

IIPSAA

IIPS Alumni Association

E-Newsletter

Volume 7, December 2020



DEMOGRAPHERS' FRATERNITY MATTER



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Designed By: Labhita Das

From the editors' desk

It is our pleasure to bring out the 7th E-Newsletter of IIPSAA. As usual, this issue integrates the old and the new cohorts of IIPS. It contains the reminiscences of one of the senior-most academicians who served in IIPS for two decades. The memories shared by Prof. Arvind Pandey provide an inspiring message to the younger students who are currently enrolled at the Institute. Hope the readers will enjoy reading it. The year 2020 was a most significant year to remember by all of us as COVID-19 pandemic has affected our life in multiple ways. Though the lockdown was necessitated to contain the virus, it has also aggravated our stress levels and created mental health issues for many. Recognising this, IISAA has organized online Yoga and Fitness Sessions for the benefit of its members. The Yoga sessions were conducted by Prof. K.C. Das, a senior faculty member of IIPS and Fitness sessions were conducted by Mrs. Ajit Kaur Dhillon, a fitness specialist based in Mumbai. On behalf of IIPSAA, we thank both of them for conducting successful sessions. The IIPSAA in collaboration with IIPS and Gender Project-IIPS organized its second subsequent marathon event on "Run for Women's Safety" on 12th January 2020. This issue contains information about all three above mentioned activities. You will be happy to know that young alumni volunteers namely Deepanjali Viswakarma, Angad Singh, Labhita Das and Aditi are instrumental in bringing out this issue of E-Newsletter. We thank all of them.

Prof. R. Nagarajan
Dr. Harihar Sahoo



INVITED



Starting career with IIPS: A Memoir

Arvind Pandey

*Former Professor, Dept. of Mathematical Demography & Statistics, IIPS, Mumbai
Former Director, National Institute of Medical Statistics, ICMR, New Delhi*



Following my PhD in Statistics from Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, I joined International Institute for Population Studies (IIPS), Mumbai, in May 1982. It was the time of the annual convocation and was particularly exciting for me to be at the forefront of the academic procession as per the convention of the Institute that the junior most faculty lead the procession.

The following academic session began with the admission of the new batch of students in Certificate course in Population Studies (CPS) and Diploma course in Population Studies (DPS). There were about 15 students under Govt. of India fellowship and about the same number of UNFPA fellows from the ESCAPE countries in the CPS course. A small number of 4-5 students were admitted in the DPS course. Prof. K Srinivasan used to be the Director of the Institute at that time and there were two divisions –research division and teaching divisions headed by Prof. Sukumar Mukerji and Prof. K.B. Pathak, respectively. Prof. (Mrs.) Asha Bhende was the coordinator of projects. I found myself being placed in the research division. My initial thought was that I shall be involved only in research and not in teaching; but subsequently realized that divisions were merely for administrative purposes. These divisions evolved into several departments with the declaration of the Institute to be a deemed university by the UGC in 1985. The Institute, however, remained under the administrative control of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India. With these changes, I was placed in the Department of Mathematical Demography & Statistics.

Since I had a PhD in Statistics and my work was on stochastic models of human reproduction, I interacted closely with other senior faculty members of the Institute and audited their lectures to acquaint myself with various aspects of population science. I was assigned to teach basic statistics in CPS, population mathematics, and demographic models in DPS. I taught these courses for quite some time. The Master course in Population Studies (MPS) and MPhil in Population Studies took over the CPS course for the Govt. of India fellows and DPS instead of CPS course continued for the UNFPA fellows. I also taught Biostatistics (special paper) and occasionally technical fertility and mortality, evaluation of family planning program and population projections courses when I was coordinator of DPS.

I enjoyed my interactions with the students especially outside the classroom particularly when I was hostel warden, and I would regularly visit the hostels during

my evening walks in the campus. I recall hearing from students that sometimes they would get a bit anxious since I would appear anytime in the hostel enquiring about their issues of assignments or statistical analysis of the PhD students etc. in the Computer Centre. Long after leaving IIPS, I was talking to a former student and he shared an incidence that when he bunked my lecture once and I reached his room in the hostel enquiring about his health. I also learned that some ex-PhD students who were not registered under me would be found claiming that I was their professor or co-guide, which was not only amusing but also gratifying!

Towards research, I continued working on modeling human reproduction process and estimation of parameters such as fecundability and infertility (both primary and secondary) from the survey data on which direct data were not available. I was conferred with the *Young Scientist Award* of the Indian Science Congress in its 72nd Session held at University of Lucknow, 3-8 January 1985. On my return from Lucknow, I found Prof. Vatsala Narain who was organizing a workshop at the Institute, in the valedictory session, included a felicitation for me. The occasion was special since Dr. C. Chandrasekaran, former Director of erstwhile DTRC, was the chief guest. The day got even more exciting when, after the felicitation, Dr. Chandrasekaran took me to the library and asked me to review a chapter on birth intervals of a monograph that he was writing for the United Nations. After that exciting encounter, I was walking towards the old hostel where some of the younger faculty members including me lived in temporary accommodation (this was long before the Nerul campus came into existence) met a group of peer faculty members including Dr. P.S. Nair, Dr. Murli Dhar Vemuri, Superlunary Readers at the Institute, and Dr. Ravi Verma who also happened to be the hostel warden at that time; they were talking about me and conveying congratulations. It was humbling that they encouraged me by saying that Arvind! it was the high time for me to apply for a postdoctoral fellowship to a reputed institution in USA.

It was naturally exciting when I applied and received the Rockefeller Foundation postdoctoral fellowship to work with Prof. C.M. Suchindran at the Department of Biostatistics & Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC CH), USA for two years 1986-88. In addition to the above-mentioned models, at UNC I developed models to estimate birth intervals and parity progression ratios from vital rates initially from the data from USA and subsequently with Indian data. This exposure eventually enabled me to acquire publications in high impact factor journals like Sankhya, Biometrical Journal, Mathematical Population Studies, Mathematical Sociology, Mathematical Biosciences, Biosocial Science, Social Biology, Genus etc. The most satisfying part of my fellowship was that the Rockefeller Foundation recognized the importance and need for their fellows to continue their work after returning to their home institutions. The foundation provided me with a grant of twenty-five thousand USD to enable me with facilities like personal computers (back in the late 1980's & early 1990's, it was a pretty big deal!) and provisions for visits to the US for continued interactions.

IIPS was an incredibly special place and there always used to be a cordial relationship among students and faculty members, just like an extended family. The

Institute used to celebrate festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, Holi, Saraswati Puja, Eid, Christmas etc. together with joy and fervor. IIPS Holi (a festival of colours also known as the Indian “festival of spring”) in particular was always memorable since the students used to get together and visit every faculty member’s house on campus, put colors on everyone, and feast on **Gujhiya** (a sweet dish made with flour stuffed with khoya/maawa, sugar, coconut and dry fruits). It was almost like a procession that would conclude at the Directors’ bungalow. I recall, once students served sherbet with *bhang* that hit some of us awfully hard including few foreign students. A local physician, Dr. Katiyar, whose clinic was near IIPS was called to see us and we realized that he was also under the effect of the same drink.

Annual Foundation day celebration used to be unique at IIPS where students and the children of faculty members used to participate in the cultural programmes. We used to have activities like demography quiz, badminton, volleyball, and cricket tournaments between faculty and students. We would have exciting moments when faculty, staff and their children used to give a tough time to the students in games and when the students would lead over faculty in demography quizzes. It was truly a family like environment at IIPS! When students still recall and appreciate the culture at IIPS long after they move out, it is a real testament to the unique environment that IIPS provided for their integrated development.

Back in the day, we used to go to Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) for our computational work, but with the arrival of VAX in the Institute all the faculty and students got the opportunity to work at the IIPS Computer Centre. I learned computer application to the maximum and analyzed data from large-scale surveys popularly known as BSFM (Baseline Survey of Fertility & Mortality) conducted by the Institute in the states of Bihar, Goa, Orissa and Rajasthan and imparted training to the students.

IIPS has an excellent library that is rich not only in terms of collection of books and journals related to population and health but also rich in terms of excellent academic environment. Now a days, the library is computerized making it easy to search for books/periodicals but earlier we used to search desired material through manual catalogues. I can vouch for the staff of the library including Ms. Abraham, Mr. R.T. Randeria, Mr. K.V. Rao, Mr. D.D. Mistri and other personnel who were so helpful and they would pull up material that we were looking for, faster than a computer. I recall once, I started answering some questions for a student and totally forgot that we were at a reading table in the library. Ms. Abraham, the librarian, saw this and quick walked over and showed me a placard “Please keep silence - no discussion in the library” to which I immediately agreed. However, immediately after that she took us to her cabin and asked to continue our discussion over there. She offered tea as well showing her respect and appreciation to our discussion. I was touched by her sentiments when, on her retirement, she said that although she never married, she felt married to the IIPS library. I felt that Mr. Randeria, Mr. Rao, and Mr. Mistri continued and maintained the excellent culture and environment at IIPS Library.

There used to be biennial publication of Dynamics of Population & Family Welfare where we used to contribute papers based on the projects undertaken by

us. I feel that it was a great opportunity to disseminate in full all the exciting research we were doing in those days.

Arrival of the National Family Health Survey changed the focus of the Institute from indirect method of estimation from Census and Service Statistics to large survey methodology and data analysis on various aspects of population health. I enjoyed working with the NFHS team and colleagues at IIPS and Dr. Fred Arnold, Macro International (subsequently ORC Macro and now ICF) and Dr. Robert Rutherford, East-West Centre Hawaii. I benefited from the rich discussion of the well-known sampling expert Prof. Vijay Verma and Prof. T.K. Roy about the sampling methodology particularly on the formation of strata before the selection of primary sampling units and the use of sampling weights. I feel that Institute's collaboration with MACRO/ICF has been most remarkable in the history of Indo-US research collaboration. With increasing demand to widen its scope in coverage in each round of the survey e.g. introduction of aspects like status of women, nutrition among children and women in reproductive age with anthropometric and hemoglobin measurements, domestic violence and reproductive health issues in NFHS-2, serological prevalence of HIV in NFHS-3, and measurements of blood pressure, random glucose level etc. during NFHS-4. The first three rounds of NFHS were to provide estimates at the state and national level whereas NFHS-4 provided district level estimates for certain service-related parameters. In fact, there was a deliberation in the ministry to integrate DLHS and NFHS as district level integrated health survey but I as the chair of the TAC, NFHS-3 and an invited member, was happy to emphasize that our efforts to maintain high quality data and effective dissemination in collaboration with ICF yielded NFHS the brand name in survey research and convinced the group of policy makers to retain the name NFHS-4.

Another memorable and most important part of IIPS was the student term papers when students were assigned marks for each component including content, presentation, defense, and participation in others' papers. This period used to be the most exciting in terms of learning and development and close interaction of students. The activity was given utmost importance where all the faculty used to be present for the entire period of presentation and offered suggestions to students. I felt this was one of the best parts of IIPS education programme making its alumnus of the highest quality.

In addition to working on demographic models of fertility and mortality, in the mid-eighties, I also worked on the application of models of migration in collaboration with Prof. P.C. Saxena. This effort was towards a paper to be presented at a National Conference and I found there was plenty of scope to work on migration and urbanization. In the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, almost everyone must have realized the importance of this subject that has great relevance in population health. In my opinion, another area that requires attention is tribal demography and tribal health. I recall that once we (researchers from IIPS) proposed to work on a project on tribal health among the Baiga tribe in collaboration with ICMR - National Institute of Research in Tribal Health (NIRTH), erstwhile Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Jabalpur. I, along with Prof. G Rama Rao and couple of scientists from RMRC travelled to Baiga-Chuk for a pre-survey assessment. On our return trip, our car met

with an accident around the midnight and it rolled into a canal. However, we all were lucky and escaped unhurt; the local villagers helped to rescue us within no time. It was cold December night and we had to take shelter in the village nearby. In the morning we learned the name of the place was Dindori Block; near to the holy place of Amarkantak, the origin of Narmada and Sone rivers, and where the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University has now come up. And, when the survey was finally started afterwards, we decided to undertake it at a place none other than the Dindori Block.

In 2000, I moved to New Delhi as the Director of the ICMR - National Institute of Medical Statistics and continued there until my superannuation in January 2017. Presently, I am working as National Chair (Medical Statistics), ICMR. I continue my association with IIPS both formally as chair/member of a number of research committees and informally as I've kept my doors open to students, faculty and managers of various health and population programmes seeking support in research methodology and programme evaluation. I have guided the end-line survey of the Integrated Nutrition Health Project (INHP), Care India, USAID; Evaluation of the Impact of ICDS Fortified Food on Children's Health, World Food Programme (WFP), Evaluation of India Population Project (IPP-VIII), NCD Risk Factor Survey, MOHFW/World Bank in select States of India. My association with Late Prof. B.N. Bhattacharya, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata is noteworthy. With the support of UNICEF, we worked together on the analysis of infant and child mortality in India comparing NFHS-1, NFHS-2 and NFHS-3 to examine the social determinants and the prospects of achieving MDG-4. We also revisited the analysis under NFHS Subject Report No. 16 "Are the WHO Guidelines on Breastfeeding Appropriate for India?" and offered suggestions for improvement in the analysis.

I worked with national programmes such as NACO's HIV Sentinel Surveillance, *modelling and estimation of diseases burden due to HIV* and their National Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) survey as a part of monitoring and evaluation of the impact of National AIDS Control Programme in India since 2003. I have been associated with national surveys to estimate the disease burden and deaths due to malaria by evolving active surveillance approach in the survey. I guided the national survey to estimate the disease burden due to leprosy in India with the evolution of inverse sampling as a systems approach. The same is currently being utilized to assess the progress of tuberculosis control programme in India. The foregoing researches have been disseminated in high impact factor journals of biomedical research and public health. I am currently associated, as its member, with the Operations Research Group of the National Taskforce on Covid-19.

I feel happy to be associated with the discipline and the programme as the Chair/Member of Technical Advisory Committees/Groups, e.g. National Family Health Surveys (NFHS-3, NFHS-4, NFHS-5), District Level Household Surveys, Annual Health Surveys, Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) at the MOHFW, and other health surveys in collaboration with the UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNAIDS, Population Council. I remember when we, as the Member of the Committee to strengthen Population Research Centre (PRCs) with Prof. P.M. Kulkarni as the Chair and Prof. K.S. James, Prof. Sayeed Unisa and Dr. Jyoti Hallad, visited selected

PRCs to review their activities, help strengthening the PRCs and prepared the report which was unique in the sense that it gave the historical background and contribution of PRC in the formulation of population policy and programme implementation. We wished for them to be a strong arm of the M&E of the MOHFW in collaboration and guidance of IIPS.

I also happen to be the member of the committee constituted by MOHFW to restructure the academic activities of IIPS with Joint Secretary (RCH) in chair. On that forum, I emphasized for IIPS to be a multidisciplinary Institute and being the only university on population science in the world, it should be recognized as an *Institute of National importance* like IITs under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata under the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, and AIIMS under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare etc.

I tried to promote research in the field of population and health as the president of the professional societies like Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP) 2006-10 and the Indian Society for Medical Statistics (ISMS), 2009-10. I enjoyed serving as the Chief Editor of *Demography India* (Journal of IASP) during 2002-06. Earlier to that in 1996-98, when from IIPS, Prof. Pathak was President, Prof. Sumati Kulkarni, vice-President, Prof. Rama Rao, Treasurer, and I was the General Secretary of IASP, we initiated felicitating senior Demographers in its Annual Conferences beginning from Bharathiar University, Coimbatore in 1997 and I am happy that the same is continued.

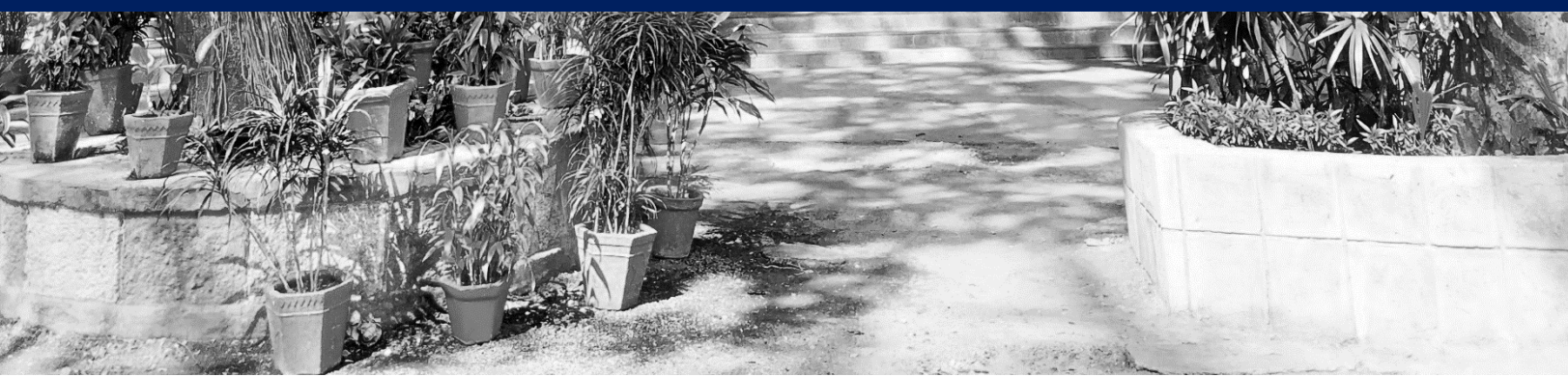
With the support from the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and the WHO, I established the *Clinical Trials Registry – India (CTRI)* - national data repository on clinical trials developing a link between clinical research and the public. It helps with addressing the parliament's questions related to clinical trials in India. CTRI is linked to the International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP), the global portal of the WHO making globally accessible the data. It is heartening to note that today no clinical trial's result can be published in any journal without a CTRI registration number.

I have been recently awarded with the *Prof. P.V. Sukhatme Memorial National Award* by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) for life time contributions and achievements in the field of official statistics on the National Statistics day - birthday of Dr. P.C. Mahalanobis, father of Indian Statistical System - on 29th June 2020.

I am grateful to the IIPSAA for inviting me to write this memoir.




IIPSAA CONDUCTED ACTIVITIES



Fitness and Yoga Session: Time to Unlock Your Potentials

The COVID-19 caused lockdown and posed multidimensional impact on the routine life of people. The life became standstill; movement and physical activities got restricted to homes, lifestyle changed, offices and institutions got temporarily closed and may more. This put lots of challenges and stress to all the communities in the society in terms of how to stay safe, feel positive, upkeep the sound physical and mental health. Considering these aspects, IIPS Alumni Association (IIPSAA) in collaboration with IIPS organized two virtual sessions on YOGA and FITNESS under the heading "Time to Unlock Your Potential" from 1st June, 2020 to 12th June, 2020. The sessions were organized by Dr. Dhananjay Bansod, Dr. Dipti Govil and Dr. Archana K. Roy.




IIPS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fitness and Yoga Session

TIME TO UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIALS

Let's open up ourselves in this lockdown period

Organised by



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION SCIENCES


"व्यायामात् लभते स्वास्थ्यं दीर्घायुष्यं बलं सुखं।
आरोग्यं परमं भाग्यं स्वास्थ्यं सर्वार्थसाधनम्॥"

JOIN US FROM JUNE 01, 2020 (MONDAY) TO JUNE 05, 2020 (FRIDAY)

PROGRAM	TIME
Yoga and Meditation (by Dr. K.C. Das)	09:55-11:00 A.M
Fitness Session (by Mrs. A.K. Dhillon)	04:55-06:00 P.M


NOTE :- Keep alongside mat, towels & hydration with you
Mute your microphone as soon as you join and keep your speaker view on
Please be on time as we all are super excited to see you

JOIN ZOOM MEETING- <https://zoom.us/j/390935590?pwd=V0Z0TKNKSTRAMXLMT04SUDINKZSDZ09>
ZOOM MEETING ID: 390 935 5590 ZOOM MEETING PASSWORD: 123456



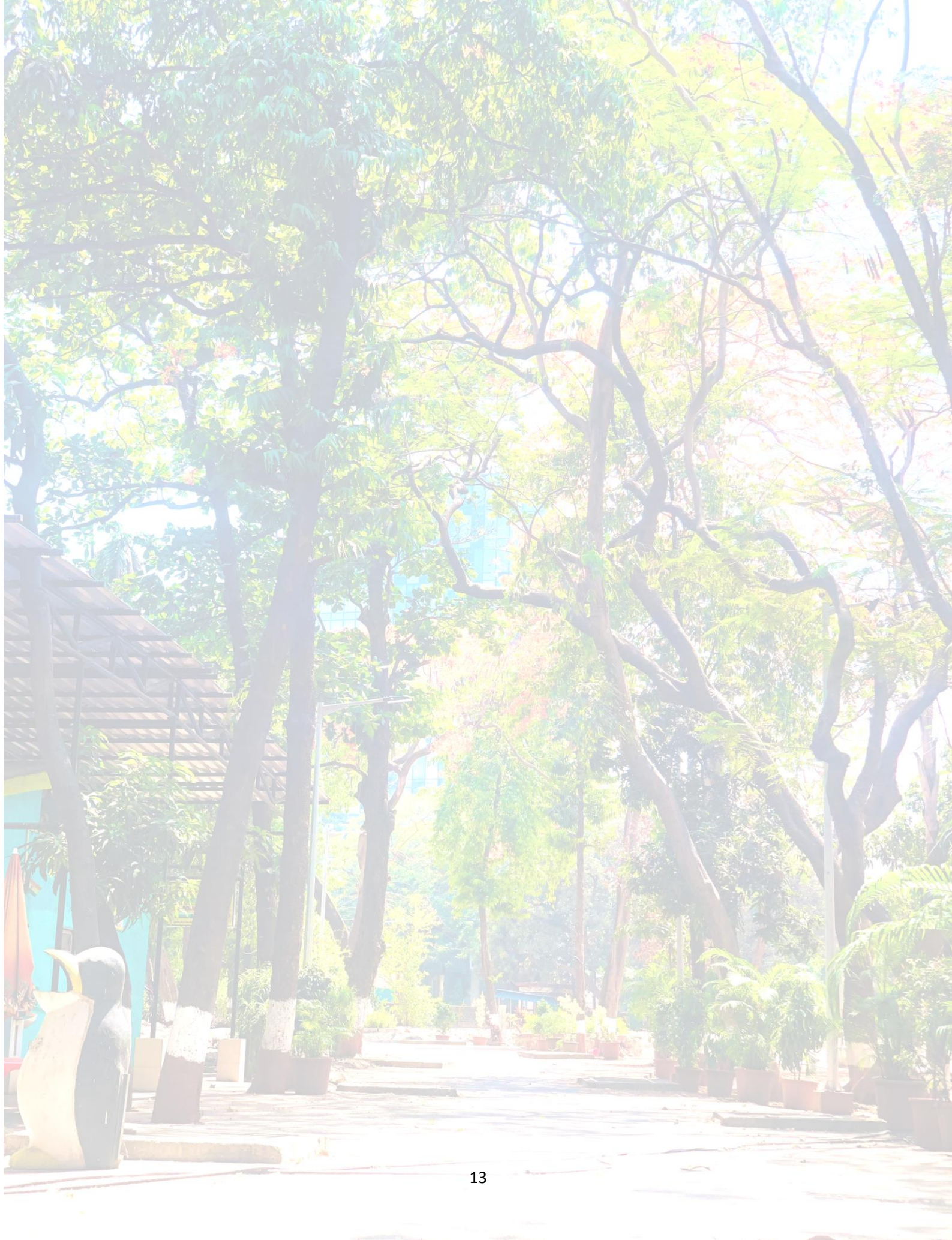
DR. KAILASH CHANDRA DAS
PROFESSOR IIPS, MUMBAI

He completed his Ph.D. in Population Study from International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, 1998. Prof. Das completed yoga teachers training course from Bihar School of Yoga, Munger, Bihar, 1995 and also completed Yoga Instructors Course from Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhan Sansthan (deemed university), Bangalore, 2015. He has been taking yoga classes of IIPS staffs and faculties.



MRS. AJIT KAUR DHILLON
AMBASSADOR, PINKATHON NERUL(E)

Mrs. Ajit Kaur Dhillon hails from Jammu. During her school days, she was a track and field athlete and had won many races, high jumps, long jumps and relay runs. She started running marathons in 2018 and became Pinkathon Ambassador in December, 2018. She formed Pinkathon Nerul East Group in January 2019. Her Team is proud holder of World Record for Pinkathon Plankathon 60 sec, Guinness Book of World Record for 60 sec plank. Her Yogathon group holds Limca Book of Record for 151 Suryanamaskars. She has been a motivator and pacer for many runs.



Yoga Session

(8:00 am to 9:00 am)

The practice of yoga leads to the union of individual consciousness with that of the universal consciousness indicating a perfect harmony between the mind and body, nature and universe. The yoga sessions were conducted by **Prof. K.C. Das** in the morning from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Prof. Das is not only an eminent educationist but also, he has keen interest in yoga. He completed yoga teachers training course from Bihar School of Yoga, Munger, Bihar and also completed Yoga Instructors Course from Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhan Sansthan (Deemed University), Bangalore. The event was open for all who were associated with IIPS. Around 40 participants including students, faculty, staff and alumni participated in yoga sessions. Prof. Das instructed participants about different pranayamas and asanas. He also explained the positive outcomes of each of those Pranayamas and Asanas. This session was highly beneficial and it helped to relieve physical and mental stress, sharpen attention and concentration. Participants demanded a regular session of yoga at least once a week. Our sincere thanks to the Director and Sr. Professor, Dr. K.S. James for his timely support and encouragement and ICT unit for technical support. The student volunteers who played very vital role in organizing the event were Mr. Angad Singh, Ms. Sinjini Ray, Mr. Adarsh, Imaduddin Ansari and Mr. Amit Ranjan.

Few glimpses of yoga session





Fitness Session

(5:00 pm to 6:00 pm)

The second virtual session conducted in the evening was on Fitness and Work Out. This session was conducted by **Mrs. Ajit Kaur Dhillon** during evening from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Mrs. Dhillon is a track and field athlete and Pinkathon Ambassador of Nerul East Group. The **Sports Therapist Dr. Divya Sharma** was also invited instructor on the last day. The event was open for all who were associated with IIPS. Around 15-30 participants including students, faculty, staff, alumni and Pinkathon Nerul team (last five days) participated in this fitness sessions. These sessions were highly beneficial to relieve physical and mental stress. Our sincere thanks to the Director and Sr. Professor, K.S. James for his support and encouragement and ICT unit for their technical support. The student volunteers Ms. Koyal Sindhu, Mr. Saurabh Singh and Mr. Kaushal Kumar were proved to the backbone in conducting these sessions.

Few glimpses of fitness session

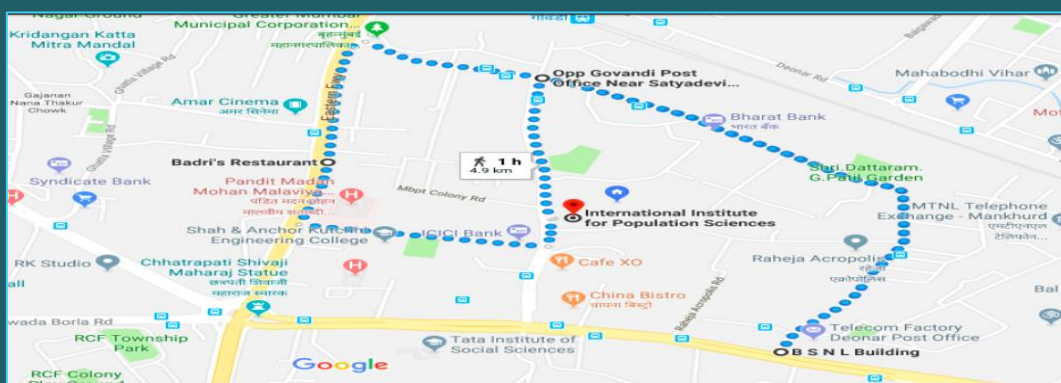


Marathon Run Organised by IIPSAA

The IIPSAA in collaboration with IIPS and Gender Project-IIPS organized its second subsequent marathon event on “Run for Women's Safety” on 12th January 2020. The event aimed to create the awareness about women safety through physical fitness for self-defense. The event was inaugurated by the Acting Director Prof. R.B. Bhagat and IIPSAA Vice-Chairman Prof. R. Nagarajan.

The run was for short distances of 2 kms and 5 kms within Deonar area in the vicinity of the IIPS campus. The event was open for students, IIPS family members as well as outsiders. Around 290 participants including students, faculty, staff and alumni participated in the event. Among faculties, Prof. R.B. Bhagat, Prof. B. Paswan, Prof. T.V. Sekher, Prof. R. Nagarajan, Prof. Archana K Roy, Dr. Dhananjay Bansod, Dr. Dipti Govil from IIPS and Prof. Shivakami from TISS also participated in the run.

The run was financially supported by Alma Matter IIPS, Gender Project-IIPS and IIPSAA. All the registered participants were provided with T-shirt, water bottle and refreshments. The IIPS Students Council played a key role in organising and making the event successful. Ms. Amiya Shaikh, Students Council member and M.Phil. student conducted the warm up and cool down sessions. Doctors and paramedical staff were stationed at the venue and along the route at selected points. Volunteers were present at the venue as well as along the route to guide the runners and to help in the conduct of activities at the starting and endpoint. Mumbai Traffic Police helped in regulating traffic during the run. The Police Department also extended its support and guidance to conduct the run successfully.







TRIBUTES



A Tribute to Dr. Swarbhanu Nandi

August 19 1985 to May 21 2020



IIPS fraternity has lost Dr. Swarbhanu Nandi on 21st May 2020. **A condolence meeting was organized at 11:00 am on 25th May 2020 through Zoom** to pay tributes to Dr. Nandi. A total of 104 participants participated in the meeting.

Dr Swarbhanu Nandi completed his MPS in 2010 and MPhil in 2012 from IIPS. He had successfully defended his Ph.D. viva voce exam on February 04, 2020, and completed all the academic requirements for attaining his doctorate degree. Prior to the award of the degree, he had worked in SAGE Wave-2 project at IIPS and other research projects as a Senior Project Officer at IIPS. Prior to his untimely demise, he was working with an organization in Uttar Pradesh for the last few months.

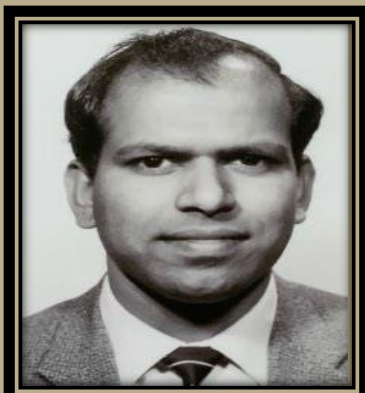
He was a bright, sincere and dedicated student and above all, he was a very gentle and compassionate human being. We are deeply saddened by the early demise of a young intellectual scholar and professional. He has survived by his elderly parents and two college going younger sisters. Our deep condolences to his grieved family. We pray to Almighty to give them strength to bear the loss.

May his divine soul rest in peace!

Obituary

Dr. K. G. Basavarajappa,

March 18, 1931 – September 11, 2020.



18/03/1931 to 11/09/2020

Dr. K.G. Basavarajappa, 89 years of age, died on September 11, 2020 at the Heart Institute, Ottawa, Canada. As Dr. Frank Trovato of the University of Alberta wrote to Dr. M.V. George soon after he got the sad news of Dr. Basavarajappa passing away, "K.G. was a fine person and a highly respected population scholar and researcher in various fields of demography and the number of publications to his credit attest to his scholarly achievements."

Dr. Basavarajappa was born on March 18, 1931 in Karnataka state, India. After obtaining an M.Sc. degree in Statistics from Karnataka University, India in 1956, he was appointed in the Department of Statistics as lecturer in 1956-1958. He then received a Government of India scholarship to pursue studies in Demography at the U.N. sponsored Demographic Training and Research Centre (DTRC) in Mumbai (which became the International Institute for Population Sciences, a Deemed University) in 1958 and obtained a post-graduate Diploma in Demography in 1960. He then returned to his position as lecturer in Statistics at Karnataka University, 1960-1961. In his quest for higher studies, he obtained a Ph.D. scholarship for studies in Demography at the Australian National University (ANU) and was awarded his Ph.D. degree in 1964.

During 1964-66, he worked as a Senior Demographer at the International Institute for Population Studies, Mumbai. He moved to USA to work as a Visiting Associate Professor of Population Dynamics, School of Hygiene of Public Health, at Johns Hopkins University, 1970-71. Then, he migrated to Canada to work as Associate Professor of Sociology, at the University of Western Ontario. Finally, he had a long career as Director of Population Estimates and Projections Division, Associate Director of Demography Division, and Advisor at Statistics Canada from 1975 to 1998.

Between 1981 and 1988, Dr. Basavarajappa directed Dr. Ravi B.P. Verma's research on immigration and the development of the methodology for producing annual population estimates for small areas (Census Divisions and Census Metropolitan Areas). This research work resulted in the development of a small area methodology. A number of research papers on immigration were also published jointly.

He was thesis/dissertation advisor of outstanding demographers, including M. Sivamurthy (Ph.D., 1967-70), Australian National University, and M. Vlassoff (M.A.,

1973-74) and R.D. Sharma (M.A.), both at the University of Western Ontario. He was a member of several professional associations: International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), the Population Association of America (PAA), where he served as a member of Ethics Committee, the Canadian Population Society (CPS), where he served on the Executive Committee, and the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP).

He enjoyed jogging and bike riding during his younger days. When he became older he changed his hobby to walking, which he did regularly in all weather conditions, especially after his heart surgery in 1983. His steady walking exercise coupled with his diet regime helped him to live 37 years after his surgery. He thus became a role model for patients with bypass surgery.

Dr. K.G. Basavarajappa was a kind and friendly person with soft manners. He treated his family members, relatives, and friends with compassion and love. He is survived by his wife (Ratna), daughter (Sudha), son (Udai), daughter-in-law (Elizabeth), and granddaughter (Aster) and grandson (Aril). He will be missed by his dear family, numerous friends, and relatives.

Ravi Verma, Ph.D.

Researcher and Consultant
Ravi Verma Associates,
3 Forestglade Crescent,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 5X3
Canada

IIPSAA members

Sr. No.	Name	Membership	Email address
01.	Dr. B.K. Gulati	Life Member	gulbk@hotmail.com
02.	Dr. Arni S. R. Srinivasa Rao	Life Member	arni2006@gmail.com
03.	Prof. Arun Kumar Sharma	Life Member	arunk@iitk.ac.in
04.	Dr. Ponapalli Krishna Murthy	Life Member	pkmurthy2001@yahoo.com
05.	Prof. F. Ram	Life Member	fram@iips.net
06.	Prof. Usha Ram	Life Member	usharam@iips.net
07.	Prof. P. Arokiasamy	Life Member	parokiasamy@iips.net
08.	Prof. K.C. Das	Life Member	kcdas@iips.net
09.	Dr. Arindam Ray	Life Member	rayrin@yahoo.com
10.	Prof Chander Shekhar	Life Member	buddhab@iips.net
11.	Prof T.V. Sekher	Life Member	tvsekher@gmail.com
12.	Dr. Manoj Alagarajan	Life Member	alagarajan@yahoo.com
13.	Dr. Abhishek Singh	Life Member	abhishek@iips.net
14.	Dr. Aprajita Chattopadhyay	Life Member	aparajita@iips.net
15.	Dr. Sourabh Chakarborty	Life Member	saurabh@iips.net
16.	Dr. K.G. Santhya	Life Member	kgsanthy@popcouncil.org
17.	Prof S.K. Mohanhy	Life Member	sanjay@iips.net
18.	Prof. K.S. James	Life Member	ksjames@iips.net
19.	Mr. Sunil Sarode	Life Member	s.sarode@iips.net
20.	Ms. Pallavi Gupta	Life Member	pu.gupta.pallavi@gmail.com
21.	Ms. Garima Dutta	Student Member	garimadutta03@gmail.com
22.	Prof. Sayeed Unisa	Life Member	unisa@iips.net
23.	Prof. H. Lungdim	Life Member	lungdim.hem@iips.net
24.	Prof. S.K. Singh	Life Member	sksingh1992@yahoo.co.in
25.	Prof. Ladu Singh	Life Member	lslashram@iips.net
26.	Prof. B. Paswan	Life Member	bpaswaniips@gmail.com
27.	Prof. R. B. Bhagat	Life Member	rbbhagat@iips.net
28.	Prof. D.P. Singh	Life Member	dpsingh1212@gmail.com
29.	Dr. Phrangstone Khongji	Life Member	phrang2000@yahoo.com
30.	Dr.S.L.N. Rao	Life Member	sterlingrao@gmail.com
31.	Dr. Rajiva Prasad	Life Member	rajiviips@gmail.com
32.	Ms. Nabnita Mujumdar	Life Member	singhjayakant.tiss@gmail.com
33.	Dr. Vipul Vaibhav Pandey	Life Member	vipulvaibhav.pandey@gmail.com
34.	Mr. Shubhranshu Kumar Upadhyay	Life Member	upadhyay.iips@gmail.com
35.	Mr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat	Life Member	prckashmir@gmail.com
36.	Prof. M.Guruswamy	Life Member	gmadappa@gmail.com
37.	Prof. Dhaneswar Harichandan	Life Member	dharichandan@rediffmail.com
38.	Mr. Jaykant Singh	Student Member	nabanitamajumder.iips@gmail.com
39.	Mr. Konsam Dinachand Singh	Life Member	dinakon1001@hotmail.com
40.	Mr. Prakash H. Fulpagare	Life Member	prakash_f17@yahoo.com

41.	Mr. Rakesh Kumar Singh	Student Member	rakesh5700@gmail.com
42.	Mr. Raj Narayan	Life Member	rajiips2008@gmail.com
43.	Ms. Sujata Verma	Life Member	sujatastats@gmail.com
44.	Ms. Grace Bahalen Mundu	Life Member	grace.mundu@gmail.com
45.	Ms. Anupam Shukla	Life Member	anushukla473@gmail.com
46.	Ms. Kshipra Jain	Life Member	kshipra@gmail.com
47.	Mr. Rajan Kumar Gupt	Life Member	rajan.gupt@gmail.com
48.	Ms. Ankita Siddhanta	Life Member	ankita.siddhanta@gmail.com
49.	Mr. Arunanand Murmu	Life Member	arun.pantnagar@gmail.com
50.	Prof. T.K. Roy	Life Member	tarunkroy@yahoo.com
51.	Shri K.B. Gatpagar	Life Member	prakash_f17@yahoo.com
52.	Prof. C.P. Prakasam	Life Member	c_prakasam@yahoo.com
53.	Dr. Dharendra Kumar	Life Member	dhir@iihmr.org
54.	Mr. Jetendra Gouda	Student Member	jitushome@gmail.com
55.	Ms. Manisha Dubey	Life Member	manisha.iips@gmail.com
56.	Prof. S. Parasuraman	Life member	sparasuraman@tiss.edu
57.	Prof. Sulabha Parasuraman	Life member	sulabhap@rediffmail.com
58.	Ms. Anjula Srivastava	Life member	anjula.saraff@gmail.com
59.	Dr. Manasi Bawdekar	Life member	manasibawdekar@gmail.com
60.	Mr. Ashwani Kumar	Student Member	ashwaniips17@gmail.com
61.	Mr. Ramu	Student Member	ramu.iips@gmail.com
62.	Mr. Le Truong	Life member	truongpce2005@gmail.com
63.	Dr. Alok Kumar	Life member	alokkumar@hotmail.com
64.	Prof. K. Srinivasan	Life member	srini_02@yahoo.com
65.	Prof. Subrata Lahiri	Life Member	subrata.lahiri@yahoo.com
66.	Mr. Brajesh	Student Member	iipsalumani2014@gmail.com
67.	Prof. Sumati Kulkarni	Life Member	sumati2610@gmail.com
68.	Ms. Ranjana Kesarwani	Life Member	ranjanaiips@gmail.com
69.	Dr. Kamla Gupta	Life Member	guptak511@gmail.com
70.	Ms. Kakoli Borkotoky	Life Member	kakoli.26nov@gmail.com
71.	Ashish Kumar Gupta	Life Member	ashishatbhu@gmail.com
72.	Mr. Abhishek Kumar	Life Member	abhi85_iips@rediffmail.com
73.	Ms. Kiran Agrahari	Life Member	kiranagrahari@gmail.com
74.	Prof. Irudaya Rajan.S	Life Member	rajan cds@gmail.com
75.	Dr. Shivalingappa Sangappa Halli	Life Member	shivahalli@yahoo.com
76.	Dr. Pradeep Kumar Bhargawa	Life Member	crsi@mdurohtak.ac.in
77.	Ms. Shalini Ishwar Meshram	Life Member	shalin.meshram@gmail.com
78.	Dr. Arup Kumar Das	Life Member	arupdas2006@gmail.com
79.	Dr. Vipin Saini	Life Member	sainivipin21@gmail.com
80.	Dr. Nandita Saikia	Life Member	nandita@iegindia.gmail.com
81.	Dr. Shireen Jeejeebhoy	Life Member	sjejeebhoy@gmail.com
82.	Dr. K.M. Satynarayana	Life Member	kmsathya@gmail.com
83.	Dr. Monika Dasgupta	Life Member	mdasgupta@gmail.com
84.	Ms. Ruby Jain	Life Member	ruby.jain30@gmail.com
85.	Ms. Aparna Mukherjee	Life Member	tiya.mukherji@gmail.com

86.	Mohammad Hifz Ur Rahman	Life Member	mhifzurrahman@gmail.com
87.	Mr. Manish Singh	Life Member	manishsingh.iips@gmail.com
88.	Dr. Shalini Verma	Life Member	shalini.emails@gmail.com
89.	Dr. Parimita Dutta	Life Member	paromitaiips@gmail.com
90.	Mohd. Shannawaz	Life Member	shahnawaz725@gmail.com
91.	Dr. Harihar Sahoo	Life Member	harihar@iips.net
92.	Ms. Namita Sahu	Life Member	namitasahoo2002@yahoo.com
93.	Ms. Tanim Basu	Student Member	tanimabasu23@gmail.com
94.	Mr. Uttam Jakoji Sonkamble	Life Member	uttamiips@gmail.com
95.	Mr. Uttamacharya	Student Member	rahulvbb@gmail.com
96.	Mr. Bidyadhar Dehury	Life Member	bidyadehury@gmail.com
97.	Mr. Prashant Kumar Singh	Life Member	prashants.geo@gmail.com
98.	Ms. Mousumi Gogoi	Life Member	gogoi.mousumi2008@gmail.com
99.	Ms. Lucky Singh	Life Member	lucky.5bhu@gmail.com
100.	Ms. Itismita Pradhan	Life Member	Itismitaipradhan16@gmail.com
101.	Mr. Anil Hiwale	Life Member	hiwaleanil@gmail.com
102.	Mr. Naveen Kumar Roy	Life Member	roynaveen@rediffmail.com
103.	Ms. Kaveri Madhukar Patil	Life Member	kaveripatil26@gmail.com
104.	Mr. Anshul Kastor	Life Member	anshulkastor@gmail.com
105.	Mrs. Neeta Govind Mali	Student Member	nitu24.6070@gmail.com
106.	Mr. Pushpendra Kumar	Life Member	pushpendra.geo@gmail.com
107.	Mr. Myank Prakash	Life Member	mayankprakash12@gmail.com
108.	Ms. Soumi Mukherjee	Life Member	soumi.mukherjee2k@gmail.com
109.	Ms. Biswabandita Chowdhury	Life Member	brahmi.on.hills@gmail.com
110.	Ms. Sarita Gunaji Pawar	Student Member	saritaiips@yahoo.co.in
111.	Mr. Prahlad Kumar	Life Member	prahladkumar26@gmail.com
112.	Mr. Jitendra Gupta	Life Member	jiitend@gmail.com
113.	Ms. Ritika Mukherjee	Student Member	writtika.mukherjee@gmail.com
114.	Ms. Atreyee Sinha	Life Member	moon.on.rocks@gmail.com
115.	Mr. Shiva Nand Chauhan	Life Member	chauhanshiva@gmail.com
116.	Mr. Narendra Kumar	Life Member	narendra07bhu@gmail.com
117.	Mr. Awdhesh Yadav	Life Member	awdhesh.stat@gmail.com
118.	Mr. Kaushalendra Kumar	Life Member	kaushalendra.1983@gmail.com
119.	Mr. Satish Kumar Chauhan	Life Member	satishkmr289@gmail.com
120.	Mr. Praveen Kailash Chokhandre	Life Member	praveenchokhandre@gmail.com
121.	Mr. Khullak Meson Maring	Life Member	kmmaring@gmail.com
122.	Dr. Sharifa Begum	Life Member	sharifa.bids@gmail.com
123.	Dr. Agnihotram Venkta Ramana Kumar	Life Member	avrkumar@hotmail.com
124.	Ms. Amrita Gupta	Life Member	amritagupta7@gmail.com
125.	Mr. Arvind Santu Jadhav	Life Member	arvina27@gmail.com
126.	Dr. B.P. Thiagarajan	Life Member	ponman2k@yahoo.com
127.	Dr. G. Rama Rao	Life Member	garimella@gmail.com
128.	Dr. Somnath Mukherjee	Life Member	somnathmukherjee_bcc@yahoo.com
129.	Ms. Akansha Singh	Life Member	akanshasinghiips@gmail.com
130.	Ms. Kirti Gaur	Life Member	gaurk.iips@gmail.com

131.	Dr. Murali Dhar	Life Member	m.dhar@iips.net
132.	Dr. Archana K. Roy	Life Member	royarchana@iips.net
133.	Ms. Aishwarya	Life Member	aishwaryar840@gmail.com
134.	Dr. Rajiv Ranjan	Life Member	rranjan@micronutrient.org
135.	Ms. Ankita Srivastava	Student Member	ankita.srivastava148@gmail.com
136.	Mr. Raman Mishra	Life Member	raman.mishra10@gmail.com
137.	Ms. Chhavi Paul	Student Member	chhavi.paul@gmail.com
138.	Mr. Guru Vasishtha	Student Member	guruvasishth15@gmail.com
139.	Mr. Aman Raj Gupta	Student Member	aman1987raj@gmail.com
140.	Mr. Amit Kumar	Life Member	amitgeoiips@gmail.com
141.	Ms. Poulomi Chowdhury	Student Member	rheamoitriiips92@gmail.com
142.	Mr. Donald Ricaldo Mawkhlieng	Life Member	mawdonric@gmail.com
143.	Mr. Jitendra Kumar	Student Member	jit.kumar327@gmail.com
144.	Mr. Radhe Shyam Mishra	Student Member	radheshyammishra111@gmail.com
145.	Prof. R. Nagarajan	Life Member	nagarajan@iips.net
146.	Mr. Bedanga Talukdar	Life Member	bedanga.talukdar@yahoo.com
147.	Mr. Bibhishan Bhuyan	Life Member	bibhishanabhuyan@gmail.com
148.	Ms. Prashika Rajendra Kurlikar	Student Member	prash.kurlikar@gmail.com
149.	Mr. Sanyam Kapur	Student Member	kapur.sanyam@gmail.com
150.	Ms. Tanya Shrivastava	Student Member	tanya31191@gmail.com
151.	Ms. Risha Singh	Student Member	rishasingh51@gmail.com
152.	Mr. Laeek Siddiqui	Life Member	laeekraja@gmail.com
153.	Dr. Neeta Mazumdar	Life Member	mazumdarneeta8@gmail.com
154.	Ms. Ankita Kumari	Life Member	ankita.iips@gmail.com
155.	Ms. Vidya Yadav	Life Member	vidyayadavkp@gmail.com
156.	Mr. Jaymangal Chandra	Life Member	jaymangalchandra@gmail.com
157.	Mr. Prakash C.D.Meher	Student Member	prakashmeheriips@gmail.com
158.	Ms. Mamta Rajbhar	Life Member	kmmamta.manu@gmail.com
159.	Dr. U.S. Mishra	Life Member	mishra@cds.ac.in
160.	Dr. Mala Rangnathan	Life Member	malaramanathan@yahoo.co.uk
161.	Dr. Ravi Bhushan Prasad Verma	Life Member	ravi2@verma
162.	Mr. Ajit Kumar Yadav	Student Member	ajitkumaryadav1989@gmail.com
163.	Dr. Ulmire Venkata Somayajulu	Life Member	ulmire.vs@gmail.com
164.	Dr. K.S. Seetharam	Life Member	kseetharam@hotmail.com
165.	Dr. Sarang Pradipkumar Pedgaonkar	Life Member	sarang@iips.net
166.	Dr. Laxm Kant Dwivedi	Life Member	laxmikant@iips.net
167.	Mr. Pradeep Subhashrao Salve	Student Member	pradeep8889@gmail.com
168.	Mr. Jang Bahdur Prasad	Life Member	jbiips12@gmail.com
169.	Mr. Rakesh Kumar	Student Member	rakesh.smith1987@gmail.com
170.	Mr. Bal Govind Chauhan	Student Member	govind.iips@gmail.com
171.	Ms. Suchandrima Chakraborty	Student Member	suchindramachakraborty@gmail.com
172.	Mr. Chhathu Kumar Sahu	Student Member	chhathukumars@yahoo.com
173.	Mr. Sidheswar Birua	Student Member	sidh.birua.bhu@gmail.com
174.	Ms. Rajeshwari Annappa Biradar	Student Member	rajeshwaribiradar@ymail.com
175.	Mr. Mausam Kumar Garg	Life Member	mausamkumar39@gmail.com

176.	Mr. Ruchita Bhalechandra Sakpal	Life Member	ruchita.sakpal.8@gmail.com
177.	Mr. Kabir Pal	Life Member	kabirpal2008@gmail.com
178.	Mr. Hanumant Kashinatha Waghmare	Life Member	hanumantw@gmail.com
179.	Mr. Himanshu	Life Member	himanshudcsk@gmail.com
180.	Ms. Mithilesh Chourase	Student Member	mithlesh.1303@gmail.com
181.	Mr. Rajaram Yadav	Student Member	raja.smile85@gmail.com
182.	Ms. Amrapali Mukherjee	Life Member	mukherjee.amrapali@gmail.com
183.	Mr. Abhishek Kumar	Life Member	abhionline91@gmail.com
184.	Mr. Rahul Rajendra Koli	Student Member	rahul.stat1987@gmail.com
185.	Mrs. Dorothy Sudatar Tayade	Life Member	aorothy2108@gmail.com
186.	Dr. Vijaya Pradip Khairkar	Life Member	vpkhairkar@unipune.ac.in
187.	Mr. Balasaheb Madhukar Bansode	Student Member	bansodebalasaheb7@gmail.com
188.	Mr. Sachin Ramesh Lokhande	Student Member	sachinlokhande33@gmail.com
189.	Mr. Ajay Gupta	Life Member	ajaygiips@gmail.com
190.	Ms. Sritapa Chatterjee	Student Member	chatterjee.sritapa@gmail.com
191.	Mr. Sharad Kumar Suman	Student Member	shadworld@live.com
192.	Ms. Anita Pal	Student Member	palanita78@gmail.com
193.	Mr. Kumar Chiman Sinha	Student Member	chiman.iips29@gmail.com
194.	Mr. Sanjit Sarkar	Student Member	sanjitiips@gmail.com
195.	Mr. Ravindra Chowdhary	Life Member	rony.pooniya1191@gmail.com
196.	Dr. Dhananjay Wamanrao Bansod	Life Member	dhananjay@iips.net
197.	Dr. Dipti Govil	Life Member	dgovil@iips.net
198.	Dr. Manas Ranjan Pradhan	Life Member	manas@iips.net
199.	Mr. Amit Sachan	Student Member	sachanamit31@gmail.com
200.	Dr. Ruchi Jain	Life Member	ruchi_iips@yahoo.co.in
201.	Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh	Life Member	krasajay@yahoo.co.in
202.	Ms. Nidhi Jain	Life Member	jain_nidhi29@yahoo.com
203.	Ms. Bharati Maurya	Life Member	bharati.iips@gmail.com
204.	Dr. Bidhubhusan Mahapatra	Life Member	bbmahapatra@gmail.com
205.	Dr. Ravi Prakash	Life Member	ravi.prakash@phfi.org
206.	Dr. Radhakrishnan	Life Member	s.radhakrish@gmail.com
207.	Ms. Usha Radhakrishnan	Life Member	ushajohn2k@yahoo.com
208.	Arun Kumar Yadav	Life Member	arungeoiips@gmail.com
209.	Mr. Olkendra Prashad	Life Member	lokenderlokender@gmail.com
210.	Dr. Sucharita Pujari	Life Member	sucharitapujari@gmail.com
211.	Dr. Ravichandran	Life Member	ravichandrarc@gmail.com
212.	Dr. Rahul Dev Bhawsar	Life Member	rbhawsar@rediffmail.com
213.	Mr. Abhishek Saraswat	Student Member	asaraswat98@gmail.com
214.	Mr. Mukesh Ranjan	Student Member	mukeshranjan311984@gmail.com
215.	Mr. Junaid Khan	Life Member	junaid@iips.net
216.	Mr. Mahadev Diganbar Bhise	Student Member	mdbhise@iips.net
217.	Dr. Ravi Kumar Verma	Life Member	rverma@icrw.org
218.	Dr. Niranjana Saggurti	Life Member	niranjansaggurti@gmail.com
219.	Dr. Saritha Nair	Life Member	nairs@icmr.org.in
220.	Mr. Abhishek Gautam	Life Member	agautam@icrw.org

221.	Dr. Nilanjana Pandey	Life Member	npandey@popcouncil.org
222.	Ms. Vandana Gautam	Life Member	vanadana.gautam@gmail.com
223.	Dr. Damodar Sahu	Life Member	sahuicmr@gmail.com
224.	Dr. Sanjay Kumar	Life Member	skumar@unfpa.org
225.	Ms. Tillottama Ghosh	Life Member	waggymaggy@gmail.com
226.	Dr. Rahul Sadashiv Bawankule	Life member	rahulbams2010@gmail.com
227.	Dr. Arvind Pandey	Life member	arvindpandey@icmr.org.in
228.	Prof. N.S. Bist	Life Member	nsbist55@gmail.com
229.	Dr. Rajat Shrivra Adhikary	Life Member	radhikary@popcouncil.org
230.	Ms. Kajori Banerjee	Life Member	wonthing12@gmail.com
231.	Ms. Seri Chanda	Life Member	srei1988@gmail.com
232.	Ms. L.K. Wonthing	Life Member	kajori.b2012@gmail.com
233.	Mr. Mukesh Ravi Ranjan	Life Member	mrr.iips@gmail.com
234.	Mr. Santosh Bhagwanrao Phad	Life Member	santoshphad@gmail.com
235.	Mr. Lalit Kumar Rawat	Student Member	lalit299956@gmail.com
236.	Mr. Navaid Ali Khan	Student Member	navaidkhan85@gmail.com
237.	Mr. Imtiyaz Ali	Student Member	ali@iips.net
238.	Mr. Raj Kumar Verma	Student Member	rajverma_bhu@yahoo.co.in
239.	Dr. M.V. Vaithilingam	Life Member	vaidhya_iips@rediffmail.com
240.	Mr. Rihini Laxman Sapkal	Life Member	rohini.sapkal@rediffmail.com
241.	Ms. Shraboni Patra	Life Member	shrageo@gmail.com
242.	Mr. Ashish Upadhyay	Life Member	ashu100789@gmail.com
243.	Ms. Swati Srivastava	Life Member	sswati146@gmail.com
244.	Dr. Hanimi Reddy Modugu	Life Member	hreddy@icrw.org
245.	Mrs. Barasharani Maharana	Life Member	barsha.iips@gmail.com
246.	Mr. Kamalesh Kumar Patel	Life Member	kamaleshkumar.patel@gmail.com
247.	Ms. Divya Kumari	Student Member	mishradivya08@gmail.com
248.	Ms. Ankita Shukla	Student Member	ankita17shukla@gmail.com
249.	Ms. Vaishali Chaurasia	Student Member	vchaurasia09@gmail.com
250.	Mr. Rishabh Gupta	Life Member	rishabhgupta.bhu@gmail.com
251.	Mr. Solomon Debbarma	Life Member	sollu37@gmail.com
252.	Ms. Priyanka B. Bomble	Student Member	priyankabomble05@gmail.com
253.	Mr. Rahul Mishra	Student Member	iips.rahul@gmail.com
254.	Ms. Ragini J. Mishra	Student Member	ragini.1502@gmail.com
255.	Mr. Y. Selvamani	Student Member	selvinsw@gmail.com
256.	Mr. Sharban Sarkar	Student Member	shraban.sarkar@iips.net
257.	Mr. Brijesh Kumar Yadav	Student Member	brijeshyadav4431@gmail.com
258.	Mr. Pradeep Kumar	Life Member	pradeepiips@yahoo.com
259.	Mr. Rajeev Kumar	Life Member	jeh.rajeev.jeh.kumar@gmail.com
260.	Mr. Ambarish Kumar Rai	Student Member	ambarish.k.raai@gmail.com
261.	Mr. Gyan Chandra Kashayp	Student Member	statskashyap@gmail.com
262.	Ms. Sunita Patel	Student Member	sunitapatel56@gmail.com
263.	Ms. Enu Anand	Student Member	enu@iips.net
264.	Dr. Suryakant Yadav	Life Member	suryakant_yadav@iips.net
265.	Dr. Pralip Kumar Narzary	Life Member	pralipkn@gmail.com

266.	Dr. Sudhir Shrinivas Kulkarni	Life Member	naigaon55@outlook.com
267.	Dr. Arvinda Meera Guntupalli	Life Member	arvindaguntupalli@gmail.com
268.	Prof. Prem Saxena	Life Member	premsaxena2004@yahoo.com
269.	Ms. Debashree Sinha	Life Member	debashreesinha04@gmail.com
270.	Ms. Adrita Banerjee	Life Member	adrita.banerjee@yahoo.co.in
271.	Mr. Strong P. Marbaniang	Student Member	marbaniangstrong@gmail.com
272.	Mr. Ravi Kant Soren	Life Member	ravikantsoren@gmail.com
273.	Dr. Moolamattam V. George	Life Member	moolamattomgeorge@yahoo.com
274.	Dr. Atul Rameshchandra Gandhi	Life Member	gandhiar@gmail.com
275.	Dr. Arun Kumar Sinha	Life Member	aksinhapm.gmc@gmail.com
276.	Dr. Pandurang Jamanrao Sontakke	Life Member	pandurang.sontakke@gmail.com
277.	Mr. Rakesh Kailas Bhadane	Life Member	rakeshbhadane@yahoo.com
278.	Dr. Sanchita Dhananjay Sarang	Student Member	sanchitasarang@gmail.com
279.	Dr. Manoj Kumar Raut	Life Member	mraut@NUTRITIONINTL.ORG
280.	Dr. Jayachandran Vasudevan	Life Member	Jayachoo@gmail.com
281.	Dr. Vaijayanti Sanjeev Patwardhan	Life Member	drvpatwardhankem@gmail.com
282.	Mr. Yogesh Sudhakar Kherdekar	Life Member	ykherdekar@gmail.com
283.	Mr. Subhash Chandra	Life Member	subhash.sati@rediffmail.com
284.	Ms. Udit Chatterjee	Life Member	reachuditachatterjee@gmail.com
285.	Dr. Beena Narayan Tripathi	Life Member	beena.tripathi@ies.edu
286.	Mr. Prashant Ananda Vaidande	Life Member	vaidande31@gmail.com
287.	Dr. Dharmalingam	Life Member	dharma.arunachalam@monash.edu
288.	Mr. Rajesh Kumar Rai	Life Member	rajesh.iips28@gmail.com
289.	Ms. Deepika Phukan	Life Member	deephukan93@gmail.com
290.	Ms. Priyanka Vijay Janbandhu	Life Member	priyankajanbandhu@gmail.com
291.	Dr. Khyati Avinash Aroskar	Life Member	4khyati@gmail.com
292.	Mr. Angad Singh	Life Member	anagdh Singh219@gmail.com
293.	Ms. Sreeja Nair	Life Member	sreejanair302@gmail.com
294.	Ms. Varsha Pandurang Nagargoje	Life Member	varshanagargoje@gmail.com
295.	Ms. Minakshi Vishwakarma	Life Member	minakshiiips@gmail.com
296.	Ms. Deepanjali Vishwakarma	Life Member	deepanjali.vishwakarma7@gmail.com
297.	Mr. Umenthala Srikanth Reddy	Life Member	umenthala.srikanth@gmail.com
298.	Ms. Debolina Bhaumik	Life Member	bhaumikdebolina@gmail.com
299.	Ms. Sayantani Chatterjee	Life Member	621sayantani@gmail.com
300.	Mr. Prashant Bhimrao Dongardive	Life Member	prashantbhimrao@gmail.com
301.	Mr. Mohd Usman	Life Member	usmaniips@gmail.com
302.	Ms. Rati Parihar	Life Member	ratiparihar23@gmail.com
303.	Mr. Prashan Kumar Mudi	Life Member	prasannamudi@gmail.com
304.	Mr. Samarul Islam	Life Member	samarulislam@gmail.com
305.	Ms. Pramita Debnath	Life Member	pfreetoflyd@gmail.com
306.	Ms. Bidita Dhar	Life Member	dharbidita@gmail.com
307.	Mr. Abhishek Sharma	Life Member	2n.abhishek@gmail.com
308.	Ms. Nutan Kumari	Life Member	nutan.dudi@gmail.com
309.	Mr. Prakash Kumar	Life Member	prakashkumar@iips.net
310.	Ms. Tanushree Dutta	Life Member	tnsrutta@gmail.com

311.	Mr. Nelson Eranklin Soy	Life Member	nelsonsoy4@gmail.com
312.	Ms. A.H. Srithi Anil Kumar	Life Member	shrutz91@gmail.com
313.	Mr. Suyash Mishra	Life Member	suyashmishra1592@gmail.com
314.	Dr. Harshada B. Pawar	Life Member	mayankhvp85@gmail.com
315.	Dr. Vijay Sambhaji Patil	Life Member	Drvijayspatil82@gmail.com
316.	Mr. Suhas Karamdas Mankar	Life Member	suhas@iihmr.edu.in
317.	Mr. Soman K.K.	Life Member	kksoman9@gmail.com
318.	Mr. Sekhar Chauhan	Life Member	shekhariips2486@gmail.com
319.	Mr. Satya Narayan Panchal	Life Member	panchal.sn@gmail.com
320.	Dr. Latashori Keithellakpam Kshetrimayum	Life Member	hopard.rci@gmail.com
321.	Dr. Lakhn Singh	Life Member	lakhan.nird@gov.in
322.	Dr. Digambar Abaji Chimankar	Life Member	digambar.nird@gov.in
323.	Ms. Apurva Ponnappalli	Life Member	apurva.ponnappalli2014@yahoo.com
324.	Dr. Malaisamy Muniyandi	Life Member	mmuniyandi@yahoo.com
325.	Mr. Raviraj N	Life Members	raviraj.iips@gmail.com
326.	Mr. Rajiv Kumar Bhardwaj	Life Member	rajivkbhardwaj@gmail.com
327.	Mr. Vaibhav Avinash Joshi	Life Member	vaibhavajoshi@yahoo.com
328.	Ms. Ratna Patel	Life member	ratnapatelbhu@gmail.com
329.	Mr. N. Brahmanandam	Life member	brahmameco@gmail.com
330.	Ms. Mangesh Gajanan Jagdhane	Life member	mangesh2308@gmail.com
331.	Prof. Nirmal Chandra Dash	Life member	ncdash53@gmail.com
332.	Dr. Varsha Maske Sorgiokar	Life member	drvarsha2020@gmail.com
333.	Dr. Suresh Jundari	Life member	sbjunari@iipsindia.ac.in
334.	Dr. Dilip T.R.	Life member	diliptr@iipsindia.ac.in

STUDENT VOUNTEERS

Ms. Deepanjali Viswakarma

Mr. Angad Singh

Ms. Labhita Das

Ms. Aditi

**Status of IIPSAA Membership
December 2020**

