

Annual Report of Indian Science News Association (ISNA), Kolkata for the period, 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024

Members Who Passed Away During April, 2023 to March, 2024

Dr. Bikash Sinha, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Prof. Hem Shanker Ray, Dr. Sibabrata Mukhopadhyay

Science and Culture

The details of publications appearing in *Science and Culture* during this period are:

- Six bi-monthly issues (Vol. 89, Nos. 3-12; Vol. 90, No. 1-2).
- Forty three (43) full articles.
- Sixteen (16) Research Communications.
- ISNA received ten (10) Indian journals in exchange of *Science and Culture* on complimentary basis during the period 2023-2024.
- One meeting of the Editorial Board of *Science and Culture* was held on 14/06/23.

Special Issues

Four special issues of *Science and Culture* were published during the year – the March-April 2023 issue on “*nvironmental Toxicology*” sponsored by the University of Burdwan, West Bengal, the July-August and September-October 2023 issues on “*Interdisciplinary Research*” published on the occasion of the Foundation Day of Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput, Odisha, sponsored by the November-December 2023 issue on “*Non-Linear Dynamics*” sponsored by Durgapur Govt. College, Durgapur, West Bengal.

Professor N.C. Datta Memorial Lecture

The Fifth Professor N.C. Datta Memorial Lecture was organised by the National Environmental Science Academy (NESAs), West Bengal Chapter and Indian Science News Association (ISNA) on the 28th April, 2023 at N.R. Sen Auditorium, University of Calcutta at

4.30 p.m. The programme was chaired by Professor Basudeb Barman, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Kalyani. Dr. Amit Krishna De, Chairman, NESAWB Chapter and Honorary Secretary, ISNA in his welcome address dealt with the rich contribution of Late Professor N.C. Datta as former President of NESAWB Chapter. Professor N.C. Datta, was Honorary Secretary (April 2000 to March 2023) and Vice-President (April 2023 till his death) of ISNA. Professor Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary, ISNA, spoke on the activities of ISNA and also on the contribution of Professor Datta to ISNA. Dr. B.K. Mahapatra, Vice-President, Professor N.C. Datta Memorial Committee and former Principal Scientist (Fisheries), ICAR-CIFA, Kolkata and a former student of Professor Datta introduced the Speaker for the Memorial Lecture, Dr. Uttam Kumar Sarkar, Director, ICAR National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), Lucknow. Dr. Sarkar did his Ph.D. in Fisheries Biology from University of Kalyani. Professor Basudeb Barman presented a memento to the Speaker on the occasion. Professor Prabir Kumar Saha, Honorary Treasurer, ISNA presented the Vote of Thanks. The entire programme was anchored by Dr. Subhendu Bikas Patra, Convenor, NESAWB Chapter

Celebration of World Environment Day

The World Environment Day was celebrated on the 5th June, 2023 at the Meghnad Saha Auditorium, University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan, Kolkata jointly by the Science Association of Bengal (SAB) and the Indian Science News Association. The programme started in the afternoon by planting the saplings of a few trees within the campus by Dr. Amit Ray, Secretary, University College of Science, Technology and Agriculture, University of Calcutta, Professor Basab Chaudhuri, Vice-President, ISNA and Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology Kolkata; formerly, Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal State University, Barasat) along with Professor Manas Chakrabarty and Dr. Amit Krishna De (Honorary Secretaries, ISNA), Dr. Subhabrata Roychoudhuri (Secretary, SAB) and Shri Prasanta K. Bose (Council Member, ISNA).

The main programme started with the introductory speech by Dr. Amit Krishna De. He briefed the members of the audience about the role of microorganisms in decomposing plastics. The Welcome Address was given by Prof. Manas Chakrabarty. He mentioned about the importance of the World Environment Day, about this year's theme 'Beat plastic pollution' and described

the glory of the organization, ISNA. Prof. Basab Chaudhuri delivered a speech on green technology, mercury pollution, and specially gave emphasis on bioaccumulation. Thereafter, Shri Prasanta K Bose introduced all the Guest Speakers and asked everyone to come under one umbrella and work together. Dr. Parijat Chakraborty, GB, SAB and Director V&P Engineering-Education & Management Consultants LLP delivered a lecture on Green Technology covering Green Chemistry, Green Water and Green Hydrogen. He elaborated on the reuse of used plastics for many useful purposes like preparing the roads, garbage collection, etc. Dr. Jayanta Sen and Mrs. Swarnali Chattopadhyay then delivered a historical account of the past and present conditions of the Sundarbans. The final programme, comprising an extempore contest on environment, was conducted by a Moderator, Dr. Arnab Kumar Banerjee, Assistant Secretary, SAB. Students from various schools and colleges from Kolkata took part in the contest. Students from Bethune Collegiate School, Tarasundari Balika Vidyabhaban, Vijaygarh Jotish Ray College and Jogamaya Devi College were winners. Prof. Julie Banerji, Vice-President, ISNA and Dr. Sumitra Chaudhuri, Council Member, ISNA distributed the Prizes, Medals and Certificates to the participating students. The programme ended with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Amit Krishna De.

Celebration of the Foundation Day of ISNA

The Foundation Day (9th July 1935) of the Indian Science News Association was celebrated on July 12, 2023 in the N.R. Sen Auditorium of the University of Calcutta, Science College, Rajabazar Campus. At the outset, Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary, ISNA introduced all the dignitaries on the dais. The recorded Welcome Address of Dr. K. Muraleedharan, President, ISNA, was presented to the audience. The dignitaries were welcomed with saplings. Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, also an Honorary Secretary of ISNA, briefly narrated the genesis of the organization, highlighting on the uninterrupted publication of *Science and Culture* (the mouthpiece of ISNA – first published in June 1935), the continuation of a Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice and on the recent publication of two e-Papers - *Scientifica Communica* (in English) and *Bigyan Kahon* (in Bengali). The Chief Guest, Prof. Souvik Bhattacharyya, Principal Academic Advisor, TCG Centres of Research and Education in Science and Technology dealt with new-age technology - Artificial Intelligence and Chat GPT under the theme - “Dear Data -The Good, the Bad and the Future of GPT”. Dr. Kailash Bhardwaj, Senior Curator, NCSM (HQ) read out the speech sent by Shri

Samarendra Kumar, Deputy Director General and Director HQ, who could not turn up due to some other important assignment.

Two students, Ms. Aditri Gupta and Ms. Akansha Chatterjee, both from Delhi Public School, Ruby Park, the two recipients of 'Mrinal Kanti Dewanjee Students Award on Basic Science Research', then briefly presented their proposals by powerpoint. A cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- and a framed Certificate from ISNA were then given to each awardee by Professor Souvik Bhattacharyya. In the absence of Sri Prasanta K Bose, the Editor of the two *e*-Papers, Joint Editor Dr. Arnab Kumar Banerjee and Assistant Editor Sukalyan Gain briefly stated the background of how they prepared the present issue (vol. 2, issue 2) of *Bigyan Kahon* which was shown to the audience and released officially by Prof. Souvik Bhattacharyya. Prof. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Vice-President, ISNA and Vice-Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University delivered the concluding speech covering the activities of ISNA, its training programme and the importance of science education and teaching. He stressed on the role of science communicators in society. Finally, Dr. Amit Krishna De delivered a Vote of Thanks to all the speakers, the dignitaries and the members of audience.

Celebration of National Science Day 2024

Indian Science News Association observed the National Science Day 2024 on the 29th February, 2024 at 4.30 p.m. in the N.R. Sen Auditorium, University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Shiksha Prangan, Science College. The theme for the Science Day 2024 was 'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat'. Dr. Indranil Sanyal, former Director, National Council of Science Museums (HQ) was the Guest of Honour. The programme was presided over by Prof. (Mrs.) Julie Banerji, a Vice-President of ISNA and former Khaira Professor and Head of the Department of Chemistry, University of Calcutta.

The programme started with the Welcome Address by Professor Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary, ISNA. Professor Chakrabarty briefly stated about the glorious past, the motto and the current activities of ISNA. The Vol. 3, Issue 1 of *Bigyan Kahon* and Vol. 90, Issue 1-2, 2024 of *Science and Culture* were formally released. Shri Prasanta K. Bose invited members of the audience to submit articles for these *e*-Papers that are gaining increasing popularity. Professor Mandal informed the audience about the content of this particular issue.

2024. Dr. Indranil Sanyal, the Chief Guest, started his speech by referring to the outstanding discovery by Prof. C.V. Raman. The next speaker was Prof. Julie Banerji who elaborated on the contribution of Raman Effect and the importance of observation of the National Science Day. The next speaker was Dr. Rupali Gangopadhyay, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Sister Nivedita University. In her speech, she explained the importance of the National Science Day.

The next event was the Prize distribution of 'National Level Inter-College and University Poster Competition' on 'Indigenous Technology for Viksit Bharat', held at Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College. Dr. Arnab Kumar Banerjee and Dr. Shilajit Barua of Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College along with the dignitaries on the dais distributed the Prizes. Ms. Manavi Jaiswal and Ms. Megha Chowdhury from the JIS University grabbed the 1st Prize. The title of their poster was 'Bioplastics - Panacea in the Era of Microplastics'. Shri Rudra Sankar Karmakar from Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College got the 2nd Prize for his poster titled 'Innovative Approaches to Arsenic Removal: Harnessing Biochar and Microbial Insights'. The 3rd Prize went to Sk. Hazikul Alam and Shri Debjit Goswami of Mankar College, Burdwan for their poster 'Third Eye for Blind Person'. 'Special Appreciation Award' went to Ms. Deblina Jana from Scottish Church College, Kolkata for her poster 'Vascular-specific Expression of GUS and GFP Reporter Genes in Transgenic Potato Plants', Ms. Rajyashree Basu and Ms. Diya Ghosh from Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata for their poster 'India's Newest Breakthroughs in Science and Technology: Health, Environment and Agriculture', Ms. Kankana Mondal, Dum Dum Motijheel College, Kolkata and Ms. Pramita Biswas from Barasat Government College, Barasat for their poster 'Climate Change' and Ms. Sourima Pal from Techno International, New Town for her poster 'Building a resilient Bharat with Technology made in India!'. At the end of the programme, the Vote of Thanks was given by Prof. Prabir Kumar Saha, the Honorary Treasurer of ISNA.

'Mrinal K. Dewanjee Students Award on Basic Science Research' 2023

Invited applications from XI and XII standard students for two Awards - one in Physical Science and the other in Life Science. Each Award contains a cash prize of Rs.10,000.00 (Rupees ten thousand only) and a Certificate. In response to this circular, 11 candidates

applied. Based on plagiarism-check, 9 candidates were called for presentation before the Selection Committee on the 18th March, 2024. The final presentation and prize distribution of this Award were held on the 28th March, 2024 in the N.R. Sen Auditorium of the University of Calcutta, Science College, Rajabazar on the day of the 88th AGM (2022-2023) of ISNA. Ms. Prajukta Paul, Khalsa Model Senior Secondary School, Kolkata and Mr. Nillohit Roy, National Gems Higher Secondary School, Behala, Kolkata, the two recipients of this Award briefly presented their project. The cash prize and a framed Certificate from ISNA were then given to each awardee. They were felicitated by Dr. Debrasad Chattopadhyay, Director, School of Life Sciences, Swami Vivekananda University and former Founder Director & Scientist G, ICMR-National Institute of Traditional Medicine, Belagavi and Professor Bikas K. Chakrabarti, Vice-President, ISNA and Emeritus Professor, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics.

**Brief Report of XXXVI Training Programme on Science
Communication and Media Practice-2023-2024
and
Third Professor Biswapati Mukherjee Memorial Lecture**

Inauguration

The XXXVI Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice 2023-2024 was organized by Indian Science News Association (ISNA). The inaugural ceremony of the XXXVI Training Programme was held on 15 June, 2023 at 4.30 p.m. in the N.R. Sen Auditorium, University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan, Rajabazar Campus.

Many luminaries were present in this event both as speakers and guests. At the outset, by Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary of ISNA and Convener, XXXVI Training Programme 2023-2024, welcomed the invited Speakers. Thereafter Shri Prasanta K. Bose, Chairman, Training Programme, gave a brief introduction to the course and also talked about Late Professor Biswapati Mukherjee who was the former Chairman of the programme. Next, Professor Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary of ISNA, informed the gathering about the history of the organisation and its significance. The next speaker was Dr. Rajarshi Mitra, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Environmental Science, Vivekananda College, Thakurpukur. Veteran journalist and public relations expert Mr. Biswarup Mukherjee, the Guest of Honour, he recounted his experiences in the field of science journalism and shared important insights about science communication and the practices. After his talk, Swami

Kamalasthananda Maharaj, Principal of Ramkrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College, who was the Chief Guest, delivered his speech. The last speaker for the Third 'Professor Biswapati Mukherjee Memorial Lecture' was delivered by Dr. Atanu Pal, Assistant Professor, Department of Nephrology, Ex-Assistant Professor, Department of Rheumatology, Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (IPGME&R) and SSKM Hospital. The theme of his speech was the linkages between Ayurveda and Allopathy and the trajectories of their development. The programme was presided over by Professor Sudhendu Mandal, Editor-in-Chief of *Science and Culture*. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Professor Prabir Kumar Saha, Honorary Treasurer, ISNA.

Brief Report on the Training Imparted

Classes

Twelve students were enrolled in the course.

Fifty five theoretical classes were held during this period.

The classes started on 16th June, 2023 and ended with a final examination held on 25th September, 2023 (Blended mode).

Workshops

Eight workshops were arranged on the following topics:

	Date	Theme	Speaker	Mode/Venue
1.	05/07/2023 to 08/07/2023	Science Communication through Social Media	Dr. T.V. Venkateswaran and Mrs. Jyoti Singh	online
2.	22/07/2023	Audio-visual Content Creation (Documentary Production)		Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata.
3.	09/08/2023	Science Communication through Puppetry	Dr. Sima Mukhopadhyay	University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan
4.	20/08/2023	World Photography Day		Vijoygarh Jotish Ray College
5.	09/09/2023	Developing a Tabloid Based on Science News and Features		Vijoygarh Jotish Ray College
6.	15/09/2023	Digital Tools, Fact- checking & Source Verification	Shri Joydeep Dasgupta	University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan

Visits to Museums, Media Houses and Scientific Institutes

During this period visits to the various important Scientific Centers, Museums and Media Centers were arranged as follows:

- i) Acharya P.C. Ray Museum at University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan, Kolkata
- ii) Acharya Satyendra Nath Bose Museum at Bangiya Bijnan Parishad, Kolkata
- iii) Birla Industrial and Technological Museum (BITM), Kolkata
- iv) The Asiatic Society, Kolkata
- v) National Library, Kolkata
- vi) Calcutta Police Museum, Kolkata
- vii) CID West Bengal
- viii) Zoological Garden, Alipore
- ix) Science City, Kolkata

Meet the Scientists

To acquire practical knowledge as a part of the course, the students met the following renowned dignitaries and took their interviews:

- i) Dr. Sumitra Chaudhuri, President, Bangiya Bigyan Parishad
- ii) Shri Anurag Kumar, Director, Science City
- iii) Dr. Subhabrata Roychaudhuri, Founder Secretary, Science Association of Bengal
- iv) Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti, General Secretary, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata
- v) Shri Abhijit Bardhan General Secretary, Science Communicators Forum

The students participated in the following programmes:

- Celebration of the Foundation Day of ISNA
- Seminar on the occasion of the Birth Centenary Celebration of Gopalamudram Narayanan Ramachandran at The Asiatic Society
- Ninth Professor Asima Chatterjee Foundation Oration at Meghnad Saha Auditorium, University of Calcutta

Debate Competition

Debate competition on the topic 'Social Media Helps Children More Than Print Media' was held for the participants.

Examination

There were three types of examination as follows:

- i) Class Room presentation through Power Point
- ii) Project Writing
- iii) Final written examination

The final examination was held on the 25th September, 2023. The results were declared on the 6th October, 2023 in the Certificate Award Ceremony.

Birth Anniversary Celebration of Professor Meghnad Saha, Certificate Award Ceremony of the XXXVI Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice 2023-2024 and the release of Volume 3, Issue 1 of *e-Paper Scientifica Communica*

Indian Science News Association (ISNA) paid homage to Professor Meghnad Saha, a pivotal founder Secretary of ISNA, and Editor of the Journal *Science and Culture*, on the 6th October, 2023 in the N.R. Sen Auditorium, University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan, Rajabazar Campus.

At the outset, Dr. Amit Krishna De, an Honorary Secretary of ISNA, informed the audience about the main reason for holding the programme. Dr. De, being the Convener of the XXXVI TPSCMP 2023-'24, stated about the activities of the Training Programme in every year since 1983. In a brief speech, Shri Prasanta K Bose, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the TPSCMP, delivered the Welcome Address and talked about Professor Saha's contribution towards the development of free India. The next speaker Professor Manas Chakrabarty, another Honorary Secretary of ISNA, glibly delivered a brief life-sketch of Professor Meghnad Saha and highlighted how he became an acclaimed scientist and planner of national scientific projects despite facing societal and financial hardship in his formative years.

The next speaker Professor Anirban Kundu, Department of Physics, University of Calcutta mentioned that M.N. Saha joined Calcutta University as a Professor in 1916. Sir Taraknath Palit contributed a huge amount of money for the construction of a laboratory within Rajabazar Science College Campus.

In that laboratory, Professor Saha prepared a cyclotron machine, which opened a new path in the field of research of science. The Chief-Guest Professor Anupam Basu, Raja Ramanna Chair Professor of Jadavpur University and Professor of Sister Nibedita University, very humbly told that Saha and other scientists were involved in research and education and were dedicated freedom fighters too. He mentioned that Professor Saha was a diligent scientist and wholeheartedly worked for his country with his head held high to make important contributions to Science and Technology. Then Dr. Basu released volume 3, issue 1 of the e-paper *Scientific Communica*.

Indian Science News Association humbly felicitated Professor S.K. Talapatra and Dr. Balaram Majumder, the two most senior members of ISNA, with 'Uttariyo, Felicitation Certificate Memento and a sapling' for their long association with and fruitful contribution to ISNA and its activities.

The successful students of the XXXVI TPSCMP were given Certificates on this occasion.

The main attraction was the extempore speech competition for the school students. 'Amar Chokhe Meghnad Saha' was selected as the topic of extempore speech in memoriam of Professor Saha. The students of Haryana Vidyamandir and Dumdum Ananda Ashram Sarada Vidyapith participated in the competition. Debarpon Ghosh from the former school and Samadrita Nayak and Moumita Acharya from the latter school made their mark in the speech and grabbed the first three positions. At last Professor Bikash K. Chakrabarti, Vice-President of ISNA and Ex-Director and Professor of Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, delivered a speech on SINP. The whole programme was anchored by Tithi Roy and Dr. Saikat Kumar Basu, ex-students of TPSCMP.

Grants received

1. Rs. 25,000.00 from Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata for the years 2023-2024.
2. Rs. 946.00 as the remaining grant from the Vigyan Prasar, Govt. of India, New Delhi for the 'Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice'.
3. Rs. 1,26,200.00 was received as donations from Members of ISNA including the Council Members, for the year 2023-2024

4. Rs. 25,000.00 from M/s. Salice Press Pvt. Ltd. and received Rs. 18,000.00 from M/s. Georgesons as donations for the 'Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice'.

ISNA conveys its sincere thanks and gratitude to the members of ISNA, authorities of the above organizations for their generous financial support.

New Members of ISNA and Subscribers to *Science and Culture*

Nine (9) new Life Members: Mr. Tanhaba Bhattacharjya, Ms. Ashya Khatoon, Dr. (Mrs) Sayari Biswas, Dr. Indrani Chakraborty, Dr. Anish Bhattacharyya

Five (5) new Ordinary Member: Mrs. Jhumur Datta Gupta, Sk Jinnat Ali, Dr. Soumya Chatterjee, Shri Krishnendu Kumar De, Er. Amar Nath Bhadra,

Note: Total number of Members of ISNA: 729

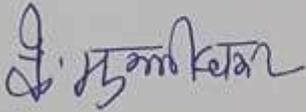
Four (4) Institutional Subscribers: Pazhassi Raja N.S.S. College Mattanur, Kerala; V.R. Schholarden School, Chh. Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra; Dr. Cyrus Poonawala International School, Kolhapur; Pazhassi Raja NSS College, Kerala; The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Karnataka.

Administration

Three meetings of the Council of ISNA were held on 30/06/2023, 20/11/23 and 15/03/24 and one meeting of the Finance Committee was held on 03/08/23.

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to both the Central and the State Governments, different Universities, academic institutions and other funding agencies for their generous help. We are immensely grateful to Dr. K. Muraleedharan, President of ISNA, for his timely and able guidance in all the activities of ISNA. We are sincerely thankful to all the Members of the Council, the Finance Committee and the Organizing Committee of the Training Course of ISNA, Collaborators, Advertisers, Auditor, Printers (Sailee Press) and others linked with the Association for their sincere co-operation. The Staff-members of the office of ISNA deserve heartfelt thanks for their sincere co-operation in all the activities of the Association throughout the year.



Dr. K. Muraleedharan
President, ISNA

President
Indian Science News Association



Professor Manas Chakrabarty

Dr. Amit Krishna De
Honorary Secretaries, ISNA

Honorary Secretaries
Indian Science News Association

