

Minutes of Inaugural General Body meeting (Online Mode) of the Rourkela Chapter of the Indian Ceramic Society

The meeting in online mode was held at 6 PM on Saturday, the 19th April 2025. Dr. Atanu Ranjan Pal, President InCerS presided over the meeting. Around 30 members attended the meeting. Some of them were Mr. S. Arasu (Director, IFGL Refractories Ltd), Prof Swadesh Pratihara (NIT Rourkela), Prof S.K. Behera (NIT Rourkela), Mr. Sampad Mishra (RSP), Prof S Bhattacharyya (NIT Rourkela), Prof D Sarkar (NIT Rourkela), Prof B B Nayak (NIT Rourkela), Prof R Mazumder (NIT Rourkela), Prof P Saha (NIT Rourkela), Mr. C. Mishra (Vedant), Mr. Vijay Chandra Patro (SRPL Rourkela), Mr. D. Mohapatra (Supreme Chemicals, Rourkela), Dr. Y. Nayak, IFGL Refractories Rourkela, Mr. B.P. Sahu (IFGL Refractories Rourkela), Mr. R.. Prusty (UGIE, Rourkela), Mr. Vikas Somany (TKRL, Belpahar), Mr. Jan Verma (TKRL Belpahar), Mr. Rajesh Mohanty (RHI Magnesita Rajgangpur) and others.

1. At the outset, Dr. Atanu Ranjan Pal welcomed all the members and initiated the discussion. He expressed his happiness on the revival of the Rourkela Chapter. He also assured that InCerS parent body will lend a helping hand during the initial period of revival, be it financial administrative or any other form, if the InCerS Rourkela places such a request to the Central body.
2. He reiterated that fact that the Chapter was quite active till 2002 and after that there was not much of any recorded activity of the chapter. But given its strategic position-i.e. surrounded by Steel Plant (RSP and JSW Jharsuguda), DRI Plant, the prominent Refractory manufacturers of India, Cement Plant, two Academic Institutes (NIT Rourkela and UGIE Rourkela), DISIR it is the most favourable place to start, and sustain a very active Chapter. He also wished the chapter the very best for their future endeavours. This Chapter, like, any other chapter shall be governed by the Bylaws of the society available online in InCerS website.
3. As the Chapter is again reviving, Dr. Pal, as President, InCerS Central Body proposed the following office holders for the Chapter for the smooth functioning of the Chapter. However, these nominated names and the positions will be ratified in the next GBM of the Rourkela which will be held shortly in OFFLINE MODE.
4. For the time being, the following are the office bearers of the Chapter
Mr. S. Arasu Chairman Prof S Bhattacharyya and Mr. Sampad Mishra Vice- Chairmen,
Prof S. K. Pratihara Secretary, Prof S. K. Behera Joint Secretary, Mr. C. K. Mishra Treasurer
The Chapter if and when the need arises, will induct more office bearers for streamlining the functioning of the Chapter.
5. It was also decided that (a) the Chapter activity area will be from Rourkela to Jharsuguda*, (b) Any organization/industry/academia can join this Chapter if they are working in the broadest definition of "Materials", and, anyone working in these organizations, irrespective of their degree or specialization are eligible to become a member of the parent body of InCerS as well as the Rourkela Chapter of InCerS.

* Subsequently, in consultation with the Chairman, InCerS Rourkela Chapter, Jharsuguda has been extended till Sambalpur as Vedanta is accommodated in Rourkela Chapter.

6. Chairman, InCerS stressed the need for “Membership Drive” and said that he will personally interact with the Heads of the different refractory manufacturing and other units for motivating people from their respective organization to become an active member of InCerS Rourkela Chapter. In this regard, President InCerS informed that the present rate of the Life membership is around 11,500/= + GST and soon the rates likely to be hiked. Therefore, to avail the benefits of this existing rate, new members should apply immediately online and on the payment of the membership fee, the membership process will be activated at the existing rate only.
7. Members opined that in order to sustain the Chapter’s activity, different programmes should be undertaken on a regular basis. Some of the suggested options were organizing expert lecture from different fields of Ceramics, one-day workshop on different specific aspects of Ceramics, popular lectures on the advancements of ceramics, social gatherings, Student-Industry visit and interaction, so on and so forth. The President InCerS, Central Body as well the Chairman InCerS Rourkela Chapter suggested to invite suggestions from the different members in the WhatsApp Group that has been created for the Chapter and the final schedule of forthcoming events can be decided in the next GBM to be held in the Month of May in Rourkela.
8. Chairman, InCerS Rourkela Chapter also suggested that it is not mandatory that the Chapter meeting, gathering, activities, lectures need to be held only in Rourkela. Rather, he suggested that the meetings should frequently alternate between Rourkela and Jharsuguda in order for the members of those localities have the responsibility and the opportunity to arrange the Chapter activities. The suggestion was appreciated all the members.
9. It was also suggested that Mr. Chandrasekhar Mishra, on account of wide exposure and contacts in the Non-Ferrous Metal Extraction and other related industries will be a key person for spearheading the membership drive. Similarly, Mr. Sampad Mishra was requested to induct members from RSP, Rourkela and nearby areas.
10. Chairman InCers Rourkela Chapter informed the members that the only Ceramic Diploma Institute in this area, UGIE Rourkela is facing acute shortage of Teaching Staff and well as Infrastructural facilities for proper training and laboratory classes of the students and since UGIE students are employed in many these nearby industries, the InCerS Rourkela Chapter may extend their helping hand in upgrading the facilities, laboratory classes, special lectures. It may also be possible that the Ceramic Engineering Department NIT Rourkela may play a meaning part in fulfilling the latter area. This point, if agreed upon by the majority of the members may be discussed at length in the next General Body meeting.
11. The Chairman, InCers Rourkela Chapter also expressed his desire that given the most conducive combination of this Chapter territorial position (geographical, industrial, technical, infrastructural development and the presence of two academic institutions), the Chapter should not only function in a very active way and foster a very active Industry-Academia-R&D –Entrepreneurial collaborations but should also target to gather enough experience, fund generation through membership drive and other activities so that in next years, the Chapter may be in a position to stake its claim for hosting the Annual Session of InCerS.

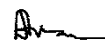
12. The next meeting will be in OFFLINE mode or a physical meeting in Rourkela- the date and the venue for which will be circulated shortly in consultation with the stakeholders but, tentatively it will be in the second week of May 2025.
13. The members' presents proposed a vote of thanks both to Dr. Atanu Ranjan Pal, President, InCerS Central body and Mr. S Arasu Chairman, InCerS Local Chapter for attending the meeting and sharing their valuable ideas.



(S K Behera)
Jt Secretary



(S. K. Pratihara)
Secretary



(S. Arasu)
Chairman