

भारतीय समाज विज्ञान अकादमी

INDIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE ACADEMY

Annual Report for 2020-21

Mr. President and the Honourable Members!

This Report for 2020-21 is being presented on behalf of the Executive Council for 2020-21. As we all know the corona crisis engulfed not only India, its people and the peoples of the world, but also science education and research. Indian Social Science Academy too was badly affected. The results of election of the new Executive Council could be announced only on July 26, 2020 and the first meeting of the new Executive Council for 2020-21 could be held on December 26, 2021. All activities of ISSA between March and December, 2020 suffered mortal blow. However, all effort was made by the Executive Council under the presidentship of Prof. Ashok Jain. What is reported here is a glimpse of our collective endeavour for keeping the flag of the Indian Social Science Academy still flying in such an unprecedented and highly unfavourable conditions.

Honourable members know that the ISSA pursues following activities with a view to making Democratic Republic of India self-reliant in indigenous science of Nature-Human-Society and congruent indigenous technology reflecting creative and innovative potentialities of all Indians capable of enabling peoples of India to resolve all their existential, social and ecological problems and stand on their own feet:

1. Indian Social Science Congress
2. State Social Science Academies and State Social Science Congresses
3. Young Scientists Division and All India Young Scientists Convention
4. Research Centres
 - I. Rural Development Study Centre
 - II. Survey Research Centre
 - III. Silver Jubilee Peoples Centre for Theoretical and Policy Research
5. National Science Translation Centre
6. Publication of Journals and Newsletters
 - I. Bharatiya Samajik Chintan (English Quarterly)
 - II. Samayik Samajik Chintan (Hindi Quarterly)
 - III. Social Science Abstracts (Annual)
7. Publication of Books and Monographs

Honourable members know that Government of India, which provides regular grants ranging between rupees 5 crores and 30 crores to the three National Science Academies, set-up during the British Raj, a few crores to subject Science Academies setup after ISSA. Though Government has regularly given substantive annual regular grant to Indian Science Congress, ISSA regrets to inform the members that no such grant is given by Government to Indian Social Science Congress, an annual national event organised by the premier Social Science Academy of the country, ISSA. Even ICSSR, established specifically for funding Social Science has not been forthcoming in providing funds to XLIII Indian Social Science Congress (ISSC). Regretfully UGC, which recognised Indian Social Science Congress at par with Indian Science Congress in 2002 and sanctioned a matching grant of Rs. 20,00,000/- in 2007 also has not yet responded to our request for grant for XLI and XLIII ISSC. Despite these financial constraints and uncertainties, thanks to the unconditional support and dedication of its members, Universities, Colleges and Research Institutions, ISSA has been making substantive and unique contribution to promoting integration of all sciences, social and natural sciences. A brief information about whatever ISSA has been able to do during 2020-21 is given below:

1. Indian Social Science Congress

The 43rd Indian Social Science Congress was held under the auspices of Bengaluru Central University from January 17-21, 2020 at Bengaluru. 'Current Science Research and Theory' was its focal theme. Its **proceedings** have been printed and **social science abstracts, Vol. 43, 2019-20** containing 737 papers have been printed.

An effort to publish volume-I on 'Current Science Research and Theory' is on. It may be printed by the end of 2021 if everything goes well. All the respective chairpersons of 28 subject Research Committees and 21 Thematic Panels have been requested to select and edit good papers for publication in all Indian Languages.

What is worth noting is that the General House and the Executive Council (2019-20) under the presidentship of Prof. Baishnab C. Tripathy resolved to focus on publication of subject-wise volumes on current science research and theory in all Indian Languages in order to stimulate creativity and innovation in Indian Science and Technology. It also resolved to encourage all the chairpersons of Research Committees and Thematic Panels to continue their efforts for longer period. It calls for massive financial backup from the Government and society. This, of course, is not available at the moment. Nevertheless, ISSA needs to pursue it with greater resolve, vigour and dedication as nothing good in Science & Technology (S & T) is possible through education and research in English. Historic significance of the XLIII Indian Social Science Congress lies in its initiative for publication of S & T research papers in all Indian Languages and in its conclusion that India is far behind in S & T to people's Republic of China.

Financial problems have been growing since the 41st Indian Social Science Congress. It reached new height during the 43rd Indian Social Science Congress. The Vice-chancellor of Bengaluru Central University had committed to pay upto Rs. 12,00,000/= on account of TA bills of resource persons in the event of non-receipt of the grant from the UGC. TA Bills of over Rs. 8,00,000/= were forwarded to the Vice-chancellor of Bengaluru Central University on January 21, 2021 for payment. But till date the University has not paid these bills despite repeated requests. No response to ISSA's grant applications submitted to ICSSR, ICPR, ICHR, CSIR, MOES. NIEPA compounded the problem.

Executive Council (2019-20) considered and resolved to accept the invitation from Samrat Ashok Technological Institute, Vidisha for holding the 44th Indian Social Science Congress. Originally, the dates were December 26-30, 2020 and later shifted to March 15-19, 2021 due to corona crisis. The new Executive Council (2020-21), due to Corona crisis could meet only in virtual mode on December 20 and resolved to organise the deliberations of the XLIV Indian Social Science Congress under the title 'New Global Technological Society' as per the directive of the General Body which had met during the 43rd Congress in Bengaluru. As only three months were left for the 44th Indian Social Science Congress, despite uncertainty of feasibility of a large gathering due to Corona restrictions, organisational planning exercise was initiated, National Academy Advisory Committee and organising committee were set up. All the Chairpersons of 28 subjects Research Committees, 21 Thematic Panels, several international and national seminars/symposia/workshops were appointed and grant applications to UGC, DST/SERB, ME (MHRD)/NIEPA, ICSSR, ICPR and ICHR were submitted.

First announcement of the XLV ISSC was printed and circulated to all universities, colleges, research institutes and member/non-member scientists. Arrangement for organisation of X All India Young Scientists Convention too has been made. A booklet of 106 pages giving all the details of the XLIV ISSC has been printed and mailed to all members and universities, etc. Abstract volume for 44th congress was printed. Programmes were finalised. Presidential address was printed and circulated. Proceedings of the XLIII ISSC was printed and circulated. Samrat Ashok Technological Institute under the leadership of Dr J S Chauhan has been doing their best to make comfortable stay and vibrant deliberations in the congress. SATI offered financial support to organise this congress successfully. Professor Pramod Sharma and his team is trying their best to make this congress a grand success.

2.State Social Science Academies and State Social Science Congresses

Bihar Social Science Academy organised first Bihar Social Science Congress from November 29-30, 2019 at Patna. Proceedings and papers were in Hindi. Funds were raised through voluntary contribution/donations. Papers are being edited for publication.

Draft constitution of Bihar Social Science Academy is under process of finalisation.

Some of the members from Karnataka made serious efforts to create Karnataka Social Science Academy in 2019-20. Prof. S. Japhet, the then Vice-chancellor of Bengaluru Central University offered his whole hearted support. But suddenly the process halted due to growing conflict within Bengaluru Central University and also because of corona crisis.

An effort is on for formation of Madhya Pradesh Social Science Academy, U.P. Social Science Academy, West Bengal and Odisha Social Science Academy. Need of the hour is dedicated collective effort.

3. Young Scientists Division

The IX All India Young Scientists Convention was held on January 17-18, 2020 at Bengaluru Central University. X All India Young Scientists Convention is scheduled to be held between March 15-19, 2021 at Vidisha. A programme of 'Learning Science' is under preparation.

Young Scientists Division is being reorganised. It may take some time.

4. Research Centres

All the three Research Centres of ISSA have remained non-functional. Major problems are two:(one) non-availability of dedicated competent Hon. Directors.(two), lack of basic financial resources and infrastructure.

5. National Science Translation Centre

The Executive Council (2019-20) appointed Prof. V. Jagannath as the Hon. Director of National Science Translation Centre and formed an advisory committee. But till date the NSTC has not started functioning.

6. Publication of Journals and News Letters

The EC had appointed Prof. Sudhanshu Bhushan as the Editor and Dr. Sima Baidya as the Managing Editor of Bharatiya Samajik Chintan three years ago. But till date Bharatiya Samajik Chintan has not been published. The matter has been placed several times before the EC without any result. However, **Social Science Abstracts, Vol. XLIII, 2019-20** and the **proceedings of the 43rd Indian Social Science Congress** have been printed. **Presidential Address** to XLIII ISSC too has been printed.

8. Publication of Books and Monographs

The volume on 'Human Future in Digital Era' is in its final stages of editing and is likely to be released on March 15, 2021. It is being published by ISSA and KIIT jointly . KIIT has agreed to pay Rs. 1,00,000/= as the cost of its printing. ISSA and KIIT shall share sales proceeds equally.

The volume on 'Current Science Research and Theory' 'University Education System' it is hoped will come out during 2021-23. There are several other pending volumes.

This in brief is what we have been able to do during 2020-21.

ISSA is faced with three major problems.

1. Financial.
2. Non-availability of dedicated members.
3. Accommodation.

We need to deliberate upon all these in order to seek solutions. Management of Headquarters need adequate manpower and the General Secretary ought to be competent and willing to work for ISSA free of any honorarium. However, the General Secretary from outside Allahabad will have to be provided free stay, travel and transport. A camp secretariat is also required in case of the General Secretary, from outside Allahabad. Let all the members of the EC and the General Body discuss and work collectively and seriously. In addition to financial issues, facilitation of operations of ISSA headquarters deserve serious attention of members, changes in Constitution, if necessary, may have to be considered based on past experience. Responding to the all the activities envisaged by honourable members will require dedicated effort of many more members.

The undersigned wishes to thank Prof. Ashok Jain, the president of ISSA and Prof. J. S. Chauhan, the Director, Samrat Ashok Technological Institute for extending their unconditional support in a crisis situation. Whatever little good has been done is because of them. Also, all the Honourable members of the EC, Prof. N. Sambasiva Rao and Prof. Asha Mukherjee have extended their active support. Prof. Pramod Sharma, Prof. Manorama Saini, Dr. Rajeev Jain, and Dr. S.S. Goliya have done a lot. I thank the members of ISSA and participating delegates of the ISSC. I wish to thank all of them who have supported directly or indirectly in furtherance of the objectives of the ISSA.

However, the undersigned owns the responsibilities of all failures, that he could not overcome despite his willingness to do so.



(D. M. Diwakar)
General Secretary
Indian Social Science Academy