription from members				(As per Schedule)	4	3,37,509	2,90,897
Opening Balance		6,66,250	6,48,250				
Add: Receipts 2015-2016		16,500	18,000				
		6,82,750		INVESTMENTS - at cost			
b) Institutional Membership				Institutional Membership	5	2,48,33,000	2,29,38,000
Opening Balance		2,29,38,000	2,24,88,000	Journal Development Account	6	53,09,150	53,09,150
Add: Receipts 2015-2016		20,45,000	4,50,000	Riki Krishnan Fellowship	7	10,50,000	10,50,000
		2,49,83,000		Other Investments	8	37,04,000	44,54,000
Riki Krishnan Fellowship		10,50,000	10,50,000			3,48,96,150	
JOURNAL DEVELOPMENT A/C				CURRENT ASSETS:			
Opening Balance		85,52,461	99,11,566	Loans & Advances			
Less: Withdrawal		- 7,50,000	-	Festival Advance		2,250	1,875
Deficit for the year		- 9,16,607	- 13,59,105	House Rent Advance		1,65,000	1,65,000
		68,85,854		LTC Advance		7,070	
				Computer/Vehicle Advance		-	11,000
Sundry Creditors & Provisions	1	2,40,250	1,21,108	Thippeswamy		-	5,000
Duties & Taxes	2	17,228	16,659	Sundry Debtors		1,74,320	
Amounts received in advance:				Subscriptions		486	890
Subscriptions - 2016		34,91,765	39,25,927	Reprints	9	16,100	16,100
Subscriptions - 2017		6,26,950	6,30,215	Advertisements	10	7,54,350	6,85,850
Advertisements	3	3,375	1,875	Discussion meeting on QM		-	75,000
				Indian Academy of Sciences		-	9,741
				Prepaid Expenses		150	
				Stock of printing paper		9,68,311	49,469
				Stock of postage		1,689	1,72,864
				Interest accrued		5,68,300	1,67,379
				TDS refunds receivable		74,959	1,27,177
				Cash in hand		26,371	-
				Cash at SBI A/c No.-10356553434		1,62,477	23,73,103
		3,79,81,172	3,79,02,495			3,79,81,172	3,79,02,495

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 03.08.2016

As per our Report of even date
For B.R.V.Goud & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.



(Signature)

(V.S. Ramamurthy)
President

(Signature)

(Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath)
Treasurer

(Signature)

(V.Nagaraja)
Secretary

(Signature)

(A.Shashidhar)
Accounts Officer

(Signature)

(A.B.Shiva Subramanyam)
Partner

Revision of Subscription Rates for *Current Science*

The annual subscription rates for *Current Science* are quite low compared to journals published elsewhere.

The following are the subscription rates fixed in 2015:

India (Rs)	
Schools and Colleges (per year)	2,000
Universities, Institutions and Govt Departments (per year)	5,000
Industries, Business Houses and Commercial Establishments (per year)	12,500
Personal	
Two years	1,500

Normally the rates are revised at least once in three years. Since the rates were last revised in 2015 and the fact that due to the increased printing costs, there has been a deficit during the last two years, there is a case for raising the rates, even if it is on a small scale.

If the Working Committee approves this proposal, the revised rates effective from January 2018, may be suggested.