

Indian Academy of Neurosciences
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on
March 16, 2026; 5:00 pm (IST)

An online meeting of the Executive Committee of Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN) was held on March 16, 2026 at 5:00 pm. The meeting, presided by Dr Vinay Kumar Khanna, was attended by following members,

1. Dr S C Pandey
2. Dr B S Shankaranarayana Rao
3. Dr Kavita Babu
4. Dr Phalguni Anand Alladi
5. Dr Vivek Jain
6. Dr Aamir Nazir
7. Dr Poonam Thakur
8. Dr Suman Jain, General Secretary
9. Dr Pankaj Seth, Secretary HQ

Special Invitees

10. Dr (Ms) Shashi Bala Singh, Special Invitee
11. Dr Ashok K. Agarwal, Special Invitee

Dr Vinay Kumar Khanna, President, IAN welcomed the members and thanked them for connecting on-line and the meeting proceeded as per the agenda,

1. The members were informed that the minutes of the last EC meeting held on October 26, 2025 have been drafted and will be circulated by Dr Pankaj Seth, Secretary HQ.
2. The members were apprised about the request received from Dr Deepak Goel, Head, Department of Neurology, HIMS-SRHU, Dehradun to provide funding support for awards to encourage young researchers presenting papers in oral and poster sessions during the Symposium on Brain Connect 2026, the National Symposium - Decoding the Brain, Inspiring the Future: Bridging Basic Neuroscience Research and Clinical Practice for Translational Impact scheduled from March 19–21, 2026 at SRHU, Dehradun. Another request received from Dr Krishanu Ray, Department of Biological Sciences, Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences, Pilani (BITS-Pilani) - Hyderabad Campus to provide financial support for young neuroscientists attending the Symposium on Neuroengineering from July 15 – 17, 2026 was also discussed. The idea to organize both the symposia was appreciated by the members and the requests of the conveners to provide support for awards to encourage young neuroscientists was considered favourably. It was decided that a sum of INR 40,000/- (INR Forty thousand only) each be given to the organizers of Symposium on Brain Connect 2026 and Symposium on Neuroengineering for the purpose. The Secretary HQ was requested to get the amount released by Treasurer after obtaining necessary details from the conveners.
3. The request of Dr Sree Nair, Assistant Professor, Sophia College, Mumbai to provide travel fellowships to 03 students pursuing M.Sc (Neuroscience) who presented papers at IAN 2025 conference was considered. As these students decided to attend IAN 2025 quite late, they were not able to apply for travel fellowships. The members realized that students pursuing M.Sc (Neuroscience) at Sophia College, Mumbai have been attending

the IAN conferences for last many years. As these students do not have any travel support from the college, IAN was providing support to the students presenting papers in the annual conference earlier on case to case basis and on the recommendation of the faculty. This initiative of IAN has been well appreciated to motivate and encourage M.Sc (Neuroscience) students to take up Neuroscience a career and for actively participating and sharing their ideas in future IAN conferences. The members approved the request to provide travel fellowships by IAN to these students.

4. The members were apprised about the nominations received for IAN BKB-LTA Award and orations. The Secretary HQ was suggested that call for nominations for the IAN BKB-LTA Award and orations be widely circulated via e-circular and newsletter to have nominations of deserving candidates. He was also suggested to have meeting of Search Committee to find out suitable names. The members of the EC were also requested to forward nominations of the suitable and deserving candidates to the Dean, IAN.
5. The EC was informed that selection procedure for IAN Lalita and Ravindra Nath International Travel Fellowships up to 2025 is complete. The members were further apprised that the fellowships to the selected candidates will be released by March 2026 after obtaining all necessary documents. A request to R Nath Foundation will be sent to release the funds for the year 2026 and applications would be invited online.
6. The members were requested to hold regular activities under the auspices of local chapters by holding lectures or symposia. The idea to have workshops on techniques in neurosciences was also discussed. It was felt that these would be useful to motivate and train young neuroscientists to utilize these appropriately in their ongoing research. The members were also apprised to have neuroscience advocacy programmes and those interested may submit the proposal to the Secretary HQ to provide funding support as per policy.
7. Dr Pankaj Seth apprised the members that the next annual conference of IAN will be organized by the Team - NBRC from October 6 – 9, 2026. He said that the organizing committee is in place and the venue of the conference will be finalized and shared with all the members in next 3 - 4 weeks. Sharing the rough sketch of the scientific programme, he mentioned that the SPC is planning to have 02 Keynote talks, 6 plenary lectures and 10 symposia. He further said that the sessions would be balanced across gender and countries as far as possible. The members were happy to take a note of these points and suggested him to actively involve members of IAN-NCR Chapter by holding Pre-conference Workshop/s at any of the institutes / centres. The members also suggested him to see the possibility to accommodate additional session for Young Neuroscientists to encourage young and mid-level researchers by providing them appropriate platform. Dr Seth was suggested to include Symposium on Aging and Neurodegeneration and Novel Technologies in Neurosciences. Discussing the ethos of the programme, the EC suggested that a public lecture and a session on IBRO-Global Advocacy may also be held a day before the conference. The EC also suggested to give reasonable time for Poster session for interaction of participants with young researchers.

The meeting ended with vote of Thanks to the Chair.