



SOCIETY MATTERS

- The next meeting of the general body of the society will take place on Feb.15, 2012 during the National Symposium on Space Science at Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. All regular/life members are invited to attend the meeting.
- The first ASI symposium titled Cosmology and Galaxy Formation was held at IISER Mohali during Nov.5-7, 2011. More than 40 participants attended the meeting and close to 30 talks, including six review talks were scheduled over a period of three days. The agenda of the meeting included two discussion sessions on the topics of galaxy formation and dark energy. The presentation material are available on the meeting web page at <http://www.iisermohali.org/iccgf2011/index.html> where some pictures taken during the symposium have also been provided. The meeting was featured as the lead story by Vigyan Prasar in its weekly science news bulletin on Lok Sabha TV.
- The ASI Executive Council would like to invite proposals from institutes, universities and colleges for hosting the next scientific meeting of the ASI in February 2013. It is expected that the total number of participants will be between 250-300. The host institution is required to make arrangements for plenary sessions where all the participants are expected to attend the talks, and up to three parallel sessions. Other requirements are availability of suitable space for displaying up to 100 posters (3' x 4') at a given time, and, suitable hostel/guest house/hotel accommodation for all the outstation participants. The duration of the meeting is three days. Prospective hosts are strongly encouraged to send in their proposals to the Secretary (secretary@astron-soc.in) before Jan.31, 2012 so that these can be discussed in the next meeting of the executive council, scheduled for mid-Feb 2012. For further information or clarifications, please contact the Secretary ASI before submitting your proposals.

Proposals to host the meeting can bring out factors such as the likely attendance by students, at least of public lectures, connectivity, and other facilities of the proposed location. As a general policy, the EC would like to hold meetings in as wide a range of locations as possible consistent with the basic facilities. While the ASI does have some resources to fund the meeting partially, hosts are encouraged to identify appropriate sponsors who would be able to make up the full expenses.

- The society plans to support up to two ASI symposia each year. Proposals are invited from ASI members on the specified format, available on the society web page.
- Nominations are invited for the Justice Oak best thesis award for 2009. Please see the

society web pages for more details about the award. Nominations should be sent to the secretary of the society.

- Nominations are invited for the new discovery award. Indian astronomers who have discovered a comet, an asteroid, a nova or a supernova are eligible. More details about the award are available on the society web pages. Nominations should be sent to the secretary of the society.
- ASI has been providing financial support for lectures by regular/life members of the society starting with the IYA-2009. The EC has decided to now extend support for other outreach activities like preparation of outreach material, supervising student projects, etc. In each case, the council will evaluate the request before granting the approval. The quantum of funding for each such request will remain at Rs.5000 and each life/regular member can make one such request each year.

The following new members have been inducted at the recent meeting of the executive council.

- ASI Life members
 - Girish Kulkarni
 - Aniket Sule
 - Sarita Vig
 - Mukund Laxmanrao Kurtadikar
 - Partha Chowdhury
 - Ramesh Chandra
 - Prateek Sharma
- ASI Student members
 - Bharat Kumar Yerra
 - S Ramya
 - Vigeesh G

J. S. Bagla
Secretary
Astronomical Society of India