



# Conference Report 2023

## INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HEALTH (IASSSH)

### International Conference

15-17 March, 2023

*Jointly with*

**Sharda University, Greater Noida**



# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

**INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HEALTH  
(IASSH)**

***In collaboration with***

**Sharda School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Sharda University, Greater Noida**

*THEME:*

**Contextualizing Health in Social Sciences:  
Global and National Perspectives**

***15-17, March 2023***

**&**

**Pre-conference Workshop on  
"Qualitative Research Methods in Social  
Sciences"**

***13-14, March 2023***

**Sponsors:**



## **About IASSH:**

The Indian Association of Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) is a registered society that is affiliated with the International Forum of Social Sciences and Health (IFSSH) through the Asia Pacific Network (APNET). The primary goal of IASSH is to create a forum for scientists, research scholars, practitioners, and policy makers from various disciplines to collaborate on social and cultural dimensions of illness, health, and healthcare in India. The association aims to strengthen its networking capabilities with similar organizations both domestically and internationally, and to initiate appropriate and affordable health sector reforms to evolve an equitable healthcare system in India. IASSH has around 1300 life members who belong to different fields of social sciences and health studies.

The association encourages young scholars by providing them with a platform to share their research findings. IASSH conducts annual conferences and workshops where its life members and collaborating institutions can exchange ideas, thus creating a network for outreach on a continuous basis. Through the dissemination of research findings, the association hopes to bring about concerted action to address emerging issues in health and development sectors. IASSH's activities include conducting annual conferences on themes relevant to social sciences and health, identifying and recognising young researchers and their valuable publications.

## **Background of the Conference:**

The concept of health encompasses physical and mental well-being, which is experienced by people living in harmony with their environment and each other. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges and opportunities to evaluate health perspectives from a global to a local level. Health is influenced by various factors such as economic conditions, psychological parameters, and policies. The context in which people live play a crucial role in determining their health, and personal resources, including health capital, culture, region, and circumstances, influence healthcare utilization and behaviour. Understanding health involves examining three levels: people, perspectives, and context. The contributions of humanities and social sciences to the study of health are extremely diverse and can be put into the context of perspectives and culture. This multidisciplinary conference provides an opportunity for academicians, researchers, medical practitioners, funding partners, philanthropists, and non-profit organizations to exchange their research work, ideas, and policy perspectives.



## Inaugural Session

The conference began with a formal inauguration at the **Anand Swaroop Auditorium** of **Sharda University** at **10:00 AM** on **15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**. The lighting of the lamp and invocation of the deity marked the beginning of the conference, followed by the felicitation of guests, presentation of mementos, and bouquets. The dignitaries present were welcomed by the Dean (SSHSS) of Sharda University, Prof. Anviti Gupta. The guests included eminent personalities from various fields, such as academia, industry, and government. Prof. Sandhya Rani, General Secretary of IASSH, provided information about the association and spoke about the preparations for the conference programs, which included two memorial lectures. She highlighted the importance of the conference in bringing together experts and scholars from various domains to exchange ideas, share knowledge, and discuss emerging trends and challenges.



**Lighting of lamp by dignitaries at the Inaugural Session.**



**Participants attending the Inaugural Session.**



The Presidential Address was delivered by Prof. T V Sekher, the President of IASSH. He spoke about the importance of contextualizing health in social sciences, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary approaches to improve health outcomes. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between social scientists and health policy makers for better health outcomes. By working together, social scientists and health policy makers can improve health policy and practice, increase knowledge and understanding, and change attitudes and behaviours related to health.



**Prof. T.V. Sekher (President, IASSH)**

Prof. Sibaram Khara, Vice Chancellor (Sharda University) delivered the Inaugural Address, highlighting the role of universities in promoting research and innovation in the field of health. Prof. Khara outlined the measures taken by the Institute in promoting research and collaboration. He thanked the IASSH for the productive collaboration for the workshop and the conference. He also extended continued support for the academic programs of IASSH. The Guest of Honour, Dr. Girish Tyagi, President, Delhi Medical Association, shared his thoughts on the current state of healthcare in India and the need for reforms.



**Prof. Sibaram Khara (VC, Sharda University)**

Dr. Sudhir Gupta, Secretary of NCD at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI, delivered the keynote address. He discussed the global and national perspectives of health in social sciences, focusing on the challenges and opportunities for improving healthcare in India. Dr. Pragya Gupta, Conference Secretary proposed the vote of thanks expressing gratitude to all the participants and guests for their valuable contributions to the conference. The inaugural session was attended by more than 400 participants, including 32 from abroad.



## Inaugural Session:



**Dr. Girish Tyagi**



**Dr. Sudhir Gupta**



**Dr. K. N. Tiwari**



**Prof. Sandhya Rani**



**Prof. Anviti Gupta**



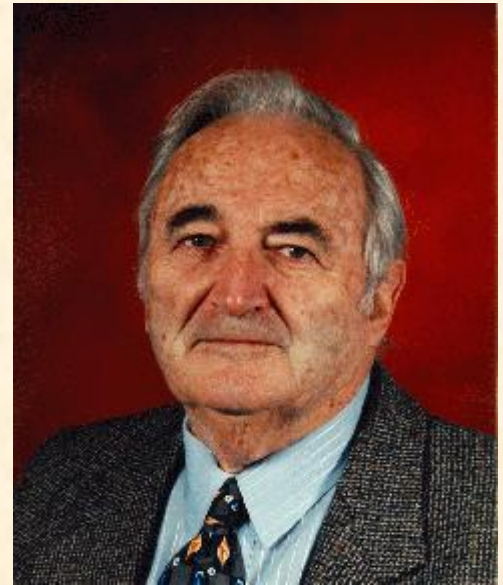
**Dr. Pragya Tiwari Gupta**



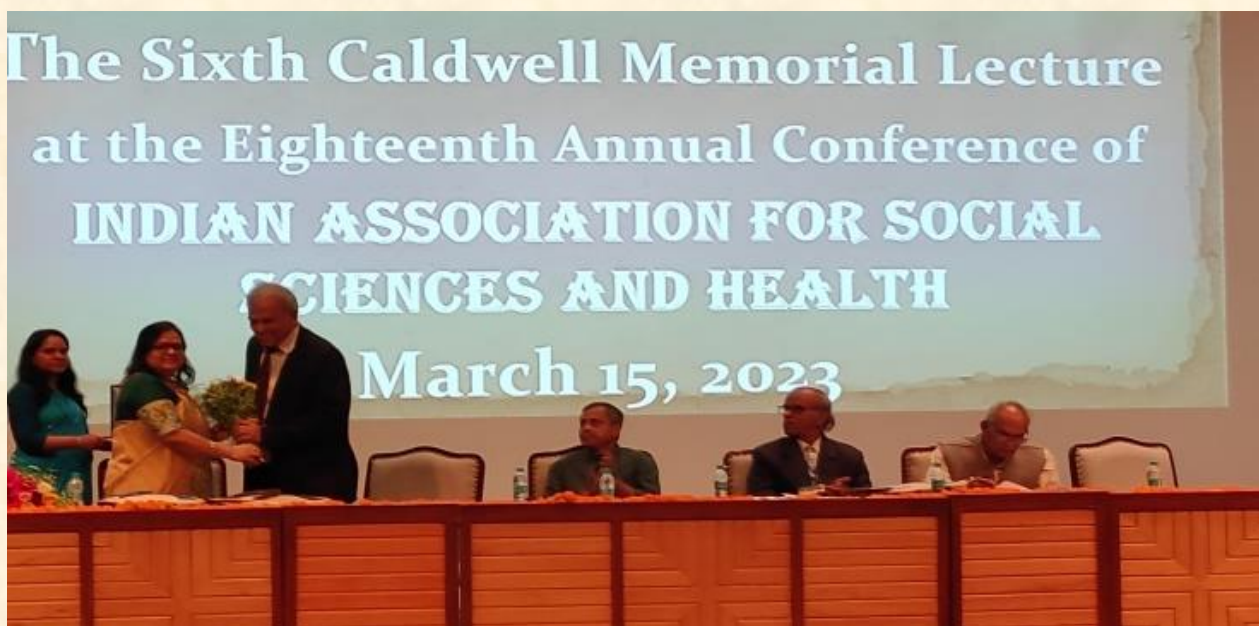
**Opening Day of the IASSH Conference 2023 at the Anand Swaroop Auditorium of Sharda University.**

## Sixth Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture

The Doyen of Demography, Professor John Charles (Jack) Caldwell, died on 12th March 2016 at the age of 87 in Canberra. He was associated with the Department of Demography of the Australian National University (ANU) for many decades. Caldwell's seminal work included documentation of the role of mother's education in fertility limitation and child mortality decline and the role of circumcision in inhibiting the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa. He is known for his "wealth flows" theory, which relates demographic transition theory to changes in intergenerational transfers within the family. He has encouraged and mentored



many young scholars from India, and a good number of them received their Ph.Ds from ANU under his able guidance. His anthropological demographic work on South India, particularly on marriage, fertility and contraception, received much research attention. At the initiative of Prof. K.N.M. Raju, his students, colleagues and friends have approached the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) to institute a memorial lecture in his honour. Considering this request, the IASSH instituted the lecture series in memory of the most famous demographer of our times.



**Felicitation of Prof. Amitabh Kundu (who delivered the Dr Caldwell Memorial Lecture) by Prof. Anviti Gupta, Prof. C.P. Prakasam and Prof. K.N.M. Raju on the dais.**



The Sixth Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture was held at the Anand Swaroop Auditorium, Sharda University. Prof. T V Sekher, (President, IASSH) chaired the session. The session began with an introduction by Prof. K.N. M. Raju about the life and works of Prof. John Caldwell, a renowned demographer who contributed significantly to the field of demography.

The guest speaker was Prof. Amitabh Kundu (Professor Emeritus at L. J. University, Senior Fellow at



the World Resources Institute and Adjunct Fellow at Research and Information System for Developing Countries.) who delivered the sixth Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture on the theme - **"Multi-dimensional Poverty for Planned Intervention and Monitoring in India"**.

He highlighted the need for a multidimensional approach to poverty measurement and suggested the use of various indicators such as health, education, and access to basic amenities to capture the various dimensions of poverty. Prof. Kundu emphasized the importance of addressing poverty as a multidimensional issue and the need for planned interventions to address the specific needs of various sections of the population. He also discussed the challenges in monitoring

poverty reduction efforts and suggested the use of technology and data-driven approaches for effective monitoring and evaluation.

The lecture was followed by a Q&A session, where the audience had the opportunity to interact with the speaker and clarify their doubts. Dr. Rukmani proposed the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the guest speaker, the chairperson, and the audience for their active participation and contribution to the event. Overall, the Sixth Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture provided valuable insights into the multidimensional nature of poverty in India and emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to poverty reduction efforts.



## 8th Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture

IASSH has instituted a memorial lecture in honour of Prof. K.E. Vaidyanathan since 2014. He was the President of the Indian Association for Social Sciences and Health (IASSH) from 2007 to 2011 and was mainly responsible for the expansion of the Association to its present form. Dr. Vaidyanathan was a distinguished demographer who served in various capacities in the United Nations and other organizations. He started his career as a faculty at the International Institute for Population Sciences in Mumbai and later became the Head of the Department of Population Studies at the Institute of Rural Health and Family Planning in Gandhigram. He then joined the UN system and worked in various countries such as Egypt, Syria, Uganda, and Sudan, where he helped establish centers for population studies and research, advised planning commissions, and conducted successful population surveys and censuses. In his later years, he also helped plan and implement the Living Standards Measurement Survey in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Dr. Vaidyanathan passed away in 2014 at Bangalore.



**Prof. Abhiroop Mukhopadhyay, Prof. T.V. Sekher, Prof. N. Audinarayana. Prof. Sandhya Rani, Prof. Anviti Gupta. Dr. Ramna Thakur, Dr. Pragya Gupta and others.**



8<sup>th</sup> Dr. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture was held at the Chanakya Auditorium, on the 16th of March 2023. The session was chaired by Prof. T V Sekher and co-chaired by Prof. Anviti Gupta. The event was graced by the presence of distinguished personalities, scholars, students. Prof. N. Audinarayana, spoke about the life and contributions of Prof. Vaidyanathan. The speaker for the



event was Prof. Abhiroop Mukhopadhyay from Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Delhi, who spoke on the topic, *"Education and Economic Prosperity: Lessons from the Past and What it Means for Our Future."* Prof. Mukhopadhyay's lecture provided valuable insights into the role of education in achieving economic prosperity. He highlighted the importance of education in creating a skilled workforce and driving innovation, which are critical factors in achieving economic growth. He also drew attention to the historical context, illustrating how education has played a critical role in the economic development of various nations in the past.

The lecture was followed by a vote of thanks, by Dr. Ramna Thakur, who expressed her gratitude to all the speakers and participants for their valuable contributions. The event was well-attended, and the audience actively participated in the discussions that followed.



Participants attending the Prof. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture



## Technical and Poster Sessions

We are happy to report that IASSH received an overwhelming response to our call for abstracts in all three categories – Oral, Poster, and Youth Best Paper Award competition. A committee selected the abstracts for the conference. Thirteen technical sessions were held, in which 75 papers were presented by researchers. Forty poster presentations were made in two sessions on the 15th and 16th of March. The Best Youth Paper award competition was conducted on 17th March, in which 20 young researchers participated.



**Technical sessions are in progress.**



**IASSH volunteers with local organizing team of Sharda University.**





**Foreign scholars attending the conference with Prof. Sibaram Khara (VC, Sharda University)**

### **Valedictory Session**

The valedictory session was held at the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium. The session was coordinated by Dr. Sachee and Dr. Neeru Nagar, and chaired by Prof. TV Sekher, with Prof. Anviti Gupta serving as the co-chair. The session was honored by the presence of Prof. Sibaram Khara (Vice Chancellor, Sharda University) and Prof. Parma Nand (Dean Academics, Sharda University). The valedictory session began with Prof. Anviti Gupta welcoming the audience and the guests. Prof. Sibaram Khara delivered the valedictory address. Prof. Khara spoke about the advantages and benefits of an academic conference like this in better networking and collaboration for researchers and young scholars.

Prof. T.V. Sekher, as president of IASSH, expressed his happiness in the successful completion of the conference and thanked the local organizers, for their active involvement and commitment in successfully organizing the conference and the workshop. He also thanked the participants of the conference and members of the Association for their co-operation and support in enhancing the profile and activities of IASSH. Prof. P.M. Sandhya Rani, General Secretary, IASSH proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of the Association.



The session ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Pragya Gupta, the Conference Convener, who thanked all the participants, guests, sponsors and organizers for their contribution in making the event a success.



**Dr. Pragya Gupta, conference convener, at the valedictory session.**



**Participants attending the valedictory Session at the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam auditorium**

### **Announcement of the Awards:**

The highlight of the session was the announcement of the Best Youth Paper and Poster Awards. The awards were given to young researchers for their exceptional work in the field of research. The winners were selected based on their research findings, methodology, and presentation skills. President of IASSH, Prof. T.V. Sekher announced the awards for best youth papers and best posters,

selected by expert committees. The winners of the prestigious **Youth Best Paper Awards - 2023** were four young researchers **Ronak Paul (IIPS, Mumbai), Krishna Kumar (JNU, New Delhi), Kirti (IIPS, Mumbai), Noyel Sebastian (Kerala University)** and they were each honoured with a certificate and cash prize.

**The Best Poster Awards - 2023** were given to four young scholars **Deboshree Das (IIPS, Mumbai), Raghawi (Sharda University), Shilpa G Nair (Bharathiar University, Coimbatore), Shriya Bajaj (IIM, Ahmedabad)** and they received the certificates and cash prizes. Their achievements were applauded by the audience. The conference secretariat team included Dr. P. Murugesan, Mr. Anjani Kumar Mishra, Mr. Jitender Prasad, Mr Pankaj Kumar Patel and Ms. Jhumki Kundu of IASSH.

### **The Best Poster Award Winners- 2023**



**Ms. Shilpa G Nair**



**Ms. Shriya Bajaj**



**Ms. Raghawi**



**Ms. Deboshree Das**

### **Youth Best Paper Award Winners - 2023**



**Ms. Kirti**



**Mr. Ronak Paul**



**Mr. Krishna Kumar**



**Mr. Noyel Sebastian**



## Cultural Evening:

On the evening of March 15<sup>th</sup>, a cultural program was held at the Anand Swaroop auditorium to showcase the rich traditional cultural heritage of dance and songs of India. The program featured various dance forms including classical, folk, and contemporary dances. The dancers, dressed in colourful and traditional attire, presented a beautiful display of artistry and grace. The audience was enthralled by the performances, which transported them to a different world altogether.

In addition to the dances, there were also several musical performances that included both classical and modern songs. The singers, accompanied by talented musicians, mesmerized the audience with their melodious voices and soulful renditions. The event was a testament to the fact that cultural programs like these are a great way to promote and preserve our cultural heritage. The event was well-attended and was appreciated by all participants.



**Musical performance by students of Sharda University.**



**Classical Dance by students of Sharda University.**

## **EC and General Body Meetings of IASSH:**

The Executive Committee (EC) of IASSH met on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and deliberated on various activities of the Association. The meeting also discussed issues regarding regional chapters, research workshops and fund mobilization. The General Body (GB) meeting took place on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The discussions in the GB meeting were on the membership drive, new collaborations, and newsletters, fund mobilization for the conference, and planning for the next conference. The Audited Statement of Accounts of the Association for the year 2021-22 was presented and was approved by the EC and General Body. The audited statement of accounts is placed on the IASSH website for the reference of the members. 18<sup>th</sup> annual conference received financial support from Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai and Dept. of Health and Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh Government. IASSH is thankful to these organizations for their collaboration and support in successfully organizing the conference at Sharda University.

## **New Office Bearers (2023-25):**

IASSH General Body unanimously elected the office bearers for the next two years. Prof. T.V. Sekher (IIPS, Mumbai) is re-elected as the President of the Association.

### **Office bearers are:**

**Prof. T.V. Sekher (President)**

**Dr. V. Selvaraju (Vice President)**

**Prof. P.M. Sandhya Rani (General Secretary)**

**Dr. Malika B. Mistry (Joint Secretary)**

**Dr. Manoj Alagarajan (Treasurer)**

**The Executive Committee members are:** Prof. R. Nagarajan, Prof. R. Maruthakutti, Prof. T. B. Singh, Dr. Ramna Thakur, Dr. P. Thiagarajan, Dr. Pragya Tiwari Gupta, Dr. Dipti Govil and Dr. Ranjan Prusty

**Members of the Board of Trustees are:** Prof. C.P. Prakasam, Prof. A. K. Sharma, Prof. K.N.M. Raju and Prof. N. Audinarayana. Prof. S. Siva Raju (former President, IASSH) is the ex-officio member in the Executive Committee.



## 11<sup>TH</sup> Pre-Conference Workshop on 'Qualitative Research Methods in Social Sciences'

The pre-conference workshop was held during 13th to 14th March, 2023 at Sharda School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sharda University. In order to train the young research scholars, IASSH has initiated the Pre-Conference Workshop from the year 2010 onwards. Important aspects of qualitative research methods were discussed in this year's workshop and the experts provided guidance to the participants in analyzing the qualitative data. This year 18 research scholars from various universities and institutes across India and 16 foreign delegates have participated in the workshop. They gave the feedback that workshop was a useful training for them in fine-tuning their research skills. The participants were given certificates and a book on 'Qualitative Research Methods' (Sage Publications) by IASSH.

**Topics Covered in the Workshop:** Introduction to Qualitative Research, Selection of Research Problem, Approaches in Qualitative Research, Strength and Limitations of Qualitative Research, Methods of Collection of Qualitative Data, Development of Tools, Data Analysis using Atlas-ti.



**Workshop participants with the Workshop Coordinators.**

**Resource Persons for this year's Workshop:** Dr. Deeksha Bajpai (Delhi University), Dr. Rupsa Banerjee (IIHMR, Delhi), Prof. N. Nakkeeran (Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi), Dr. Daliya Sabastian, (CARE India, Delhi), Dr. B. Madhusudhana (Population Council, New Delhi).

Prof. T. V. Sekher and Prof. Anviti Gupta presented the certificates and Research Methodology books to the participants. Prof. T.V. Sekher and Dr. Pragya Gupta were the Coordinators of the two-day workshop, supported by Mr. Jitender Prasad and Mr. Pankaj Kumar Patel.



**Prof. T. V. Sekher and Prof. Anviti Gupta presenting the certificates to the workshop participants.**



## Annex 1

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

<b>Program Schedule</b>	
09:30 AM	<b>Registration Begins</b>
10:00 AM – 11:50 AM	<b>Inaugural Session</b>
11:50 PM – 12:10 AM	<b>High Tea</b>
12:10 PM – 01.15 PM	<b>Sixth Prof. John Caldwell Memorial Lecture</b> <i>Venue: Anand Swaroop Auditorium</i>
01:30 PM - 02:30PM	Lunch Break
12:00-17:00 hrs	<b>POSTER PRESENTATIONS (A)</b> <i>Venue: Outside Anand Swaroop Auditorium</i>
14:30-15:45 hrs	<b>Technical Session 1: Ageing and Health</b> <i>Venue: Room no. 802, Eight Floor, Block 7</i>
14:30-15:45 hrs	<b>Technical Session 2: Maternal Health and Fertility</b> <i>Venue: Room no. 402, Fourth Floor, Block 7</i>
14:30-15:45 hrs	<b>Technical Session 3: Health Financing</b> <i>Venue: Room no. 804, Eight Floor, Block 7</i>
15:45-16:00 hrs	<b>Tea Break:</b>
16:00 -17:30 hrs	<b>Technical Session 4: Gender Issues</b> <i>Venue: Room no. 802, Eight Floor, Block 7</i>
16:00 -17:30 hrs	<b>Technical Session 5: Morbidity and Disease Burden</b> <i>Venue: Room no. 402, Fourth Floor, Block 7</i>
16:00 -17:30 hrs	<b>Technical Session 6: Reproductive Health</b> <i>Venue: Room no. 804, Eighth Floor, Block 7</i>
18:00-19:00 hrs	<b>Cultural Programme</b>  <i>Venue: Anand Swaroop Auditorium,</i>
19:30-21:00 hrs	<b>Dinner:</b> <i>Venue: Foyer, Anand Swaroop Auditorium</i>

<b>Thursday 16th March 2023</b>	<b>Day II</b>
10:00-11:15 hrs	<b>Eight Dr. K. E. Vaidyanathan Memorial Lecture</b> <i>Venue:</i> Chankya Auditorium, Block 7
11:15-11:30 hrs	<b>Tea Break:</b> <i>Venue:</i> Chankya Auditorium, Block 7
11:30-13:00 hrs	<b>Technical Session 7: Mental Health</b> <i>Venue:</i> Room no. 802, Eighth Floor, Block 7
11:30-13:00 hrs	<b>Technical Session 8: Nutrition</b> <i>Venue:</i> Room no. 804, Eighth Floor, Block 7
11:30-13:00 hrs	<b>Technical Session 9: Health Infrastructure</b> <i>Venue:</i> Room no. 402, Fourth Floor, Block 7
13:00-14:00 hrs	<b>Lunch</b>
12:00-17:00 hrs	<b>POSTER PRESENTATIONS (B)</b> <i>Venue:</i> Outside Anand Swaroop Auditorium
14:30-16:00 hrs	<b>Technical Session 10: Child and Adolescent Health</b> <i>Venue:</i> Room no. 802, Eighth Floor, Block 7
14:30-16:00 hrs	<b>Technical Session 11: Health Care</b> <i>Venue:</i> Room no. 804, Eighth Floor, Block 7
14:30-16:00 hrs	<b>Technical Session 12: Migration and Urbanization</b> <i>Venue:</i> Room no. 402, Fourth Floor, Block 7
16:00- 16:15 hrs	<b>Tea Break:</b>
16:15 – 17:45 hrs	<b>Technical Session 13: Social Science, Health and Culture in Kyrgyz Republic</b> <i>Venue:</i> Room no. 802, Eighth Floor, Block 7
18:00-19.00 hrs	<b>General Body Meeting (Members only)</b> <i>Venue:</i> Room no. 802, Eighth Floor, Block 7
20:00 PM	<b>Dinner: IIT Roorkee Guest House, Noida.</b>

<b>Friday, 17 March 2023</b>	<b>Day III:</b>
09.30-11.45 hrs	<b>Technical Session 14: Competition for Youth Best Paper Award Presentations - (A)</b> <i>Venue:</i> Room no 802, Eighth Floor, Block 7
09.30-11.45 hrs	<b>Technical Session 15: Competition for Youth Best Paper Award Presentations –(B)</b> <i>Venue:</i> Room no 804, Eighth Floor, Block 7
11:45-12:00 hr	<b>Tea Break</b>
12:00-13.00 hr	<b>Valedictory Session and Announcement of Awards</b> <i>Venue:</i> APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium, Block 2
13.00-14.00 hr	<b>Distribution of participation certificates and travel grants</b>  <b>Closure - Lunch</b>