

INDIAN SCIENCE NEWS ASSOCIATION

92, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road

Kolkata – 700 009

Annual Report of Indian Science News Association (ISNA), Kolkata for the period, 1st April, 2024 to 31st March, 2025

Members Who Passed Away During April, 2024 to March, 2025

Prof. (Mrs.) Tapati Basu, Dr. Sisir Kr. Majumdar, Dr. K.S. Srinivasan and Dr. Sammeta Govardhan

Tribute to Gopal Chandra Bhattacharya: Pioneer Science Communicator

ISNA and Gopal Chandra Bhattacharya Bigyan Prasara Samiti (GCBAPS) jointly paid a humble tribute to Gopal Chandra Bhattacharya, an eminent entomologist and a naturalist, on 8th April, 2024 in the N.R. Sen Auditorium, University of Calcutta (Rajabazar Campus). The programme started with a speech by Dr. Sumitra Chaudhuri, President, GCBAPS. In her speech, she stated about the progress of science teaching and education in the early days of the 19th century and role of Gopal Chandra Bhattacharya. Next speaker was Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary of ISNA. He first narrated a brief history of ISNA and stated that Gopal Chandra Bhattacharya had a number of publications in *Science and Culture*. He particularly mentioned about his works on bio-luminescence and metamorphosis of tadpoles. Next speaker was Dr. B.K. Mahapatra, former Principal Scientist, ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education. His topic was '*Banglar Harie Jaowa Maach O Onanyo Jolojo Jiber Gurutto O Sombhabona*'. Next speaker was Dr. Purnabasu Chaudhuri, Assistant Prof., Environmental Science Department, University of Calcutta. His topic was '*Gopalchandra Bhattacharjya O Kumeru Onchole Boigganik Obhijan: Sekal O Ekal*'. In his speech, he correlated Gopal Chandra Bhattacharya's articles on *kumeru*, the present south pole. At the end, Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary of ISNA thanked everybody for attending this seminar.

Professor N.C. Datta Memorial Lecture 2024

The Prof. N.C. Datta Memorial Lecture 2024 was organised by National Environmental Science Academy (NESA), W.B. Chapter and ISNA, Kolkata on 'Earth Day', 22nd April, 2024 at N.R. Sen Auditorium, University of Calcutta (Rajabazar Campus). The programme was chaired by Prof. Nimai Chandra Saha, Principal, Bidhannagar College and former Vice-Chancellor, The University of Burdwan. Dr. Amit Krishna De, Chairman, NESA, W.B. Chapter and Honorary Secretary, ISNA in his welcome address dwelt on the rich contribution of Late Prof. N.C. Datta as former Chairman in shaping the NESA, W.B. Chapter activities over the years. He also served as Vice-President and Honorary Secretary of ISNA. Dr. Subhendu B. Patra, Convenor, NESA, W.B. Chapter spoke on the activities of NESA. Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary, ISNA introduced the speaker for the memorial

lecture, Shri Subhankar Sen Gupta, a member of Indian Forest Service, West Bengal Cadre, presently posted as Chief Conservator of Forests and Director, Zoological Gardens, Alipore, Kolkata. Shri Subhankar Sen Gupta in his presentation on “Conservation of Forest and Wildlife: Importance from Human Perspective” emphasised that forests are the most biologically active ecosystem in land, and home to half of the terrestrial species of plants, animals and insects. The Chairman of the session, Prof. Nimai Chandra Saha, in his speech appreciated Shri Subhankar Sen Gupta for presenting an exhaustive overview of the history of wildlife conservation in our country including its different facets, the policy changes brought forward in our constitution for wildlife conservation, invaluable work done *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation in our state. He also presented a memento to the speaker on the occasion. Prof. Prabir Kumar Saha, Honorary Treasurer, ISNA presented the customary Vote of Thanks. Dr. Srabanti Basu, Member of Executive Committee, NESA, W.B. Chapter and past student of ISNA anchored the whole programme.

Lifestyle Disorders and Ayurveda (ALIFE 2023)

A special issue of the journal *Science and Culture*, Vol. 90, No. 5-6, May 2024 was released in a unique occasion on June 8, 2024 at Meghnad Saha Auditorium, University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan. The programme was organized by Paschimbanga Ayurved Chikitsak Samity, Government Ayurveda Doctors’ Association and ISNA. The special issue was released as proceedings with 18 selected articles on the speeches delivered in the national seminar on ‘Lifestyle Disorders and Ayurveda (ALIFE 2023)’ held during 26-27 November 2023 at Bhasha Bhavan, National Library, Kolkata organized jointly by Paschimbanga Ayurved Chikitsak Samity and Government Ayurveda Doctors’ Association. The programme started with opening song sung by Prof. Achyut Bhattacharyya. Welcome address was delivered by Dr. Nilratan Mahapatra, General Secretary, Paschimbanga Ayurved Chikitsak Samity. Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Hony. Secretary, ISNA elaborated in detail about the activities of the ISNA. Prof. Tuhin Kanti Biswas, one of the guest editors of the special issue and Chairman, Scientific committee, ALIFE 2023 presented glimpses of the seminar ALIFE 2023. Two Guests of Honour Dr. G. Babu, Director, Central Ayurveda Research Institute and Prof. (Dr.) Bhallamudi V. Sharma, Director, Anthropological Survey of India praised about current and future perspective of Ayurvedic research. Prof. Sudhendu Mandal, Editor-in-Chief, *Science and Culture* in his speech nicely described about the ninetieth-year glorious journey of the journal with its high esteem and proficiency. The special issue of *Science and Culture* was released by Prof. Abichal Chattopadhyay and Prof. Sudhendu Mandal. Vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Subhrachandan Mukhopadhyay, Organizing Secretary, ALIFE 2023. The inaugural part was followed by scientific seminar under the chairmanship of Dr. Amit Krishna De, Hony. Secretary, ISNA. Prof. Pulok Kumar Mukherjee Director, Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development, Imphal delivered a special speech on, “Recent Development of Natural Products Research with Special Reference to Ayurveda”. A cultural-cum-scientific event like application of Bharatnatyam with Marma chikitsa was delivered by Smt. Debjani Samanata. In addition, Dr. Piu Hasnda delivered Rabindra Sangeet in Santali language in a lovely manner. More than 200 delegates and guests participated in the programme.

National Doctor's Day 2024

The National Doctor's Day 2024 was celebrated jointly by ISNA and National Environmental Science Academy (NESA), West Bengal Chapter on 1st July, 2024, the birthday of legendary physician Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy at N.R. Sen Auditorium, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan, University of Calcutta. Noted physicians Dr. Prakash Kumar Hazra, Director and Head of Cardiology, Manipal Hospital, Dhakuria and Dr. Jaydeb Ray, Principal and Prof. of Pediatrics, Institute of Child Health, Kolkata delivered erudite lectures on the occasion. The program started with the felicitation of the speakers with a presentation of tree saplings by Prof. (Mrs.) Julie Banerji, Vice-President, ISNA. Dr. K. Muraleedharan, President, ISNA and Former Director, CSIR-CGCRI addressed the gathering online. Prof. Banerji delivered the Welcome Address where she remembered Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy as a remarkable figure in India's medical history and as the first Chief Minister of West Bengal, he left an indelible mark on health care and society. The two speakers Dr. Prakash Kumar Hazra and Dr. Jaydeb Ray were introduced to the audience by the Honorary Secretaries of ISNA, Prof. Manas Chakrabarty and Dr. Amit Krishna De, respectively. Dr. Hazra in his speech described Dr. B.C. Roy as a beacon of compassion, dedication and healing, whose legacy transcends time and touches the lives of countless individuals. Dr. Jaydeb Ray, renowned child health specialist, in his presentation highlighted the dangers of child obesity, its future health risk, the principles of therapy. Shri Prasanta K. Bose, Chairman, Training Program, ISNA and Prof. (Mrs.) Julie Banerji then distributed certificates to the participants of the online workshop on "Science Tabloid Making in Bengali" held during June 26-28, 2024 organised by ISNA. The tabloid named "Sahoj Bigyan" prepared by the students was also released by the dignitaries. The program ended with a Vote of Thanks by Prof. Prabir Kumar Saha, Honorary Treasurer, ISNA

90th Foundation Day of ISNA

The 90th Foundation Day of ISNA was celebrated on 10th July, 2024 at the N.R. Sen Auditorium, University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan. The programme commenced with the Welcome Address delivered by Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary, ISNA. Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary, ISNA anchored the whole programme and projected on the future endeavours of ISNA. Dr. Sivaji Chakravorti from Department of Electrical Engineering of Jadavpur University and President of West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology (WAST) graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. He briefed the audience on the vision and mission of WAST and spoke on the significance of science communication. Prof. B.V. Sharma, Director of Anthropological Survey of India and Director General of Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata and the Chief Guest of the programme highlighted on the criteria required to become a good science communicator and mentioned that science should be communicated in a better way for the welfare of the nation.

The Fourth Professor Biswapati Mukherjee Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Anupam Basu, Raja Ramanna Chair Prof. at Jadavpur University, Honorary Prof. at Shiv Nadar Varsity, distinguished Honorary Prof. at Sister Nivedita University, former Director of National Institute of Technology, Durgapur and former Prof., Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Kharagpur, West Bengal. Prof. Basu delivered a lecture on “Where Language Meets Technology”. He asserted on the relation between language and technology, and how technology can be utilized constructively to save local language. He was felicitated by the dignitaries on the dais after the deliberation. Prof. Bikas K. Chakrabarti, Vice-President of ISNA and Former Director of Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, addressed the gathering and stated about prospects of science communicators in the forthcoming days. Prof. Prabir Kumar Saha, Honorary Treasurer of ISNA, delivered the Vote of Thanks.

Celebration of National Science Day 2025

ISNA observed the National Science Day 2025 on the 28th February, 2025 at 5.00 p.m. in the N.R. Sen Auditorium, University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Shiksha Prangan, 92, A.P.C. Road, Kolkata – 700 009. The theme for the Science Day 2025 was ‘Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science & Innovation for Viksit Bharat’. Shri Debarshi Duttagupta, Managing Director, East India Pharmaceutical Works Limited was the Chief Guest. Dr. Sanku Bose, Dean, School of Engineering and CEO, Techno India Group was the Guest of Honour and the speaker of the programme was Shri Sushobhan Mukherjee, CEO, Prime Infoserv Pvt Ltd & Chairman, InfoSec Foundation. The programme started with the Welcome Address by Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary, ISNA. The Objectives of the Science Day was stated by Mrs. Ina Bose, Academic and Communication Consultant, Former IPR, Innovation and Incubation, Sister Nivedita University, followed by address by Dr. Amit Krishna De, Chairman, NESA and Honorary Secretary, ISNA. At the end of the programme, the Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. Subhendu Bikash Patra, Convener, NESA, W.B. Chapter.

D.M. Bose Memorial lecture 2025

The D.M. Bose Memorial Lecture was organised by the ISNA on the 3rd March, 2025 at N.R. Sen Auditorium, University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan. Prof. Manas Chakrabarty introduced the Speaker for the D.M. Bose Memorial Lecture, Prof. Gautam Gangopadhyay, Department of Physics, University of Calcutta. The topic of his Memorial Lecture was ‘Science and Technology in Ancient India: Some Aspects’. In his talk, Prof. Gangopadhyay focused on the developments in some fields of science and technology in India in ancient times. Prof. Julie Banerji presented a memento to the Speaker after his lecture. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Prof. Prabir Kumar Saha, Honorary Treasurer of ISNA.

Brief Report of XXXVII Training Programme on Science Communication and Media Practice 2024-2025

Workshop on ‘Science Tabloid Making in Bengali’

A three-days-workshop on ‘Science Tabloid Making in Bengali’ (online mode) was held from 26th to 28th June, 2024 via Google Meet. It was organised by ISNA as a part of XXXVII Training Program for Science Communication and Media Practice of ISNA. Mrs. Malabika Sengupta, formerly student of Training Programme anchored the whole workshop. Fifteen (15) participants participated in the workshop. The Welcome Address was given by Shri Prasanta K. Bose, Chairman of the XXXVII Training Programme. Prof. 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 XXXVII Training Programme, explained about the various activities conducted during last two years under the Training Programme. Dr. Debdut Ghosh Thakur, former Chief Reporter, Anandabazar Patrika, inaugurated the workshop. Prof. Prabir Kumar Saha, Honorary Treasurer, ISNA gave the Vote of Thanks.

The valedictory session was held on 28th June, 2024. Shri Prasanta K. Bose, Chairman, Organizing Committee gave Welcome Address. Dr. Arnab Kumar Banerjee presented a six-page *e*-paper, named ‘Sahaj Bigyan’, with the writeups contributed by several participants and designed by Shri Sukalyan Gain. Prof. Basab Chaudhuri, Vice-President, ISNA, Principal, Heritage Institute of Technology Kolkata and Senior Director Education, Kalyan Bharti Trust delivered the Valedictory address. Dr. Amit Krishna De, Convener delivered the Vote of Thanks.

Basic Training

Inauguration

The XXXVII Training Programme (Online): Certificate Course on Basic Training on Science Communication and Media Practice 2024-2025 of the ISNA commenced online with an inaugural ceremony on July 24, 2024. Shri Prasanta K. Bose, Chairman of the Training Course, delivered the Welcome Address. Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary of ISNA, shed light on the history of the Association and its inception. Dr. Amit Krishna De, the Convener of the Training Course and also on Honorary Secretary of ISNA, outlined the benefits and certification of the course. The Chief Guest Dr. Papiya Nandi, Former Director of JBNSTS and Emeritus Fellow of Jadavpur University, shared her insights on the benefits of the training and advised students to be regular and honest in classes to maximize their learning. Prof. Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Vice-Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University and Vice-President of ISNA, discussed the importance of science communication. Prof. Prabir Kumar Saha, the Honorary Treasurer of ISNA, delivered a Vote of Thanks. He expressed his gratitude to all the attendees and extended special thanks to the Chief Guest.

The session concluded with an Introductory Session, during which the present and past students of the course introduced themselves. Shri Prasanta K. Bose then highlighted the importance of providing scientific news in today's world, emphasizing its relevance to culture. Finally, the meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Amit Krishna De.

Brief Report on Basic Training

Classes

- Fourteen students were enrolled in the course.
- Thirty two theoretical classes were held during this period.
- The classes started from 25th July, 2024.
- Eight Workshops, Meet the Scientists and Debate Competition were arranged.

Examination

There were three types of examination as follows:

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

The final examination was held on 9th September, 2024.

Certificate Award Ceremony

ISNA hosted its Certificate Award Ceremony for the XXXVII Training Programme: Certificate Course on Basic Training on Science Communication and Media Practice on the 30th September, 2024. This was a valedictory session for the 8-week-long online Certificate Course. The session was anchored by ISNA alumni Urbi Rai and Tritisha Das and presided over by Dr. K. Muraleedharan, President of ISNA, and former Director of CSIR-CGCRI, Kolkata, India.

The programme started with a Welcome Address by Shri Prasanta K. Bose, Chairman of the XXXVII Training Programme. Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, the Honorary Secretary of ISNA who made a few remarks mentioning the success of the participants and their training in furthering science communication. This was followed by the declaration of results of the online Basic Course by Dr. Amit Krishna De, Convener of the Training Programme and Honorary Secretary of ISNA. Finally, it was time for the official launch of the Bengali *e*-paper '*Bigyan Kahon*'. Chief Guest Shri Biswajit Matilal addressed the meeting soon after the release. He shared with the audience his valuable experience in corporate communication and journalism. The closing event took place with Prof. Prabir Kumar Saha, Honorary Treasurer of ISNA, delivering the Vote of Thanks.

Advanced Training

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony Certificate Course on Advanced Training on Science Communication and Media Practice for the 2024-2025 session conducted online on 5th February, 2025. The programme was graced by Dr. Saranjit Singh, Vice-Chancellor of KIIT, Bhubaneswar, Shri Sankar Bhadra, Chief Editor of Karmakshetra, Dr. K. Muraleedharan, President of ISNA, Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary, ISNA, Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary, ISNA and Convener of the Training Programme, and Shri Prasanta K. Bose, Chairman for the Training Programme along with other dignitaries. The last speaker of the day was Dr. K. Muraleedharan, President, ISNA. Finally, the Vote of Thanks was delivered by Mrs. Arpita Chakraborty, one of the coordinators of the programme. The event was anchored by Shri Saikat Kumar Basu, a former student of ISNA and a journalist.

Brief Report of Advanced Training

Classes

- Nine students were enrolled in the course.
- Thirty two theoretical classes were held during this period.
- The classes started form 6th February, 2025
- Eight Workshops, Meet the Scientist, Debate and visits to National Library and Indian Museum were arranged.

Examination

There were three types of examination as follows:

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

The final examination was held on 17th March, 2025.

Certificate Award Ceremony

The Certificate Award Ceremony to students of the XXXVII Training Programme: Certificate Course on Advanced Training on Science Communication and Media Practice on the 29th April, 2025 in the N.R. Sen Auditorium, University of Calcutta, Rashbehari Siksha Prangan. The Welcome Address was delivered by Shri Prasanta K. Bose, Chairman of the XXXVII Training Programme 2024-2025. The programme was anchored by Dr. Amit Krishna De, Honorary Secretary, ISNA and Convener, XXXVII Training Programme 2024-2025, who also explained the outline of the course in details. Prof. Manas Chakrabarty, Honorary Secretary of ISNA, welcomed the participants. Dr. Swati Nandi Chakraborty, Environment Consultant of Cantonment Board (Govt. of India), Chief Editor, International Journal of Bioinformatics & Biological Sciences, Member, Environment Committee – BNCCI, President, Future of nature Foundation, State Chair, (WB) Circular Economy, WICCI and

UNESCO Fellow graced the occasion as a Chief Guest. The programme was presided over by Prof. Bikas K. Chakrabarti, President, ISNA. Two categories of certificates - Merit and Participation - were distributed to the successful participants. Prof. Prabir Kumar Saha, Honorary Treasurer, ISNA, concluded the program with a Vote of Thanks.

Science and Culture

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

- Six bi-monthly issues (Vol. 90, Nos. 3-12; Vol. 91, No. 1-2).
- Seventy-one (71) full articles.
- Eleven (11) Research Communications.
- ISNA received five (5) Indian journals in exchange of *Science and Culture* on complimentary basis during the period 2024-2025.

Five **Special Issues** of *Science and Culture* were published during the year – details given below:

- i) The May-June 2024 issue on ‘Lifestyle Disorders and Ayurveda’ sponsored by Paschimbanga Ayurved Chikitsak Samity, Kolkata.
- ii) The July-August 2024 issue on ‘Natural Sciences and Engineering for Sustainable Development’ sponsored by Department of Physics, Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal.
- iii) The November-December 2024 issue on ‘Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)’ sponsored by ICMR-National Institute for Research in Bacterial Infections, Kolkata (formerly ICMR-NICED), Govt. of India.
- iv) The January-February 2025 issue on ‘Aerospace and Allied Technologies’ sponsored by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

Five (5) Institutional Subscribers: The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bengaluru, Karnataka; Digha Science Centre, Midnapore (East), West Bengal; D.Z Patel Higher Secondary School, Anand, Gujrat; Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata, West Bengal; Shri Gorantla Vidyalaya, Mumbai.

Grants received

Rs. 27,000.00 was received as donations from Members of ISNA including the Council Members, for the year 2024-2025. ISNA conveys its sincere thanks and gratitude to the members of ISNA for their generous financial support.

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

Five (5) new Life Members: Dr. Anish Bhattacharyya, Mr. Debabrata Dey, Dr. Sayantan Mondal, Dr. Dibyendu Saha, Prof. Dilip Kumar Maiti

Five (5) new Ordinary Member: Er. Amar Nath Bhadra, Iftekhar Ali, Mr. Siddhartha Sankar Mondal, Mr. Kaushik Maity, Mr. Sourakar Roy

Note: Total number of Members of ISNA: 734

Meetings

Two meetings of the Council of ISNA were held on 17/09/2024 and 22/01/2025. One meeting of the Editorial Board of *Science and Culture* was held on 22/01/25.

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, former President and Prof. Bikas K. Chakrabarti, the current President of ISNA, for their 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, Printer (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.

Prof. Bikas K. Chakrabarti
President, ISNA

Prof. Manas Chakrabarty **Dr. Amit Krishna De**
Honorary Secretaries, ISNA

Dated: August 28, 2025