

**Annual Report of Indian Science News Association (ISNA), Kolkata for the
period, 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022**

Members Who Passed Away During April, 2021 to March, 2022

Professor Dilip Kumar Sinha, Professor Biswapati Mukherjee, Mr. Sudip Kumar Sarkar and Professor Vasant Natarajan – passed away in 2021-2022.

Science and Culture

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

- Six bi-monthly issues (Vol. 87, Nos. 3-12; Vol. 88, Nos. 1-2).
- Thirty three (33) full articles.
- Five (5) foreign authors, viz. Kelvin Brown (Australia), Mrinal K. Dewanjee (USA), Rajinder Singh (Germany), Björn Martens (Germany), and Antonia Hoogewerf (France) contributed articles.
- Six (6) articles under ‘Opinion’, one (1) article under ‘A Traveller’s Journal’, two (2) articles under ‘Travelogue’ and twelve (12) Research Communications were published.
- The Association received fourteen (14) Indian journals in exchange of *Science and Culture* and on complimentary basis during the period 2021-2022.
- Two meetings of the Editorial Board of *Science and Culture* were held on 22/02/2021 and 04/01/2022.

Book Reviews

The following four books were reviewed by eminent persons and published in *Science and Culture* during this year:

1. Pankaj Sekhsaria, ‘The Last Wave: An Island Novel’, Harper Collins Publishers Ltd., UK, 2014.
2. Pankaj Sekhsaria, ‘Island I Flux: The Andaman and Nicobar Story’, Harper Collins Publishers Ltd., UK, 2017.
3. Rajinder Singh and Suprakash C. Roy, ‘N.R. Sen–Life and Science’, Shaker Verlag, Germany, 2021.
4. Pankaj Sekhsaria, ‘The State of Wildlife and Protected Areas in Maharashtra, News and Information from the Protected Area Updated 1996-2015, Duleep Matthai Nature Conservation Trust’, Kalpavriksh and Rainfed Book, 2020.

One copy of each of the above books is available at ISNA office.

Celebration of World Environment Day

Indian Science News Association and National Environmental Science Academy (NESA), West Bengal Chapter jointly celebrated World Environment Day on the theme ‘Ecosystem

Restoration’ on the **5th June, 2021**. Dr. Amit Krishna De, Founder Secretary, NESA, W.B. Chapter and Honorary Secretary of Indian Science News Association welcomed the participants and the distinguished speakers. Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary, ISNA introduced Indian Science News Association to the participants and spoke about Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray, Prof. Meghnad Saha and involvement of many other famous personalities in this Association. Professor Parthiba Basu, Ecology Research Unit and Centre for Agroecology and Pollination Studies, Department of Zoology, University of Calcutta, highlighted on the topic ‘Healing Our Farm Landscape’ of his lecture. Professor Arun Kumar, Former Dean, School of Human and Environmental Sciences and Director, Centre for Myanmar Studies, Department of Earth Sciences, Manipur University, Imphal delivered lecture on ‘Geological Constraints: Climate Change’. Dr. S. B. Patra, Convener, NESA, W.B. Chapter expressed a vote of thanks.

Brief Report of XXXIV Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice-2021-2022

Celebration of Independence Day and Online Launching of e-Paper ‘*Scientifica Communica*’

15th of August 2021, the auspicious 75th independence day of India, was chosen for the inauguration of the English e-paper named ‘*Scientifica Communica*’. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the inauguration programme of the e-paper was arranged on the Google Meet platform. The welcome speech was delivered by the eminent journalist and science communicator, Sri Pathik Guha, Chairman of the Training Programme. Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary, ISNA spoke about ISNA, and *Science and Culture*. Dr. T.V. Venkateswaran, Joint Convener, 34th Training Programme and Scientist F, Vigyan Prasar spoke about Vigyan Prasar. The Guest of Honour, Dr. Nakul Parashar, Director of Vigyan Prasar expressed his pleasure to be a part of the inaugural programme of ‘*Scientifica Communica*’. He congratulated ISNA and said that all should come together for such a wonderful initiative for promoting science communication. Then Dr. Amit Krishna De, Convener, 34th Training Programme elaborated about the 34th Training Programme of ISNA. Sri Prasanta K. Bose, Editor of ‘*Scientifica Communica*’ spoke about the e-paper. This e-paper was digitally inaugurated by Sri Uday Basu, former Co-ordinating Editor of The Statesman and is presently serving as the Editor of Orissa Post. Dr. K. Muraleedharan, the President of ISNA, addressed the audience. Experiences were shared by two former students of ISNA, Ms. Barnini Bhattacharya, Research Scholar, Indian Statistical Institute and Mr. Sukalyan Gain, Research Scholar, Kalyani University, who had taken active part in preparing the e-paper. The programme ended with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Arnab Kumar Banerjee, Joint Editor, ‘*Scientifica Communica*’.

Workshop on ‘Science Journalism in Bengali’

A week-long workshop on ‘Science Journalism in Bengali’ was held from **26th September-3rd October, 2021** in virtual mode. It was jointly organised by Indian Science News Association (ISNA), Kolkata and Vigyan Prasar, DST, Govt. of India, New Delhi, as a part of 34th Training Program for Science Communication and Media Practices of ISNA. Twenty seven (27) persons

participated in the workshop. Noted science writer-cum-journalist Shri Pathik Guha, delivered the welcome address. Professor Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary, ISNA, narrated the background of forming ISNA and its mouthpiece publication '*Science and Culture*'. Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary, ISNA and Convener of the 34th Training Programme explained various activities conducted during last two years in the Training programme.

Shri Sourav Sen of Vigyan Prasar and Smt. Rupa Majundar, Editor of '*Nabakallol*' and '*Shuktara*' were present. Professor Sunil Kumar Talapatra, a Vice-President of ISNA, presided over the programme. Dr. Arnab Kumar Banerjee, Convener of the workshop proposed the vote of thanks.

On 27th September 2021, the topic of discussion was 'Science Journalism in Bengali Newspaper and Magazine'. The Chairman, Dr. Sabyasachi Chattopadhyay, introduced the speakers. Dr. Rintu Nath of Vigyan Prasar and Sri Ratul Dutta, Assistant Editor of the Bengali monthly '*Paschimbanga*', highlighting their expertise in the subject. The Mentor, Sri Subhendu Chattopadhyay, mentioned the tradition of science writings by men like Akshoy Kumar Dutta, Rajendralal Mitra and Iswarchandra Vidyasagar. The session on 28th September, 2021 was held with the topic 'Science Communication in Bengali *via* Audio and Audiovisual Aid'. Sri Prasanta Kumar Basu, the Chairman, Sri Biswajit Das, an expert in science communication through both electronic media and Dr. Manas Pratim Das, well-known media personality in charge of Science Section of 'Akashbani Kolkata' were speakers. On 29th September, 2021, the topic of discussion was 'Science Magazines of Science Clubs'. Professor Sumitra Chaudhuri, the Chairperson, in her opening remark, identified the publications of '*Science and Culture*' in English and '*Jnan-O-Bijnan*' in Bengali by ISNA and Bagiya Bijnan Parishad, respectively as the initiators. She introduced speakers Sri Dipak Kumar Dan of Gobardanga Renaissance Institute and Dr. Arunava Mishra of Paschimbanga Bijnan Manch, mentioning their contributions for science awareness movements.

On 30th September, 2021 two sessions were held. The first session was chaired by Professor Sudhendu Mandal who introduced the speaker Professor Syamal Chakrabarti as a prolific writer and front-runner for peoples' science movements. In the second session, the discussion was oriented on 'Science Journalism Using Social Media'. The session was chaired by Prof. Devaprasanna Sinha who highlighted the benefits of social media, another aspect of internet technology. He introduced the speakers Dr. Buroshiv Dasgupta, a noted media personnel and Professor of Mass Communication, Sister Nibedita University and Dr. Bakul Srimany, who had done her research on science communication in social media. On 1st October 2021, a 'Hands-on-Training' of science journalism was given by three persons - Professor Sankarashis Mukhopadhyay on use of social media for science write-ups, Dr. Sima Mukhopadhyay on science writing in magazines for neo-literates and Sri Sibsankar Dutta on how to create a webpage. The training continued on the 2nd October, 2021 under the guidance of Dr. Bakul Srimany and Sri Sibsankar Dutta. On 3rd October, 2021, Dr. Mrinmoy Chanda talked on 'Tradition of Science Journalism in Bengali'. The session was chaired by eminent journalist Sri Rupam Banerjee. Professor Julie Banerji, former Khaira Professor of Chemistry, Calcutta University, as Mentor, narrated her experience in 'Quest' programme, expressing satisfaction for this endeavor of science communication in Bengali. Sri Prasanta Kumar Basu introduced Dr. Mrinmoy Chanda mentioning his research contributions and science writings.

The valedictory session was held on 3rd October, 2021. Professor Manas Chakrabarty, an Honorary Secretary of ISNA, in his welcome address, wished that participants would strive for success in science writings. Dr. Amit Krishna De Honorary Secretary of ISNA congratulated all the participants for submitting the assignments timely every day. Dr. Kaliprasanna Dhara presented a brief report of the seven-day workshop. A six-page news tabloid named '*Bijnan Barta*' with the write-ups contributed by several participants and designed by them was presented by Mr. Sayantan Jash. Video-recorded comments by some participants were presented. A radio-drama 'Saap-O-Sanskar' written by Papai Sikdar and directed by Ms. Ambalika Ray was also played. Participants of the workshop presented the production. Professor S. K. Talapatra, the seniormost Vice-President of ISNA, delivered the presidential address. Dr. Arnab Bandyopadhyay Convener proposed the vote of thanks.

Release of *Bigyan Kahon*: A Bengali Science E-Paper

On the most memorable day of **October 6, 2021**, the birth anniversary of the legendary scientist Professor Meghnad Saha, ISNA launched '*Bigyan Kahon*', science e-paper in bengali, in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, DST, New Delhi. Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary ISNA, extended a formal welcome to all the dignitaries and participants present in the online inaugural session. This was followed by the welcome address delivered by the eminent science journalist, Sri Pathik Guha. Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary ISNA, explained that the idea of ISNA to launch the Bengali e-paper '*Bigyan Kahon*' was to popularise and communicate the scientific developments among the general Bengali community. Professor Asis Chattopadhyay, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs), University of Calcutta, inaugurated through audio visual curtain raiser of '*Bigyan Kahon*' and delivered his address in a lucid manner. Sri Prasanta K. Bose, Editor of '*Bigyan Kahon*' shared and explained his experience about the journey of '*Scientifica Communica*' to '*Bigyan Kahon*'. The Chief Guest of the session, Sri Rajat Ray, an eminent journalist and one of the most successful communicators associated with pioneer print media publication houses delivered his speech in a very composed style and appreciated the publication of '*Bigyan Kahon*' and mentioned the reasons why bengali science journals are necessary to reach the masses and to make aware them about the scientific way of living a better life. The event was presided over by Prof Sunil Kumar Talapatra, Vice-President, ISNA. The session ended with the formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Aranab Kumar Banerjee, Joint Editor of '*Bigyan Kahon*'.

Inauguration and First Professor Biswapati Mukherjee Memeorial Lecture

The inauguration of the XXXIV Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice organised by Indian Science News Association in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, DST, Govt. of India took place on a virtual medium on **7th February, 2022** from 7 p.m. onwards. The whole programme was anchored by Dr. Amit Krishna De, one of the Joint Conveners of the Training Programme and Honorary Secretary of ISNA. The glorious evening started with an initial brief welcome address given by Dr. K. Muraleedharan, President of ISNA and Former Director of CGCRI. It was followed by the speech of Professor Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary of ISNA who portrayed the history of ISNA and *Science and Culture*. Then Dr. T.V. Venkateswaran, Joint Convener, Training Programme and Scientist F, Vigyan Prasar put forward a brief introduction about

Vigyan Prasar. The Guest of Honour, Ms. Arundhati Mukherjee, Former Joint Editor of *Aajkaal* was introduced by Shri Prasanta K. Bose of ISNA. She focussed on science communication in ancient India, referring to the symbols of 'Mahenjodaro' era and the famous 'Jantar Mantar' built by Raja Jai Singh. Special Guest Dr. Nakul Parashar, Director of Vigyan Prasar elaborated the spectrum of Science Communication Popularization and Extension (SCoPE) which created ample opportunities to the youngsters and promoted them towards new career options also. The Chief Guest was Shri V.S. Ramachandran, Director of Birla industrial & Technological Museum (BITM) Kolkata, who declared the inauguration of the XXXIV Training Programme officially. Shri Pathik Guha, popular science writer and present Chairman of ISNA spoke a little about the essential role of scientific information in mass media for public awareness. Dr. Amit Krishna De then called the trainees of the present batch to introduce themselves.

First Professor Biswapati Mukherjee Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Tuhin Kanti Biswas, HoD of Kayachikitsa (Medicine) of J.B. Roy State Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata. Before it, the great life and works of Late Professor Biswapati Mukherjee were nicely recollected by Professor Manas Chakrabarty. After the lecture Dr. Muraleedharan honoured Professor Biswas virtually with a memento on behalf of ISNA.

Details of the Training Pogramme

Classes: Because of pandemic situation, the classes started from 8th February, 2022 and ended on 13th April, 2022 (with due permission of Vigyan Prasar as a special case).
Eight Students were enrolled in the course.
Forty three theoretical classes were held during this period.

Workshops: One workshop on the following topic was arranged:

- Developing a Tabloid Based on Science News and Features by Dr. Bakul Srimany.

Visits: One visit to the following was arranged:

- National Library, Kolkata

Meet the Scientists: Students met with the following dignitaries and took their interviews:

- i) Shri Sitendu Mandal, Chief Scientist, CGCRI
- ii) Professor D.J. Chattopadhyay, Vice-Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University

Debates: Two Debate competitions on the following topics were arranged:

- Online Education should continue.
- Plastics should be banned.

A Get together and Meet was held on 17th December, 2021.

Examination:

There were three types of examinations were held:

- i) Two class room presentations through power point.
 - ii) Project writing.
 - iii) Final written examination.
- The final examination was held on 13th April, 2022.
 - The Valedictory Programme along with celebration of ‘Earth Day’ was organised on 22nd April, 2022. **Launching of e-paper ‘Bigyan Kahon’ was done by Prof. Debasis Das, Registrar and Professor of Chemistry, University of Calcutta.**

The 1st Issue of the e-paper ‘*Scientifica Communica*’, was launched on 15th August, 2021 on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Indian Independence, and the 2nd issue was launched on the 28th February, 2022 on the occasion of National Science Day.

The 1st issue of the e-paper ‘*Bigyan Kahon*’, was launched on 6th October, 2021 on the occasion of Mahalaya, and the 2nd issue was launched on 22nd April, 2022 on the occasion of Earth Day.

The Science Communicators’ Meet on the *Theme: “Science Learning and Science Communication”* was held on 29th June, 2022 (as part of XXXIV Training Programme, as a special case).

Webinar on Global Challenges of Climate Change

Indian Science News Association and National Environmental Science Academy (NESA), West Bengal Chapter jointly organised a webinar on ‘Global Challenges Of Climate Change’ on **4th December, 2021** Prof. Devesh Walia, Department of Environmental Studies, NEHU, Shillong and Professor Aniruddha Mukherjee, Department of Environmental Science, University of Calcutta graced the occasion as invited speakers. The lectures were chaired by the former President, Institute of Engineers, India, Er. Sisir Banerjee. The programme was formally introduced by Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary, ISNA and Founder Secretary, NESA, W.B. Chapter. The inaugural speeches were delivered by Professor Arup. K. Mitra, Chairman, NESA, West Bengal Chapter, Dr. K Muraleedharan, President, ISNA and Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary ISNA. After formal inauguration, Dr. De requested Er. Banerjee to take over the responsibility of chairing the lecture session and formally introduced the first speaker of the webinar, Prof. Devesh Walia. The main thrust areas of Prof. Walia are - Structure and Tectonics of NE Indian region and the research areas, where significant contributions have been made on magnetotellurics, radon emanation studies, micro-seismology, global positioning system, seismic disaster management and mitigation, earthquake forecasting, remote sensing and GIS. The second speaker of the webinar was Professor Aniruddha Mukherjee who discussed about the impacts of climate change in various aspects. At the end of the programme, Dr. Subhendu Bikas Patra, Convener, NESA, W.B. Chapter thanked the resource persons, the organisers and the audience.

Santanu Ghosh Memorial Lecture

Santanu Ghosh Memorial Lecture was organized by Indian Science News Association (ISNA) on **20th January, 2022** through virtual mode. Dr. K. Muraleedharan, President ISNA and Former Director, CGCRI-CSIR, Kolkata and Emeritus Scientist of CSIR, C-MET, Trissur, presided over the function. Professor Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary, ISNA welcomed all the delegates and spoke about the history of Santanu Ghosh Memorial Lecture. Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary, ISNA welcomed the speaker of the memorial lecture Professor Basab Chaudhuri, Former Vice-Chancellor of the West Bengal State University, Principal of the Heritage Institute of Technology Kolkata and Senior Director Education, Kalyan Bharti Trust. He spoke on 'History of Catalysis and Nobel Prize'. At the end of the programme Dr. K. Muraleedharan, President, ISNA addressed the audience and then virtually handed over the Santanu Ghosh Memorial Award to Professor Basab Chaudhuri. The webinar was a grand success.

B.C. Guha Memorial Lecture

B.C. Guha Memorial Lecture was organized by Indian Science News Association on **18th February, 2022** through virtual mode. Dr. K. Muraleedharan, President, ISNA presided over the function. Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary, ISNA welcomed all the delegates and spoke about the history of ISNA. Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary, ISNA briefed the members about Dr. B.C. Guha and his scientific contributions. Prof. Sudhendu Mandal, Editor-in-Chief, *Science and Culture*, ISNA, welcomed the speaker and introduced Professor (Dr.) Nimai Chandra Saha, an eminent scientist / zoologist and a true academic administrator, presently working as Vice-Chancellor of the University. Prof. Saha spoke on "Toxicity of Arsenic, Selenium and Fluoride on living organisms and their Bioamelioration". At the end of the programme Dr. K. Muraleedharan, President ISNA addressed the audience and then virtually handed over the B. C. Guha Memorial Award to Prof. Dr. Nimai Chandra Saha.

Celebration of National Science Day & Release of second issue of *Scientifica Communica*

The Indian Science News Association celebrated the National Science Day on **February 28, 2022** by presenting an online erudite talk by Er. Anuj Sinha, Chairman of the Network of Organization of Science and Technology Communications, New Delhi. His talk was delivered on the theme 'Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future'. This program was chaired by Science Communicator, Prof. Samaresh Goswami, Ex-Director of the Birla Industrial and Technological Museum, Kolkata. Welcome address was given by Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary of ISNA. Then the 2nd Issue of Volume 1 of ISNA newsletter '*Scientifica Communica*' edited by Shri Prasanta K. Bose and Dr. Arnab Kumar Banerjee was released by Er Anuj Sinha. In his speech, Er. Sinha, mentioned in a stepwise fashion how integrative approach in science and technology can lead to a well established sustainable future for all through an excellent series of PowerPoint slides online. Prof. Samaresh Goswami mentioned his deepest concerns regarding current global socio-cultural and environmental situations. Dr. K. Muraleedharan, President, ISNA delivered his address. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by ISNA Honourable Secretary, Dr. Amit Krishna De.

Grants received

1. Rs. 25,000.00 from Bose Institute, Kolkata for the year 2020-2021
2. Rs. 25,000.00 from Bose Institute, Kolkata for the year 2021-2022
3. Rs. 1,26,500.00 (last installment of the total grant of Rs. 6,32,500.00 for the year 2020-2021 from the Vigyan Prasar, Govt. of India, New Delhi for the 'Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice'.
4. Rs.3,16,250.00 (1st installment of the total grant of Rs. 6,32,500.00 for the year 2021-2022 from the Vigyan Prasar, Govt. of India, New Delhi for the 'Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice'.

ISNA conveys its sincere thanks and gratitude to the 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: Prof. Dinesh K Srivastava, Dr. Barnali Ray Basu, Dr. K. Muraleedharan, Dr. Nupur Basu, Dr. Neepa Banerjee, Dr. Arun Kumar Chakraborty, Dr. Kaushal Sood, Dr. Srabasti Chakraborty, Prof. Tuhin Kanti Biswas and Mr. Saikat Kumar Basu.

Fourteen (14) new Ordinary Member: Hashim Abdul Halim Barkati, Ms. Satabdi Bhattacharjee, Shri Sukalyan Gain, Dr. Junaid Jibrán Jawed, Mr. Prajjwal Pal, Mr. Vyasdev Gayen, Mr. Rajat Mukherjee, Shri Ujjwalendu Mukhopadhyay, Dr. Surjani Chatterjee, Shri Sandipan Chatterjee, Mrs. Tanaya Santra, Shri Krishnendu Rath, Ms. Barnini Bhattacharya, Mr. Debashis Dey.

Note: Total number of Members of ISNA: 725

Ten (10) Institutional Subscribers: M/s. Vidyasagar Journals & Periodicals; M/s Wilcox Books & Periodicals, KVVS College of Science and Technology; Eklavya Model Residential School, Ukai; Vidya Pratishthan's Kamalnayan Bajaj Institute of Engineering and Technology Baramati; Swami Vivekananda Government College; Ahalia School of Engineering and Technology; BLDEA's A.V.S. Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya and Arts, Science & Commerce College, Mokhada

One (1) Individual Subscriber: Mr. Kashinath Roy.

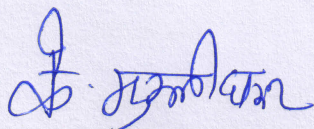
One (1) Foreign Subscribers: Renewed the subscription for the year 2021-2022.

Administration

Three meetings of the Council of ISNA were held on 23/07/2021, 20/01/2022 and 08/03/2022 and four meetings of the Finance Committee were held on 13/07/2021, 10/09/2021, 01/12/2021 and 09/02/2022.

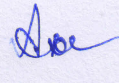
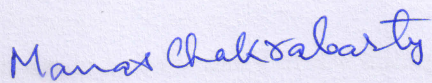
Acknowledgements

We are thankful to both Central and State Governments, different Universities, academic institutions and other funding agencies for their generous help. We are 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 Council Members, the Finance Committee, the Organizing Committee of the Training Course, 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.



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