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Dear Colleagues,

It is with a great sense of fulfilment and satisfaction that I pen down my last Editor’s Note. It brings an end to my two-year tenure as Secretary, Indian Sociological Society (ISS, 2016 - 2017) and Editor, ISS E-Newsletter. The first and foremost important activity has been the successful organization of the 43rd All India Sociological Conference (AISC) at Lucknow during 9th–12 November, 2017. I am thankful to Prof. D.R. Sahu, the Organizing Secretary of the Conference and his team for this feat.

I convey my gratitude to all the Managing Committee (MC) Members of ISS for supporting us in all our endeavours and helping us to carry out some of the decisive initiatives that we took this year. My sincere thanks are to the ISS President, Prof. Sujata Patel for leading us in a concrete and meaningful way, and to the Treasurer for managing well the financial as well as other aspects of the Society. It was a good team work on the whole and made me learn countless things. Shifting of the ISS office to our own Flat in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi was perhaps the biggest achievement of this MC. Transition from the old to the new locale is never an easy task and it took all our strength to accomplish this.

Handing over the publication of Sociological Bulletin to Sage since 2017 and Bhartiya Samajshastra Sameeksha from 2018 is yet another significant achievement. This has helped save our resources, ensured the online availability of the Bulletin on the ISS website as well as its wide circulation across the country and the world. The ISS E-Journal Explorations also got re-started with its issues available online since 2017. The Introduction of online voting was an important step. Making this as well as all other payments like membership fees, registration fees etc. online ensured transparency and systematized the entire process. Amendment to the ISS Constitution was due long and this too was done successfully. Besides these, several sub-committees were formed like those dealing with All India Sociological conference, office and land, life-time achievement award, endowment, Ethics, ISS publications guidelines, and rationalization of Research Committees. Their reports were prepared and implemented and uploaded on the ISSN website. I am thankful to all the RC Conveners and RC representatives for helping us in the rationalization process of the RCs, even if there was some resentment and disagreement, we are sure this will work out better for the academic growth of the ISS. I wish all the very best to the new team!

I am indeed grateful to all the life members and others associated with the Indian Sociological Society for their contribution. Thanks are due to the Co-Editor of E-Newsletter Prof. Antony Palackal and all its’ Editorial Board Members. Special thanks to Miss. Boinu Vaiphei for meticulously handling the composing and laser typesetting of this E-Newsletter.

Abha Chauhan
Editor
The 43rd All India Sociological Conference
ORGANIZING SECRETARY’S REPORT

The 43rd All India Sociological Conference of the Indian Sociological Society (ISS) was hosted by the Department of Sociology, University of Lucknow during 9-12 November, 2017. The theme of the conference was “Neo Liberalism, Consumption and Culture”.

Inaugural Function: 43rd All India Sociological Conference, Lucknow (09 November, 2017)

The Conference was preceded by the Young Researchers Workshop, which was a national level workshop on the theme “Doing Sociological Research with Historical Sensibilities” was held during 7-8 November, 2017 it was organized by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow along with the Indian Sociological Society. It was sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) New Delhi. More than fifty abstracts were received and through a process of selection by a committee of the experts, eighteen abstracts were selected for final presentation. To provide exposure to the students of Uttar Pradesh (U.P), the Head of Department of Sociology of the universities of Uttar Pradesh were requested to nominate three candidates (Ph.D. Scholars) from their universities to participate in the workshop. Thirty research scholars were nominated by the universities of Uttar Pradesh to participate in the workshop.

The Young Researchers Workshop
The Inaugural Session began at 9.30 AM. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjay Singh welcomed the guests and introduced the Young Researchers Workshop to the gathering. He said that workshop of this kind would enhance greater academic interactions amongst the students from across the country. Prof. Sujata Patel, the ISS President in her inaugural address emphasized how doing sociological research with historical sensibilities had assumed importance today. Due to unavoidable circumstances, Prof. Uma Chakravarty could not attend the conference but sent her Key Note Address through a video message for the distinguished guests and participants. In her address she, pointed out as to how in spite of being from the discipline of History, she was driven towards Sociology, and eventually becoming an integral part of the discipline. She highlighted the permeable boundaries of various disciplines and the inextricable relation between History and Sociology. Prof. D.R. Sahu chaired the session and the Vote of Thanks was delivered by Prof. Abha Chauhan, Secretary, ISS.

The six sessions on the following issues were held and papers were presented by the scholars from across India: Session-I & II Theme: (Environment, Ecology and Sustainable Development) (Migration Displacement and Development). Session: III Theme: (Tribal Society and Development) Session: IV Theme: Arts and Aesthetics Science, Market and Occupation. Evening Session Screening of the Short Film: Ek Inquilab Aur Aaya Directed by Prof. Uma Chakravarti Session: V & VI Theme: Development and Governance.

The presentations were followed by the valedictory session. The Valedictory session was chaired by Prof. S.K. Chaudhary of Lucknow University. Guest of Honour, Prof. Rajesh Mishra discussed the Lucknow School of Sociology and the contributions of eminent Sociologists Dr. Radha Kamal Mukerjee, Dr. D.P. Mukerjee and Dr. A.K. Saran. The two day workshop came to an end with the Vote of Thanks by the Vice Chancellor, and Organising secretary of the Workshop, Prof. Sanjay Singh.

Prof. Sanjay Singh.

Inaugural Ceremony at Shivaji Stadium, University of Lucknow – Prof D.R. Sahu, Organising Secretary, Prof Sujata Patel, President, ISS, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Ayog, Prof S.P. Singh, Vice Chancellor, University of Lucknow and Prof Abha Chauhan, Secretary, ISS (L-R)

The 43rd AISC discussed various social and institutional issues relating to neoliberalism, consumption and Indian culture. Around 1200 sociologists from all over India as well as across the globe participated in the Conference. During the Conference, several plenary sessions, paper presentations and special lectures were organized. More than 850 delegates presented papers on
various sociological issues in the sessions organized under 24 different Research Committees and 04 Ad hoc Groups.

The Conference was inaugurated by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog on 9th November 2017. His speech focused on the challenges of urban India in contemporary times and the role sociologists can play in this regard. Professor, S.P. Singh, the Vice Chancellor of University of Lucknow, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the university while Professor D.R. Sahu, the Organizing Secretary of the Conference welcomed all the participants on behalf of the organizing committee. Professor Sujata Patel delivered the inaugural address and also welcomed the delegates on behalf of ISS. The Life Time Achievement Awards were presented to Professor Ratna Naidu, former professor University of Hyderabad and Professor Nandu Ram, former Professor Jawaharlal Nehru University. The vote of thanks was proposed by Professor Abha Chauhan, Secretary, ISS on behalf of ISS and the Organizing Committee respectively.

The second day of the Conference (10.11.2017) began with the Presidential Address of Professor Sujata Patel, President, ISS, on the theme “Rethinking Urban Studies Today”. This was followed by the 1st Plenary Session on “The urban Transformation of India” which was chaired by Professor Ratna Naidu. Under this plenary, there were three speakers: Professor Carol Upadhyay, National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) Bangalore (Globalizing the Provincial: Translocal Circulations and Urban Change in Regional Towns), Professor Purendra Prasad, University of Hyderabad (Indian Cities and Its Current Forms of Capitalist Urbanization: A Case of Amaravati) and Professor D. Parthasarthy, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (India’s Emerging Risk Urbanism: Cities, Commons, and Neo-liberal Transformation).

The 2nd Plenary Session took place during post lunch session and was on the theme of “The Middle Class and its aspiration” it was chaired by Veena Das, Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Anthropology, John Hopkins University (TBC) New York. The three speakers in this plenary were: Sanjay Srivastava, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi (Spatializing Class: New Urban Spaces and the Making of New Class Identities in India), Tanveer Fazal, Centre for Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (The Muslim Middle Class: Structure, Identity and Mobility) and Professor Aseem Prakash, School of Public Policy and Governance, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad (Markets, Aspirations and Contestations). Professor Veena Das, Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University, New York delivered the R K Mukerjee Lecture on “The Vulnerability of Expert Knowledge: Observations on a Global Intervention on TB in an Indian City”.

Plenary Sessions - Prof Ratna Naidu (Chair), Prof Tanveer Fasal, Prof Parthasarthy, Prof Carol Upadhyay and Prof Aseem Prakash (L-R)
The 3rd Plenary session was held on 11th November, 2017 on the theme: “Cultures of Power, Domination and Hegemony”. The session was chaired by Professor Nandu Ram, former Professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University. The session included three speakers: Maitrayee Chaudhuri, Centre for Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (A churning public discourse and a new hegemony), Sonalde Desai, University of Maryland College Park, USA and Senior Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi (Neoliberal Economic Transformation and Rural Elites), Dr. K S James, Professor, Centre for Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (The Middle Class and the Gender Dividend in India).

The last day of the conference hosted the 4th plenary session. The 4th Plenary Session was on the theme Regional Plenary: Neoliberalism, Consumption and Culture in Uttar Pradesh and was chaired by Gopalbandhu Pattnaik, Chairman, UP Jal Nigam Government, UP State, President Ethnographic and Folk Culture Society. There were three speakers in this session. Ravi S. Srivastava, Centre for Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (Understanding Consumption Growth and its Distribution in UP under “Neoliberalism”); Professor Sudha Pai, National Fellow, ICSSR, and Retired Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (From Social Justice to Aspiration: Changing Politics of the Lower Castes in Uttar Pradesh); and Professor Badri Narayan, G.B.Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad (Neo-liberalism and Dalits: Narratives of the Most Marginal Communities of Uttar Pradesh).

The Conference also witnessed release of several books authored by ISS members. The General Body Meeting (GBM) of the ISS was held on 11th November and was chaired by the President along with the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Secretary’s Report was presented comprising of ISS activities for the year 2017. Life Members were present in the meeting and several questions raised by them were answered by the office bearers and the Organizing Secretary. Important decisions were taken in the GBM. Each day of the Conference ended with a cultural programme which showcased the rich cultural heritage of Lucknow. The valedictory session was held in the afternoon of 12th November. The conveners of various Research Committees presented their reports in this session. Professor D.R. Sahu shared his experience in organizing the Conference and thanked all concerned for their kind cooperation. Professor Abha Chauhan, Secretary, Indian Sociological Society (ISS) delivered the vote of thanks on behalf of ISS.

Prof D.R. Sahu, Organising Secretary, 43rd AISC, Lucknow
The General Body (GB) of the Indian Sociological Society (ISS) met on 11th November, 2017 at Malaviya Hall, University of Lucknow, Lucknow (U.P.), the third day of the 43rd All India Sociological Conference. A total of 221 members attended the meeting. Prof Sujata Patel, the President, ISS chaired the meeting.

1. Welcome Address by the President, ISS.

The General Body Meeting (GBM) began with the address by Prof. Sujata Patel, the President of the Indian Sociological Society. She dwelled on the initiatives and steps taken by the ISS in the year 2017.
The President presented an overview of the major changes undertaken by the present MC. The first related to the publications: Sage started publishing the Sociological Bulletin (2017) and will soon start publishing Bhartiya Samajshastra Sameeskha (2018), the revival of the E journal and re-titling it as Explorations and increasing the frequency of E-Newsletter from 2 to 3 with their governance through a common set of Editorial Guidelines. Second, she informed the GBM that the new conference guidelines with two models, the first of conference with accommodation and the second of the conference without accommodation have been accepted by the MC. At Tezpur, given the excellent infrastructure the first model was implemented and at Lucknow the second model was implemented. She also informed the audience that the plenary presentations of the Tezpur and Lucknow conferences will be published by Orient Longman.

Third, a rationalisation committee had been set up which had recommended the splitting, merging and renaming of RCs. The new RCs will be effective after the Lucknow conference. Fourth, the MC introduced changes in the constitution introducing online voting, avoiding conflict of interest and ensuring that one person holds one post. Fifth, it framed guidelines to implement the lifetime achievement awards. Sixth it updated the website of the Society to make it interactive. Lastly, it shifted the office to its flat and appointed the new staff for the office.

2. Condolences and observance of two minutes silence as a mark of respect for those departed.

The General Body expressed condolence at the demise of the following Life Members who left us in 2017 and observed two minutes silence:

1. Prof. JMS Verma, Lucknow
2. Prof. D. N. Dhanagare, Pune
3. Prof. Keshav Kaistha, Chandigarh
4. Prof. Ishwar Modi, Jaipur
5. Prof. TKN Unnithan, Jaipur
6. Prof. Hetukar Jha, Patna
7. Prof. M.J. Masihi, Ahemdabad
8. Prof. M. Ramakrishnan, Tirunelveli
9. Prof. M. Kannappan, Tirunelveli
10. Prof. Gopal Iyer, Chandigarh
11. Prof. C. Lakshmannna, Hyderabad

3. To approve the minutes of the last General Body Meeting held on December 29th, 2016 at Tezpur University, Assam during the 42nd All India Sociological Conference.

The Secretary, Prof. Abha Chauhan presented the minutes of the General Body Meeting held at Tezpur on 29th December, 2016 and the same were approved in the General Body Meeting at Lucknow.

4. To present Secretary’s Report for the year 2017 and its approval in the GBM.

The Secretary’s Report for the year 2017 was presented by the Secretary, ISS, Prof. Abha Chauhan. She made a power point presentation highlighting all the activities and initiatives taken by the ISS, the office bearers, the Managing Committee as well other ISS activities in the year 2017. These related to decisions regarding website and availability of all forms on it, signing contract for publication of Hindi Journal Bhartiya Samajshastra Sameeskha by Sage from 2018 onward, publications, change of office and the staff, starting of the Guest House, life-time achievement award, holding of ISS Conferences, Rationalization of Research Committees, Regional Associations activities, about the 43rd All India Sociological Conference and Young Researcher’s Workshop at Lucknow, increase in number of ISS life members, and online voting. She thanked everyone for their help in running the Society and the local organizers for the successful conference at Lucknow.
The motion to accept the Secretary’s Report was proposed by Prof. Rajesh Misra and seconded by Dr. Supriya Singh.

The Secretary’s Report was accepted and approved by the General Body unanimously.

5. To circulate audited financial Report of 2017-18 and its approval in the GBM.

The Treasurer’s Report was presented by the Treasurer of ISS, Prof. Biswajit Ghosh for the year 2017-18.

The motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was proposed by Prof. Arvind Chauhan and seconded by Prof. Ram Ganesh Yadav.

The Treasurer’s Report was approved in the General Body Meeting. It was agreed that from the next GBM the report of the auditor would also be circulated with the audited statement.

6. To apprise the life members about the progress made in starting the office and the Guest House in Society owned Flat in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

The Office Bearers informed the GBM that the ISS Office shifted from its earlier office of nearly twenty eight years at the Institute of Social Sciences (Institute) to the Society’s Flat in Vasant Kunj (1046/ C-1) in April, 2017. This was decided in the MC meeting of 18th March, 2017 at New Delhi. A grant given by the ICSSR for purchase of furniture was used to buy office furniture and ACs for the Guest House. A Purchase Committee constituted and approved by the MC comprising of the Secretary, Treasurer and one MC Member (Prof. V.P. Singh) processed the purchase. Three staff members were appointed to run the office – a full time Office Secretary, a part time Accountant, and a part time Care Taker. The contract to renovate the Flat (inside) was given to S.K. Contractors after following the procedure of setting up a three- member Purchase Committee consisting of President, Secretary and Prof. V.P. Singh and putting the notice on the website. Altogether 3 washrooms, 3 bedrooms, lobby, kitchen and the office were renovated. In addition, whitewashing, electricity and sanitary works, polishing of doors and windows, and cleaning of the Flat were done. The work of renovation is complete now. Though we tried our best for the extension of the Flat, but this could not be done due to non-cooperation of the neighbours and the local functionaries. The decision in this matter is left to the next Managing Committee.

During the process of renovation and buying assets for the office, it was found that there were no rules and by-laws for purchase of equipment. The method followed so far was to buy assets and infrastructure or get renovation done by constituting Sub-Committees of the MC. The President prepared the draft of purchase rules and circulated to the MC Members prior to the MC Meeting at Bhubaneswar in July, 2017 and the same was adopted and approved in the MC meeting. The three rooms in the Guest House are equipped with A.C.s and furniture, and decorated aesthetically. It was decided that the rates of the rooms approved in MC meeting of Bhubaneswar in 22nd July, 2017 would be uploaded on the website and the Guest House would start functioning from the 1st of December, 2017. Additionally, a person to assist in the office and Guest House who could stay from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm would also be employed. It is hoped that the expenditure for the maintenance of the office and the Guest House as well as the payment of salaries of the staff would be managed by the remuneration from the Guest House bookings. The information for booking of the Guest House (which would be Life Members and maximum of 2 accompanying persons), the form, and query about availability of rooms/ beds would be done in advance by the Office Secretary, and the amounts are to be paid to the ISS Bank Account. There will be only online payment and not through cash or cheque.


The Managing Editor of the ISS Journal Sociological Bulletin, Prof. Paramjit Judge presented the report in MC meeting on 9th November, 2017 at Lucknow. In his report Prof. Judge mentioned that all the issues of Vol. 66 (1, 2 and 3) are published.
The Journal Sociological Bulletin is published by Sage since 2017. The first issue of Volume 66 was brought out in April 2017 while the second issue was published in August 2017. The third issue of 2017 is just published. He gave the details of the Articles and Book Reviews published in Vol. 66 (3).

Prof. Judge mentioned in his report that in all 56 Articles and Prof. M.N. Srinivas and Prof. Radhakamal Mukherjee Memorial Lectures have been received for publication in the Sociological Bulletin till 31st October, 2017. Out of these, 29 Articles were rejected of which 12 were editorial rejections. In all, 13 Articles were recommended by referees, while the others are in the process. A total of 42 Books were received for Review during this period. Prof. Judge was hopeful that the work on the first issue of Volume 67 would be completed by the end of November.

Finally the Managing Editor acknowledged and thanked the authors, discussants and reviewers of Volume 66 for their help. He expressed his gratefulness to the anonymous referees and to SAGE and the editorial staff for their efficient, meticulous and timely work.

The President informed the life members about the increasing subscriptions and accessibility of the Sociological Bulletin to a large number of people across the world with the marketing packages developed by Sage. As a result of all these efforts by Sage we are hopeful that from 2018 onwards the Bulletin will have about 8000 subscribers through these initiatives and the Journal will be accessible at highly discounted rates. The President also mentioned that all life members registered on the ISS website will have access to the issues of Sociological Bulletin from 1952 till date, i.e. 2017 (Vol. 66, No. 3).

8. To consider the Report of the Editor, Bhartiya Samajshastra Sameeksha.

The President and the Secretary informed the GBM about the report of the Editor of the Journal Bharateeya Samajshastra Sameeksha Prof. B.K. Nagla which was presented by him in the MC meeting held on 9th November at Lucknow. The Journal was started in the year 2014 along with the Editor and his team comprising of three members for editorial assistance. The Editorial Board and Editorial Advisory Committee of the Journal were constituted and approved in the MC meeting of 13th June, 2016. Two meetings of Editorial Board were held during the present MC tenure of 2016 and 2017 during the All India Sociological Conferences and various issues related to the Journal were discussed.

Prof. Nagla informed the members that so far 4 Volumes and 7 issues of the Journal Bharatiya Samajshastra Sameeksha have been published. The combined Volume of two issues (July-December, 2016 and January-June, 2017) has been published. This was a special issue on ‘Sociology of Sanitation’ for which some amounts were given by Sulabh International Social Organization (40,000/) and the ICSSR, New Delhi (1 lakh). The Editor informed that the eighth issue is in the pipeline and would be brought out in due course of time.

The report talked about the purpose of Sameeksha which is to promote the national language and to disseminate knowledge among the large number of students and researchers belonging to the Hindi belt regions, mainly Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. Hindi is also spoken and read in the states like Punjab, J&K, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Prof. Nagla however desired that members of Managing Committee, Convenors of Research Committees and those of the Editorial and Advisory Board of Bharatiya Samajshastra Sameeksha subscribe to the Journal.

The report also said that the publication of the Journal will be taken over by the Sage from 2018 onward. The MC and the office bearers expressed their thanks to the Editor for his consistent hard work for the Journal.

9. To inform about the decision of Managing Committee (MC) and its approval of handing over the publication of Bhartiya Samajshastra Sameeksha to Sage w.e.f. January 2018.
The President informed the General Body members that the contract between the ISS (signed by the Secretary) and the Sage has been signed on 25th August 2017. Bharatiya Samajshastra Sameeksha will be published by the Sage from 2018 onwards which will improve the subscription and circulation of the Journal. It will also reduce the financial burden on the Society.

10. To consider the report of the Editor of ISS E – Journal, Explorations.

The information about the Editor’s report of the ISS E- Journal, Explorations presented by Prof. Chandan Kumar Sharma in the MC meeting held on 9th November, 2017 at Lucknow was given by the President in the GBM. The E- Journal which started earlier in the year 2012 was stopped after three issues. It was in 2016 that the present Managing Committee (2016- 2017) decided to revive the E-Journal and Prof. Chandan Sharma was appointed as the Editor of the Journal from 1st January, 2017. The Editorial Board and Editorial Advisory Committee were also formed. Subsequently, the Editor formed his editorial team.

The E - Journal is published twice a year, in April and October. The first issue of the E - Journal Explorations, Vol. 1 (1) was published in April 2017 and uploaded on the ISS website with a copy sent to all life members. The Editor informed that the second issue (October) of Explorations is ready for uploading on the website, but the ISSN of the Journal is still awaited and as soon as we receive it, the second issue will be out.

Prof. Sharma gave the details of the forthcoming issue that will comprise of six papers, of which two are Articles and four are Research in Progress that are contributions from the participants in the Young Researchers’ Workshop held during the 42nd All India Sociological Conference at Tezpur University, Assam. This issue will also carry an interview with Prof. Margaret Abraham, the President of International Sociological Association conducted by Labinot Kunushevci, an M.A. student of the University of Prishtina, Republic of Kosova.

The Editor also informed the members that there is a proposal for the April 2018 issue of the Journal on the theme ‘Society and Sexuality’ from Dr. Pushpesh Kumar of the University of Hyderabad. The Editorial Board of the E- Journal has accepted the proposal. All these updates were conveyed to the members in the GBM.

11. To update the General Body (GB) members about the changes in the Research Committee (RC) Rules following the formation of RC Rationalization Committee and its’ approval in the RC Convenor’s and Managing Committee Meetings.

The President informed the life members in the GBM about the developments regarding rationalization of RCs in the year 2017. A Sub-Committee was formed by the MC in its meeting at Tezpur in December 2016 to discuss and take decision on the rationalization of RCs with President, ISS as Convenor and five other Members consisting of two RC Conveners (Manish Thakur, RC -01 and P.S. Vivek, RC – 16) and two MC Members (Satish Sharma and Sukant Chaudhury) and one former ISS President (John J. Kattakayam).

The report was prepared by the Sub-Committee (Committee) and discussed in the MC meeting in Delhi in March, 2017 and after certain modifications again in Bhubaneswar MC meeting in July, 2017. The same was discussed in RC Conveners meeting on 21st July, 2017 at Bhubaneswar. The Committee suggested certain guidelines for better working and governance of RC. It emphasized on the reorganization of RCs, the eligibility criteria of the RC Conveners, and its relationship with MC and its’ functioning at the ISS annual conferences. The rationalization of the RCs suggested merger, splitting, renaming and formation of RCs to make them more inclusive, democratic and qualitative. It also recommended the formation of Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) to conduct the activities of the RCs at the All India Sociological Conferences (AISCs) consisting of the President, Secretary, the Organizing Secretary and two external members as approved by the MC.
In the RC Conveners meeting held in Lucknow on 9th November, 2017 many RC Conveners expressed their dissatisfaction regarding the role of AAC as being too centralized and undermining the autonomy of RC Conveners. It was therefore decided in the said meeting that the role of AAC will be limited in guiding and streamlining the abstracts, while the RCs will have complete freedom to accept, reject or suggest modifications in the abstracts. They will prepare the final list of abstracts selected and conduct the RC sessions during the conference, besides preparing and presenting their reports.

In the RC Conveners and MC meetings at Lucknow, the names of the RCs/AGs were changed, merged, created and modified as decided in the RC Convenor’s and MC meetings at Bhubaneswar in July, 2017.

The following is the list of the RCs and their Convenors:

RC / Name of the RC/ Convenor

- RC 01- History of Sociology: Dr. Manish Kumar Thakur
- RC 02 - Studies on Family, Marriage and Kinship: Prof. C.S.S. Thakur
- RC 03 - Economy and Society: Prof. B.B. Mohanty
- RC 04 - Migration and Diaspora Studies: Prof. Ajailiu Niumai
- RC 05 - Sociology of Education: Dr. B.N. Dubey
- RC 06 - Sociology of Religion: Dr. Ramanuj Ganguly
- RC 07 - Adivasi and Tribal Studies: Prof. Sanjay Singh
- RC 08 - Inequalities, Stratification and Exclusion Studies: Prof. Mohd. Salim
- RC 09 - Dalit Studies: Dr. Arun Paudmal
- RC 10 - Gender Studies: Prof. Shweta Prasad
- RC 11 – Sociology of Environment: Dr. Anoop Kumar Singh
- RC 12 - Sociology of Health, Ageing and Well-Being: Dr. Amrendra Mahapatra
- RC 13 - Science, Technology and Society: Prof. Bipul Kumar Bhadra
- RC 14 - Globalization and Culture: Prof. V.P. Singh
- RC 15 - Agrarian Structure and Social Transformation: Prof. Naresh Bhargava
- RC 16 - Work, Labour and Organization: Prof. P.S. Vivek
- RC 17 - Sociology of Social Movements: Prof. Gayatri Bhattacharya
- RC 18 - Social Demography: Dr. Udai Bhan Singh
- RC 19 - Urban Studies: Dr. Kulvidner Kaur
- RC 20 - Media Studies: Dr. Kali Nath Jha
- RC 21 - Political Sociology: Prof. S.N. Chaudhury
- RC 22 - Conflict and Violence Studies: Prof. Aneesa Shafi
- RC 23 - Sociology of Law, Crime and Deviance: Dr. Ramesh Makwana
- RC 24 -Childhood and Youth Studies: Dr. Piyali Sur
- RC 25 - Sociology of Sports: Prof. Vishesh Gupta
- RC 26 - Minority Studies: Prof. Arvinder A. Ansari
- RC 27 -Sociology of Care: Prof. Samita Manna

The titles of some of the RCs remained the same or were changed slightly in consultation with the respective Conveners. These RCs are – 01, 02, 04, 05, 06, 08, 10, 11, 13, 17, 22 and 24. RC 03 was split into ‘Economy and Society’ (RC 03) and ‘Political Sociology’ (now RC 21). RC 07 was split into ‘Adivasi and Tribal Studies (RC 07) and ‘Agrarian Structure and Social Transformation’ (RC 15). RC - 09 was confined to ‘Dalit Studies’ (with backward classes being removed from this). RC -12 was titled as ‘Sociology of Health, Ageing and Well-Being’ (merged with RC on ageing). RC - 14 was split into ‘Globalization and Culture’ (RC - 14) and ‘Media Studies’ (RC - 20), and RC 16 into ‘Work, Labour and Organization’ (RC -16) and ‘Urban Studies’ (RC -19). RC 18 on ‘Sociology of Crime and Deviance’ was merged with RC -23 on ‘Sociology of Law’, now being renamed as RC 23 on ‘Sociology of Law, Crime and Deviance’.

Regarding the Conveners, those of RC 01, 02, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24 would continue till one or two years as long as their term is left. It also includes those RC Conveners who have been newly appointed or agreed to complete their terms under the new RC.
nomenclature. The Convener of RC 20 gave in writing in the RC meeting (Lucknow) that he may be allowed to continue as Convener of this RC as his one year is still left.

Three RC Conveners could not be identified, neither in RC Conveners meeting nor in MC meeting at Lucknow. These are RCs 03, 19 and 22. The name of Convener of RC 19 was approved in the MC meeting at Bhubaneswar in July, 2017. For the rest (RC 03,19 and 22), it was decided in the MC Meeting at Lucknow that the decision to this effect would be left to the President to find appropriate persons to head these RCs in an adhoc capacity for one year till the elections take place in the business meetings during the AISCs (The Conveners of these RCs were finalized by the President later on).

The representative of RC 09 expressed the concern in the MC meeting at Lucknow that its’ RC members would like to keep its original name that includes Backward Classes. But it was decided that the RC should focus on ‘Dalit Studies’ only as the issue of Dalits is different from the backward classes and requires separate interrogation. The Convenor of RC 18, ‘Sociology of Crime and Deviance’ did not agree to the merger with RC 23, though the Convener of RC 23 did not have any problem with this merger. Dr. Ramesh Makwana, the Convener, other office bearers and members of RC 18 gave in writing to the President on 10th November, 2017 giving reasons that they do not want RC -18 on Crime and Deviance to merge with RC- 23 on Sociology of Law which is very different and asked for reconsideration of the issue. The Convener of RC 18 also expressed his opinion in the GBM on 11th November, 2017 (However later he agreed to be a Convener of the newly merged RC Sociology of Law, Crime and Deviance).

Similarly, the Convener and members of RC -19 on ‘Sociology of Ageing’ did not agree to the merger with RC - 12 on ‘Population, Health and Society’ and asked for the reversal of the decision in writing in a representation dated 11th November, 2017. (However later he agreed to being the Convener of the RC 18 titled Social Demography).

The President informed the GBM that by virtue of the MC decision of empowering her to exercise her discretion, the names of the RC have been approved and the same will be uploaded on the ISS website at the earliest. However, the dissent of the Conveners and members of different RCs as mentioned above have been noted.

The Conveners of Adhoc Group 01, 02 and 03, Prof. Abhijit Mitra, Dr. Samapika Mohapatra and Prof. Arvinder Ansari submitted in writing to the Secretary, ISS during RC Conveners’ meeting on 9th November, 2017 requesting the upgrading of AG to the status of RC. All of them gave their reasons for asking so and gave the details of the activities they have been doing since last 3 years. AG 02 Convener also asked for the change in the name of AG 02 from ‘Sociology of Sports’ to ‘Sports, Society and Development’. AG 03 Convener agreed to the name ‘Minority Studies’ in place of earlier name ‘Ethnicity and Minority Studies’. AG - 04 Convener agreed to changing the name and scope to ‘Sociology of Care’ from ‘Mother and Motherhood’ on conversion to RC. This was conveyed by the Co-Convener of AG -04 in writing to the Secretary during the RC Conveners meeting in Lucknow dated 9th November, 2017.

The decision to upgrade AG 02, 03 and 04 to RC was agreed upon in the RC Conveners meeting to be approved by the MC. The MC meeting held on 9th November after the RC meeting approved the conversion of AG 02, 03 and 04 to the status of RC with AG 1 continuing as the Adhoc Group for another year. These decisions were conveyed by the President and the Secretary to the GBM and were thus approved.

12. To convey the decision of MC and Regional Associations regarding functioning of Regional Associations and their link with ISS and discuss the same.

In 2016, a Sub-Committee was formed with Secretary as the Convenor and three MC Members to review and analyze the status of the Regional Associations (RA) in different states. The Committee identified 12 RAs, some of which were more active, some less and others defunct. It gave various reasons for this state of affairs and suggested recommendations to promote and strengthen them. The Committee also focussed on establishing the link of the RAs with the ISS, their role in the AIS Conferences and updating their activities on the ISS website.
In 2017 March meeting of MC in Delhi, the members took the responsibility of establishing links with the Regional Associations in their areas and the list was drawn. They were to report back to the MC members. In MC meeting of July, 2017 in Bhubaneswar, some MC members reported about the progress of RAs in their regions like Kerala Sociological Association, Orissa Association, Rajasthan Sociological Association as well as from West Bengal.

In the Regional Association Meeting held in Lucknow on 10\(^{th}\) November, 2017, representatives of five Regional Associations attended the meeting. These were Associations from the states of Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Some MC members responsible for these states and other states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were also present. The members present gave information about the activities of their Associations and the activities they organized. They also mentioned about their life members, Newsletter, seminars and conferences.

The involving of MC members in the RAs activities, the role of RAs in the AIS conferences and linking of these associations with the ISS and to each other through the websites were emphasized.

13. To update the General Body about the progress in conducting of 2017 Elections in light of the approval for online voting by the MC as well as in the last GBM. Also to show a video film to the life members about the process of registering on the website and step by step online voting.

The President informed all life members during the General Body meeting about the ISS 2017 Elections and the decisions of the Managing Committee regarding these as well as the process undertaken so far.

The election to conduct online voting was taken in 2016 and the same was also included in the ISS Constitution which was approved in the GBM at Tezpur in December 2016. The decision to conduct a trial or mock exercise for online voting to ensure the smooth conduct of online ISS elections for the year 2017 at the next MC meeting was taken in March, 2017 MC at Delhi. Accordingly in the MC meeting at Bhubaneswar on 22\(^{nd}\) July, 2017, all MC Members present in the meeting got themselves registered and did online mock voting.

In the Bhubaneswar MC meeting, it was also decided that the ISS Elections of 2017 will be both offline and online as some life members do not have the email Ids. It was resolved that all those members whose correct registered email Ids are available will do online voting while those who’s Ids are not available (around 1000+) will be sent ballot papers. The Election Notice 2017 was approved and Prof. N Jayaram was declared as Election Officer for the 2017 ISS Elections. The Committee with 3 MC Members (Prof. V.P. Singh, Prof. Antony Palackal and Prof. S. Gurusamy) to prepare the voters list as well as Election Committee were also approved. It was decided that the Life Members would be asked to send their emails or get them changed/ corrected by 30\(^{th}\) November so that the two lists (online and offline) may be uploaded on the website. The online voters then must get themselves registered (if they have not) for online voting. The Election Notice 2017 with election schedule, relevant extracts from the Constitution and Bye laws for online election were also approved to be uploaded on the ISS website in time.

In the Bye laws for online Election an amendment was made in Point 7 wherein it was mentioned that: “In case the President or Secretary is standing for re-election, the other officer should take over and aid the Election Officer. In case both are standing, the senior most MC member from the five retiring MC Members should assist the Election Officer”.

The said amendment was accepted by the MC and approved in the MC meeting held on 9\(^{th}\) November, 2017 at Lucknow.

14. To inform General Body about any proposal for the next conference or any decision of the MC concerning it.

The President informed the GBM that there was no proposal submitted to the Managing Committee for organizing the next All India Sociological Conference. Hence no decision in this regard was taken.
15. To inform about the progress of ISS website and consider its further updating and calling for the suggestion in this regard or any other matter related to it.

The President informed the GBM about the new ISS website that became effective from July 2017. The website was updated and includes all current information pertaining to online voting, All India Sociological Conference and the conference registration, membership forms, ISS publications. It also consists of past information and back date issues of Newsletters, Journals and conferences.

This time around 850 members registered online for the conference. The registration fees, membership fees and accommodation have all been done online. The details of the 43rd All India Sociological conference, including the abstracts of panellists and paper presenters were available on the website. The President asked all Life Members to register themselves to the ISS website, not only those attending the conference, but all others who did not register so that they can cast their vote online in the 2017 ISS Election.

It was also mentioned by her that henceforth each Life Member will be able to access all issues of Sociological Bulletin (Vol 1 onward); Explorations, the ISS E-journal; and the E-Newsletter on their profile page.

16. To approve admission of new members since last GBM on 29th December, 2016 at Tezpur.

The total number of ISS members since 29-12-16 till 09-11-17 are the following:
Total number of Life members: 211 (From LMI 4240 to 4450).
The total number of Ordinary/Student membership: 399.

- The MC Meeting of 18th March, 2017 at Delhi approved 37 Life Members (from LMI 4240 to 4276).
- The MC Meeting held on 22nd July, 2017 at Bhubaneswar approved 41 Life Members (from 4277 to 4317).
- The MC Meeting of 9th November, 2017 at Lucknow approved 133 Life Members (4318 to 4450).

The admission of these members was approved by the GBM.

17. Code of Ethics

The matter of Code of Ethics was taken up by the President at the GBM. During MC meeting at Tezpur (December, 2016), the Committee on the Code of Ethics was formed with the President as the Convener of the Committee and 2 MC Members and two outside members (the past ISS President and the Secretary). The Committee prepared the report and the same was circulated by the President to all MC members. It was discussed in the MC meeting on 18th March, 2017 at Delhi and approved. This decision was again endorsed in the MC meeting at Lucknow on 9th November, 2017.

The President placed the contents of the Report in the GBM at Lucknow. The Report on ‘Code of Ethics’ was unanimously accepted by the members in the GBM. It was decided that it would be uploaded on the ISS website.

The motion to accept the ISS Code of Ethics was proposed by Dr. Padma Prakash and seconded by Dr. Kulwinder Kaur.

18. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.

There was no other item. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It gives me an immense pleasure to present before you the activities and programmes of the Indian Sociological Society (ISS) for the year 2017 (January – November). I wish to place on record my deep sense of gratitude to all the office bearers of ISS, the President, Treasurer, the Managing Committee (MC) members, Research Committee/ Adhoc Group Convenors, Regional Association Members, Members of various Editorial Boards and Advisory Committees, as well as other Committees, and all life and ordinary members of ISS to help us to carry on with our work successfully with a great sense of satisfaction and achievement. The Office Secretariat at the ISS office in Delhi, especially Ms. Boinu Vaiphei, Amrendra Kumar and Shobha Ram need special thanks. I am grateful to Prof. Jayaram for helping us in different ways at the two conferences (Tezpur, Lucknow) and for being the Election Officer for the 2017 – Election.

We would also like to put on record our deep appreciation of the support given by Dr. George Mathew, Chairperson of the Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) Delhi, Mr. Krishnan Namboodri, our office Secretary for the last 28 years, and all the staff of ISS, during the time the Society’s office functioned at the Institute.

On my personal and on behalf of ISS, I would like to thank Prof. Dipti Ranjan Sahu, the Organizing Secretary of the 43rd All India Sociological Conference and Head of the Department of Sociology, University of Lucknow and his entire team, Organizing Committee members, faculty and staff members, research scholars, students, people from all walks of life who in some way or the other helped us in organizing this conference. I am particularly grateful to the Vice Chancellor of Lucknow University, Prof. S.P. Singh, also the Patron of the Organizing Committee of the conference for his unstinted support and encouragement and for providing all kinds of facilities to hold the 43rd All India Sociological (AIS) conference at Lucknow. I must also thank Prof. Sanjay Singh from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow for successfully organizing Young Researchers Workshop just before the conference (7-8 November, 2017).

I would like to place on record our gratitude to the sponsors for the financial support for the conference that helped us to sail smoothly. These include publication houses such as Oxford University Press, Orient Blackswan, Rawat and Springer; and others like Sukabh International, State Bank of India and
The year 2017 has been a year of achievements and success in many ways, though there have been certain criticisms and oppositions which we have taken in our stride and dealt with them in the best possible way. As 2017 draws to finish so does our tenure (31st December, 2017). There are more than 3000 Life Members, 2000 Ordinary Members, 7 Institutional members and 13 Regional Affiliations as of today. In the year 2017, 212 Life Members joined the ISS. Some of the significant achievements of 2017 are - shifting of ISS office to Society's Flat, renovation of office and appointment of new staff, publication of Sociological Bulletin by Sage, starting of almost closed E-Journal (Explorations), signing of contract for publication of Bhartiya Samajshastra Sameeksha from 2018 onwards with Sage, standardizing editorial guidelines for all ISS publications, forming guidelines and rules for various components of ISS like Research Committees (RCs), All India Sociological Conferences, lifetime achievement award, publications etc, and improving website with maximum online communication, and going for online voting.

In this year since the last All India Sociological Conference (AISC) at Tezpur (December 2016), 3 MC Meetings were held – on 18th March, 2017 at Delhi, on 22nd July at Bhubaneswar and on 9th November at Lucknow. Two Research Committee meetings were held, one in Bhubaneswar on 21st July and the other on the eve of 43rd AISC on 09th November at Lucknow. Meetings of the Regional Association, and Editorial Boards were also held at Lucknow. All the meetings involved threadbare discussions and decision-making on various issues of ISS, action-taken reports and outlining of future activities. During the MC meetings various sub-committees were formed with Convenor and 2-3 members on different critical issues of ISS. Every sub-committee submitted its report and actions were taken on its recommendations.

**ISS PUBLICATIONS**

**Sociological Bulletin:** It is an official Journal of the Indian Sociological Society launched in March 1952 with Prof. G.S. Ghurye as the first Editor. It started as a biannual Journal and became triannual since 2004. Sociological Bulletin is published by Sage since the year 2017 and is a refereed Journal that follows a rigorous double-blind review policy.

**Editorial Board - SB**

*Managing Editor* – Paramjit Singh Judge, Amritsar

*Members*

1. Sujata Patel (Hyderabad), ISS President
2. Abha Chauhan (Jammu), ISS Secretary
3. Biswajit Ghosh (Burdwan), ISS Treasurer
4. Virginius Xaxa (Guwahati)
5. Kalpana Kannabiran (Hyderabad)
6. Kamala Ganesh (Mumbai)
7. Nandini Sundar (Delhi).

**Editorial Advisory Committee: SB**

1. Dalia Chakrabarti (Kolkata)
2. Sudha Silharaman (Pondicherry)
3. Kulwinder Kaur (New Delhi)
4. Aparna Rayaprol (Hyderabad)
5. Kedlezo Kikhil (Tezpur)
6. R. N. Sharma (Patna)
7. Rambabu (Mumbai)
The Managing Editor reported the updates about the Bulletin in the two MC Meetings. The first issue of Volume 66 of the Journal Sociological Bulletin published by Sage was brought out in April 2017 while the second issue was published in August 2017. These and all issues of Sociological Bulletin from March 1952 are available online free of cost to the ISS Life Members. A special issue has also been approved by the Editorial Board. The third issue of 2017, Volume 66 is in the pipeline and would be brought out soon.

SAGE is marketing the Sociological Bulletin as part of Sage Premier from the year 2018. SAGE Premier is designed with and for librarians to provide great savings off list prices for individual journals. This bundle is an All-Access (big-deal) offering for 900+ published titles, as our consortia package. It refers to the provision of e-access of the bulletin sold within a larger package of journals, primarily to library consortia customers who were not previously benefiting from subscriber access to your Journal. Sage has 2900 subscribers to this package. In addition Sage has added the Sociological Bulletin to its Developing World Initiative programme wherein it brings scholarly material to libraries and researchers in the developing world. Over 5,000 libraries in developing countries that might not otherwise have been able to afford subscriptions to Sociological Bulletin will be able to access the Journal at highly discounted rates or free of charge through this programme. As a consequence we hope that from 2018 onwards the Bulletin will have about 8000 subscribers through these initiatives.

Bhartiya Samajshastra Sameeksha (BSS): It is a Hindi biannual Journal of Indian Sociological Society. It would be taken over by Sage Publications from the year 2018 onwards.

**Publication Board: BSS**

**Editor:** B.K. Nagla (Rohtak)

**Editorial Assistance:**
Rajiv Gupta (Jaipur)
Asheesh Kumar (Mahendragarh)
Naresh Bhargava (Udaipur)

**Editorial Board: BSS**

1. Vivek Kumar (JNU, New Delhi)
2. Vinita Singh (Ranchi)
3. Rajesh Misra (Lucknow)
4. Arvind Chauhan (Bhopal)

**Editorial Advisory Committee: BSS**

1. Padma Rani (Manipal)
2. Parvez Abbas (Surat)
3. Abha Avasthi (Lucknow)
4. Bharti Rastogi, (Varanasi)
5. Dharmshila Prasad (Patna)
6. B. M. Kumar (Pantnagar)
7. J.K. Pundir (Meerut)
8. B.P. Badola (Dharamshala).

The publication of Hindi Journal Bhartiya Samajshastra Sameeksha started in the year 2014 with Prof. B.K. Nagla as the Editor along with his team. The new Editorial Board and Editorial Advisory Committee of the Journal were constituted with the approval of its members in the MC meeting of 13th June, 2016. So far four Volumes and seven Issues of the Journal are published. The combined volume of two issues (July-December, 2016 and January-June, 2017) was the special issue on the ‘Sociology of Sanitation’ for which moderate fund (Rs. 40,000/-) was given by the Sulabh International Social Organization besides 1 lakh grant from the ICSSR. In the MC Meeting held in Bhubaneswar on 22 July, 2017, it was decided that Bharatiya Samajshastra Sameeksha will be henceforth published by
ISS e-Newsletter Volume 5, No. 3, September-December 2017

Sage Publishers w.e.f. 2018. The contract to this effect was signed by the Secretary, ISS on behalf of the Indian Sociological Society with Sage Publishers on 25th August, 2017.

E – Journal: Explorations: It is an E Journal of Indian Sociological Society. The Journal started in the year 2012. Three issues of the E-Journal came out in 2012 and 2013, after which the publication was stopped. The present MC (2016, 2017) took the decision in 2016 of reviving the Journal. Prof. Chandan Kumar Sharma, Head, Dept. of Sociology, Tezpur University (Assam) was appointed as the Editor for five years starting January 1st, 2017 following due process.

Editorial Team
Editor: Chandan Kumar Sharma (Tezpur)
Assistant Editor: Amiya Kumar Das (Tezpur)
Editorial Assistants: Natasha Hazarika and Riju Devi (Tezpur)

Editorial Board Members
1. Maitrayee Chaudhuri (New Delhi)
2. B.V. Bhonsale (Mumbai)
3. Rajesh Gill (Chandigarh)
4. Amitesh Mukhopadhyay (Kolkata)

Editorial Advisory Committee: E-Journal
1. Janaki Abraham (Delhi)
2. Raghav Reddy (Hyderabad)
3. A.K. Nongkynrih (Shillong)
4. Bhbibhuti Mohanty (Pondicherry)
5. Lakshmi Nair (Trivendrum)
6. Madhav Govind (New Delhi)
7. Ashish Saxena (Allahabad)
8. Navanita Rath (Bhubaneswar)
9. Ganesh Somayaji (Goa)

The E-Journal Explorations is double blind peer reviewed an open access online Journal published twice a year in April and October. It carries articles, commentaries, interviews and discussions. The major focus of the Journal is on societies, histories and cultures of India, and also those of South Asia and comparative studies.

The first issue of the Journal Explorations, Vol. 1 (1) April 2017 is published, uploaded on the ISS website and the copy is sent to all Life Members. It is a special issue on Northeast India. The next issue will be out soon and will include articles presented by the participants in the Young Researchers’ Workshop held at Tezpur in December 2016.

E-Newsletter: It is the official Newsletter of the Indian Sociological Society. Since the year 2013, the Newsletter is published online and sent to all members.

The Editorial Board of the E-Newsletter consists of the following:
1. Prof. Abha Chauhan (Jammu) - Editor (Secretary, ISS)
2. Prof. Antony Palackal (Thiruvananthapuram) - Co-Editor (MC Member)
3. Prof. Sujata Patel (Hyderabad) – Member (President, ISS)
4. Prof. Sukant Chaudhury (Lucknow) – Member (MC Member)
5. Prof. M. Akram (Aligarh) - Member (MC Member)

Prof. V.P. Singh, MC Member has been doing the composing and laser type settings of the E-Newsletters for the present MC. It was decided in the MC meeting (18th March, 2017) that three issues of the E-Newsletter would be brought out (January-April, May-August and September –December)
from the year 2017 instead of two. The E-Newsletter includes the achievements and activities of the
ISS members and the departments of different Universities and institutions, about the local, national
and international seminars, conferences and workshops, obituaries, the RC reports of the AISCs and
Organizing Secretary and Secretary’s report presented at the GBM.

So far two issues of the Newsletter (Vol. 5, No. 1 and Vol. 5, No. 2, 2017) have been brought out,
uploaded on the ISS website and sent to all Life Members.

ISS WEBSITE

The ISS website is maintained by the IRIS Research Foundation headed by Dr. Padma Prakash (Life
Member, ISS). The MC puts on record its appreciation for the financial subsidy and support given to
the ISS by the IRIS Research Foundation for these two years. The assistance of Dr. Padma Prakash
and Mr. Nishant Kohakade (the webmanager) is duly acknowledged.

The ISS website has been updated to a great extent in 2017. It not only carries information and news,
but all activities of the ISS, about the conference, registration, membership, publications etc. Both the
E-Journal and E-Newsletter are uploaded on the website and accessible to the life members. All print
Newsletters published from 2002 to 2014 and E Newsletters published from 2013 to 2017 are now on
the website. The details regarding 43rd All India Sociological Conference and Young Scholar’s
Workshop at Lucknow are available on the website, including the abstracts of the papers to be
presented in the Workshop, Research Committees (RCs), Panels and the Sessions. It is important that
all ISS Life Members register themselves on the website. Once this is done, a member has access to
all information. S/he can become member of ISS or RC, get registered for the conference, update
profile and do online voting (decision approved in the MC meeting and in the GBM at Tezpur). It is
heartening to note that around 850 members registered online for the Lucknow conference.

FACEBOOK PAGE AND FACEBOOK GROUP

Indian Sociological Society has started its official Facebook page and a Facebook group. This social
media was started with the objectives to build a vibrant online Indian sociological community; to enable
better and faster dissemination of relevant and useful information; to support the communication arm
of the Indian Sociological Society; and to foster better community engagement between Indian
sociologists and the global researchers. The official FB page is: https://www.facebook.com/IndSocio/
All formal communications from the society and its office bearers are posted on this page. This is an
addition to the usual emails and Newsletters which members receive from the Society. The members
cannot post any content here. The Society has appointed P. Vigneswara llavarasan of IIT Delhi to be
the administrator of the Facebook page for which we thank him. The official Facebook group is:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/insoso/

The group is more appropriate for posting content relevant to the community. The material/content
can be sent to vignes@iitd.ac.in to be posted in the group. The following norms are proposed to
sustain the interest of the community and to enhance the utility of the channel: The FB group shall be
closed one. Membership shall be permitted by the administrator in consultation with the office bearers
of the Society. All the content shall be moderated by the administrator. The postings are related only
to the academic domain like call for papers, fellowships, book releases and conference
announcements etc. Postings of the following kind: wishes (good morning, good afternoon, and
Birthday wishes etc), inflammatory/provocative remarks about political parties, persons and groups,
and entertainment images are videos are to be avoided. All the content is moderated by the
administrator and usually done once in a day. Members can flag any content inappropriate, which will
be reviewed by the administrator. Administrator has the right to reject the content and terminate the
membership, if needed. This shall be reported to the ISS.

ONLINE VOTING

The previous MC (2014-2015) decided to adopt online voting, but the same could not be implemented
for 2015 ISS election. It was decided in the MC (2016-2017) first meeting in February 2016 to go for
online voting for the next election. This decision was included in the ISS amended Constitution (2016)
and was approved in the GBM at Tezpur in December 2016. The decision to conduct a trial or mock
exercise for online voting to ensure the smooth conduct of online ISS elections for the year 2017 was taken in March, 2017 MC meeting at Delhi. Accordingly in the MC meeting at Bhubaneswar on 22nd July, 2017, all MC Members present in the meeting got themselves registered and did successful online mock voting.

In the Bhubaneswar MC meeting, it was also decided that the ISS Elections of 2017 will be both offline and online as some MC members were of the view that many life members do not have their email Ids. It was therefore resolved that all those members whose correct registered email Ids are available will do online voting while those who's Ids are not available (around 1000+) will be sent ballot papers. This will be one time exception (approved by MC) as the Constitution allows only online voting.

The Election Notice 2017 was approved and Prof. N Jayaram was declared as Election Officer for the 2017 ISS Election. The Committee (with 3 MC Members) to prepare the voters list as well as Election Committee were also approved. It was decided that the Life Members would be asked to send their emails or get them changed/ corrected by 30th November so that the two lists (online and offline) may be uploaded on the website in time for election. The online voters then must get themselves registered (if they have not) for online voting. The Election Notice 2017 with election schedule, relevant extracts from the Constitution and Bye laws for online election were also approved to be uploaded on the ISS website in time.

In the Bye laws for online Election an amendment was made in Point 7 wherein it was mentioned that: “In case the President or Secretary is standing for re-election, the other officer should take over and aid the Election Officer. In case both are standing, the senior most MC member from the five retiring MC Members should assist the Election Officer”. The said amendment was accepted by the MC and approved in the MC meeting held on 9th November, 2017 at Lucknow.

RESEARCH COMMITTEES

The 24 Research Committees and 4 Adhoc Groups are the backbone of academic body of Indian Sociological Society. They provide platform to researchers from across the country to present their work at the national level, particularly during the annual All India Sociological (AIS) conferences. The RC Convenors play important role along with their executive committee to organize, conduct sessions and prepare reports, besides doing other activities throughout the year. Various rules and guidelines have been formulated to streamline the activities of RCs and make them more systematic and academically viable. The RC Rules were formulated in 2007 and required some amendments. The present MC (2016, 2017) took over the challenge and constituted a Sub-Committee in 2016 which reformulated the RC guidelines. The New Rules were approved in the RC Convenors meeting in June, 2016 and finally by the MC in December, 2016. These Rules were uploaded on the ISS website.

Another Sub-Committee was formed in the MC Meeting at Tezpur in December 2016 to discuss the rationalization of RCs consisting of the following members:

1. Sujata Patel, President – Convenor, Sub Committee
2. Manish Thakur - RC 01 Convenor
3. P.S. Vivek - RC 16 Convenor
4. Satish Sharma - MC Member
5. Sukant Chaudhury - MC Member
6. John J. Kattakayam – Former ISS President

Report of the Sub-Committee on Rationalization of RCs prepared by the Sub-Committee was discussed in the MC Meeting of 18th March 2017 at Delhi and accepted with a few modifications. It was then taken up for discussion in the RC Convenor’s meeting on 21st July and in the MC meeting of 22nd July 2017 at Bhubaneswar.

The Committee was of the view that RCs should represent the areas of research within the country and the Global South, they should be revamped considering the link with the theory, methodology and practices, the RCs have to be more inclusive, the quantity has to be transformed into quality, and sufficient time must be given to the paper presenters.
The Committee suggested certain guiding principles for the working and governance of RCs. It emphasized on the reorganization of the RCs and eligibility requirements of RC Convenors, besides talking about the relationship of RCs with the MC and its working at the AISC. It recommended the formation of Academic Advisory Committee to conduct the academic activities of the RCs at AISC. The Committee was constituted of two external members besides the President, the Secretary and the Organising Secretary of the concerned conference. The two external experts for the Lucknow conference (2017) were Prof. Matireyee Chaudhuri (JNU, New Delhi) and Prof. Satish Deshpande (Delhi University, Delhi).

The rationalization of the RCs included formation, merger and renaming of RCs. All these points were discussed in the RC Convenor’s meeting held on 21st July, 2017 in the context of the feedback received from the RC Convenors.

The collection of RC membership fees has been centralized through RC membership form by the Society. In the MC meeting of 18th March, 2017, it was approved that 70% of the RC membership fees collected would go to the respective RC Convenors in their accounts while 30% will be kept by the Office to utilize the same for the administrative purposes. It was decided that the tenure of RC membership will be five years henceforth. Almost 650 members have taken RC membership this year.

With information now coming online there is more clarity and transparency regarding the number of members and the record of the payment of their RC fees. Abstracts received and approved and the programme schedule of each RC for the AIS Conference at Lucknow have been uploaded on the website.

The following names were changed/ merged/ created of RCs:

RC 01 - History of Sociology (change of Name and focus)
RC 02 - Studies on Family, Marriage and Kinship (slight change in the name)
RC 03 - Economy and Society (splitting of RC into two – RC 03 & RC 21)
RC 04 - Migration and Diaspora Studies (same as before)
RC 05 - Sociology of Education (slight change in the name)
RC 06 - Sociology of Religion (slight change in the name)
RC 07 - Adivasi and Tribal Studies (splitting of RC into two - RC 07 & RC 15).
RC 08 - Inequalities, Stratification and Exclusion Studies (slight change in the name and focus).
RC 09 - Dalit Studies (limiting to scope to Dalits)
RC 10 - Gender Studies (same as before)
RC 11 - Sociology of Environment (slight change in the name).
RC 12 - Sociology of Health, Ageing and Well-Being (merging with RC 19 on Ageing)
RC 13 - Science, Technology and Society (same as before)
RC 14 - Globalization and Culture (splitting into two – RC 14 & RC 20)
RC 15 - Agrarian Structure and Social Transformation (created from RC 07)
RC 16 - Work, Labour and Organization (split into two RC16 and RC 19)
RC 17 - Sociology of Social Movements (slight change in the name)
RC 18 - Social Demography (Newly created RC merging with original RC 12 on population)
RC 19 - Urban Studies (Split from RC 16)
RC 20 - Media Studies (New RC split from RC 14)
RC 21 - Political Sociology (split from RC 03)
RC 22 - Conflict and Violence Studies (change in the name and focus)
RC 23 - Sociology of Law, Crime and Deviance (merged with RC 18 on crime and deviance).
RC 24 – Childhood and Youth Studies (Same as before)
There was discussion on 4 Adhoc Groups (AG) and it was felt that AG 01 and 04 may be merged with other RCs. AG 04 on ‘Mother and Motherhood’ can be either merged with RC 10 ‘Gender Studies’ or alternatively there can be another RC by the name of ‘Sociology of Care’. AG 03 can be converted into RC with the name of ‘Minority Studies’, while AG 02 with the same name as ‘Sociology of Sports’ can also be converted into RC.

The New RC Rules approved in the RC Convenor’s meeting were approved by the MC on 22nd July, 2017. However, the changes in RC names and nomenclature with other details were decided to be finalized in the RC Convenor’s and MC meeting to be held during the 43rd All India Sociological Conference at Lucknow.

The above mentioned names were accepted in the RC Conveners meeting (with slight changes where required) and approved in the MC meeting at Lucknow (9th November, 2017). The AG 02 (Sociology of Sports) and 03 were upgraded to the status of RC (with slight change in the name of AG 03 as ‘Minority Studies’) while AG 04 also became RC with a new name ‘Sociology of Care’. These have now become RCs with numbers 25, 26 and 27 respectively.

The MC empowered the President to take decision of some of the RCs where the decision could not be taken. There were some objections regarding the split in RCs like RC 09 and also on merger like those of RC 18 and RC 19 and their dissent were noted down. There were also objections by the RC Conveners about the role of centralized Academic Advisory Committee. These were also noted down and the decisions to the satisfaction of RC Conveners that they would have full autonomy regarding selection/rejection of abstracts for the conference were taken. The same was approved by the MC meeting on the 9th of November, 2017.

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

A Committee was formed in 2016 with Secretary as Convenor and 3 MC Members to review the status of the existing Regional Associations (RAs) and encourage the establishment of the same in the States where they do not exist. That time, 12 RAs were identified, some of which have been quite active, while some less active and others almost defunct. The Committee in its’ report presented to the MC gave various suggestions to promote and strengthen RAs and their link with the ISS, apart from encouraging and assisting in the formations of the new ones.

Besides emphasizing on the role for RAs during AIS conferences, having consistence fee structure, linking them with the ISS website and publishing their activities in the ISS E–Newsletter, an important suggestion was to make MC Member/s in-charge of a region/s having a few associations and each RA will also have a representative who will remain in touch with the concerned in-charge. In the MC meeting of 18th March, 2017 it was decided to nominate one or more MC members to take charge of different states and regional associations as follows:

1. Antony Palackal, S. Gurusamy – South India (Kerala, Kamataka, Tamilnadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana).
2. Hemixa Rao – Gujarat
3. Jagan Karade – Maharashtra
5. Biswajit Ghosh – West Bengal
6. D.R. Sahu – Odisha, Uttar Pradesh
7. Satish Sharma – Northwest, Delhi
8. Pranjal Sarma – Northeast
However, only limited success could be achieved in this matter as was reported in the Bhubaneswar MC meeting of 22nd July, 2017. Some efforts were reported by MC members like Prof. Antony Palackal about Kerala Association, by Prof. Sahu about Orissa Association and Prof. Bhargava about Rajasthan Sociological Association. It is these associations which are somewhat active. Prof. Ghosh’s attempt to revive West Bengal Association was also mentioned.

In the Regional Association Meeting held in Lucknow on 10th November, 2017, representatives of five Regional Associations from the states of Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu attended the meeting. Some MC members responsible for these states and other states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were also present. The members present gave information about the activities of their Associations and the activities they organized. They also mentioned about their life members, Newsletter, seminars and conferences.

The involving of MC members in the RAs activities, the role of RAs in the AIS conferences and linking of these associations with the ISS and to each other through the websites were emphasized.

GUEST HOUSE / ISS HEAD OFFICE

As reflected in the MC meetings efforts were made in 2016 (and also by the previous MC) by constituting a Committee on the issue of land allotment and having Society’s own office building with the Treasurer as the Convenor and two MC Members. Visits were made to some NCR areas and the President, ISS also wrote to the Lt Governor of Delhi and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh to favour the Society with institutional land in South Delhi and NOIDA region respectively thereby continuing the initiative taken by the previous team. No final decision however, could be taken on this matter.

Considering our dependence on the Institute of Social Sciences (Institute), New Delhi and our increasing expenditure, the MC in its meeting of 18th of March, 2017 took an important decision to shift the office of the Indian Sociological Society (ISS) from the Institute of Social Sciences to our own premises (Flat in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi which was used as a Guest House by the Institute) from April, 2017. The resolution to this effect was passed by the MC unanimously thanking the Director and the staff of the Institute of Social Sciences. The other decisions taken during the said MC meeting were related to buying furniture for the new Office, getting it renovated as it was in depilated condition, and appointing a new staff (Office Secretary, Accountant and Care Taker). The MC left the matter to the President, Secretary and Treasurer to take the decisions pertaining to the smooth transfer of the office from its old to new location.

A Purchase Committee was constituted and approved by the MC to handle the purchase for the new office assets consisting of the Secretary, the Treasurer and the MC Member Prof. V.P. Singh. The members bought the furniture after duly following the norms from the ICSSR grant. The work of renovation of ISS Office was carried out under the guidance of Committee consisting of another Purchase Committee which included the President, Secretary and MC Member, Prof. V.P. Singh and was given to S. K. Contractors after duly following the rules. The Committee passed the resolution for renovation which was approved in the MC meeting of Bhubaneswar. The renovation of the Office is complete now which included the work in the three rooms and the office, the kitchen and the washrooms. Additionally the purchase committee sanctioned the upgradation of all electricity points, replaced all taps and redid the broken down plumbing, replaced all the windows and polished all doors and other wooden furniture, whitewashed walls and got all the floors cleaned.

During the course of this work, it was realized that there are no rules and by-laws for purchase of assets or equipment or any other kind of investment by the Society. So far we managed to buy assets or infrastructure or get renovation done by constituting Sub-Committees and following the general rules. The President circulated a draft of the by-laws for purchase of equipments, material etc. which listed the purchase procedure. The matter was discussed in the MC Meeting at Bhubaneswar and it was decided to adopt the same.

The Rules regarding Guest House accommodation were framed before opening it to the guests. It was decided in the MC Meeting (22nd July, 2017) that only Life Members would be given accommodation and the rates of different rooms were also fixed. There will be a Guest House Form on the Home Page of the website and all inquiries about the availability of rooms/ beds would be done in advance with the Office Secretary. The amounts are to be paid to the ISS Bank Account. It is hoped that the Guest House will start functioning from the 1st of December, 2017.
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR HOLDING ALL INDIA SOCIOLOGICAL CONFERENCES

There are guidelines for hosting the All-India Sociological Conferences since April 2005 which were amended in February 2011. Since certain new problems came up, the present MC decided to revisit and amend the guidelines for organisating the annual All India Sociological Conferences and formed a Committee with Prof. D. R. Sahu as the Convenor and two other MC Members. Its report approved by the MC in June, 2016 meeting included various new changes which were incorporated during Tezpur conference in December 2016 and the new guidelines incorporating standard procedures for holding All India Sociological conferences were uploaded on the ISS website.

In its meeting of March 18th 2017 the MC asked this Committee to reframe the guidelines to include two formats- the first a conference where organizing committee provides accommodation and the second where it facilitates accommodation. The new revised guidelines for hosting the All India Sociological Conferences were submitted for discussion and accepted by the MC. They were uploaded on the ISS Website.

GUIDELINES FOR PERIODICALS OF INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The MC in its meeting held on 26.12.2016 at Tezpur resolved to constitute a Sub-Committee to set up guidelines for ISS Periodicals – 3 Journals: Sociological Bulletin (in English), Bhartiya Samajshastra Sameeksha (in Hindi), and Explorations (E-Journal of ISS, in English); and 1 Bulletin, the E-Newsletter (in English). The following MC members constituted the Sub-Committee:

1. Prof. V.P. Singh - Convenor
2. Prof. Sukant K. Chaudhury - Member
3. Prof. S. Gurusamy - Member
4. Prof. Satish Sharma - Member
5. Prof. Manish Verma - Member

The Guidelines for ISS Periodicals were formulated by the Sub-Committee, circulated to all MC Members, discussed threadbare and finally approved by the Managing Committee in its meeting held on 18th March, 2017 at New Delhi. These are related to General Guidelines, Common Guidelines for the ISS Journals, and appointment as well as tasks and responsibilities of Editor, Editorial Boards and Editorial Advisory Committee members. The Guidelines for ISS Periodicals are uploaded on the ISS Website under the section, Publications.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Sub-Committee to prepare the code of ethics was constituted in the MC meeting of 26th December at Tezpur with the purpose of inducing professionalism in the working of the Society and its activities. The following were appointed as its members.

1. Prof. Sujata Patel, President ISS – Convenor, Sub Committee
2. Prof. U.B. Bhoite, Former ISS President - Member
3. Prof. Rajesh Misra, Former ISS Secretary - Member
4. Professor N. Jayaram, Former Managing Editor, Sociological Bulletin
5. Prof. Biswajit Ghosh, Treasurer ISS - Member
6. Prof. S. Gurusamy, MC Member - Member

The Sub-Committee prepared the report and the same was circulated to all the MC Members. It was discussed in detail in the MC Meeting of 18th March, 2017 and was unanimously accepted. The report included the Introduction, the Preamble, the General Principles and the Research Ethics.

This report is of extreme significance because it suggests norms (but does not prescribe) for conducting relationships with doctoral students, colleagues and the larger society. It also spells out the role for sociology. The MC is deeply concerned about the fact that some life members of the Society
have started using the social media to abuse office bearers, make allegations and use inappropriate language against them.

It was considered important for the GBM to discuss how to ensure that we conduct ourselves democratically and transparently and ensure respect for differences and through such discussions and debates evolve a consensus for the use of practices in the academic institutions and in the larger profession. The report of the Sub-Committee was approved in the GBM at the AIS Conference at Lucknow. It is uploaded on the ISS Website for information of all members.

ACADEMIC PROTOCOLS

Prof. Rajesh Gill, Punjab University, Chandigarh prepared the PPTS on Academic Protocols for which ISS is thankful to her. These are titled Writing Research Papers, Writing Book Review and Referencing and together. Prof Sujata Patel prepared on What is Plagiarism? These are uploaded on the ISS Website for the benefit of the researchers.

In an effort to provide academic platform for young scholars, an initiative to conduct Writing Workshops in collaboration with different departments was undertaken by the ISS. To meet the said objective, the Life Members were asked to prepare proposals. In all, three templates from three Sociologists were received - Prof. Indra Munshi (Mumbai), Prof. Antony Palackal (Kerala) and Prof. Satish Deshpande (Delhi). The President wrote to 45 departments about organizing the workshop and many of them agreed to do so and appreciated this effort by the Society.

WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED:

The first workshop was held at Dharwad University in June, 2017 and coordinated by Prof. Satish Deshpande. Other workshops were planned in the course of this academic year.

MEMBERSHIP

In the last one year (2016), the number of people who became Life Members (as approved in the GBM held in December, 2016 at Tezpur) were 200 (till LMI 4239), while Ordinary/ Student Members were 251 (till 2553), Ordinary Member Foreign 01 and Renewals 01.

The MC Meeting of 18th March, 2017 approved 37 Life Members (from LMI 4240 to 4276) while the MC Meeting held on 22nd July approved 41 Life Members (from 4277 to 4317). In this MC Meeting 21 people became student/ ordinary members. In the MC Meeting of 9th November 2017, 133 Life Members (4318 to 4450), and 399 ordinary/ student members were approved.

Thus in the year 2017, a total of 211 people (LMI 4240 – 4450) joined ISS as Life Members.

ENDOWMENTS

Prof. M.N. Srinivas

Endowment Fund was set up in 2001 and Prof. Radha Kamal Mukerjee Endowment Fund in 2010. Both were set up jointly by the Indian Sociological Society (ISS) and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). A separate Committee of each manages its Funds. The income from Prof. M.N. Srinivas Endowment Fund is used to arrange for a distinguished Sociologist or Social anthropologist to deliver Prof. M. N. Srinivas Memorial Lecture annually and to award a young scholar Prof. M.N. Srinivas Prize for publishing the best Sociological or Social Anthropological paper in a Journal or an edited book every year. So far 14 eminent scholars have delivered the lecture and 12 young scholars have got the prize. The income from Prof. Radhakamal Mukerjee Endowment Fund is used for holding the Prof. Radha Kamal Mukerjee Memorial Lecture annually at the AIS Conference by a distinguished Sociologist or Social Anthropologist. As of now 7 such lectures have been organized at AIS Conferences.

The MC organized new rules and regulations to conduct the practices of the old and new endowments. While the Radhakamal Mukerjee Endowment Committee accepted these rules the M N Srinivas
Endowment Committee wanted some further changes in these rules. These would be finalised by the next MC after discussions with this Committee.

The meetings of both Committees took place on 18th March 2017. It was decided that this year, 2017 Prof. Radhakamal Mukerjee Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Prof. Veena Das from Johns Hopkins University, USA on The Vulnerability of Expert Knowledge: Observations as a Global Intervention on TB in an Indian City 30th December, 2016. No decision could be taken to nominate the scholar who could give the Prof. M.N. Srinivas Memorial Lecture this year. Prof. M.N. Srinivas Prize for Young Scholar was also not implemented this year.

43rd ALL INDIA SOCIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE AND YOUNG SCHOLAR WORKSHOP, LUCKNOW

The 43rd All India Sociological Conference has been organized by the Department of Sociology, University of Lucknow, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) from November 9th-12th 2017 at Lucknow with Prof. D.R. Sahu as the Organizing Secretary. The theme of the Conference was Neo-Liberalism, Consumption and Culture. It is heartening to note that more than 850 delegates registered for the conference. In 24 Research Committees (RCs) and 4 Adhoc Groups, around 850 abstracts have been received and nearly 1000 delegates were registered online for the All India Sociological Conference at Lucknow.

The Inaugural Ceremony of the Conference was on 9th November, 2017 at 6.30 pm. It was inaugurated by Dr. Rajeev Kumar, Vice Chairperson, Niti Aayog who spoke on New India 2022: The Role of New Elite. The Life Time Achievement Awards were given to Prof. Ratna Naidu (Hyderabad) and Prof. Nandu Ram (JNU, New Delhi). Prof. S.P. Singh, the Vice Chancellor, University of Lucknow; Prof. Sujata Patel, ISS President; Prof. D.R. Sahu, the Organizing Secretary; and Prof. Abha Chauhan, Secretary, ISS also spoke on the occasion.

The Presidential Address was delivered by Prof. Sujata Patel on 10th December on the topic Rethinking Urban Studies Today. Over the three days, besides RCs’ Technical Sessions, there were four Plenary Sessions on the various themes like urban transformation of India, the middle classes and its aspirations, cultures of power, domination and hegemony, and the Regional Plenary session on neo-liberalism, consumption and culture in Uttar Pradesh. Prof. Radhakamal Mukerjee Memorial Lecture (11th November, 2017) was delivered during the conference. There were cultural programmes in the evenings. The Valedictory function included presentation of reports by various RC Convenors and thanks giving by the ISS President, Secretary and the Organizing Secretary.

The conference was preceded by Young Researchers’ Workshop (YRW) on 7th-8th November 2017 at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow on the topic Doing Sociology with a Historical Sensibility. Prof. Sanjay Singh from this University was the Organizing Secretary. There were 6 Sessions during the workshop in which 18 doctoral students presented their papers, besides the inaugural and the Valedictory sessions. The sessions focussed on the themes like: environment, ecology and sustainable development; migration, displacement and development; tribal society and development discourse; art and aesthetics; and development and governance. The workshop was sponsored by the ICSSR, New Delhi.

Abha Chauhan
Secretary, Indian Sociological Society
Treasurer’s Report (11.11. 2017)
Presented by Prof. Biswajit Ghosh, Treasurer, ISS (2016, 2017) at the GBM in Lucknow

1. During the last one year, ISS has shifted its office to Guest House, appointed 3 new office staff and renovated the Guest House. All these necessitated certain financial investment and expenses. Hence, we had to use two of our FDs as well as cash available with us. We also had to meet election related expenses this year. Yet, the financial condition is under control.

2. As on 1st November 2017, we have a bank balance of Rs. 17,70,000. But this should not be treated as our ‘income’ in the current financial year. This is because, we have incurred Rs. 7,81,000 from the last financial year, earned Rs. 7,65,000 as Life Membership Fee (which is not treated as ‘income’), and collected Rs. 3,09,500 as RC fees 70% of which will go to RCs.

3. On December 2016, we had 10 Fixed Deposits worth Rs. 1,10,53,385/ in two banks the maturity value of all these is Rs. 1,34,32,365 (maturity dates varies). But now our FD investment has slightly come down to Rs. 1,15,00,000/.

4. We however expect to receive royalty from publishers and 20% of Conference Registration fee from the Organizers of Lucknow Conference to augment our income.

5. We also expect to gain from ‘donations’ collected from the users of Guest House in the next financial year.

6. We should try to increase our income and savings (FD) in the next financial year.

(Prof. Biswajit Ghosh)
Treasurer, ISS
RESEARCH COMMITTEE CONVENOR’S REPORTS
43rd All India Sociological Conference
Lucknow University, Lucknow (U.P.)
(09th – 12th November, 2017)

RC – 01: Theory, Concept and Methodology
Convenor: Dr. Manish Thakur, Kolkata (West Bengal)

At the 43rd All India Sociological Conference at the University of Lucknow, a total of eleven papers were presented in different technical sessions of RC-01. The papers articulated various conceptual and methodological issues in relation to the practices of sociology. Most of the paper presenters were young faculty members hailing from different universities of the country. The papers touched upon such themes as disciplinary biography (without taking recourse to the tradition-modernity binary); the role of activist-scholars in knowledge production pertaining to social movements; school-based formal sexuality education in multiple spatial settings; the desire-need complex in the context of consumption; body, beliefs and ideologies and their interface with reproductive technology; the confluence of biography and history in an institutional setting and its implications for the discipline; and Ambedkar’s project of science. The discussions revolved around appropriation of iconic historical figures for an understanding of the present society-state relations; dialectic relation between objectification and embodiment; power and violence; culture and power and the like. As has been the practice in RC 01, paper presenters were given ample time to read the papers. The members contributed to an enriching and fruitful exchange of ideas and perspectives. In the business meeting, the change in the nomenclature of RC-01: from Theory, Concept and Methodology to History of Sociology was announced. Elections to the office-bearers of the RC are due in 2018.

RC – 02: Family, Kinship and Marriage
Convenor: Prof. C.S.S. Thakur, Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)

The Business meeting of RC 02, Family, Kinship and Marriage was held on 11th November 2017 at 2.00 pm in the ONGC Building, Lucknow University, Lucknow.

In the Technical sessions of RC 02, Family, Kinship and Marriage, a total of 28 papers were presented on various issues associated to the subject matter of research committee covering New Emerging trends of Family and Marriage in Indian Society, Surrogacy, live-in relations, Bride purchasing, Widowhood, Generation Gap in family relationship and adjustment of the aged, family structure and problems of working women in various sectors, communication and new value system, Triple Talaq issues, migration and family liberalization and its impact on rural family. The scholars and participants actively participated in the sessions.

Future Programs – The R.C. members decided to organise a seminar and publish the selected articles in book form.

The R.C. members also decided unanimously that for the year period 2018-19 the following members are selected for various positions of RC -02, viz:
1. Prof. C.S.S. Thakur, Jabalpur - Convenor
2. Dr. Savita Singh, Jaunpur - Co-convenor
3. Dr. K.K.Yadav, Kanpur - Secretary
4. Dr. Nidhi Thakur, Balaghat - Treasurer
5. Executive Members:
   1. Dr. Lalita Jadav, Vadodra
   2. Dr. Indu Thakur, Jabalpur
   3. Dr. Kusum Gautam, Damua, Chhindwara
   4. Dr. U.S.Srivastava, Bilaspur
   5. Dr. Shraddha Vyas, Indore
RC-03: Economy, Polity and Society  
Convenor: Dr. Srinivas Sajja, NIRD Hyderabad (Telangana)  
We received 30 abstracts in various stages (4 lists). 21 papers were presented over 6 sessions (2 of which were parallel sessions). Each paper presenter was given 15 minutes for their presentation. Sessions were scheduled based on the theme of presentations. Participants came mostly from U.P. and Bihar and there was representation from Assam, Delhi, J&K, M.P, Paschim Banga and Telangana. More than half the paper presentations were on Panchayati Raj and Women empowerment. There were 8 presentations made in Hindi.  
The following were the sessions:  
1. Neo-liberalism, Middle Class and Consumption – Chaired by Prof. Kalyan Mandal  
2a. U.P. Identities and Social Change – Chaired by Dr. Suvir Kapur  
2b. Panchayati Raj Institutions and Women – Chaired by Dr. Pratyushna Patnaik  
3a & b. Inequality, Social Change and Empowerment – Prof. Suhrita Saha and Bhupendra Singh Bahadur  
4. Village Institutions – Chaired by Dr. Srinivas Sajja.  

Business Session: 10/11/17 15.30 to 16.00 hrs.  
In the business session the bifurcation of RC 03 was discussed. The members wanted more information about their RC membership and their affiliation. They were informed that, probably the new ISS body would inform the members regarding their membership. Dr. Srinivas Sajja (Convener) along with the general body of RC 03 passed a unanimous resolution in the business session empowering the ISS/MC to choose the next set of office bearers for RC 03 and RC 21 respectively.  

RC-04: Migration and Diaspora Studies  
Convenor: Prof. Ajailiu Niumai, Hyderabad (Telangana)  
RC - 04 Migration and Diaspora Studies received 13 abstracts out of which 11 abstracts were presented in the 43rd AISC held in the Department of Sociology, University of Lucknow from 9th – 12th November 2017. On 10th November 2017, Convener of RC – 04 Prof. Ajailiu Niumai, UGC Raman Fellow, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion & Inclusive Policy, University of Hyderabad chaired the first session under the theme Diaporic community and Ethnicity. The following papers were presented:  
1). Dr. Ananda Mohan Kar, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Burdwan, West Bengal on Economic And Political Change and Adjustment Issues: Chinese, Armenians, Jews And Greeks Of Calcutta.  
2). Muhammad Athieque, research scholar, Department of Sociology, Bharathidasan University presented a paper on the Ethno Cultural Migration of Mappilas: A Study of Malabar Mappilas in Fiji.  
3). Dickey Choedon, research scholar, Department of Sociology Gandhigram Rural Institute delivered her paper on the Effectiveness of Sweater Business in the Lives of Tibetan Refugees in India.  
The theme of the second session was ‘Migration and Development’. It was chaired by Dr. Piyali Sur, Associate Professor, Jadavpur University. The following papers were presented:  
1). Dr. Muneer Illath from University of Allahabad presented his paper on Migration, Remittances and Development: Understanding Mobility through Entrepreneurship Among Muslims of Malabar, South India.  
2). Lekhraj Singh presented his paper on Shaskeeya prayas evam aarthik vikas : sthitv evam sambhavnaen.  
3). Saroj Manoj presented his paper on Apravasi Bangadesiyon Ki Samajik - Arthik avam Swasthya Sambandhi Parishthitiyon ka Addhyan (Varanasi Jile per Aadharit).
On 11th November 2017, theme of the first session was ‘Migration and Gender in India’. Prof. Shweta Prasad, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) chaired it. Three papers were presented:

1). Shilpi Smita Panda, Research Scholar, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela and Nihar Ranjan Mishra, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology, Rourkela presented a joint paper on Migration and Marginalization of Women: A Study of Seasonal Migrants in Odisha from Gendered Perspective.

2). Nupur Pattanaik from Ravenshaw University presented a paper on Female Migration and Social Wellbeing: A study on the Female Industrial Laborers working in the Industries of Bhubaneswar.

3). Nitin S. Kayarkar, Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, R.T.M. Nagpur University, Nagpur presented a paper on Lives of Migrated People on Nagpur Industrial Region of Maharashtra State.

The theme of the last session was ‘Migration Patterns and Family Matters’. It was chaired by Prof. Arvinder Ansari, Department of Sociology, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi. Only one paper was presented in this session as the other two paper presenters were absent.

1). Pooja Tiwari presented her paper on Pariwaron par pravas ka samajik evam sanskritik prabhav (Impact of migration on family structure).

The session ended with a vote of thanks by the Convenor Prof. Ajailiu Niumai.

On 10th November 2017, RC - 04 conducted its business meeting. On behalf of the Executive members of RC - 04, the Convenor expressed gratitude to the Chairpersons and paper presenters. The members discussed about the nature and scope of RC – 04. They passed the following resolutions:

1. A mid-term seminar cum workshop will be held in the Department of Sociology, University of Allahabad. Dr. Muneer Illath volunteered to the Coordinator of this proposed seminar. He will explore funding from ICSSR.

2. The members voted Prof. Ajailiu Niumai as the Convenor, Dr. Muneer Illath as the Co- Convenor, Anushyama Mukherjee as the Treasurer, and the Executive members comprises of Prof. C.S. Bhat (UoH), Dr. Ananda Mohan Kar (University of Burdwan) and Nupur Pattanaik (Ravenshaw University) from 2017 December to December 2019.

3. To mobilize new members for RC -04.

4. Dr. Muneer Illath presented the financial statement of RC – 04 and informed that he has a balance of Rs. 4,408/- (Four thousand, four hundred and eight only). We expected RC -04 membership fees from ISS within a few months. We agreed to use the fund for the proposed mid-term seminar.

5. Nupur Pattanaik agreed to be the editor of the newsletter.

RC-05: Education and Society
Convenor: Dr. Birendra Narain Dubey, BBAU Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)

This year, RC 05 received a total of forty three abstracts from nine states of the country covering central universities, state universities, colleges and institutes of national repute like IIM, Indore. Selection of abstracts was done through a committee constituted of three notable scholars. Altogether, there were thirty five presentations over four regular sessions and one parallel session. Crucial issues included neo-liberal regime, development, globalization, higher education, transgender and queer, exclusion, stress among university faculty, corporal punishment, culture of school, primary education and ward education committees. Each session was chaired and co-chaired by eminent
One of the sessions was exclusive in the sense that a notable faculty from National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi not only chaired it but shared her own experiences in formulation of plans and programmes for the school education. Interestingly, a few paper had been shifted from other RCs, it proved to be academically more vibrant exercise exchanging and partaking with presenters. RC 05 conducted business meeting after third session on the third day of the conference to elect a new committee of its office bearers. These representatives were unanimously elected for coming two years i.e. 2018 and 2019.

Convener: Dr. Birendra Narain Dubey, Dept. of Sociology, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (A Central University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh).

Co-convener: Prof. J C Patel, Deptt. of Sociology, Gujarat University, Ahmadabad, Gujarat

Secretary: Prof. Tattwamasi Paltasingh, Dept. of Sociology, Sambhalpur University, Odisha

On academic front, many issues were discussed like bank account, publication of an edited book and holding a workshop for young researchers. It was opined that once the RC gets its bank account opened, we will in a position to organise some academic activities by September, 2018. In a nutshell, it can be ascertained that RC 05 conducted its five sessions and one business meeting quite successfully at 43rd All India Sociological Conference, Lucknow.

RC - 06: Religion and Religious Communities
Convener: Dr. Anindita Chakrabarti, IIT Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)

In RC 06: ‘Religion and Religious Communities’ 16 abstracts were submitted, out of which, 12 papers were presented during the Research Committee sessions. The themes discussed during the sessions touched upon the following issues:

(i) The role of rituals with respect to class and social mobility. The ethnography focused on the new rituals of Ganesh puja in Kolkata and the Viswakarma puja among the goldsmiths of Kanpur.
(ii) The concepts of labour and religiosity in ashram life.
(iii) Muslim women and the issues of social change and jurisprudence. The issue of personal law, divorce among Hindu women, and the concept of secularity were also discussed. The papers also touched upon themes such as modernization of madrasah education and the question of fundamentalism.
(iv) The issue of Hindutva and its relation to neo-liberalism was also discussed during the RC sessions along with topics such as the ideal of family in Ramcharitmanas and alternative medicines.

The business meeting was conducted on 10 November 2017 and Dr. Ramanuj Ganguly was elected as the convener for the next term. Dr. Anindita Chakrabarti agreed to serve as the co-convener with the consensus of the committee.

RC - 07: Rural, Peasant and Tribal Communities
Convener: Prof. Sanjay Singh, RML National Law University, Lucknow (U.P.)

RC-7 on “Rural Peasant and Tribal Communities” received 36 abstracts, out of which there were 33 presentations in 6 sessions (including two parallel sessions). The themes of the sessions were “Globalization and Tribe”, “Pattern of Change and Movement in Rural India”, “Urbanization and Education”, “Politics and Rural Women”, and “Neo-Liberalization and Rural Community”. The main discussion on rural society was centered on how globalization and liberalization impacts the rural society.

On tribes it was concentrated on Forest Rights Act and how the impact of law affects the sustainability of tribal life. Besides, socio-cultural changes among the tribes with particular focus on adapting to modern and technological changes were also discussed.

The special lectures were delivered by Prof. S.K. Chaudhury on “Tribes in India: Contemporary Discourse” and Prof. S. Guruswamy on “Farmers Suicide in India: Some Reflections from the Field”. Dr. Arvind Haldankar and Dr. Rahul Patel were very helpful in conducting the different sessions.
In the business session RC members were of the opinion that the present team should continue. It was also decided to bring the edited volume of the papers submitted by the presenters.

**RC - 08: Social Stratification, Profession and Social Mobility**  
**Convenor: Prof. Mohammad Salim, BHU, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)**

The RC 08 had five sessions including parallel session during 10-11 Nov.2017. A total of 39 submissions were received. Seventeen presentations were completed on November 10. The papers covered a range of topics within the RC themes i.e. Fallouts of RBA Policy documents from the Education and Employment Sectors in J&K, changing pattern in higher education, Status of SC women in Buddhism, Lack of education in SC and Governmental efforts, caste stratification among Muslims, Cooperatives as a form of mobilization, land transactions, caste and social mobility, aspirations of middle caste, forms of social inequality, television, ethnicity and modernity, power and status among Kukis in Manipur, dalit middle class in neo liberal India.

On day two, there were twelve presentations on themes ranging from spaces of consumption, production of spatial hierarchy and heterogeneity within the urban middle class, caste discrimination and exclusion in modern India to internet use in the context of neo liberalism, social mobility among Saharia and Gond tribes. The presentation followed serious academic discussion among the participants. The session one and three were chaired by Prof. Mohammad Salim (ex), department of Sociology, Banaras Hindu University. Session two and four including parallel were chaired by Prof. Arvind Chauhan, Barkatullah University Bhopal. At the end of the session, all the RC members in their business meeting considered several issues related to the working of the RC and suggested many steps for improvement. We increased the membership in comparison to the last year. Prof. M. Salim has been again elected unanimously Convenor of RC 08 for 2018-2019 (two years). We had papers from various States i.e. Delhi, U.P., Assam, Bihar, M.P., Mumbai, Uttrakhand and Karnataka.

**RC - 09: Dalits and Backward Classes**  
**Convenor: Prof. R. N. Salve, Kolhapur (Maharashtra)**

The report of RC 08 was presented by Dr. Arun Paudmal. On 10th and 11th November, 2017 four sessions were held. Session I, II, III and IV were chaired by Prof. D. Shrikant, Prof. M.H. Makwana, Dr. Antara Ray and Mr. Valmik Indase respectively. In all 30 research papers were presented. The presentation of papers were followed by interaction and meaningful discussion.

The Convener thanked the Society and every one after the sessions. The following were elected as the office bearers of RC 09.

1. Convenor : Dr. Arun Paudmal Head, Kolhapur  
2. Co-convenor : Dr. Ishwar Chandra, Bhubaneswar  
3. Treasurer : Dr. Archana R. Kamble, Kolhapur  
4. Member : Dr. Usha Makhwana  
5. Member : Dr. Rakesh Yadav, Azamgarh  
6. Member : Dr. Antara Ray, Kolkata  
7. Member : Dr. Nagaraju Gundemeda, Hyderabad

**RC - 10: Gender Studies**  
**Convenor: Prof. Shweta Prasad, BHU, Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)**

RC- 10, “Gender Studies” has always been one of the most vibrant RCs of the Indian Sociological Society. Organization of midterm seminars every year, publication of edited volumes based on the papers presented during midterm seminars and annual conferences and publication of the RC 10 e-newsletter etc. are some of the regular activities undertaken by the RC. With pan-India membership, the RC is adding many new members with each passing year.

Despite the challenges faced by the delegates this year due to online registration, the RC 10 received 90 abstracts, out of which 57 papers were presented under RC 10 and rest of the papers were shifted to different RCs for presentation by the Academic Advisory Committee.
These 57 papers were presented under seven sessions which included 3 parallel sessions. Technical sessions I and I- A were chaired by Prof. Abha Chauhan and Prof. Shweta Prasad respectively. Technical sessions II and II- A were chaired by Prof. Swapan Bhattacharya and Dr. Rajni Bala respectively. Technical sessions III and III- A were chaired by Prof. Ajaliu Niumai and Dr. Shalini Singh whereas technical session IV was chaired by Prof. Abha Avasthi.

In between these sessions, on 10 November, 2017 at 10.30 am, immediately after the first technical session, the RC- 10 conducted its Business Meeting which was attended by the 35 RC- 10 members including Prof. Abha Chauhan, the Secretary, ISS. Besides others, one of the main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the nature and scope of the RC. Several members expressed their opinion on the issues.

The certificates to the paper presenters were distributed during the IV session by Prof. Abha Avasthi.

**RC - 11: Environment and Society**
*Convenor: Dr. Anoop Kumar Singh, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)*

There were four pre-structured regular sessions and one parallel session. Total 38 papers were accepted or transferred from AAC to RC and 34 were actually presented. Papers ranged from mass media exposure on dimensions of environment to gender mainstreaming in environmental Impact Assessment and social Impact Assessment, albeit there were lack of theoretical formulation of problems in papers except paper of mine on sociology of consumption and Environment: A theoretical framework.

The business meeting was conducted in the third session and it was decided that we will organise a mid-term conference at Saurashtra University, Gujarat or DAV postgraduate college Kanpur. The new induction in my RC in the last session was that I have invited two field based environmentalist practicing environment in field pertained to Lucknow and have direct dialogue with members about their experience of environmental protection. The RC members were very happy by this step. The chair-persons who conducted the sessions were Prof G. Satyanarayana, Prof SC Rajora, Prof. Hemixa Rao, Dr Balajee Kendre, Prof Abha Avasthi, Dr. J. P. Mishra, KM Rai etc. I also honoured Prof. Abha Avasthi, a senior sociologist my teacher and a thought provoking environmentalist for her work in the field of sociology of environment.

**RC - 12: Sociology of Health, Aging and Well-Being**
*Convenor: Dr. Amrendra Mahapatra, Bhubaneswar (Odisha)*

In all RC- 12 received 36 abstracts. These abstracts were divided in to 4 sessions spread over 2 day of the conference. These sessions were as follows:

**Session-I- Women & Child Health:**
In this session a total of 8 papers were read and were well discussed by the 48 participated ISS delegates. In this session it emerged that the decision making for health seeking is the key to women’s health and distance of the health facility is the main concerned today.

**Session-II – Rural Health & Demographic structure today:**
In this session-II a total of 12 papers were read and were well discussed by the 32 participated ISS delegates. In this session it emerged that the Rural- Urban migration and its consequence to health is the important concern today. Here also decisions making for health seeking and wage labourer occupation were the key to women’s health. Here distance of the health facility is not the concern.

**Session-III – Health & Nutrition**
In this session-II a total of 9 papers were read and were well discussed by the 48 participated ISS delegates. In this session it emerged that the Health of the Mother and Child depends on several factors of affordability.

Communities also participated in this programme. Even the rural community grows vitamin and mineral rich farming; but they sell it for a lively hood. Hence interventions should be aimed to the community to consume the produce and alternative income sources may be provided to look after these issues.
Session-IV – Health & Well being
In this session-IV a total of 7 papers were read and well discussed by the 28 participated ISS delegates. In this session all other issues and papers related to health were discussed; it emerged that the Health of the Mother and Child, and Adolescents depends on several factors. These are clear paths of economic affordability and distribution of resources. A proper distribution of the yield may be available but still it needs more functional modulation for community participation in this programme.

RC - 13: Science, Technology and Society
Convenor: Prof. Bipul Kumar Bhadra, Kolkata (West Bengal)
This year RC-13 received 36 papers out of which 34 were presented over four sessions. These sessions were chaired by Prof Bipul Kumar Bhadra,Convenor of the RC, Prof Ajit Kumar Pandey from BHU, Varanasi, Prof.D. Nagaraju form Central University, Hyderabad, and Dr. Madhav Govind from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Each session was followed by questions-answer and broad discussion on the emerging challenges and opportunity in the wake of increasing use of science and technology in India. Many young scholars presented papers on different themes ranging from various usages of ICTs in the field of agriculture, health, education, finance and security. Most of the papers were based on empirical data and researchers used their sociological imagination to explore the function, dysfunction and latent function of Internet and mobile phones for different groups of people such as teenagers, youth, women, old age, rural and marginal community. Some scholars also analyzed the social and political discourse taking place in social media such as face books, whatsapp, and twitter etc. A brainstorming session was organized during the business meeting to solicit the views and opinions of members on further improving the functioning of RC-13. There was a common consensus that STS has emerged as a new specialty and there is a need to organize a methodological workshop to sensitize and train the young scholars with new tools, techniques, and perspectives to study the Cyber world.

The tenure of the present Convener Prof Bipul Kr. Bhadra, Co-convener Dr. SambitMallick, and the treasurer Dr. KingsookSaha, and the EC members, Prof R. Rajesh, Dr. MadhavGovind, Dr. Manoj Jena, will continue until December, 2018.

RC - 14: Culture and Communication
Convenor: Prof. Parvez A. Abbasi, Surat (Gujarat)
A total of 45 abstracts were received by the RC and all of them were selected for presentation in seven technical sessions of RC 14 in 43rd All India Sociological Conference at University of Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Out of these, 34 papers were presented by the members.

The major themes were consumer culture, role of communication technologies in promoting consumerism; transformation of mass media in the era of globalization; portrayal of Indian films, right to information; globalization, technology and culture; globalization, gender and culture; various issues related to new media and social media; literary expression in English fiction and impact of demonetization of Indian economy and print media. The technical sessions were chaired by Prof. Parvez A. Abbasi, Prof. V. P. Singh, Prof. Manvendra Pratap Singh and Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh.

The Business Meeting of RC - 14 was held on 11.11.2017 at 2:30 pm. The election of various office bearers was conducted in the house. Out of 24 life members, 14 life members were present in the house. The following office bearers were elected unanimously:

Prof. V P Singh: Convenor
Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh: Secretary cum Treasurer
Dr. Gajendra Maharia: Executive Member
Dr Shruti Singh: Executive Member
Dr Vilok Singh: Executive Member
Dr Sita Ram Singh: Executive Member

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from the Chair.
RC - 15: Social Change and Development  
Convener: Prof. Naresh Kumar Bhargava, Udaipur (Rajasthan)

A total of 59 papers were presented in different Technical Sessions of RC ‘Social Change and Development’ at the 43rd All India Sociological Conference, Lucknow. The issues covered were: neo liberalization, rural scene, youth and education, gender and development, tribal world, and general observations on change and development. The papers were discussed extensively.

A book, Analysing Change and Development was released in the first session of the RC. The book carried selected eleven articles presented at Tezpur conference last year in 2016. The book is edited by P.C. Jain, B.N. Prasad, A. Banerjee and N.K. Bhargava. The Convener, Prof. Bhargava informed that the book is available to RC members on 40 percent commission.

As there was no candidate for the post of Convener, the members asked Prof. N.K. Bhargava to continue as the Convener for another two years.

RC – 17: Social Movements  
Convener: Prof. Gayatri Bhattacharya, Kolkata (West Bengal)

We had 4 RC sessions of which two were divided into parallel sessions. The RC had 23 abstracts selected by the Academic Advisory Committee. 3 presenters were absent.

As a tradition, the first session of the RC began with the A.R. Desai Memorial Lecture. The lecture was given by Professor Satish Sharma. We are happy that Professor Sujata Patel, President of the ISS, inaugurated the first session of the RC 17 meetings. She remembered Prof. A.R. Desai for his involvement in the role of the common people, peasants and workers in the making of Indian nationalism. It was in his times a refreshingly original stand point, which differed seriously from the view of elitist construction of Indian nation and nationalism. Today social movement study assumes an increasing importance in view of the manoeuvring and manipulations of neo-liberalism and people’s resistance to the same in the form of various social movements.

In his Memorial Lecture, Prof. Satish Sharma explained how the legacy of Prof. A.R. Desai has assumed a greater relevance today in the post-colonial society. The session was chaired by Professor Paramjit Singh Judge. The session was followed by an interacting exchange of opinions.

The papers presented in the different sessions can be thematically distributed under: a) displacement caused through creation of tourist spots, construction of ports and harbours and also through changes in water policies; b) movement in the unorganized sector; c) ethnic movement and movement against marginalization; d) movements and conversion; e) examination of movement in relation to caste and politics; f) socio-religious movement such as Brahma Movement; g) environmental movement and; h) gender movement encompassing women’s movement and gay movement.

There was a paper where the failure of movement in the Tea Gardens in North Bengal was discussed. And, there were 3 papers on the problems of neo-liberalism one of which was specifically related to the State of U.P.

All the sessions were chaired by senior professors from the RC. The papers evoked intense discussions among the participants. The RC in its Business Meeting decided that Gayatri Bhattacharyya, Professor Sruti Tambe and Mr. Rohit Jain would remain as Convener, Co-Convener and Secretary of the RC for 2018 & 2019. The new Treasurer was Iswar Naik. Three members Harinandan Kushwaha from Lucknow, Naveen Nautiyal from Uttarakhand and Shreyasee Dasgupta from Andhra Pradesh were selected from among the presenters.

The RC further decided to take initiatives in certain new areas and distribute the tasks of the RC among the members spread all over India.

RC-18: Sociology of Crime & Deviance  
Convener: Prof. Ramesh H. Makwana, Vallabh Nagar (Gujarat)

RC 18 of ISS and the theme of the sessions under this RC during AISC at Dept. of Sociology, Lucknow University, Lucknow pertained to Sociology of Crime and Deviance. Out of 16 papers printed
in the Book of Abstracts, 15 papers were presented during the three consecutive technical sessions. Prof. Ramesh Makwana, Convener RC 18 gave introductory remarks on preparing the criminological research agenda through rightful survey of literature under theoretical, methodological and thematic heads.

The sessions had a gamut of papers from different areas such as domestic violence, Position of Prison, Crime against Schedule tribe, Crime and Older People, Domestic Violence, Crime against Dalit, Violence against Professional Women, Tourism and Crime, Caste based Crime, and Women Criminality. Out of 15 paper presenters, 05 were young research scholars and 10 regular faculties from around 08 states of the country. The Sessions were chaired respectively by Prof. Ramesh Makwana, Prof. Mamta Patel, Dr. C.K. Raval, Dr. M. Mohan Singh, Dr. Alok Kumar Meena, Dr. Shreen Sadiq, Dr. L.P. Swain, Dr. Bisakha Nandy, Dr. Bira Kishor Dash, Dr. Paresh Patel, Dr. Anil Kumar Singh Jha, Dr. T.S. Vaghera, Dr. Kamina Dashora and Razdha Parveen. The research importance of each of the topic, basis, trend, causes, sociological implications, and consequence were well deliberated upon. This generated a lot many views and suggestions from eminent experts present. On the whole, the RC deliberations were fruitful and meaningful. In the last session at the Lucknow conference the business meeting of the RC was held and Prof. Makwana presented the accounts.

**RC-19: Sociology of Ageing**
**Convener: Dr. Udai Bhan Singh, Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh)**

The RC received 19 abstracts from Academic Advisory Committee. There were 18 presentations spread in 03 sessions chaired by Dr. U.B. Singh, the Convener and Prof. Sudeshna Basu Mukherjee from Kolkata. This time some new areas of ageing were covered by the scholars like representation of successful ageing within television advertising in India, ageing related problems of LTGB people, ageing well: a right or a duty etc. Other prominent areas of research were health, poverty, social responsibility with regard to ageing people. Class and caste analysis also found place in presentations. Some case studies of Old Age Homes were also presented.

In the IV session on 11th November, all the RC members expressed their displeasure and dissatisfaction on the decision of ISS to merge RC 19 with RC 12. Everybody was of the opinion that Ageing and Health have altogether different domain and Ageing should not be trivialized by merging it with some other RC. A written representation was given to the Secretary ISS in this regard with the request to revert back the decision of merger and let the RC 19 run independently as in the past. Finally, the Business meeting ended with thanks to the organizers for all out arrangement.

**RC-20: Leisure and Tourism**
**Convener: Dr. Kali Nath Jha, Sagar (Madhya Pradesh)**

There were 25 accepted abstracts for presentation, in which 21 papers were presented in all four sessions followed by business session. Most of the papers were concentrated on the issue of leisure, emerging patterns of leisure as well as on the various issues related to the tourism right from the traditional to modern tourism.

During sessions, Prof. B.K. Nagla and Prof. Manish K. Verma delivered lectures on leisure and tourism with reference to the era of globalization.

The sessions were chaired by Dr. Pramod Kumar Chaudhary, S. Sundaraman and Dr. Kali Nath Jha where as the rapporteurs were Shefali Soni, Varun Kumar, Deepak Kumar Rajak and Ramvriksha Chaudhary. In the business session, on the request of Dr. P.K. Chaudhary, a decision was taken that a mid-term seminar will be organized by the Department of Sociology, Magadh University, Gaya.

From the next year, there is thematic merger of RCs and the theme of RC-20 will be Media Studies. As decided by the MC, Dr. Kali Nath Jha will be nominated convener for the next year. All members of RC-20 are very much thankful to the President, Secretary and managing committee of ISS for their cooperation.
RC-21: Social Problems and Marginalized Groups  
Convener: Prof. S. N. Chaudhary, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)

Paper presentation in RC 21 began with introductory remark by Convener of the RC, Prof. S.N. Chaudhary, Rajiv Gandhi Chair in Contemporary Studies, Barkatullah University, Bhopal. Altogether 23 presentations were made in four Research Committee sessions. Some of the important issues covered in the presentations were denial of rights of marginalized communities, destruction of indigenous culture in the era of neo-liberalism, social and political inclusion of women and their status, education and land governance among STs and SCs, hardships of naxal affected people, changing social and economic life particularly of vulnerable tribal communities and most importantly the losing cultural heritage due to globalization. All the papers covered both theoretical and empirical aspects. All the presentations were followed by a thorough discussion.

The first, second, third and fourth RC Sessions were chaired by Prof. B.C. Barik from Odisha, Dr. Nagrendrappa E. from Tamil Nadu, Prof. Ashish Saxena from Uttar Pradesh and Dr. S.T. Akiyan from Tamil Nadu respectively. The proceedings ended with Vote of Thanks by Dr. Neelu Rawat from Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya Sagar (M.P.). The Rapporteur’s Report was prepared by Sunil Kumar Yadav and edited by the convener of RC 21, Prof S.N. Chaudhary. Looking to quality of some of the papers presented, it was decided by all the participants to publish it in book form.

Business meeting was held in the last session. Convener of RC informedly about renaming of this RC so election that was due in this year was not held. Except Co-convener Prof. C. Venkatachalam, all office bearers i.e. Prof. S.N. Chaudhary (Convener), Dr. Neelu Rawat (Secretary) and Sunil Kumar Yadav (Treasurer) were present in the meeting. From henceforth the Research Committee 21 will be known as Political Sociology. The present office bearers of RC will continue till next election which will be held in 2018.

RC-22: Sociology of Armed Forces and Conflict Resolution  
Convener: Prof. Rajiv Gupta, Jaipur (Rajasthan)

This year RC 22 received total 9 abstracts for the presentation, however only 7 papers were presented in three sessions. These papers covered three themes: internal security; neo-liberalism and hegemonic culture of the military and displacement due to conflict. First session started with discussion on the emerging dimension of the internal security and went on to discuss the utilization of the military in the internal security, role of non state actors.

How Neo-liberalism challenged the hegemonic masculine culture of the military and women’s presence in the masculine uniform was discussed in the second session, while peace building in the conflict zone through the development projects and encouraging tourism was the centre of discussion in the third session. Presentation sessions were full of live interaction marked by the comments, observation and suggestions. The sessions were chaired by Dr Rashmi Jain, Prof B K Nagla and Dr Sudhir Kumar respectively. This year’s Best Paper Award (Research Scholars Category) was given to Altamash Khan for his paper Belonging Nowhere: The Plight of Internally Displaced Women in Kokrajhar Assam Post 2012 Bodo-Muslim Conflict’ by the committee of Prof. BK Nagla, Prof. Rajiv Gupta and Dr Vinita Lal.

As Prof Rajiv Gupta convenor of this RC could not attend the conference, he deputed Dr Sudhir Kumar Co-Convenor of the RC to convene the technical sessions. The RC held two business sessions for the election of the office bearers for the next two years as convenor elected in the first business session was not holding the appointment of Associate Professor. In the second business session, members unanimously elected the new office bearer’s team comprising of: Convenor- Dr Ramesh D. Rathod, Co-Convenor: Dr Sudhir Kumar, Secretary: Dr Vinita Lal, Treasurer: Harinandan Kushwaha, and Dr D R Khairnar, Dr V Girisha, Dr Anand Kumar and Aftab Ahmad Bhat as members of Executive Committee. The members also decided for the publication of RC Newsletter and one member expressed his willingness to organize a mid-term seminar of this RC. In the end, members extended thanks to the managing committee of Indian Sociological Society for renaming the RC as Conflict and Violence Studies a much relevant name in contemporary scenario as well as to the organizing team lead by Prof D R Sahu for nice arrangements.
RC-23: Sociology of Law
Convener: Dr. Rashmi Jain, Jaipur (Rajasthan)

The research committee on Sociology of Law conducted four sessions. The first session brought out the hidden agenda of the process of neo liberalization by interrogating the need of laws for specific issues in present times. Dr Sadhna Gupta in her paper on surrogacy laws and its changing trends questioned the need for commercial surrogacy and opined that stringent laws should be made to ban commercial surrogacy since it is leading to exploitation of women. Dr Panakj Kumar’s paper threw light on the challenges thrown by neo liberal forces on the senior citizens. Dr Pradeepta Ranjan Pattanayak raised the issue of whether law alone can or cannot empower women. Dr Chura Giri’s paper on tribal customary law discussed the customary laws with reference to change and continuity. The session was chaired by Dr Rashmi Jain.

The second session was a joint session with RC 22 on Sociology of Armed forces and Conflict resolution. It was chaired by Prof. K.C Raval from Gujarat University. Altamash Khan, TISS, presented his paper on the plight of internally displaced women in Kokrajhar, Assam post 2012 Bodo- Muslim conflict. Aftab Ahmad Bhat from Kashmir University discussed the importance of development in conflict zone areas especially Kashmir. Dr Rashmi Jain presented her paper on Development induced displacement- A socio- legal perspective. Keeping Roscoe Pound’s theory of social engineering as centre stage she examined the role of mega developmental projects and how they impacted the lives of people settled on the land for centuries. Sudhir Kumar deliberated on Neo-liberalism and the culture of hegemony in Indian armed forces. The paper examined the adjustment in the core values of military culture in relation to the inclusion of women in military culture.

In the third session, Prof. K.C Raval presented his paper examining child rights in general and Prevention of children from sexual offences Act POCSO in particular. Dr S Sundararaman presented his analysis on using tourism as a peace agent in post terror attack period. Anjana Yadav’s paper examined the trends of food consumption among North Indian adolescents in the era of Consumption culture.

A business meeting of the RC also took place and the members present discussed important issues related to the changes being brought about by ISS and their ramifications on RC.

RC- 24: Sociology of Childhood and Youth
Convener: Prof. Bula Bhadra, Kolkata (West Bengal)

In the 43rd AISC at Lucknow University, Dr. Piyali Sur, co-convenor was acting convener of R.C. 24 as Prof. Bula Bhadra, the convener was unable to attend the 43rd conference. There were 3 academic sessions, one business session followed by a Special Lecture. We had received 24 abstracts but 16 presentations were made. The Special lecture was delivered by Dr. Subhashis Bandopadhyay, Associate Professor, Department of HSS, IIEST-Shibpur on “Lively Youth Deadly Games: A Preliminary Study on the Impact of the Online Game Blue Whale”. The lecture analyzed the dynamics of gaming behaviour among students of West Bengal, with special reference to their response to the overall threat posed by the online game “blue whale”. While reflecting on the “deadliness” of the blue whale game, the author highlighted that they are numerous other online games like salt and ice, fire challenge etc, which are quite similar to blue whale and therefore play an active role in attracting and then terrorizing youth. A significant point, which got surfaced during the lecture, is that, technology-mediated, appealing but harmful and intimidating tactics causing injury to youth and also claiming their lives in some cases is not at all a new phenomenon. Numerous questions were posed by participants after this enlightening lecture which paved the way for a vibrant and informing discussion. This session was chaired by Dr.Kingsook Saha, Assistant Professor in Sociology, KBK Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal.

The themes of the academic sessions were: a) Childhood, youth and consumption b) Youth and marginal existence c) Online Lives of Youth in Neoliberal Milieu d) Youth Politics, Culture and Intimacy e) Children, Schooling and their Everyday Lives f) Changing Childhood and State Policies. The second academic session was chaired by Subhashis Bandopadhyay, Department of HSS, IIEST-Shibpur. This session focused on themes of consumption practices among children and youth, their online lives as articulated in addictive games, cybercrimes, on-line shopping and the marginal existence, vulnerabilities, negotiations of survival of slum youth, street-connected young women. The interrelation
between different facets of young lives against the backdrop of digitally dominated neo-liberal economy and culture and its consequences came under thought-provoking dialogue. The third academic session was chaired by Dr. Muneer Illath, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Allahabad. The theme in this session was Youth Politics, Culture and Intimacy and there were papers on romantic choices of the youth, role played by mass media to promote modernization among the youth in Delhi and language use of the youth. The Chair and the other participants appreciated the richness and variety of the themes and its articulation in an adept manner. The fourth academic session was chaired by Prof. Ashish Saxena, Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, University of Allahabad that took up the themes Children, Schooling and their Everyday Lives and Changing Childhood and State Policies. The papers were on the impact of privatization of education on children, corporal punishment as a form of crime, and the critical evaluation of welfare schemes like UN award winning Kanyashree scheme of West Bengal Government and ICDS welfare programmes.

In the Business Session the election for the new Board for 2018-19 took place and Life Members present elected the office-bearers and members unanimously: Dr. Piyali Sur, (LMI 1822) Convenor, Associate Professor, Dept. Of Sociology, Jadavpur University, Kolkata; Prof. Ashish Saxena, (LMI 2135) Co-Convenor, Professor & Head, Dept Of Sociology, University of Allahabad and Subhasis Bandyopadhyay, (LMI 1832) Secretary, Associate Professor, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology (IIEST, a MHRD Institute), Shibpur, West Bengal and two other members. The Convenor elect Dr. Piyali Sur announced the future plan of RC 24. To begin with, she said that we are expecting the publication of the edited book which is a compilation of articles from AISC papers of last three years by Bhadra, Bula, (ed.). Childhood and Youth of India: The Missing Link in Sociology on India (Routledge) very soon. Secondly, we intend to launch an E Newsletter cum E-journal on pertinent issues relating to Childhood and Youth. There will be a section called “Viewpoints” where contributions will be invited within 1000 words for a lively on-going discourse. Finally, we are trying to organize a mid-term seminar if we can arrange financial support.

**AG - 01: Sociology of Everyday Life**  
**Convenor: Prof. Abhijit Mitra, Kolkata (West Bengal)**

In all 29 abstracts were received and 28 papers were presented during the technical sessions of Adhoc Group – 01: ‘Sociology of Everyday Life’ at the 43rd All India Sociological Conference (AISC), Indian Sociological Society on ‘Neoliberalism, consumerism and culture’ organized by Lucknow University, from 9th to 12th November, 2017.

Additional information of the proceedings of AG-01 at the 43rd AISC are given as follows:

1. **Themes Covered, Presented and Discussed:**
   
i. Aspects of everyday life of the urban middle class in neoliberal order: Shopping malls, global food chains, credit cards, night clubs, cafe culture and every day journey of bottled water  
ii. Interrogating ‘Fair Trade’, transnational organ transplantation and drug imperialism  
iii. Body adornment: Tattoos, jewellery, fairness and fashion  
iv. Interrogating sexuality: non-binary sexuality; sexuality education  
v. Commodification of health and education: politics of diabetics  
vi. Consuming ‘blue whales’  
vii. Impact of consumerism on children and college students; popular perception of science and scientists among students  
viii. Everydayness of class identity, social movement and mobility  
ix. Everyday forms of interaction: informal and non-verbal

2. **Future Plan:**

i. To continue to hold workshops and conferences until the next AISC, 2018. One will be held in collaboration with Department of Sociology, Sikkim
ii. University, by the end of February 2018.
iii. To publish a selection of papers presented at Bhubaneshwar, Tezpur and Lucknow in an edited volume.
iv. To publish a selection of papers to be presented at Sikkim in an edited volume.

The following are the office bearers of AG-01
1. Convenor: Prof(Rtd.) Abhijit Mitra
2. Co-Convenor: Prof(Dr.) Sanjay Kr Roy
3. Secretary: Prof(Dr.) Amites Mukhopadhyay
4. Treasurer: Dr. Nibedita Bayen
5. Member: Mr. Pinaki Roy

All these are also members of Academic Committee of the AG-01. In 2017, in all 33 AG members paid the fees. Workshop on everyday life sociology with reference to Indian sociological tradition in collaboration with Department of Sociology, North Bengal University was held on 28th and 29th March, 2017.

AG - 02: Sociology of Sports
Convener: Dr. Samapika Mohapatra, Gaya (Bihar)

In 43rd AISC, Lucknow University, 17 abstracts were received under Ad-hoc Group -2 (Sociology of Sports), of which 15 papers including 3 joint papers were presented in four technical sessions in AG-II. The theme of first session was ‘Sports, Culture and Society’, chaired by Prof. Manish Kumar Verma of BBAU, Lucknow. Under this technical session four papers; on the topics; Sports in Islam, ‘The Relevance of Yoga in Sports Performance, A Sociological Study of Child Socialization Role in Sports’, and Gramin Samaj Mein Khel ki Bhumika were presented. The session was conducted with active participation of the members. It was concluded with remarks of Chair and Convener that there is a need to revive our cultural ethos of Indian Society where sporting activities have always been an integral part of the lives of people.

In the same day, second session was scheduled after Lunch on the theme ‘Sports, Globalization and Neo-Liberal Era’, chaired by Dr. Sanat Kumar Sharma. Under this session, the topics were; Neo-liberalism and institutionalization of sports, Sports, Film and Identity’ Cricket and Market: A Study of Globalization’, Involvement of Children in Sports in Neo-liberal Era. Third and Fourth technical sessions were conducted on 11th November, 2017 on the theme ‘Sports, Mobility and Change’ where the participants discussed and highlighted the issue how the sports can be a catalyst for women empowerment, career prospects and overall development of the nation with the help of its support mechanism through public and private partnership. Many papers revealed empirical realities of status of Sports specifically in India where one of the paper presenters, Madhusmita Barwa discussed a case study of Sundergarh District of Odisha which could produce international level Women Hockey Players. Another paper was presented by Sunaina on life experiences of a Horse rider and the future prospects in horse riding especially for women in India. One of the presenters also discussed the impact of sports on rural society. These technical sessions were jointly chaired by Dr. Manoj Kumar Chhaparia and Dr. Haresh Narayan Pandey and was concluded by the remarks of the convener that how the social capital can be bridged through sports and how as a cultural capital sports can be used to uplift the status of downtrodden, underprivileged children in the hierarchical social structure. The discussion also reflected upon how the sports Structure has to be developed in India and for this what role the sports researchers should play.

The Business Meeting of AG-2 was held on 11th November at 2.30 pm. All members of AG-2 attended the meeting which was chaired by the secretary Prof Abha Chauhan. In this meeting the name of Prof. Vishesh Gupta was proposed for new Convener and he was elected by the life members of AG-2 who had completed at least 1 year membership in Ad-hoc Group 2. At the end of the Business Meeting of the AG-2, Secretary of the ISS, Prof. Abha Chauhan announced that with the sincere efforts of the present convener, Dr. Samapika Mohapatra and all members of AG -2, the Adhoc Group-2 has been upgraded to the status of full-fledged RC. The ISS had reviewed the proposal submitted by her and took the decision to convert AG-II to RC.
It is noteworthy to mention here that AG II has registered 24 new members this year representing the States like J&K, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, U.P., Rajasthan, M.P, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Kerala who have actively participated in the discussions and presented papers in different technical sessions.

**AG - 03: Ethnicity and Minority Studies**  
**Convener: Prof. Arvinder A. Ansari, Jamia Millia Islamia (Delhi)**

Ethnicity and Minority Studies AG which has now become RC is youngest Research Committee (RC) of Indian Sociological Society. The present membership of the RC is about 60. During the 43rd ISS conference organized by the University Lucknow, a total of 22 abstracts were received and all were selected for presentation. However, only eighteen papers were presented as four presenters did not turn up. The papers were spread over 4 technical sessions. Each presenter was given about 20 minutes for presentation after which discussion was held and due input was given. In the first technical session, held on 10th November 2017, which was chaired by Prof Arvinder A Ansari, total four papers were presented. The underlying theme of the all the papers was the challenges of neoliberal development on various aspects of human life. Dr. Amiya Das presented his paper on Corporatization of the Social in the Age of Neoliberalisation. Ms. Aafreen Mustafa discussed about The Muslim Question: The Need to Enquire the Universal Meaning of Aspirations. Dr. Shalini Singh discussed about the newly emerged mess in the form of Goods and Services Tax, implemented by the Government of India in 2017. In her paper, GST Sound the Death Knell for Handicrafts: The Case study of Lucknow Chikan Industry, Dr Shalini discussed about the impact created by the unplanned implementation of GST on the Chikan industry of Lucknow. Ms. Hina Kausar in her paper Stone Pelting: The New Intifada in Kashmir, touched upon one of the most volatile, and relatively ignored, issue of stone pelting in Kashmir. After the first technical session, first business meeting was held which was attended by all the members of the research committee in which the future path of the RC was discussed.

In the second technical session, held on 10th November 2017 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm and was chaired by Prof. Arvinder A Ansari, only two papers were presented. Although the papers were very different in terms of their content and methodology, the connecting link between them was concept of religious minority. Dr. Rajni Bala in her paper titled Minority Majority Interaction: A Case Study of Celebration of Marriage of First Sikh Guru in Batala City, discussed about the minority- majority relations in the light of marriage celebration of first Sikh Guru in Batala city. In the paper Rights of Religious Minorities: Provisions and Predicaments in West Bengal, Ms. Shilpita addressed the problematic nature of the rights available to religious minorities in West Bengal. After the session, we also organized a special lecture on the theme of Economic Activities of Muslims in Neoliberal Era which was delivered by Professor Mohammad Akram, Department of Sociology, Aligarh Muslim University. Prof. Akram, while highlighting the condition of Muslims in the changing economic environment, emphasized on the necessity and technicalities of using NSS data for research purposes.

The third technical session was held on November 11th from 9:00-10:15 am. The session was chaired by Prof. Arvinder A. Ansari. Total four papers were presented in this session by the young scholars working in the area on ethnicity and minority studies. Using secondary sources, Gafar Khan in his paper, Surviving Against Hope: The Plight of Rohingya Refugees, delineated historical nature of problem faced by Rohingya refugees and emphasised on the survival issue threatening the community. Badre Afshan in her paper Food Consumption Behaviours and Indian Muslims: A Sociological Analysis, talked about the food habit among Muslims. According to Ms. Afshan, food consumption is a part of culture of the community. Explaining the binary of halal (permitted) and haram (prohibited) foods, Ms. Afshan touched upon the construction of being a good Muslim and a bad Muslim.

This technical session was followed by an invited lecture which was delivered by Dr. Ishwar Chandra Nayak. The topic of Dr Nayak’s lecture was “Tribal Education and Social Inclusion in India: A Study of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Odisha”. The session was chaired by Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad Ansari. Taking Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISSL) as a case study, Dr. Nayak emphasised the role of community in development process. Dr Nayak is of the opinion that we cannot leave everything on the government. It is our duty to give something back to society which has given us so much.
The fourth technical session was held on November 11, 2017, from 2:30-4:00 pm. It was chaired by Dr. Rajni Bala. In this session, total four papers were presented. Sujata Jha, in her paper, Socialization of Dark Skinned Women as Minority, talked about the role of culture in the construction of identity on racial basis. For her, dark skinned women are a doubly disadvantaged category because of their racial and sexual marginal position in society. Dr. T. B. Singh in his paper, Vaishwikaran Evam Bhartiya Samaj mein Muslim Mahilayen (Globalisation and Muslim Women in Indian Society), discussed about the challenges as well as opportunities which globalization has opened to the Indian Muslim women. Using personal observation and experiences, Dr Singh highlighted that despite the multiple challenges, globalization has provided a liberating space to the Muslim women who had long been, and still do, subject to patriarchal cultural values. In Hijab in Neoliberalism: Faith or Social Construct?, Ms Saumya Tiwari made an attempt to find whether hijab (Muslim veil) is a part of the Islamic faith or a social construction. The last paper of the session was presented by Mr. Ravi Kumar. His title of presentation was A Case Study of Language and Nation-Ethnicity of Mithilanchal Area in Bihar. The paper was about language (in this Maithili language) which serves as a source of ethnic identity formation.

AG - 04: Mother and Motherhood
Convener: Prof. Samita Manna, Kalyani (West Bengal)

At the outset the Convenor of the Adhoc Group 4 – ‘Mother and Motherhood’ expressed her heartiest thanks to the President of the Indian Sociological Society and other members of the Executive Committee for upgrading the Adhoc Group to a full-fledged RC - ‘Sociology of Care’. This year the Adhoc Group received 27 abstracts and finally 22 research papers were presented in four technical sessions. Each technical session was chaired by experienced teachers along with two rapporteurs (Young Scholars) for vibrating the session with academic interactions. Each presenter was allotted 10 minutes for presentation and another 5 minutes to share their views on different dimensions of ‘Mother and Motherhood’. All papers had their distinctive themes and perspectives related to the changing pattern of motherhood with its intrinsic qualities. The papers dealt with the following themes –

1. Challenges of Motherhood in Contemporary Society
2. Sociology of Motherhood and Motherhood in Animal Kingdom
3. Motherhood as Non-biological Fact
4. Modern reproduction of Motherhood: Motherhood as Cultural Construct
5. The notion of Good Mother and Bad Mother: Perspectives of Motherhood

Each paper contained a theoretical discourse along with some clear cut empirical references. Many current problems and issues sensitized the audience about the dynamics and nuances of motherhood. The Ad-hoc group ‘Mother and Motherhood’ also arranged its annual business meeting on 9th November, 2017 at Lucknow University. All the office bearers were re-elected unanimously. Some new members were also inducted in the executive committee of the Adhoc group. The meeting dealt with the past activities of the Adhoc Group. All agenda were discussed meticulously and reviewed critically. Finally future course of action was designed.

The second book on Motherhood based on the selected papers presented in the annual conference of ISS at Tezpur, 2016 will be released in Kolkata Book Fair, 2018. It was resolved further that one workshop will be organised for the young scholars to encourage them in various research activities. Finally once again the convener and all her committee members expressed their satisfaction on the progress of the Adhoc Group.
ISS e- Newsletter

The ISS Life Members, the ISS Research Committee Conveners and the Regional Associations of Sociology affiliated to ISS are welcome to communicate the news, information and reports etc. about their academic activities for consideration of publication in the ISS e-Newsletter to:

Prof. Abha Chauhan:
abhasecretaryiss@gmail.com
Prof. Antony Palackal:
antonypalackal@gmail.com

Hindi version of “Global Dialogue”,

The ISS Members are invited to view the Hindi version of “Global Dialogue”, the Newsletter of the International Sociological Association, currently published in 14 languages by visiting at the link: http://www.isa-sociology.org/global-dialogue/

Books/ Articles Published

Dr. Sumit Saurabh Srivastava


Dr. Balgovind Baboo


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Prof. Manish Verma


OBITUARIES


12. Prof. JMS Verma, Lucknow
13. Prof. D. N. Dhanagare, Pune
14. Prof. Keshav Kaistha, Chandigarh
15. Prof. Ishwar Modi, Jaipur
16. Prof. TKN Unnithan, Jaipur
17. Prof. Hetukar Jha, Patna
18. Prof. M.J. Masihi, Ahemdbad
19. Prof. M. Ramakrishnan, Tirunelveli
20. Prof. M. Kannappan, Tirunelveli
21. Prof. Gopal Iyer, Chandigarh
22. Prof. C. Lakshmanan, Hyderabad

Dedicated to the Founder of Rajasthan Sociological Association

TKN Unnithan - A Wanderer, A Romantic, A Visionary

'Tribute from a Student'

Thottamon Kantan Kesavan Narayanan Unnithan - the longish and meaningful name of Prof. Unnithan, popularly known as TKN, dwarfed by his achievements denotes a set of implorations to Lord Krishna and the Divine Hindu Trinity. He was born in 1927 in the village Thonackadu in Travancore State in an aristocratic, feudal, matrilineal Nair family and was the cynosure of all eyes as he was the first male child born in his mother's family after eighty years. These distinct and unique features of his heritage coupled with his personal initiatives had a profound effect in blossoming of TKN as a multi-faceted personality - a wanderer, a romantic and a visionary.

When I count my blessings my association with Prof. Unnithan figures in the top bracket. I had the honour of meeting him in the year 1970 for the first time as a fresher in the Department of Sociology for masters at the University of Rajasthan while he was an acclaimed scholar in his early fifties. After my post graduation, I was the proud recipient of three gold medals from him as the top student of the University. This association continued till 2 July 2017 when he breathed his last. I used to visit him on his birthdays on 21st April every year. Prof. S.L. Sharma, used to accompany me during his tenure as Head, Department of Sociology, University of Rajasthan, and thereafter also and it was a treat to see the amount of respect shown by him to Prof. Unnithan for his contribution as the 'Founder’ Head of the Department. We both were saddened when we visited him on his ninetieth birthday in 2017. His stony and listless responses indicated that life was flickering out of this noble soul. Always treated as a part of his extended family, I exulted and rejoiced at his glorious achievements and at times anguished watching his failing health in his twilight years. 'Naman to this versatile personality” says Prof. S.L. Sharma. A study of the life and contributions of Prof. Unnithan to the development of human thought and Indian Sociology is a fascinating intellectual pilgrimage. The limitations of language get ripped open whenever an effort has been made to define him -- to cast him in a stereotype mould with a linear approach. His
contemporaries described this colossus amongst them by various epithets such as a distinguished sociologist who embodied incisive analytical ability, dynamism, administrative acumen, sincerity, warmth and transparency. One of his Dutch colleagues of long standing Prof. Jaap Schouten summed up 'TKN' as "You are a many sided person. You are a prophet and a dreamer, a humane scholar and a man of practice, a clever politician and at the same time you are inimitably straightforward. You are a domineering democrat, a vulnerable and sensitive person, but with a heart of gold: you care for the underprivileged."

Early Life and Education
His mother was married to a Namboothery Brahmin who became a part of her joint family. His maternal grandmother was the head of the family who was powerful and a very strong-willed person. Both his maternal grandfather and father were traditional Sanskrit scholars. Popularly known as 'Thampan' in his family, Prof. Unnithan was brought up in an orthodox Hindu environment. He did his intermediate studies at the Catholic St. Berchman's College, Changanasheeri. He studied Biology, Chemistry, Physics and logic which widened his horizons considerably. The streak of a wanderer made him switch from science stream to the arts stream and he did his graduation opting Economics and Political Science from Maharaja's College, Ernakulam. He was a student of Economics, Sociology and later on did LL.B. at Lucknow University (1947-49) where he was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi.

Lucknow University was at its peak and 'Unnithan' had the good fortune to be taught by the renowned personalities like D. N. Mazumdar, Radha Kamal Mukherjee and D.P. Mukherjee. These Professors of great intellectual repute influenced him profoundly. He was an active participant in the night classes held by Prof. R.K. Mukherjee for the underprivileged. As a result he was oriented towards social work. He completed his post-graduation with distinction, winning the Wilhelmina Buck Memorial University Gold Medal in 1949. Later on he was awarded the distinguished Killans Visiting Professorship Award (1988) and the UGC National Award (Pravananda) in 1989.

Starting his career as an investigator in Planning Commission of India, a young Unnithan realized that he must equip himself with knowledge, compassion and empathy to enable him to contribute more substantially to the development of his country through his academic and social pursuits. The streak of a 'wanderer' in him put him on a journey with utter disregard to geographical boundaries and nautical distances much beyond his cultural-cum-environmental comfort zone. He criss-crossed continents and oceans to become a man with a global 'vision' and 'mission'. His 'romanticism' made him indulge with full passion to whatever mission he chose for himself. My long association gave me a unique ringside view of the academician, a fervent Gandhian and a committed social activist - all rolled into one.

He went to Cambridge Fetz William House (1951-52) for a research methodology course and later to The Netherlands, where he took a Master of Social Sciences Degree at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague. In 1956 he obtained D. Litt. and Ph.D. in Sociology at the State University of Utrecht with a thesis later published under the title 'Gandhi and Free India'. In Cambridge his mentor was Prof. Maurice Dobb and in The Netherlands he had the good fortune to count Noble Laureate Prof Jan Tinbergen, Prof. Bart Landheer and Prof. Jan Prins as his teachers and guides. These persons were not only eminent in their own academic disciplines, but also had strong social commitments. The foundations were thus laid for a modern young Unnithan with deep moorings in the Indian psyche.

All his intellectual and academic pursuits, highly soothing to his soul and very satisfying to his conscience, paid him rich personal dividends as well. The surge of a romantic in him brought him in close touch with Gerda Kaufmann, a Dutch beauty and a lady of substance in her own fields of activity. They married in 1957 and were blessed with a daughter and a son. The young couple settled in Delhi where Prof. Unnithan joined Delhi School of Economics as a lecturer - a first step on the stairs to an exciting academic pyramid taking him to pinnacles of glory from one peak to the other - Founder and Head of the Department of Sociology, University of Rajasthan and
subsequently Vice Chancellor of the same University for two terms. Prof. Deepak Bhatnagar from the Department of Public Administration, University of Rajasthan, says "Prof Unnithan was a great sociological thinker. As a Vice Chancellor, he was known for his innovative style to solve the issues. The University of Rajasthan would always remember his contributions in the academic and administrative fields."

During his tenure in University of Rajasthan, the Department of Sociology was the first to start field work for its MA students and initiated a variety of co-curricular activities to strengthen the discipline. During his long innings in the department spanning over four decades, Prof. Unnithan mentored legions of students who made valuable contributions to Sociology Department. To name a few - he was a Ph.D. guide of Prof. Indu Mathur, Dr. Sulochana Raghav, Prof. Naintara Gorwaney, Prof. Ranjana Jain, Dr. H.C. Upreti, who feel nostalgic about their association with him and remember him with reverence as a person of character, competence, humane approach and empathy. One of his students Dr. G.S. Kewalramani who was a senior faculty member later on, writes "latent altruistic deeds was one utmost distinct quality of Prof. Unnithan's personality. A qualitative approach based observation is that he recommended a book called 'Conquest of Violence : The Gandhian Philosophy of Conflict' by Joan Bondurant to me when I was a research scholar in the department. The book's elucidation of the relationship between three concepts - truth, non-violence and satyagraha, not only made my career productive but also set me free from any kind of conflict with the academic community. Naman to such an outstanding academic mentor". Similarly Prof. Ranjana Jain writes "I am indebted to him for being my mentor and Ph.D. guide."

As an academician, his urge to paint a wider canvas took him to prominent universities in Canada, U.S.A., England, Germany, Scandinavian countries, The Netherlands, Italy, Belgium, the Soviet Union and Japan, where he lectured and expressed the need for greater understanding of peace and brotherhood. Though these elevations on the professional ladder are important milestones but do not fully convey the significance, content and depth of the works of Prof. Unnithan, the visionary, and the international acclaim which followed as recognition of his contribution.

Contributions to Sociology and Development of Society

Prof. Unnithan’s contribution to Sociology is enriched by his unique skill-sets of being a Gandhian philosopher and a committed social worker. He wanted that Sociology as a subject should go beyond its content and prosaic formulations to concrete and visible landmarks in societal development. His 'files to field' vision created assets for the benefit of posterity. Emeritus Professor Yogendra Singh writes "In his perception of Sociology, there existed a determination to illustrate how interaction with people and with those who were in the field of Sociology was essential to frame up or draw out the nature of sociology as it should evolve within the campuses, classrooms and the universities." A sociological survey of three cities, namely Jaipur, Ajmer and Kota conducted under his leadership was widely acclaimed and proved as a blue print for town planning in Rajasthan. In the 1960s, he was the pioneer of the twinning of Jaipur and Calgary (Canada) by way of social networking. The initiative paid rich dividends and flowered into Calgary Eye Hospital at Jaipur. Eminent Prof. Yogesh Atal aptly sums up "Prof Unnithan's role was instrumental in twinning Calgary city of Canada with Jaipur for which there was a celebration at Jaipur. I had the honour of sharing the dais with him and late Maharani Gayatri Devi." His commitment to Sarvodaya manifested itself as a Health Care Centre at his residence at Jaipur to serve the poor and the needy in a selfless manner.

He had a firm conviction that Sociology for India / Sociology in India had to draw on its own sources and parameters and could not be a blind copy of American Sociology. In his works 'Sociology for India' and 'Towards a Sociology of Culture in India', he gives a detailed account of the development of teaching and research in Sociology in India in terms of curriculum content, teaching and research. He felt that research in Sociology could not make an impact on the policy makers nor made much contribution to theory and method. He discussed about the problem of Sociological colonialism by which he meant the impact of American books, undue patronage to western sociologists and unwarranted use of western models and jargons. He discriminated
between 'Old' Sociology and the 'New' Sociology. Old sociology was the product of colonialism and conservatism. He firmly believed that the new Sociology in India should have at its centre the power of love and compassion, it should be a 'transcendental' Sociology that tries to break conceptual barriers and concentrate on the culture in India. He insisted that if Sociology in India follows the transcendental path, it may avoid a crisis altogether and continuously contribute to social progress.

In the book 'Sociology for India' he contributed an article 'Sociology in India at the Crossroads' in which he focused on the disciplinary status of Sociology in India, the inter-disciplinary approach, the problems of teaching and research, the role of sociologists and formulation of a code of ethics for sociologists. He wrote "the time has come to ponder seriously to follow "the path to the sands" instead of following "the path to the stars" which was followed by Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer and Hobhouse. Following 'the path of sands' one collects 'Whirling facts' with survey techniques." He wanted to choose the middle path 'the path of little stones' which would bridge the gap between the two extremes of theoretical orientation. He co-authored the book 'Family and Civilisation in the East and West' with Prof. Carl Zimmerman who was also a visiting Professor at the Department of Sociology during his tenure.

As a result of his extensive involvement in Gandhian studies, he was recognised as a Gandhian scholar. He was the first Director of the Gandhi Bhawan, University of Rajasthan. He propagated the Gandhian teachings and philosophy of Sarvodaya far and wide. His books 'Traditions of Non-Violence', 'Change without Violence', 'Gandhian Social Thought' and 'Gandhi and Social Change' were well acclaimed. In these books he presented Gandhian ideas on social issues, analysis of the impact of these ideas on Indian society during the post-independence period. Prof. Yogendra Singh says "we both started together on a project by UNESCO which was later on published in two volumes: 'Traditions of Non-Violence' and 'Towards a Theory of Non-Violence and Peace.' Prof. Unnithan's moral and academic support during this whole process was not only academically enriching but also memorable. His way of discussing and helping in the development of empirical methodology was beneficial in the fruitful completion of this study. Without Prof Unnithan's support, this project could not be developed and achieve a recognition within the Sociological discipline." His book 'Traditions of Non-Violence' co-authored with Prof. Yogendra Singh is an analysis and evaluation of the traditions of non-violence both in the Eastern and Western Civilizations. The authors focused on the sociological treatment of non-violence and peace from a structural point of view.

All his literary works are masterpieces in their own right and constraints of space do not allow me to dwell on each of them. However to get an idea of their quality and content as well as personality of Prof. Unnithan, I would like to quote the comments of Dr. B. Landheer, Director, Peace Palace Library, The Hague in the Foreword of his book 'Gandhi and Social Change'. "It is a difficult undertaking to fit a personality of universal significance into the framework of an academic discipline. Gandhian thinking is simple and universal: it goes beyond the innumerable boundaries which have been created among human beings and which are hardly disappearing as each new problem, each additional complexity adds a new one to the already existing ones. The disappearance of these boundaries cannot be achieved by any form of organisation but by a new morality which re-interprets social values as moral values which can be understood by the individual and become principles for his actions. The Indian scholar studying in The Netherlands chose the social ideas of Gandhi as a topic of his thesis which aroused his enthusiasm and general interest in studying Gandhi."

Prof. Unnithan passed away on 2 July 2017. His irreparable loss was mourned at national as well as international level not only by the academic community but by eminent personalities from divergent fields - political leaders, administrators, legal luminaries in Judiciary and social organisations. These messages paint a rich canvas of Prof. Unnithan and personal anecdotes mentioned therein highlight traits of his character which deserve emulation. Due to constraint of space it is not possible to include most of them except a few representing various streams.
Prof. Yogendra Singh writes "passing of Prof Unnithan, with whom I had a very long association cannot be summed up in a few words. Professor Unnithan was a very pleasant personality and a noble and intellectual scholar." Prof. Yogesh Atal writes "I came in contact with Prof Unnithan when he returned from abroad after completion of his studies. When he joined the University of Rajasthan as Head, Department of Sociology, the entire team was chosen from his Alma Mater. The first recruits were Yogendra Singh and Indra Dev. They were later joined by Ram Ahuja and Narendra Singh. Unnithan provided good working atmosphere in the department to retain people like Yogendra Singh. His administrative capabilities earned him two terms as Vice Chancellor of the University of Rajasthan. The friendship circle of Prof Unnithan included the elite of the city and even some maharajas of yore. He once told me that he has a Rolls Royce gifted by the Maharaja of Bharatpur which remained static in his verandah as a status symbol. He admitted his inability to keep it in a running condition due to expensive gasoline. He was polite in his dealings and had a place in the cultural fabric of the city of Jaipur and was a known figure in the sociological fraternity.

Prof. K.L. Sharma, the former Vice Chancellor, University of Rajasthan and a renowned sociologist writes "Prof Unnithan was admired as a strict and perfect administrator. His organizational skills were unmatched. After the Indo-China War, 1962, he organized a fair to raise money for the welfare of the families of war martyrs. He was a social activist. During the 1960s, he was the pioneer of the twinning of Jaipur and Calgary of which the outcome was the establishment of Calgary Eye Hospital in Jaipur. His basic work on Gandhi and Social change is a great treatise for thinking by people, social activists and intelligentsia. I sincerely feel that the demise of a true Gandhian is a great loss to the discipline of sociology and to the state of Rajasthan". He was one of the earlier proponents of the field of human ecology. Later on he became the Vice President of the governing council of Common Wealth Human Ecology Council, London, and in later years he established the Indian Human Ecology Council (CHEC - India). Honorary President H.S. Sharma of CHEC - India writes "Prof. Unnithan was a great inspiration for many and contributed for the upliftment of the masses. He was a multifaceted personality."

Shri Ashok Gehlot, former Chief Minister of Rajasthan highlights the sterling contribution of Prof Unnithan in academic and social fields. He writes "Prof Unnithan successfully completed two terms of Vice Chancellorship of the University of Rajasthan. He was an able administrator and a renowned academician." Legal luminary, Justice V.S. Dave writes "Professor Unnithan was personally known to me and late Justice Krishna Iyer was a common link between us. Professor Unnithan was an institution in himself who did unparalleled work in the social and medical sectors. He was an ardent scholar with enduring temperament." Prof. Anthony Joseph Parel and Prof George Kurian from Calgary, Canada mention about his substantial work and contributions to the discipline of Sociology. Mrs. Susy Kurian writes "George Kurian sends his condolences. Both Prof Unnithan and Prof. George Kurian first met in London at YMCA as students and that Prof. Unnithan encouraged him to go to The Hague for masters and doctorate." "Prof. Unnithan's absence, has created a void in the academic circle" says Prof. George Kurian.

This is my humble tribute to Prof. TKN Unnithan, my teacher and my mentor. Language has got constraints to describe a man of his stature and substance and the contributions he made to the Science of Sociology and Gandhian Thought. The man was much taller than what was visible to his peers and professional circle.

*Sushma Sood  
Emeritus Professor  
Department of Sociology  
University of Rajasthan  
Jaipur
(12.05.1942 - 19.10.2017)

Professor K. Gopal Iyer - Sociologist, Activist and People’s Scholar

Prof. K. Gopal Iyer, a well-known Sociologist, grassroots researcher, an activist and esteemed teacher left for heavenly abode on October 19, 2017, the day of Deepawali. While we were bringing his body from PGI it seems that the entire city was paying him tribute with the lights and candles and was sending him off to the heaven. For me and many scholars from across the country, Professor Iyer was like a friend, philosopher, guide, teacher and mentor. He is known for his extensive field work, use of participant observation in understanding social realities related to Agricultural Labour, Landless Workers, Bonded Labour, Peasants and Peasants Movements, Land Reforms, Dalit and Tribal issues.

Prof. Iyer passed his Masters in Sociology in 1965 from Patna University and stood first class with two gold medals. In 1974 he received his Doctoral degree in Sociology from the same university.

The title of his PhD work was “Social Profile of Trade Union Leaders in Mica and Coal Industry in Giridih, Bihar” (now Jharkhand). During his studies, Prof. Iyer started his career as Associate Fellow at A.N. Sinha Institute, Patna (August 1965 to October 1966); Lecturer in Sociology at Patna University (November 1966 to December 1974); Fellow at National Labour Institute, New Delhi (January 1975 to March 1978); Reader in Sociology at Allahabad University (April 1978 to August 1978); Reader in Sociology at Panjab University, Chandigarh (September 1978 to June 1986) and Professor in Sociology at Panjab University, Chandigarh (July 1986 to January 2002) with deputation at prestigious Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie (July 1989 to June 1992). He also worked as Consultant at Haryana Institute of Rural Development (HIRD), Nilokheri, Haryana (August 2005 to June 2011); as Fellow at Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIASS), Shimla (July 2011 to June 2012); as Senior Fellow at Indian Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), New Delhi (July 2012 onwards) & Subject Expert at Center for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh in various research projects and publications from time to time.

in India and many other crucial topics. I learned hard working habits from him as he used to keep us busy in the department in many activities including preparation for the Conferences/ Seminars; evaluation of copies of various universities and discussions on many current sociological issues. He was pained to see the exploitation of poor people in rural as well as urban setting. He would often visit us in the hostel as well as at CRRID. He has been a great pillar of academic support to me and has immensely helped me to complete my book on “Urban Development in North-west India”. I will always miss you Sir!

Professor Iyer was instrumental in formation of North-West Indian Sociological Association (NWISA) and was its founder President for the period of 1996-98. He helped me and some other students of Sociology to attend NWISA conference in Shimla in 1997. He also sent me to attend seminars and consult library at CRRID where I joined later and currently work.

He was very keen learner and would not hesitate in asking questions even to very junior scholars. He loved attending conferences and seminars and any other academic discussions and discourses to quench his thirst of knowledge. Despite heart ailment and physical weakness he would often travel by train or bus to even difficult hilly terrains like Chamba or Srinagar or North Eastern states or even extreme South of India like Kerala to attend conferences. He was also active internationally and attended many events abroad i.e., in London, Lund, Madrid, Manchester, Brisbane and Mexico etc. Just before his death he had submitted two abstracts for the ISA World Congress of Sociology and two abstracts in an International Conference I coordinated in the first week of November, 2017. Unfortunately we will miss him in the future events...

He had a very good sense of humor. In Punjab Prof. Iyer fondly used to introduce himself as Gopal Singh Brar. He originally belonged to Tamil Nadu but he knew Hindi, Punjabi, Telugu and Tamil languages. After his death, the major vernacular of Northern region, The Tribute (Oct 21, 2017) gave the front page detailed news “Prof. Gopal Iyer, People’s Scholar; Dies at 75”. One of his students Prof. Manjit Singh of Panjab University described him as an ‘Organic Intellectual’, who lived among the people, understood their languages and culture and shared their sufferings with the world. According to Lallan Singh Baghel, Department of Philosophy, Panjab University Prof Iyer was a saint-scholar. He used to work late and sleep in the department on tables. Similarly in the field he would sleep on gunny bags and eat any type of vegetarian meals he would get in the field. According to him scholars like Prof Iyer are very rare and they are role models for many scholars today.

Professor Iyer has worked with many senior Sociologists like Professor Partha N. Mukherji. After learning about his death Prof Mukherji wrote to me “Gopal's loss is difficult to come to terms with. He was one of the most unique persons in my life, in some sense, unfathomable. First it was Hetukar, now Gopal. Both of them were my students, both First Class Firsts. I have spoken to Malati. I knew how close you two were. It must be a vacuum insurmountable”. Similarly Professor Yogesh Atal wrote very emotional note about Prof Iyer. Professor Virender Pal Singh wrote that “I had an opportunity to spend about one month at Chandigarh while attending a refresher course in 1995. It was a very good experience to interact with him in seminar situation, a unique feature of the department. After that we met many times in conferences and other situations. I saw in him a very good person”. According to Professor Jasmeet Sandhu and Professor Ranvinder Singh Sandhu “We are very sorry to know about the sad demise of Prof. Gopal Iyer. It is really a great loss to entire sociological community in India. He was an institution in himself. He had admirable ability to remain in touch with the grassroots level. With his passing away we have lost a great sociologist and sympathiser of the down trodden communities/under privileges”. One of his students Dr Suchet Kumar wrote “Prof. Gopal Iyer was my teacher. He was a good teacher and popular for his works and research in the field of agrarian studies and rural Sociology”. Professor Iyer used to work with non Sociological circles too. The former senior town planner of Punjab Ar Jit Kumar Gupta wrote about him that “In the sad and sudden demise of Dr Iyer, we have lost a gem of person, a professional par excellence and a man committed to basic human values. Dr Iyer always valued humanity and invariably stood by all those needed help and guidance. Academics is poorer by his leaving us. We mourn the great loss and pray for peace to the noble soul".

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In 1971 Prof Iyer married Malati Iyer with whom he had a son in 1979 and daughter in 1983. While the daughter is married and settled in Chennai, his son who has having some critical health issue died in 1987. Mrs Iyer is a retired Teacher and lives in Chandigarh.

Manoj Kumar Teotia
Assistant Professor, CRRID, Chandigarh & Secretary cum Treasurer, WG05 of ISA on Famine and Society (mkteotia@gmail.com/8283825534)

Prof. Chintamani Lakshmanne

Prof. Chintamani Lakshmanne passed away on Nov. 6, 2017 at his residence in Hyderabad. Prof. Lakshmanne was an alumnus of the Department of Sociology, Lucknow University. He began his career in the same department as an Assistant Professor of Sociology. I still remember the young teacher and an enthusiastic scholar whom I saw and met as his student. In 1960, I had the privilege of attending his very first lecture in the department. After few years of teaching, he left for Hyderabad to join Sociology department in Osmania University, where from he never saw back. Besides, many prestigious academic and administrative positions, he had the rare privilege of being appointed as the High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago. He was also nominated as a member of Rajya Sabha. He served as Academic Advisor to dignitaries in highest political circles. Dr Lakshmanne was a polite, soft spoken gentleman of humanly values. He enjoyed goodwill of friends and well wishers. It is impossible to forget him for all those who have met him even once. He earned name and fame in India and abroad. Fortunately I had occasions to enjoy his company for several times. During Conferences and Seminars I have witnessed his scholarly discussions in the country and outside. He would always enjoy such interactions. In all positions and all stages of life, he kept himself busy in academic pursuits. At this last leg of his life, he was writing his autobiography, and I learn that before he could end the last chapter, his cruel end came. Professor Lakshmanne's wish got superseded by His will. Still one hopes this will be a precious document for the teachers, scholars and coming generations.

The Indian Sociological Society had the privilege of honouring Prof Lakshmanne with a life time achievement award for his profound contribution to the discipline of Sociology. Prof Lakshmanne had very fond memories of Lucknow. He owed many things to Lucknow including his wife Mrs. Mamta Lakshmanne. Mamta ji writes, "Lakshmanne always cherished his memories of Lucknow University, both as a teacher and student. He found his lifelong friends there." He leaves two sons and a daughter. We prey to Almighty to give courage to face this irreparable loss to the bereaved family. It is a loss of the whole Sociology community, of his students and his friends. May his soul rest in peace.

*Prof. Abha Avasthi
Lucknow
C. Rajagopalan: A Teacher Extraordinaire
(1932–2017)

With the passing away of Professor C. Rajagopalan in Bengaluru on 2 December 2017, sociology has lost a teacher extraordinaire. Popularly known as ‘CR’ among his students, colleagues, and friends, he is perhaps one of the best known names in sociology in Karnataka and South India, in general.

Born on 10 January 1932 in Mannapra village, Palghat District, Kerala, Changaramkandath Rajagopalan, went to Bombay (now Mumbai) after completing his matriculation. He worked fulltime in a clerical job and completed his BA degree attending the evening section at Jai Hind College. He then joined the Department of Sociology, University of Bombay and completed his MA degree securing a First Class. Among others, he had as his teachers such stalwarts as G.S. Ghurye, A.R. Desai, K.M. Kapadia, and Pascal Gisbert. He worked for his doctorate in urban sociology under the supervision of Professor Ghurye.

Rajagopalan began his academic career at the Department of Sociology, Punjab University, Chandigarh under the leadership of Victor S. DeSouza. He then moved to the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. For family reasons, he moved south and joined the nascent Department of Sociology, Bangalore University in 1969, from which he retired in 1992.

Rajagopalan was known for his erudite scholarship and excellence in teaching. His work on urban ecology undertaken in the tradition of the Chicago School — published as The Greater Bombay: A Study in Suburban Ecology (Bombay: Popular Book Depot, 1962) — is regarded as a classic on the subject and is referred to even today. He is, however, remembered more as an inspiring teacher who trained a new generation of students. As his mentor Ghurye, Rajagopalan was catholic in his approach to the substance and methodology of sociology. He never imposed his personal preferences on his students, but helped them shape themselves to their best in whatever they chose. Thus, the substantive themes worked on by his students encompassed the effect of improving education on fertility, industrial bureaucracy, trade union leadership, social change among the Scheduled Castes, social change in Goa, Veerashaivamonic organisation, indigenous medicine, education and social stratification, education among Muslims, peasant movement in Malabar, agrarian relations in Tamil Nadu, gender relations in rural areas, etc. The theses produced by his students carried the distinctive stamp of his analytical rigour.

Rajagopalan’s career as a teacher and an academician was remembered with affection at a memorial service held at National College, Bengaluru on 16 December 2017. Rajagopalan leaves behind his daughter (Priyamvada), son (Shashidhar), and scores of students and friends.

Prof. N. Jayaram
Bengaluru
Professor Edward Rodrigues: Graceful Withering Away of a Blooming Flower

Professor Avijit Pathak Pays homage to his colleague and friend—a great pedagogue filled with passionate ideas, critical thinking and zeal for life.

On December 13, 2017 Professor Edward Rodrigues allowed his soul to leave his physical body, and become one with the eternal void. He was my colleague, but most importantly, he was a friend I trusted and revered. It was in 1979 that I met him at JNU, and we began our academic journey together as MA sociology students. His critical thinking, intellectual vibrancy and intense courage moved me. Yes, there were occasions when we differed and disagreed. Possibly our lifestyles and even political beliefs were strikingly different. Yet, what was amazing was that we liked each other tremendously. While I continued to pursue my doctoral work in JNU, he chose to join St. Xavier’s College in Mumbai as a young faculty. Teaching was in his blood; ideas used to possess him, and he loved debates and dialogues. No wonder, he emerged as a charismatic teacher. We used to hear many stories about him—his critical pedagogy, his passionate lectures, and his constant engagement with his students. Eventually, in 1990 I joined my own university as a faculty. And then, through a set of brilliant students he nurtured in his college and who joined our university as MA students, I evolved yet another kind of relationship with him. I realized what a teacher could do; I felt the intensity of the teacher-taught relationship, the beauty of engaged pedagogy. My friend became a source of inspiration for me.

He left the college after creating a generation of sensitive and mature students, joined the University of Mumbai, and eventually in 2013, he came back to JNU as our colleague. He loved this place, its pluralism, its political vibrancy, and its critical traditions. It was not surprising that within a couple of months, he emerged as one of the most revered teachers in the JNU circuit; students were fascinated by his engaged teaching; and political activists loved his passionate argumentations. Once again, I witnessed his three qualities. First, his rigorous reading and his deep engagement with Marxism, Dalit studies, critical theory, cultural studies and educational philosophies took him to a high level of intellectual sophistication. Second, his commitment to students was truly remarkable. He would work on each student, think of his or her academic development, reading culture and writing style. He expected hard work from his students. At times, because of this rigor in his personality, he was seen to be very ‘hard’, ‘tough’ and ‘demanding’.

However, I feel that from deep inside he was like a soft flower. He was a man with an ethic of care. He always thought of the students coming from the marginalized sections; he was always ready to work with them. And third, he was honest, bold and straightforward. Diplomacy was not his cup of tea. This independence was his creative surplus. No fixed political dogma could absorb him. He was always experimenting, growing, evolving.

The fatal disease and the resultant physical pain, the violence implicit in the rationale of biomedicine, repeated hospitalization and its stigmatization—something was happening inside the core of his being. Yes, he would come to the department, attend the faculty meeting, and interact with students. Yet, at times, he would call me: “Avijit, are you free? Please come.” At his residence—169 Uttarakhand/ JNU—I used to meet him. Yes, he trusted me; he loved me. He
allowed me to get a glimpse of his inner world. I used to feel that from the other side of the magic mountain he was hearing a call. It was 8.15 am on December 13. His elder sister called me. As I entered his residence and saw him trying to breathe with great difficulty, with my intuitive flash I got the message. As a matter of formality, I called a trained doctor from the University health centre. His ECG was done. The doctor took a pen, and wrote the death certificate: an official/legalistic document of recording the moment. However, it is not for the doctor to know the deeper meaning of this sacred event: a flower bloomed for sixty years, and then with absolute grace—almost like the melancholic sunset—it withered away. I am happy that it did not happen inside the Intensive Care Unit of a mega hospital with the bombardment of the sophisticated medical technologies on the inflicted body. He was in his bedroom; his elder sister’s heavenly affections were entering his soul; and possibly, even at that moment of ‘unconsciousness’ he saw me—his JNU friend, his admirer; and then, there was deep…deep silence; the soul crossed the clouds, the peaks, the stars… We took the body to the cemetery.

Posted by THE NEW LEAM on December 15, 2017

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NEWS FROM KERALA SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

44th Annual Meet and National Conference was held at Mar Athanasius College, Kothamanagalm from 8th to 10th December 2017. The theme of the 44th Conference was “Culture, Community and Identity – Contestations and Mobilizations”. Prof. Vice Chancellor Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, and Prof. Satish Deshpande, Dept. of Sociology Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi delivered the Keynote Address. Dr. Antony Palackal, President, KSS presided over the function and Dr. Uthara Soman, the Secretary presented the annual report. More 600 delegates, including Students, Teachers, Research Scholars participated in the Conference. More than 40 research papers were presented in the Conference in 6 technical sessions.

In connection with the Conference, an Inter-collegiate Debate Competition for degree students and A State level Essay competition for the Higher Secondary School students were held and the prizes were distributed to the winners. Life Time Achievement Award was given to Rev. Dr. EJ Thomas SJ.

Workshop on Academic Writing and Publishing in Social Sciences.
A pre-Conference workshop on “Academic Writing and Publishing in Social Sciences” for young teachers and research scholars was organised and conducted from November 7th morning to 8th noon this year. Prof. Satish Despande, Head, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, Smt. Savihtri TK, Technical Assistant, MG University Library & Antony Palackal, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Kerala were the resource persons of the workshop. There were 60 participants from across the country participated in the workshop.

Signature Campaign: The scope for higher studies in Sociology after Higher Secondary School (HSSs) is too meager in the State of Kerala. KSS thus prepared a status report unfolding the pathetic condition of Sociology at the higher Education level in Kerala. Later, in September, together with this report, KSS submitted a memorandum to Prof. Ravindranath, the Education Minister, Govt. of Kerala. Further, in order to mobilize Sociological fraternity around this cause, and build pressure on the authorities concerned, we have launched a signature campaign in the State. At the inaugural function of the 44th Annual Conference of KSS, resolution was passed to this effect.

Colloquium for Higher Secondary School Teachers in Sociology

KSS organized its second Colloquium for the Higher Secondary School teachers in Kerala on 28th February in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, University of Kerala. who constitute the largest academic community of Sociology in Kerala. About 50 Higher Secondary School Teachers from the Southern districts participated in the Colloquium. Dr. Jacob John Kattakayam, Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology, University of Kerala, presided over the function and Prof. Rajan Gurukka, Vice Chairman, Kerala State Higher Education Council delivered the Keynote Address on “Learning Social Sciences in Kerala: Conceptual and Pedagogical Challenges. Dr. Antony Palackal, President, KSS, the chief organizer of the program, presented the purpose and rationale of KSS organizing such programmes for Higher Secondary Teachers in Sociology in Kerala. Later, Prof. John Kattakayam gave an interactive lecture on “Teaching Sociology in HSS: Problems and Prospects”. Uthara Soman, Secretary, KSS spoke on the occasion. Dr. Pushpam, of the Department of Sociology and the Organizing Secretary of the Programme proposed the Vote of Thanks.
# LIST OF NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Approved in ISS MC meeting Nov. 2017 Life Members

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