



INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Dear Colleague:

The preparations for AISC at Lucknow are in full swing. More than 750 delegates have submitted abstracts and about 800 have registered.

To coincide with the AISC, we have organised Young Researchers' Workshop on *Doing Sociology with a Historical Sensibility* on 7-8 November, 2017 where 18 doctoral students will present papers.

We have organized four Plenary/symposia on different themes at the conference whose main theme is **Neo liberalism, Consumption and Culture**. Dr Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chair of Niti Aayog will be inaugurating the conference and will speak on *New India 2022. The Role of the Elite* and Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Vice Chancellor Ashoka University will give the keynote speech on *Democratic Theory and Cultures of Consumption*.

The 2017 Lifetime Achievement Awards are being presented to Professors Ratna Naidu and Nandu Ram. Professor Veena Das will be giving the Radhakamal Mukherjee Lecture on *The Vulnerability of Expert Knowledge: Observations on a Global Intervention on TB in an Indian City*. I enclose the schedule of the conference with abstracts of plenary/symposia presentations.

Last year through my letters and at the GBM, I informed you about the changes that the new team made in the management and administration of the ISS. As you know, our attempt has been to upgrade the Society's professional culture, democratize its activities and decrease its financial liabilities. This year we have furthered these goals. Thus we have reorganized the RCs and rationalized its workings. Additionally we have evolved an ethics code which we will pass at the coming GBM (attached).

Last year we revived the ISS E Journal. It was given a new title: *Explorations* and the first issue was released in April 2017. The first issue of the *Bulletin* was published by Sage and we have now signed the contract with Sage to publish *Sameeksha* from January 2018. Additionally registration of the Lucknow conference, ISS and RC membership is now completely online. Some of you have paid your conference registration but not uploaded your forms. Please note that if you do not upload your form you will not be able to register physically when you come to Lucknow. So please do so immediately. But by far the most important decision that the ISS MC has taken has been to shift its office to its own flat and to renovate it so that it functions as a Guest House for the Society's Life Members. We hope to start the Guest House in a few weeks' time.

As you know in the last GBM at Tezpur we accepted a constitutional change to initiate online voting. May I request all of you to register yourselves on the website-only then you will be able to vote in the coming elections of the Society.

I look forward to meeting you at Lucknow.

Sincerely yours,

Sujata Patel

PRESIDENT

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