Indian Sociological Society

Sector-C, Pocket-1/1046, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi- 110070

General Body Meeting Notice

The General Body Meeting of the Indian Sociological Society would be held on **28th December 2026**
Time: 5.15 pm – 8.00 pm
Venue: KIMS Auditorium, KIIT, Bhubaneshwar

All Life Members are requested to attend the meeting.

Agenda

1. Welcome Address by the President.
2. Condolences.
3. To confirm the minutes of the General Body Meeting held on Sunday, 27th December 2025 at SRM
4. To present the Secretary's Report for the year 2026.
5. To present the Treasurer's Report for the year 2026.
6. To consider and approve the draft amendments to the Constitution of the Indian Sociological Society, as recommended by the Constitutional Reform Committee.
7. To consider the Report of the Managing Editor, Sociological Bulletin.
8. To consider the Report of the Managing Editor, Bharatiya Samajshastra Sameeksha.
9. To consider the Report of the Managing Editor, ISS E-Journal, Explorations.
10. To consider the Report of the 51st All India Sociological Conference (AISC), held at KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, from 27–29 December 2026.
11. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.

25-11-2026

Arvinder Ansari
Secretary
Indian Sociological Society

Minutes of the Indian Sociological Society's General Body Meeting

The General Body Meeting of the Indian Sociological Society was held during the course of the Indian Sociological Conference held at SRM University-AP, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, on Monday, December 29, 2025, at its APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium on the ground floor at 16:45.

This was in accordance with the GBM Notice dated 24-11-2025 to the Life Members as mandated by the constitution of ISS. The GBM was scheduled to deliberate on the following agenda.

1. Welcome address by the President
2. Condolences
3. To approve the minutes of the General Body held on Sunday, 22nd Dec. 2024
4. To present the Secretary's Report for the year 2025
5. To present the Treasurer's Report for the year 2025
6. To present the reports of the Managing Committee meetings held during the year 2025
7. To approve the Resolutions based on the decisions of the MC meeting
8. To present the election-related updates, the report of the enquiry committee, and the action by the Managing Committee for approval by the General Body
9. To present the report of the Electoral Reforms Committee
10. To approve the report of the Electoral Reforms Committee
11. To present the report of the Regional Associations (NCRA) meeting.
12. To approve the admission of new members.
13. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

Agenda 1

The Meeting began with the welcome address by the President of the ISS. The President warmly welcomed the members on the historic occasion of the 50th (Golden Jubilee) All India Sociological Conference (AISC) as the Indian Sociological Society (ISS) moves towards its 75th year. The President invoked the rich legacy of the ISS and conveyed her firm belief that this legacy shall not only remain but will be strengthened in the future. The large participation of many young scholars, as well as very senior and distinguished members of the ISS, is evidence of the same.

Agenda 2

The General Body observed 2 minutes of silence in honour of those members who expired during the past year. The members were;

1. Prof. Abdul Matin
2. Prof. Rama Murthy
3. Prof. Ravi Prakash Pandey
4 Prof. Mohan K Gautam
5. Prof Abha Awasthi
6. Prof. Ravi Prakash Pandey

Agenda 3

The minutes of the General Body Meeting of the Indian Sociological Society held on Sunday, December 22, 2024, at BML Munjal University, Gurugram, Haryana, were placed before the General Body for approval by the Secretary.

The Secretary highlighted two important resolutions passed by the GBM. A great deal of discussion had taken place about the issue of the hard copy of Sociological Bulletin being provided to members, especially senior Life Members of the Indian Sociological Society. This was reconsidered, and a fresh notification was to be issued to them to verify whether they wanted to continue receiving the hard copy or not. This letter was issued by the President to all the senior Life Members (above 70 years old) with the request to respond before January 30, 2025.

The Secretary mentioned that only 80 members responded positively and the ISS has been sending hard copies to all these members as per the recommendation of the GBM.

The minute was approved and accepted by the GBM.

Agenda 4

The Secretary affirmed that continuing the momentum of 2024, the ISS remained actively engaged in academic, research, and professional activities throughout 2025. Several Research Committees and Regional Associations organized seminars, academic workshops, panel discussions, and conferences across the country. A number of Young Research Scholars Workshops were held in different parts of the country. These activities reaffirmed the ISS's role as a national academic and professional body representing diverse regions, generations, and intellectual traditions.

In addition, a workshop for RC Convenors and Co-Convenors was organized in Chennai to enhance administrative and technical capacity. Participants were trained in operating the ISS website, covering the entire digital workflow, from abstract submission, review processes, registration, and communication, to certificate generation. The workshop aimed to ensure uniformity, efficiency, and transparency in the conduct of ISS conferences and RC activities.

The ISS Website was developed as an important Learning Resource and Archive that documented the rich scholarship of many senior members who have built the ISS over decades.

The Secretary also presented the annual report of the activities, highlighting the improvement in the office and guest house, the provision of piped cooking gas facilities to the guest house, the holding of various academic workshops, and the RC Conveners' workshop. The Secretary mentioned that the functioning of Research Committees of the ISS has been widely appreciated, because of their activities, over 1143 Life members and 400 annual members were added to the ISS (Life Members, Student Members, and Ordinary Members) during the last 2 years of the term

of the present team of office bearers. The Secretary's report was approved and accepted by the GB.

Agenda 5

The Treasurer presented the report on the audited accounts of the ISS to the General Body for the financial year 2024-2025, along with the financial statement as on March 31, 2025. The Treasurer pointed out that there is a surplus of Rs. 18,96,771/- over the expenditure during the year. Explaining the details about the income and expenditure of the Indian Sociological Society, the Treasurer pointed out that there has been an addition of Rs. 63,00,000/- to the corpus fund of the Society, and as a result, the total bank fixed deposits in the name of the Indian Sociological Society stand at Rs. 2.99 Crore.

The Treasurer pointed out that the society has received a sum of Rs. 10 Lakh as Royalty from Sage Publications. The Treasurer mentioned to the General Body that ISS had not receivedroyalties from JSTOR since 2019. There were a lot of queries raised over the last 6 years by the members during the General Body Meeting regarding the issue. When ISS pursued the matter in detail with Sage Publication, it was noted that the mutual agreement between Sage and ISS signed on 25th July 2016 mentioned that the "Sage shall pay the Society 50% of the net sum received from JSTOR for the Sociological Bulletin from Volume 66, Issue 1. (i.e., from 2020)". Hence, the backlog of Rs. 6,60,169/- was issued to ISS as reported.

The Treasurer's report mentioned with gratitude the receipt of Rs. 10 Lakh from Prof. Aparajita Gangopadhaya Memorial fund to be used for academic activities, translation, and workshops to be completed before December 2025. The Treasurer's report also requested for continuation of the services of the ISS Chartered Accountant, Mr. Harihara Iyer of KSHI & Co, as auditors for the next financial year.

The audited accounts and the Treasurer's Report were approved and accepted unanimously.

Agenda 6,7, and 8

Agenda 6

The Secretary presented the minutes of the Managing Committee of ISS held during the year. Two important issues were mentioned for the consideration of the GB: 1. The Lifetime Achievement Award, and 2. Electoral Reform.

The committee appointed for suggesting guidelines for the Lifetime Achievement Award had pointed out that the present single Lifetime Achievement Award should be changed to three different awards as follows: A. Lifetime Award for Excellence in Academic achievements for Senior Sociologists. B. Award for Professional contributions; and C. Awards for mid-career sociologists. After a detailed discussion, the GBM deferred the decision to be reconsidered in the future.

Agenda 7 & 8

The Secretary raised the issue of electoral malpractices and a series of obstructive activities targeting the smooth conduct of the recent ISS Election 2025. A detailed explanation of the recently concluded Election, including malicious and illegal activities perpetrated were provided by the President of the ISS. The President pointed out that despite all the efforts made to conduct free and fair online elections, there were deliberate attempts by some ISS members, including persons who were contesting the elections, to disrupt the election process. This was done by seeking to cast multiple votes through Bots and by using the credentials of their students and research scholars.

In view of the seriousness of this issue, which strikes at the very foundations of the ISS as an autonomous national body for academic learning and research representing the discipline and profession of Sociology in India. The President, in consultation with the Managing Committee,appointed a two-member Enquiry Committee consisting of past ISS Presidents Prof. Anand Kumar and Prof. Paramjit Singh Judge, to look into the matter.

The Enquiry Committee was asked to: 1) Identify the individuals responsible for the lapses or misconduct; and 2) Recommend appropriate punishment or disciplinary action to be taken, based on their findings. The report of the Enquiry Committee dated 28.11.2025 in its entirety, as well as the “Malicious Actors Report” compiled by the ISS’s IT partner firm Webtech Evolution dated 16.11.2025, was displayed on the official website of the ISS.

The following Resolutions of the Managing Committee pertaining to the election process were ratified by the General Body:

Resolution No.1: Resolved that the Managing Committee hereby ratifies the acceptance of the Inquiry Committee Report submitted by Profs. Anand Kumar and Paramjit Singh Judge dated 28.11.2025 concerning election-related irregularities in the ISS Elections 2025, as recorded in the MC meeting held on 2 December 2025.

Resolution No.2: Resolved that the Managing Committee hereby ratifies the decision to annul the ISS Elections 2025 in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry Committee dated 28.11.2025 to conduct a repoll.

Resolution No.3: Resolved that the Managing Committee hereby ratifies the decision to debar guilty individuals in terms of the Inquiry Committee Report, from voting and contesting in the ISS elections for a period of ten (10) years.

Resolution No.4: Resolved that the Managing Committee hereby ratifies the authorization granted to the President, Prof. Maitrayee Chaudhuri, to implement the Inquiry Committee

recommendations including: (a) Removal of the Research Committee Convenor who was found guilty of malpractices as well as financial irregularities involving RC membership fees; and b) Enforcement of the debarment from voting and contesting in the re-polling process.
Resolution No.5: Resolved that the Managing Committee hereby ratifies the restructuring of the Election Committee to include: two existing members; two new members; and one cyber security expert, making for a total of five members.

Resolution No.6: Resolved that the Managing Committee hereby ratifies the constitution of a Technical and Forensic Review Committee, comprising Profs. Sandip Chaudhary, Ramesh Makwana, Ajailiu Niumai, Sanjay Kolekar, and Alok Kumar Meena, to examine the voter list, membership database, and election system.

Resolution No.7: Resolved that the Managing Committee hereby ratifies the adoption of enhanced security and transparency measures for the re-polling, including: OTP-based secure voting; Mobile number and Aadhaar linkage for identity verification; Maintenance of strict audit trails; and forensic review of any election platform used.

Resolution No.8: Resolved that the Managing Committee hereby ratifies the decision to subject the existing ISS website and voting system to rigorous security review; and to consider engaging an external professional agency, if required, for conducting the re-polling.

Resolution No.9: Resolved that the Managing Committee hereby ratifies the decision that the re-polling shall be conducted after the Annual Conference and completed at the earliest possible date thereafter; and that the President is authorized to take necessary decisions regarding the Schedule.

Resolution No.10: Resolved that the Managing Committee hereby ratifies the decision that the present President and Secretary shall continue in office until the newly elected office-bearers assume charge.

Resolution No. 11: In view of the complaint dated 21.11.2025 by Mr. V.P. Singh alleging financial irregularities against Mr. Sanjay Tiwari. A committee consisting of 3 Managing Committee members looked into these allegations and submitted a report on 15.12.2015, finding Mr Sanjay Tiwari to have committed financial irregularities. In view of the same, the General Body Meeting resolved to suspend Mr. Sanjay Tiwari's Life Membership of ISS for a period of ten (10) years.

Agenda 9-10

The Secretary reported the recommendations regarding ISS Election Reforms prepared by the committee under the chairmanship of MC Member Prof. Balaji Kendre. The important change suggested was regarding the contestants' qualifications to be eligible to stand for election for the

posts of President, Secretary, or Managing Committee Members of the ISS. The GBM wanted further discussion and more details. The decision on this issue was therefore deferred.

Agenda 11

The Indian Sociological Society has constituted a Council for Regional Associations in 2024 with former ISS President Prof. R. Indira as convenor and Prof. Anthony Palackal as Secretary. This committee had made attempts to communicate with many of the regional associations to get their opinion and response on their affiliation with the Indian Sociological Society. The Committee expresses its displeasure at the lackluster response from the Regional Associations and suggests not to pursue the efforts at the Indian Sociological Society level, mainly due to a lack of academic interest among the members of the Regional Associations of Sociology in India.

However, the Delhi and North-East Region have recently established Sociological Association in their respective regions.

Agenda 12

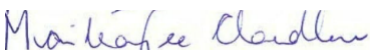
The Secretary presented the list of New Life Members (LMI) of the Indian Sociological Society for approval in the GBM. A total of 518 new members (from LMI-6640 to LMI-7158) were accepted by the Managing Committee till the Pre-AISC Meeting held on 27th December 2025, held at SRM University-AP at 18:00 hrs. The GBM approved and accepted all the new life members up to LMI-7158 during the meeting on December 29, 2025.

Agenda 13

The President raised concerns regarding the victimization of students arising from malicious activities allegedly carried out by certain teachers. She emphasized that, as ISS is fundamentally a professional and academic body comprising teachers and students, such conduct is strongly condemnable. Although Professor D. R. Sahu did not directly use his own credentials in the alleged electoral malpractices, it was considered appropriate that his name be recorded and the conduct condemned, particularly in light of a written complaint from a member alleging that her credentials were misappropriated by Professor D. R. Sahu.

There was intense participation and detailed discussions throughout the meeting despite some attempts to stall smooth proceedings. Voting was conducted with those in favour of the Resolutions standing to express their support.

The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by the Treasurer of the Indian Sociological Society



Maitrayee Chaudhuri
President, Indian Sociological Society