

भारतीय समाज विज्ञान अकादमी

INDIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE ACADEMY

Annual Report for 2023-24

Hon. President, Officer Bearers, EC Members and Members!

The undersigned seeks your kind permission to present Annual Report for the Year 2023-24.

The crisis that began during 2020-21 or what is popularly known as 'Corona Pandemic' continued growing. It affected the pursuit of Science of Nature-Human-Society by the Indian Social Science Academy severely. The 45th and 46th Indian Social Science Congress reflected it very well. Crisis in ISSA at the end of March 31, 2023 was massive-academic, economic, organisational, social and moral. The newly elected Executive Council for 2023-24 under the Presidentship of octogenarian, Prof. P.K. Sarkar tried to grapple with the problems for ensuring the forward march of the Indian Social Science Academy as smoothly as possible. It held its first meeting on April 29, 2023 and 2nd meeting on August 19, 2023 at Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research and Development, Kestopur, Kolkata. It tried its levels best to resolve pending issues and take forward the Indian Social Science Academy. However, no claim is made for resolving all issues and problems being faced by the Indian Social Science Academy. What is reported in ensuing pages is a brief gist of what the Executive Council (2023-24) under the Presidentship of Prof. P.K. Sarkar has been able to do:

1. XLVI INDIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS

The 46th Indian Social Science Congress was held from January 27-31, 2023 at Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. It was organisationally and academically successful to a great extent. Bharathidasan University and its affiliated colleges had done their best to receive outstation delegates and provide them good accommodation and food. However, the academic sessions between 04:00-10:00 p.m. were disrupted because of shifting of programmes from 04:00 pm. onward to colleges. As a result, neither Annual Meeting of the General House nor Task Force meeting could be held. There were only 35 members out of 359 registered members present in the 48th Annual General House Meeting. Other major problems were as follows:

- I. Refusal to pay Registration for its faculty and students by Bharathidasan University as per agreement between ISSA and BDU created big problems.
- II. Refusal to pay the TA bills of Chairpersons and invited plenary speakers as per written commitment of the Vice-chancellor of Bharathidasan University for paying upto Rs. 12,00,000/-
- III. Contrary to the practice collection of record of proceedings of Research Committees, Thematic Panels, Plenaries/Memorial/Special Lectures, Seminar/Symposia by the Local Organising Secretary, BDU. The Local Organising Secretary collected all the proceedings and refused to forward the same.
- IV. Refusal of the then General Secretary, Prof. N. Sambasiva Rao to settle the matters amicably and handover the charge to the newly elected General Secretary.

The then President, Prof. G. Palanithurai who had negotiated with the VC, BDU declined to lend his support in settling the matters with Bharathidasan University.

The Council authorised the General Secretary to do his best within the given situation to settle TA bills and prepare proceedings. It took over six months to prepare the proceedings and settle financial matters to a great extent. Still TA bills of chairpersons, conveners and Executive Council members are pending as there is no money available. The DST/SEED which had sanctioned the grant of Rs. 10,00,000/- and later on reduced it to Rs. 5,64,765/-.

It, however, may be noted that this had begun during XLV Indian Social Science Congress in February 27-March 03, 2022 at B.S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute and Technology, Vandalur, Chennai, which too did not honour its commitment and to which the then President, Prof. G. Palanithurai had got DST/SERB, Ministry of Earth Sciences, CSIR and ISRO Grants transferred.

2. XLVII INDIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS

The Executive Council (2023-24) considered the invitation from the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. G.D. Sharma, University of Science and Technology for hosting the XLVII Indian Social Science Congress between Feb. 05-09, 2024 at University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya and resolved to accept it unanimously. Registration fee had to be increased due to withdrawal of Rs. 20,00,000/- Grant by the UGC for the ISSC. The Council considered and approved the note on the focal theme, '**Science Education and Research in Swaraj India**' and planned international/national seminar/symposia. It set up National Academic Advisory Committee, nominated chairpersons and conveners of 28 subjects Research Committees, 21 Thematic Panels Seminars/Symposia. It also prepared list of eminent scientists for plenary, public/memorial lectures. It also resolved to try to organise the **X All India Young Scientists Convention** which could not be held during the XLVI ISSC. The General Secretary visited University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya in May, 2023 for detailed discussion. The University of Science and Technology constituted an Organising Committee, nominated Local Organising Secretary and nominated local chairpersons, etc. A **Bulletin** of 100-pages giving all the details of XLVII ISSC was printed for wider circulation. First Announcement inviting papers for XLVII ISSC was printed and mailed to all members, universities and Research Institutes. All the 900 Vice-Chancellors were invited to NAAC and the XLVII ISSC. All the eminent scientists including those who are holding positions of Secretary and Chairman in UGC, DST, CSIR, ICAR, ICMR, AIIMS, etc. IITs, NEITs, NISERS/ISERS were invited. All the Presidents of Indian National Science Academy, Indian Science Academy and National Science Academy of India and the General Secretary of Indian Science Congress too had been invited. All the Directors of NISERS, ISERS, CSIR, ICAR, ICMR Institutes too have been invited.

Applications for grant have been submitted to UGC, DST/SERB; DST/SEED, CSIR, ICSSR, ICPR, ICHR and MoES, Association of Indian Universities. Till date there is no communication from any of these bodies: A letter to Prime Minister of India too has been sent.

Now the 47th Session of Indian Social Science Congress is on. Honourable members are welcome to record their observations and send their thoughts later on. 'Self-criticism' and 'Criticism' are intrinsic to science. Honourable members are welcome to send their critical observations.

3. PUBLICATION

- I. **Journals:** Edited papers for publication of Bharatiya Samajik Chintan, Vol. 1 and 2, 2023 have been sent to printer for printing by the Editor, Prof. Vikas Gupta. It is likely to be available to honourable members soon. The Executive Council (2021-22) had resolved to start publication of new journal under the name 'Nature-Human-Society Science Journal'. It had nominated Prof. G. Parthasarathy as its editor and Dr. N.P. Chaubey as its Managing Editor. However, Prof. G. Parthasarathy resigned as its Editor in 2022-23. Efforts to find appropriate editor is on. Proposal is to bring this new Journal on the eve of Golden Jubilee of ISSA in 2024-25 in accordance with the Philosophy of ISSA.
- II. **Publication of Proceedings:** Proceedings of XLVI Indian Social Science Congress is under print.
- III. **Publication of Selected Papers:** The Council (2022-23) has resolved to publish a volume on 'Environment, Energy and Health' based on selected papers of XLV Indian Social Science Congress. It had nominated Prof. G. Parthasarathy and Dr. N.P. Chaubey as its Editors. But it could not be edited because of reasons beyond control. Another volume on '75 Years of Swaraj India' is to be edited for publication.

04. Research Centres, Young Scientists Division and National School Central Translation Centre

None of the following units of ISSA have been able to function partly because of lack of dedicated member-scientists offering to shoulder responsibilities and mainly because of lack of financial support:

- I. Rural Development Student Centre
- II. Survey Research Centre
- III. ISSA Silver Jubilee Peoples Centre for Theories and Policy Research
- IV. National Science Translation Centre
- V. Young Scientists Division

Effort is on for organisation of **X All India Scientists Convention** during the XLVII Indian Social Science Congress.

Each budget does make some provision for all these. But the estimates of the budget are never achieved, because of which no financial support is provided to these units. Also, no member-scientist is prepared to head and develop these units.

05. State Social Science Academies

ISSA resolved to create State Social Science Academy in all Indian States and Union Territories with a view to promoting Science education and research in all Indians languages for promoting flowering of creative potentialities of young and not so young Indians. Our members in U.P, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal did make some efforts in this direction. Alagappa University, Karaikudi offered 2.5 acres' land and old building for office of Tamil Nadu Social Science Academy in 2007. But no progress has been made till date. Most of the State Governments are not enthusiastic about it. Till date central government too has not shown any interest in it. One may hope that the central government may change its policy of funding in

order to implement its New Education Policy, 2020 which promises education in Indian languages. This will soon become clear.

It ought to be remembered by all Indians in general and scientists in particular that India can never achieve excellence or the goal of Atmnirbhar Bharat in Science and Technology, so long as it continued pursuing education and research in English and without being Atmnirbhar in its own Science and Technology. It can never become Atmnirbhar notwithstanding its tall claims of being Vishwaguru and fastest growing economy in S&T without achieving ‘Atmnirbhar’.

06. GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Indian Social Science Academy (then Indian Academy of Social Sciences) was borne on August 15, 1974 amidst growing brain-drain and suicides by young scientists in deepening social crisis in Swaraj India. A few months later the Emergency was imposed in Swaraj India. Today social crisis is much more deeper and wide spread than 1960s.

Prof. V.K.R.V. Rao had warned the founding young members of high rate of infant mortality in Swaraj India while inaugurating first meeting in January, 1975. He expressed his happiness when he became ISSA President at the age of 80 in 1986.

Now ISSA is in its 50th year of Life. It has walked on most tortuous and risky road of Science without politics all these years. It is, therefore, necessary to celebrate Golden Jubilee of ISSA during 2024-25 in order to reflect over its past for carving out its future road map and a new vision for its future. Today chances of survival of ISSA are quite low. However, its future depends upon its members in particular and the people in general.

The Executive Council has resolved to constitute following committees for this purpose:

- I.** National Golden Jubilee Advisory Committee
- II.** Golden Jubilee Organising Committee
- III.** State-wise Golden Jubilee Committee
- IV.** Golden Jubilee Souvenir Committee
- V.** Golden Jubilee Fund Raising and Management Committee

A book describing member’s scientific contributions and thoughts need to be brought out. Also, Golden Jubilee Memorial Endowment Funds in the name of great members-scientists and social thinkers can be created. It would be ideal if all ISSA members write their won thoughts of ISSA for publication in a volume.

Till date ISSA has functioned without its own office as per its policy. Now there is a need for some permanent office as the present accommodation in Iswar Saran Ashram is neither sufficient nor it will be available after death of Dr. N.P. Chaubey. General House of ISSA had approved the proposal to negotiate with Peoples Council of Education for a piece of land for ISSA HQ in 2015 and directed the EC to do the needful in consultation with Peoples Council of Education. Now the EC of ISSA and PCE have discussed the matter. ISSA can plan to construct its HQ building if the proposal is approved and funds will have to be raised for the construction works. Honourable members of ISSA would be expected to donate for it generously and also seek donations from their friends. Members can help in raising funds by buying and promoting sale of ISSA publications.

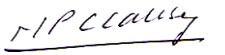
07. FACING THE FUTURE

Honourable members are most welcome to undertake serious introspection on necessity, relevance and validity of the Indian Social Science Academy in today's Swaraj India in particular and world in general. Result of such exercise should be shared collectively. If the result of such exercise is positive, then all the honourable members should sit together for finding out answer to the question 'How to face the future?' Task is not easy, yet it is worth doing. Indian Social Science Academy is the **only** National Science Academy which defines Science as **Social knowledge** correctly and brings all subjects of Science of Nature-Human-Society together under its umbrella.

Mr. President Sir and Honourable Members!

This in sum is the brief Annual Report on ISSA during 2023-24. You all are welcome to examine it critically and suggest appropriate ramification.

The undersigned is grateful to you all for putting your trust and love in him. He is conscious of his failings and limitations. His health is declining. Need for another such member who can dedicate his life to ISSA is acute. Sooner we find better it will be.


(N.P. Chaubey)
General Secretary