



INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Dear Colleagues,

This brings you warm greetings from the President's desk!!! The preparations for the 45th All India Sociological Conference of the Indian Sociological Society being hosted by Department of Sociology, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram on December 27, 28 and 29, 2019 on the theme *Environment, Culture and Development: Discourses and Intersections* are in full swing. The Indian Sociological Society and the Organizing Committee look forward to the pleasure of receiving you at Thiruvananthapuram.

As we prepare to move on to another milestone in the journey of Indian Sociological Society, our hearts are experiencing a deep sense of void, created by the demise of Prof. Jacob John Kattakayam, whose presence and partnership, we would be missing. As President of ISS, Chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Kerala and in the multiple roles he played in nurturing the discipline and generations of students, Prof. Kattakayam has left an indelible mark on the profession. He stands in our hearts as a committed sociologist and a human being with stellar qualities. On behalf of Indian Sociological Society, I offer my grateful tribute to Prof. Jacob John Kattakayam- a senior colleague, a dynamic leader and a mentor who will be deeply missed by everybody, but remembered at every stage of this Conference.

The response to this Conference has been very encouraging and nearly 650 abstracts have been submitted. The number of registered delegates is around 750. Besides 4 slots set apart for presentations of papers through 28 Research Committees, there are 3 plenary sessions, 2 endowment lectures and 2 interactive sessions with Prof. Jeffrey C. Alexander, Yale University, USA. One of the special features of the Conference is the 'Meet the Past Presidents' programme. In this session, the publication entitled *Exploring Sociabilities of Contemporary India: New Perspectives* based on the plenary presentations of the Tezpur Conference edited by Prof. Sujata Patel and published by Orient Blackswan is being released.

The General Body meeting of the ISS is scheduled to be held on December 28, 2019 at 6.45 PM.

The Conference is being inaugurated by His Excellency Shri. Arif Mohammad Khan, the Governor of Kerala. Lifetime Achievement awards are being presented to Prof. M.N. Panini and B.K. Nagla. The Prof. Radhakamal Mukerjee Memorial Lecture is being delivered by Prof. Kalpana Kannabiran and the Prof. M.N. Srinivas Memorial Lecture by Prof. Kamala Ganesh. This session also features a review of the A.M. Shah authored book *The Legacy of M. N. Srinivas-His Contribution to Sociology and Social Anthropology in India* by Dr. Janaki Abraham. The Professor M.N. Srinivas Memorial Prize is being awarded to Dr. R. Saravana Raja from the Department of Sociology Pondicherry University, Puducherry and Dr. Sudhansubala Sahu from the Department of Sociology and Social Work, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bengaluru.

The Society's membership base is constantly expanding, and as on today there are 4862 Life Members. During the past one year 222 Ordinary Members and 630 Student Members have joined the ISS. A welcome development is the entry of a large number of students into the ISS fold. There is also a constant rise in the number of Regional Associations which have an affiliation with the Indian Sociological Society.

During this year three issues of *Sociological Bulletin* and one issue of *Bharatiya Samajshastra Sameekha* have been published. The second issue would be ready by the end of December 2019. Two issues of the ISS E journal *Explorations* have been released. The first issue of the ISS e-Newsletter (Volume 7 No.1, January-April 2019) has also been uploaded in the ISS website and the next issue is on the anvil.

In my two-year journey as President of ISS, I along with the members of the MC and with the goodwill shown by all of you have tried to make the presence of ISS felt in colleges and universities across the country. The President or Secretary participated in academic events organised by Departments of Sociology in Colleges and Universities, where ever it was possible. Our team was also able to strengthen the network with regional associations, create platforms for building academic linkages between the seniors and younger faculty and students in the Sociology fraternity, and further enhance the quality of ISS Office and Guest House infrastructure. We also initiated a programme to support the University departments of Sociology for organising academic writing workshops for research students. The ISS supported the Research Committees for organising academic events by utilising the 70 percent share of the RC registration fee. The ISS and some of its RCs collaborated with university departments in the organisation of seminars/conferences.

The process of electing the President, Secretary for the 2020-21 term and five new members to the Managing Committee of ISS is complete. Prof. Paramjit Singh Judge has been elected unopposed to the post of the President. Prof. Jagan Karade has been elected as the Secretary and Professors Manvendra Pratap Singh, Ajailiu Niumai, Tattwamasi Paltasingh, Balaji Kendre and Prem Sagar Vivek have been elected to the Managing Committee. I congratulate the newly elected members and wish them a very successful tenure. My heartfelt thanks are due to Prof. D.R. Sahu, the Secretary and Prof. Hemixa Rao, the Treasurer for being with me and supporting me in all my endeavours, in my two-year journey as the President of ISS. I acknowledge the support extended by Professors Anthony Palackal, Biswajit Ghosh, Jagan Karade and Pranjal Sharma the outgoing members of the MC. My thanks are due to my other colleagues in the MC who stood by me in the last two years. I thank all the RC Conveners who worked with me in taking the RC activities forward. I place on record my appreciation of the meticulous and hard work done by Ms. Boinu Vaiphei, Office Secretary, ISS, which was a great source of support

for me in discharging the duties of the President of ISS. My thanks are also due to the office staff of ISS for their concern and commitment.

I thank all of you for making this two-year journey of mine as President of ISS, a very enriching and empowering experience. I wish you all a very fruitful year ahead.

With Best Wishes and Warm Regards

Sincerely yours,

R. Indira

President, ISS