



Indian Association for the Study of Population

GENERAL SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT: 2023-24

Dear esteemed members,

I am happy to present to you the report of activities of the association during the past year.

1. 45TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF IASP TO BE HELD AT JNU. NEW DELHI DURING DECEMBER 12-14, 2024

The 45th Annual Conference of IASP is scheduled to be held during 12-14 December 2024 at the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. The abstract submission and review processes were done through online submission on the IASP website. The theme of the Conference is *Leaving No One Behind: Navigating Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development in India*. The papers were invited under the following fifteen subthemes related to the proposed theme of the Conference:

1	Nuptiality, Fertility, Infertility and Family Planning
1.1	Fertility preferences, intention, timing and childbearing
1.2	Correlates of fertility
1.3	Correlates and consequences of Abortion
1.4	Prevalence causes, and socio-cultural dimensions of infertility
1.5	Trends in age at marriage and its impact on fertility, marriage practices
1.6	Covid pandemic and marriage
1.7	Demand for and unmet need of contraception
1.8	Contraceptive dynamics
1.9	Family planning policies: successes, challenges, and lessons learned
1.10	Innovations in contraceptive technology
1.11	Role of men in family planning decision making
1.12	Teenage pregnancy and its socioeconomic impacts
1.13	Policy and programmatic responses to adolescent fertility
1.14	Role of digital health tools and social media in increasing access to family planning
2.	Mortality, Longevity, Morbidity
2.1	Causes of death in different age groups (infants, children, adults, elderly)
2.3	Mortality and Life Expectancy
2.4	The role of healthcare access in mortality reduction
2.5	Health/epidemiological transition
2.6	Community health programs targeting infant and child mortality (e.g., ICDS, NRHM)
2.7	Traditional Healthcare Practices and its impact on maternal and child morbidity/mortality
2.8	Indigenous child-rearing practices and its impact on maternal and child morbidity/mortality

3	Reproductive and Sexual Health
3.1	Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youth
3.2	Men and sexual and reproductive health
3.3	Access to reproductive health services and its socioeconomic determinants
3.4	Covid pandemic and reproductive and sexual health
3.5	Empowerment and equity in reproductive and sexual health
3.6	Reproductive rights and gender equality: Legal frameworks and policy gaps
4	Urbanisation and Rural Demography
4.1	Demographic Transformations in Urban and Rural Areas
4.2	Sustainable Urban and Rural Development
4.3	Urban and Rural Inequalities
4.4	Urbanisation Trends and Dynamics
4.5	Urban- Rural population growth dynamics
5	Poverty, Income inequality and health
5.1	Insurance coverage, out-of-pocket health expenses
5.4	Income Inequality and Health Disparities
5.5	Impact of Poverty on Health Outcomes
5.6	Ayushman Bharat and poverty reduction
5.7	Digital health/Telemedicine and access to health services
6	Ageing and Generational Dynamics
6.1	Health and Well-being in an Ageing Population
6.2	Social and Economic Implications of Population Ageing
6.3	Intergenerational Relationships and Family Dynamics
6.4	Access to healthcare services for the elderly its Challenges and policy gaps
6.5	Trends in population ageing in India through regional and gender lens
6.8	Impact of inflation and healthcare costs on financial well-being of elderly
7	Migration and Development
7.1	Patterns and trends of rural-to-urban migration: Push and pull factors
7.2	Migration as a driver of economic development; opportunities and challenges
7.3	Role of remittances in household and regional economic development
7.4	Migration and socioeconomic inequality
7.5	Migration and changing social structures-family dynamics, gender roles
7.6	Impact of migration on urban infrastructure and public services
7.7	National migration policies: frameworks, gaps, and challenges, role of state government in managing internal migration and labour rights
7.8	Access to healthcare for migrants: Challenges, policies, and programs
7.9	Migration, women and children, trafficking, challenges and policy gaps
7.10	Covid-19 and migration
7.11	Refugee inflow and issues of citizenship
7.12	Ethnic conflict and internal displacement of the population
7.13	Health issues, work condition and living condition at destination and migrant's wellbeing
7.14	Impact of migration on left behind women, elderlies, adolescents
7.15	Return Migration, Social & Economic Reintegration at place of origin
8	Adolescence and Human Development
8.1	Knowledge and access to adolescent reproductive health, gaps and opportunities
8.2	Social and Emotional Development during Adolescence
8.3	Impact of Socioeconomic and Environmental Factors on Adolescent Development
8.4	Engaging adolescent boys in promoting gender equality
8.5	Transition to adulthood; vulnerability, challenges and opportunities

8.6	Mental health issues in adolescents; scope and challenges
8.7	Adolescents and disabilities; access to education, health, and social inclusion
8.8	The influence of digital media on adolescent identity and self-expression
9.	Public Health and Nutrition
9.1	Undernutrition during the first 1000 days of the child- causes and solutions, stunting, wasting, and underweight, role of Anganwadi Centers and community health workers in improving nutrition
9.2	Anaemia during life cycle: Determinants and outcome
9.3	Life Style and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), challenges and policy gaps
9.4	Food fortification as a strategy for improving population nutrition
9.5	Immunisation coverage and addressing vaccine hesitancy
9.6	Anaemia, obesity, and undernutrition among adolescents; school-based nutrition programs; gender and adolescent nutrition and health
9.7	Intersection of health, nutrition, and environmental sustainability and role of nutrition in achieving broader health-related SDGs
10.	Tribal Health and Demography
10.1	Health and Nutrition Inequalities among Tribal Population, cultural barriers to healthcare access in tribal regions
10.2	Traditional Food Systems and tribal health
10.3	Cultural Preservation and Nutrition among tribals
10.4	Government policies for promoting food sovereignty in tribal regions
10.5	Maternal and Child Health including nutrition in Tribal Communities
10.6	Access to Healthcare Services and Infrastructure among tribals
10.7	Urbanisation and its Impact on Tribal Health
10.8	Government Policies and Tribal Health Programs
11	Demographic Approaches to Sustainable Development
11.1	Population, Health, and Sustainable Development
11.2	Influence of demographic trends on economic growth and development
11.3	Urbanisation and Demographic Trends
11.4	Demographic Change and Climate Change
11.5	Population Dynamics and Environmental Sustainability
12	Climate Change and Population
12.1	Population Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change
12.2	Climate-Induced Migration and Displacement
12.3	Effects of extreme weather events (heatwaves, floods, storms) on health outcomes
12.4	Extreme Urban Climate Events: Effects and Responses
12.6	Health Impacts of Climate Change and Shifting Disease Patterns
12.7	Health Risks from Combined Exposures (e.g., Heat and Air Pollution)
12.8	Inequalities in Health Risks and Impacts Due to Climate Change
12.9	Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Health Systems
13	Gender and Development
13.1	Gender inequalities: drivers and impact
13.2	Gender-based violence.
13.3	Child/Early Marriage: Policies, Causes and Impact.
13.4	Women empowerment
13.5	Access to equitable and quality education
13.6	Gender Equality in Matrilineal Society
13.7	Commuter and long distance couple and well-being
14	Data for Development
14.1	Innovations in Data Collection

14.2	Leading Survey Datasets in India
14.3	Leading Official Statistics in India
14.4	Use Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Tools for data
15	Miscellaneous
15.1	Any topics which do not fall in the categories of the above-mentioned sub-themes

A total of 483 abstracts were received. After reviewing a total of 323 abstracts were accepted (170 for oral and 153 for poster presentations). The organising committee of the conference consisted of the following:

- Prof Suresh Sharma
- Dr Anil Chandran
- Dr Ajay Singh
- Dr Jeetendra Yadav
- Dr AG Khan and
- Dr Gudakesh

Conference Delegates

The Conference will be attended by academicians, researchers, students, administrators, development practitioners, NGO representatives, et al.

George Simmons Memorial Oration

The George Simmons Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Major Gen. (Prof.) Atul Kotwal, Executive Director, NHSRC at 5:00 PM on Day 1 (December 12, 2024) of the conference.

The sessions at the Conference

The three-day conference will start with the inaugural session at 09:30 AM on 12th December 2024. There will be five plenary sessions and 22 parallel technical sessions, on specific themes, two poster sessions, and the valedictory session on the last day of the Conference. Five senior demographers will be felicitated on day two of the Conference.

Awards

The details of the various awards for which certificates and prize money will be given away during the conference are as follows.

Prof. Sudesh Nangia Essay Competition Award

This competition was held online for young scholars below the age of 30 years who are members of the IASP. A call for registration was sent out on the social media platforms of IASP. A total of 187 members registered for the competition. The topic of the essay was sent to all the registered members fifteen minutes before the start of the competition. One hour for writing the essay and an extra 15 minutes were given to the candidates on 4th November 2024. The received essays were reviewed by a two-tier committee of demographers and the winners were chosen. Ms Shraddha Chaurasiya, Ms Surabhi Singh and Ms Preety Sharma are the winners of the Sudesh Nangia Award.

Prof KB Pathak Award

Unlike previous years, a brochure was circulated among the members of IASP asking for the submission of papers for the Prof KB Pathak Award. An overwhelming response was received for the call for papers. A total of 48 papers were received for the Award. The papers were reviewed by a two-tier committee of demographers which has decided to bestow the Award to Ms Madhurima Sharma for her paper titled *Socioeconomic Inequality in Cognitive Impairment among India's Older Adults and its Determinants: A Decomposition Analysis*.

Prof K Srinivasan Award

Prof. K. Srinivasan award will be presented for the two best research, one each in Technical and Substantive Fields, by a young and mid-career scholar published in Demography India. The Editorial Board of Demography India has decided to give the award to the following papers.

For the best substantive paper, the award will be jointly given to the following papers.

A Critical Review of India's RMNCH+A Strategy (2014) to Achieve SDG 2030 Goal for Neonatal Mortality Rate by Arup Kumar Das and Akhilesh Yadav and

Urbanization and the Growth Trajectory of Urban Centres in India by Nawaj Sharif and Archana K. Roy

For the technical paper, the award will be given to the paper:

A Study of temporary life expectancy and its related measure under dynamic approach, by Nazmina Hussain and Labananda Choudhury

Dr Chandrasekharan Award

Dr Chandrasekharan Award is presented for the best paper authored and presented by a young scholar at the IASP annual conference in a special session scheduled on Day 3, December 14, 2024. The winner would be presented the award in the valedictory session on the last day of the conference.

Prof. S. N. Singh award

Prof. S. N. Singh Award for the best poster authored and presented by young scholars will be presented at the valedictory session on the last day of the conference.

Prof PP Talwar Award

A new award named 'Women in Technical Demography' has been instituted by Prof PP Talwar from the 2024 conference onwards. Unpublished research articles, which are technical in nature on demography and allied areas were invited from women demographers below the age of 40 years who are members of IASP. In response to the call, we received eight full papers. These were reviewed by a committee of demographers and five papers were shortlisted. These five papers will be presented at the specific session at the conference on Day 3, 14th December 2024. The awards will be decided based on the quality of the research paper (50 marks), presentation and question-and-answer (50 marks). The awards will be presented at the valedictory session of the conference.

The conference is sponsored by the following agencies.

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II 44th Annual Conference at NIT Rourkela November 8-10, 2023

The 44th Annual Conference of IASP was held during 8-10 November 2023 at the Centre of Excellence on Public Health Nutrition, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology Rourkela, Odisha. The abstract submission and review process was done through online submission on IASP website. The theme of the Conference is '1.4 Billion Aspirations, One Sustainable Future: Unfolding India's Path to Development'.

The conference started with the inaugural session at 9.30 AM on November 8, 2023. Prof. Jalandhar Pradhan, Professor, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, NIT Rourkela and convener of the conference welcomed the participants. Prof. Narayan Sethi, HoD, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, NIT Rourkela addressed the conference participants. This was followed by the presidential address by Prof. Suresh Sharma, President of IASP.

Prof. K. Umamaheshwar Rao, Director, NIT Rourkela extended a warm welcome to the participants of the conference and wished the conference a grand success.

Mr. William Hanlon Jr, Chief of Field Office, UNICEF, Odisha addressed the participants. Mr. Sriram Haridass, Deputy Representative, UNFPA India delivered the key note address. Mr. Hanlon congratulated the department for organizing the conference and said, "With great optimism and hope I put up my concern about Climate Changes, Resource Depletion and Environmental Degradation, which are compromising on the world for the future generation. To face these challenges, we must harness the power of innovation and technology. India has already shown tremendous strides in renewable energy, biotechnology and Information Technology. By investing in research and development we can create solutions that will only address the global fight against environmental degradation. We must also invest in a robust healthcare system recognizing the basic development of human existence."

The Chief Guest of the session, Padma Shri (Prof.) Digambar Behera, Former Dean (Research) and Head of the Pulmonary Medicine Department, PGIMER, Chandigarh highlighted the importance of the conference and congratulated the organizers for selecting a theme that is extremely topical and needed a debate to come up with future strategies to address the growing concerns of sustainable development.

The Chief Guest, Padma Shri (Prof.) Digambar Behera highlighted crucial aspects of public health and nutrition with regard to the conference's topic 'India's Path to Development' with a particular focus on tuberculosis (TB). He said, "India has a goal for eliminating TB before 2025, five years ahead of the WHO's set target for 2030. Malnutrition emerged as one of the primary contributors to the TB epidemic, so it is important to integrate social sciences and medical sciences to achieve the crucial goals of zero hunger, universal access to nutritious food, and the elimination of TB. India's commendable performance during the COVID-19 pandemic, becoming a producer of vaccines and PPE kits, and extending support beyond its borders was acknowledged globally. This has emphasized the necessity of collaborating on robust healthcare systems, economic development, housing for all, and quality education etc. aiming for a brighter and sustainable future working together to build a prosperous world." The challenges of population are -managing rapid urbanization, ensuring inclusive growth, eradicating poverty and inequality and providing access to education, healthcare and basic amenities. However, this population growth also brings opportunities for economic growth, innovation and social progress by adopting sustainable development strategies, India can harness the demographic dividend, promote environmental sustainability, prioritize social inclusion and create a prosperous and equitable future for all citizens.

Prof. Usha Ram, General Secretary, IASP announced the winners of the Prof. KB Pathak and Prof. K Srinivasan awards and gave concluding remarks. She mentioned that India's socio-demographic, economic and cultural heterogeneity is an asset. However, it becomes a

huge challenge for the policy and programme managers to provide universal access to affordable quality healthcare services to enhance population health and well-being. Dr. Jeetendra K Yadav proposed a vote of thanks.

The first plenary session on day one had a panel of six distinguished speakers, Prof. Sanghamitra Acharya, Dr. Santosh Jain Passi, Dr. Alok Ranjan Chaurasia, and Dr. Rajiv Acharya spoke on Data Gaps and Methodological Challenges in Addressing Public Health Nutrition Issues in the Context of SDGs. The session was chaired by Mr Sourav Bhattacharjee, Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF, Bhubaneswar, Odisha and Dr Jalandhar Pradhan was the moderator.

The second plenary session was on “Innovations in Maternal Newborn Child Health (MNCH)” and had a panel of development partners, government representatives, field-level organizations and grassroots-level workers. The speakers were Mr Vaibhao Ambhore, chief of party, USAID-SAKSHAM Project PATH, Dr. Jitesh Kuwatada, *National Program Officer, JHPIEGI*, Ms. Nirmala Mishra, Senior Director Programs and Lead Health System Strengthening, Piramal Swasthya Management Research Institute, Dr R N Panda, NHM Odisha and Frontline Worker Core Group Member. The session was chaired by Prof F Ram and moderated by Prof. Sanghamitra Acharya.

Prof. Sudesh Nangia, Former Prof. CSRD, JNU, New Delhi and Former President, IASP delivered the George Simmons Memorial Oration on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in India: Status and Challenges. I am proud to say that this is the first time in the IASP history that we have a female guest speaker for the Simmons memorial oration. Prof. Suresh Sharma chaired the oration and Dr. Bhaswati Das was the moderator.

The technical and poster sessions:

Besides the plenary sessions, the three-day conference had 14 technical sessions and two poster sessions covering a range of specific themes. The details of the technical sessions and poster session along with the papers presented are available in the annexure at the end of the report with a detailed program schedule. Additionally, an essay competition was organized among young researchers. The winners of various awards were presented with certificates and prize money in the valedictory session on the last day of the conference. Senior demographers were felicitated on day two of the conference.

The papers presented covered a wide range of themes. For example, papers in and sessions discussing family planning, great emphasis was on spacing methods including oral pills. The papers explored understanding barriers in usage, among minority populations, urban populations, association with infertility, STI prevention, and fertility. The papers presented at the conference used quantitative as well as qualitative research approaches. Nearly two-thirds of all presenters were young research scholars and early career researchers.

The second set of papers discussed by the researchers was understanding population dynamics and demographic changes happening in India, nationally and subnationally. Six papers researched on the role of WASH indicators and their implications on population health and other needs and their relation with chronic diseases.

Over 20 research papers discussed issues around mortality, longevity and morbidity. The core issues addressed how lifestyle changes and NCDs are interlinked how they impact life longevity and morbidity patterns how are they changing for India and its sub-populations, and how artificial intelligence could be helpful in predicting morbidity and risk factors. Several papers investigated issues of maternal and child health as well as cause of death.

Two sessions were dedicated to issues of urbanization and its impact on health. The papers investigated how urbanization impacts the socioeconomic compositions of the population and

its association with poverty income inequalities and health access and utilization. A few papers highlighted how poverty determines malnutrition and in turn, the health comes.

Two sessions had papers on ageing and the demography of ageing. SRH and SRH needs of the adolescents and the status of MNCH services in India and its sub-regions. Teenage pregnancy, unsafe abortions, and socio-cultural barriers to accessing RMNCH including family planning service access and utilization were addressed in several research papers presented during the conference.

The issues of migration, refugees and left behind people were discussed in a session dedicated to this. These papers investigated on challenges of social assimilation, living arrangements, and vulnerabilities at both place of origin and destination among the migrant population.

One technical session discussed research on issues of public health and nutrition in which researchers shared their work on how nutrition is the key concern for health and well-being improvements and what/how various programs can help address these concerns in India. Additionally, several papers discussed on need for advancements in demographic data, their quality, access to research and modelling in enhancing understanding of complex demographic phenomena for evidence-based future policies and programs. One session had papers that discussed how COVID-19 has influenced lives including health and other behaviours including the use of internet and virtual platforms for enhancing knowledge and service provisions as well as monitoring of the programs and services. They also discussed issues of occupational toxicity and factors associated with substance use and migration.

Felicitation of the Senior Demographers:

Keeping in the tradition, The IASP felicitated four senior demographers Dr. Pradeep Mishra, Dr. Alok Ranjan Chaurasia, Dr. R J Yadav, and Dr. Santosh Jain Passi for their outstanding contribution to the discipline.

Valedictory Session:

The valedictory session began with a formal welcome address by the IASP president Prof S Sharma. The General Secretary IASP in her concluding remarks summarized the key messages emerging from the deliberations and debates in the conference for future research. She summarized the conference deliberations in brief. This was followed by the presentation of awards to the winners in various categories as listed below:

Prof K B Pathak award: is presented for the best paper by a young and mid-career scholar in the field of 'Demography/ Population and Health' published in peer-reviewed journals. The Expert Panel recommended the paper entitled "Multivariate decomposition of gender differentials in successful ageing among adults in India Published in BMJ Geriatrics in 2023" authored by Shobhit Srivastava, T Muhammad, Ronak Paul and K Amir Khan.

Prof. K. Srinivasan award: presented for the two best research – one each in Technical and Substantive fields by a young and mid-career scholar Published in Demography India, an IASP Journal. The Panel of Expert recommended the paper entitled "Household, individual and Episodic Incidences of Illness, hospitalization and Health Spending in India, 2017-18" authored by Udaya S Mishra, Sanjay K Mohanty and Umakanta Sahoo as the best technical paper published in DEMOGRAPHY INDIA for the year 2023 for Prof K Srinivasan award. The Panel of Expert recommended the paper entitled "Migration through aspiration: A model-based investigation" authored by Ardhendu Banerjee, Arindam Gupta and Asis Kumar Chattopadhyay as the best Substantive paper published in DEMOGRAPHY INDIA for the year 2023 for Prof K Srinivasan award.

Dr Chandrasekharan Award Papers: Dr Chandrasekharan Award session is scheduled on the second day of the conference. The Dr Chandrasekharan Award for the year 2023 was

awarded to Ms Abna A. She presented on "Effect of elimination of cardiovascular diseases on the life expectancy and disability-free life expectancy among elderly in India"

Dr S N Singh Award: Dr. SN Singh awards for best posters were also presented at the valedictory session

Poster session 1: The evaluation committee identified the best First poster session one to Ms. Harleen Kaur Gulati for her paper "Unravelling the impact of nutrition intake: Predicting anemia among children with machine learning and explainable AI".

Poster session 2: The evaluation committee identified the best First poster session two to Mr. Pawan Kumar Yadav for his paper on "Fitting model life tables to pair of estimates of under-five and adult mortality and estimation of life expectancy at national and subnational level: Evidence from NFHS and SRS"

Essay competition: The essay competition for young researchers was held on the theme *Rising population and its environmental impact*. Huge number of young social scientists from all parts of the country took part in the online competition. The winning essays are: First prize: Ms. Saumya Chauhan, Central University of TN Thituvapur; Second prize: Ms. Devikrishna N B, IIPS Mumbai; and Third prize: Ms. Varsha Rani, IIPS Mumbai.

Sponsors of the 44th Annual Conference are:



III SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF IASP

The Southern Regional Conference of IASP was held at the Department of Population Studies with the theme "Demography of South India: Prospect and Challenges" at Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, from February 16 to 17, 2024. Abstracts of papers were invited for presentation at the conference based on the following sub-themes.

Papers pertaining to the following subthemes focussing on South India will be considered.

- Population Momentum
- Spatial Demography
- Demographic Transition
- Population Ageing
- Regional patterns of Fertility declines
- Determinants and Differentials of Morality
- Changing patterns of morbidity and disease burden
- Nutrition issues and challenges

- Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Migration and Urbanisation
- Domestic violence and gender-based violence
- Political Scenario and Demography
- Contraceptive use and unmet need for family planning
- Any topics which do not fall in the categories of the above sub-themes

In response to the call for abstracts, we received about 170 papers and after review 91 papers were accepted, of which 60 were presented in technical oral sessions and 31 in the poster sessions.

Inaugural Session:

The conference began with an inaugural address by Prof. RM Kathiresan, Vice Chancellor of Annamalai University. He discussed the importance of the "5 E's" (entry, escape, establish, explore, and enable) in tackling demographic challenges. The keynote speech was delivered by Shri. Sajjanjirgh R Chavan, IAS, Director of Census Operations and Director of Citizen Registration for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. He addressed key challenges related to food, water resources, and agriculture, emphasizing futuristic solutions such as improved road infrastructure, GPS-based systems, and sustainable agricultural practices.

Plenary and technical sessions

There were three plenary sessions (panel discussions), ten technical sessions and one poster session at the conference.

Panel Discussion I was on *Demographic Transition in South India: Ensuing Challenges*. Prof. K. Srinivasan, Former Director, IIPS, Mumbai was the Chairperson and the speakers were

- Dr. Niranjan Sagaretti, Country Director, Population Council of India
- Dr. K. Lakshminarasimha Rao Kudligi, Chief-Social Policy, UNICEF, Tamil Nadu & Kerala
- Dr. Hanimi Reddy Modugu, Director of Research, New Delhi

This session focused on the implications of demographic transitions in South India, including shifts in fertility, mortality, and migration patterns. The discussion emphasized policy interventions needed to manage these changes effectively.

Health and Demographic Dynamics in the South: Research in PRCs was the theme of the second plenary session. Prof. F. Ram, Former Director, IIPS, Mumbai was the Chairperson and the speakers were

- Dr. T.S. Syamala, PRC, Bangalore
- Dr. Lekha Subaiya, PRC, Dharwad
- Dr. Jyoti Hallad, PRC, Bangalore
- Dr. Sajini B. Nair, PRC, Kerala
- Dr. Y. Ramana, PRC, Visakhapatnam

This discussion explored the intersection of health outcomes and demographic patterns in South India, focusing on regional research conducted in Population Research Centres (PRCs). Topics included healthcare access, disease patterns, and population health dynamics.

The third Panel Discussion was on *Demographic Achievements and Challenges in South India* and the Chairperson was Prof. S. Ramachandran, Annamalai University. The speakers were

- Dr. A.G. Khan, Retired Professor
- Dr. S. Balasubramanian, Executive Director, RUWSEC
- Prof. V. Venkateswaralu, Acharya Nagarjuna University
- Dr. N. Kavitha, PRC, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu

This session addressed both the successes and ongoing challenges in South India's demographic journey. Discussions ranged from changes in family structures to achieving sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR).

IV WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF IASP

The Western Regional Conference of IASP and National Seminar on "Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development: Insights from Western India" was organized jointly with the Population Research Centre, Department of Statistics, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat during May 30-31, 2024. Abstracts of papers were invited for presentation at the conference under the following sub-themes.

S.No.	Broad themes	Possible sub-themes
1.	Nuptiality, Fertility, Infertility and Family Planning	A. Fertility preferences, intention, timing and childbearing, parity and parenthood, correlates of infertility; Covid pandemic and fertility B. Marriage, marriage dissolution, Covid pandemic and marriage C. Demand and unmet need for contraception D. Issues and Challenges of child marriage
2.	Mortality, Longevity, Morbidity, Public Health and health care expenditure	A. Mortality and causes of death B. Health and longevity C. Population ageing D. Insurance coverage, Out of pocket health expenses E. Health/epidemiological transition
3.	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (RMNCH)	A. Sexual and Reproductive Health of Adolescents and Youth B. Men and sexual and reproductive health C. Reproductive wastage, Abortion D. Maternal and child mortality and morbidity E. Covid pandemic and reproductive and sexual health F. Empowerment and equity in reproductive and sexual health
4.	Migration and Urbanization in Western India	A. Migration Patterns B. Migration and socio-economic inequality C. Migrant Rights, Discrimination and Migration Policy D. Health and migration E. Climate change, urbanization and migration

5.	Adolescent, Gender, and Development	A. Gender inequalities: drivers and impact B. Gender based violence. C. Child/Early Marriage: Policies, Causes and impact. D. Women empowerment E. Access to equitable and quality education
6.	Health and Nutrition	A. Undernutrition among children, pregnant women B. Anemia during pregnancy: Determinants and outcome
7.	Data management and Quality for SDGs	A. Data quality and management B. Creating and using data for program design C. Data gaps in measuring SDGs in the Western region
8.	Other related issues	A. Emerging demography of Tribals in Western India B. Geo-demographic changes in the Western coastal region C. Other miscellaneous issues in Western India
9.	Special Session on Gujarat	A. MMR and IMR in Gujarat B. Maternal and Child Nutrition C. Migration, causes consequences in Gujarat D. Access to healthcare services in Gujarat

In response to the call for papers, we received about 110 abstracts and from them, 66 papers were presented (48 oral and 18 poster presentations) at the conference.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session was held at Prof. V. M. Shah Seminar Hall, Faculty of Science. The conference began with the university song, lighting of the lamp, and a welcome address by Prof. Hari Bhai Kataria, Dean, Faculty of Science. The chief guest Dr. Anil Bhardwaj (Chief Guest, Director of Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad) emphasized the importance of innovative research in addressing demographic challenges. Prof. Vijay Kumar Srivastava (Vice-Chancellor, MS University of Baroda) delivered the Presidential Address, highlighting regional priorities in population studies.

Plenary Session 1:

- **Theme:** Population Dynamics: Insights from Western India
- **Chairperson:** Prof. Suresh Sharma, President, IASP
- **Speakers:**
 - Prof. Faujdar Ram
 - Prof. Ravi Verma
 - Dr. Sanjay Kumar
- **Highlights:** The session explored critical aspects of population dynamics, focusing on fertility, mortality, migration, and regional disparities in Western India.

Plenary Session 2:

- **Theme:** Sustainable Development: Insights from Western India
- **Chairperson:** Prof. Vipul A. Kalamkar, Director, PRC Baroda
- **Speakers:**
 - Dr. Dharendra Kumar, IIHMR
 - Dr. Praveen Pathak, JNU
 - Dr. Rajesh Chauhan, DES, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

- **Highlights:** This session addressed the interconnections between demographic trends and sustainable development, emphasizing actionable policy recommendations.

Plenary Session 3:

- **Theme:** Public Health System: Challenges and Opportunities in Western India
- **Chairperson:** Prof. Usha Ram
- **Speakers:**
 - Dr. Reena Basu (PRC Sagar)
 - Dr. Vini Shivanandan (PRC Pune)
 - Dr. Nutan Kumari (PRC Udaipur)
 - Dr. Kaustav Ghosh (PRC Baroda)
- **Highlights:** This session underscored the need for strengthening public health systems to tackle regional health disparities and emerging challenges.

There were six technical parallel sessions on Nuptiality, Fertility, Infertility, Abortion, and Family Planning, Mortality, Longevity, Morbidity, Public Health, and Healthcare Expenditure, Migration, Education, and Development in Western India, Women's Empowerment and Health Economics, Healthcare and Nutrition and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases

V EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF IASP

Eastern Regional Conference of IASP was jointly organised with the Population Research Centre, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on the theme *Population, Health and Development: Perspective from Eastern India* during October 17-18, 2024.

Abstracts of papers were invited under the following sub-themes.

S.No	Broad themes	Sub-
1.	Demography of Eastern India	a) Fertility preferences, intention, timing and childbearing, parity and parenthood, correlates of infertility, Abortion b) Marriage, marriage dissolution, c) Demand and unmet need for contraception d) Population ageing, health and longevity e) Men and sexual and reproductive health f) Covid pandemic and reproductive and sexual health g) Empowerment and equity in reproductive and sexual health h. Tribal Health, Emerging demography
2.	Public Health in Eastern India	a) Maternal and child mortality and morbidity, causes of death b) Health Economics, Insurance coverage, Out of pocket health expenditure c) Health/epidemiological transition d) Health Information Systems and use of Information Technology, digital health, e) Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases f) Mental health and wellbeing g) Programs and Policies
	Socio-economic	a) Gender inequalities: drivers and impact

3.	Development in Eastern India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Gender-based violence. c) Child/Early Marriage: Policies, Causes and Impact. d) Women empowerment e) Access to equitable and quality education f) Healthcare Access and Nutrition g) Demographic Dividend h) Sustainable Development Goals i) Overview of regional (state) economies viz GDP, growth and future prospects
4.	Migration, Urbanization and regional disparities in Eastern India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Migration Patterns b. Migration and socio-economic inequality c. Migrant Rights, Discrimination and Migration Policy d. Health and migration e. Climate change, Urbanization and migration
5.	Nutritional status in Eastern India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Undernutrition among children, adolescents and pregnant women b. Anemia during pregnancy: Determinants and outcome
6.	Data management and Quality for SDGs in Eastern India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Data quality and management b. Creating and using data for program design c. Data gaps in measuring SDGs
7.	Impact of Climate Change and Disasters on Health in Eastern India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increased Incidence of Climate-Related Diseases b. Impact of climate change on Food Security and Nutrition c. Vulnerability of Healthcare Infrastructure d. Climate change and Mental Health and Psychological Well-being e. Water and Sanitation Challenges

A brochure was sent out inviting abstracts of papers for presentation at the conference. A total 132 abstracts were received of which 52 papers (35 oral and 17 poster presentations) were accepted. The conference had three plenary sessions, six technical sessions and one poster session.

The conference commenced with the inauguration of the Digital Population Clock by the Population Research Centre, Odisha, from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. This innovative tool, launched in the presence of key dignitaries including Shri Kumar Sundaram, Director, and Smt. Vishakha Singh Rathore, Deputy Director from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, aims to provide real-time population data to support policymaking and research. Following this, the inaugural ceremony began at 10:00 AM with a floral welcome and lamp-lighting by the dignitaries. Prof. Debendra Kumar Biswal, Deputy Director, PRC Odisha, delivered the welcome address, while Dr. Emily Das, Eastern Regional Coordinator, IASP, introduced the conference's objectives. Prof. Suresh Sharma, President of IASP, delivered the presidential address, emphasizing the importance of demographic studies. Remarks were shared by Dr. Sanghamitra Pati, Director and Scientist-G, ICMR-RMRC, and Dr. Jagadananda, Co-Founder of the Centre for Youth and Social Development. The keynote address was delivered by the Chief Guest, Prof. Sabita Acharya, Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University, who highlighted the role of demographic insights in regional and national development. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Jeetendra Yadav, Treasurer of IASP, and the National Anthem, setting a collaborative and innovative tone for the conference.

Plenary Sessions

There were three plenary sessions at the conference.

Plenary Session 1: Demographic Dynamics and State Interventions – Rhetoric to Reality

The Plenary Session 1 was held on Day 1, October 17, 2024, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the MKCG Auditorium, Utkal University. Dr. Jagadananda was the Chairperson and Dr. Anima Bag was the Moderator. This session explored the intersection of demographic shifts and state policies. Key speakers included:

1. Dr. Sanjay Kumar, UNFPA
2. Prof. Sanghamitra Acharya, JNU
3. Prof. Sanjay Mohanty, IIPS
4. Dr. Sandhya M., NCDS

Discussions highlighted the gaps between policy rhetoric and actual impact, focusing on interventions addressing population challenges in Eastern India.

Plenary Session 2: Enabling Urban Family Planning with High-Impact Interventions in Eastern India

This session, sponsored by PSI, was chaired by Mr. Mukesh Kumar Sharma, ED, PSI India and the Moderator was Mr Hitesh Sahni. Key contributors included:

1. Dr. Sujata Misra, PGIMER & Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar
2. Dr. Dinabandhu Sahoo, NHM, Odisha
3. Mr. Sukanta Mishra, NUHM, Odisha
4. Dr. Nilamani Senapati and Dr. Kanti Naik (Community Representatives)

Real-life stories from frontline workers emphasized practical challenges and solutions in promoting family planning in urban settings.

Plenary Session 3: Investing in Early Childhood Nutrition – Foundations for a Healthier Future

Plenary session 3 was sponsored by the Centre of Excellence on Public Health Nutrition, NIT Rourkela, and UNICEF and was held on Day 2, October 18, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Mr. Sourav Bhattacharjee, UNICEF was Chairperson and Prof. Jalandhar Pradhan, NIT Rourkela was the Moderator.

Panelists included:

1. Prof. Shri Kant Singh, Former IIPS, Mumbai
2. Ms. Priyanka Saha, ROSHNI, Lady Irwin College
3. Prof. Akhil Bihari Ota, SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar
4. Mr. Vivek Prakash, Jubilant Ingrevia Ltd
5. Shubhrajyoti Bhowmik, UNICEF

Discussions underscored the role of public and private sector collaboration in addressing childhood malnutrition effectively.

Technical Sessions

There were six technical sessions on various sub-themes and one poster session.

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory Session of the conference, held on October 18, 2024, from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM at the MKCG Auditorium, Utkal University, marked the formal conclusion of the event. Presided over by Prof. Suresh Sharma, President of the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP), the session featured reflections on the conference's achievements and key takeaways by Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, IASP. Prof. Sabita Acharya, Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University, delivered the chief guest address, emphasizing the importance of collaborative research and innovative approaches to population and health challenges. Expressions of appreciation were extended to the host institute by Dr. Anil Chandran, General Secretary, IASP. A valedictory address by Dr. A.G. Khan, Vice President, IASP, highlighted the significance of integrating regional insights into national strategies. Participant feedback and a vote of thanks by Prof. Debendra Kumar Biswal, Deputy Director, PRC Odisha, concluded the session, reflecting the event's spirit of knowledge sharing and community engagement.

VI OTHER ACTIVITIES

Observance of World Population Day

The World Population Day 2024 was observed by IASP on 11th July 2024 at the Population Research Centre, IEG Delhi. The event featured an inaugural session, plenary discussions, and cultural programs. The inaugural session, chaired by Prof. Suresh Sharma, included notable speakers such as Sh. D.K. Ojha, Ms. Ritu Arora, and keynote speaker Ms. Lorna M. Rolls from UNFPA India. The plenary sessions focused on critical themes like population growth and sustainable development, featuring experts such as Dr Gurinder Bir Singh, Dr Sanjay Kumar, and Dr Subrato Mondal. The day also included interactive lectures and poster presentations.

Collaboration as Knowledge Partner

IASP has acted as a knowledge partner for the International Conference of Population and Development organised by Sri Jai Narain Misra Post Graduate College, Lucknow under the theme "Navigating Challenges and Exploring Opportunities" during November 18-20 2024. The President of IASP, Dr Suresh Sharma attended the inaugural session as a chief guest. A special issue of Demography India will be published by including selected papers presented at the conference.

Distinguished Lecture Series

Seven distinguished lectures were held during the period. The speakers and topics are mentioned below.

Lecture No	Speaker	Topic
15	Shiva S. Halli	Geographic and Socioeconomic Inequities in the Coverage of Contraception in Uttar Pradesh, India
16	E. L. Sunethra J. Perera	Ageing Population in Sri Lanka: Issues, Needs and Policy Implications
17	Aris Ananta	Rethinking Population Ageing: Shifting the Narrative from Crisis to Celebration
18	Sushrima Gan	Unlocking the Potential of Pharmacogenomics: The Critical

		Role of High-Quality Data in Personalized Healthcare
19	Nadia Flexner	The potential health impact and healthcare cost savings of different sodium reduction strategies in Canada
20	Prof. Udoy Saikia	Exploring Multidimensional Wellbeing Impacts of Temporary Labour Migration: Experiences of Workers in the Asia-Pacific Region
21	Professor Mala Rao	The health impacts of the climate crisis. Addressing the research gap.

Publication of Demography India

During the period two issues of the journal Demography India were published, volume 52 Number 2 and Volume 53 Number 1. Both issues are available online on the webpage <https://demographyindia.iasp.ac.in/>.

Monthly meetings of the IASP executive committee: As has been following since 2022, the IASP Executive Council members continue to meet on the First Sunday of every month at 11.00 AM and discuss matters related to various activities of the IASP and review the progress. The members also plan strategies to strengthen existing activities as well as plan new ones to make the association more engaging and visible. During the reporting period, eleven more such meetings have been held and the minutes are posted on the IASP website.

Election of Executive Committee and Office Bearers

A notification for the online election to elect the President, ten Executive Committee members and two Board of Trustee members for the term 2024-26 was released on 25th July 2024. At the end of the time for withdrawal of nominations, there were two candidates for the post of President, 16 candidates for EC member and two for BoT member. The voting happened between 9th and 18th August 2024 and the results were announced on 19th August 2024. The following members were elected in the elections.

President

Dr. Suresh Sharma

Members of the Executive Committee

- 1 Dr. Jeetendra Yadav
- 2 Dr. Anil Chandran S
- 3 Dr. Emily Das
- 4 Dr. Gudakesh
- 5 Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh
- 6 Dr. A. G. Khan
- 7 Dr. Archana S. Muthye
- 8 Dr. Usha Ram
- 9 Dr. Rajesh K Chauhan
- 10 Dr. Dilip Kumar

Board of Trustee Members (elected unopposed)

1. Dr. Rahul Kumar
2. Dr. Priyanka Yadav

Office Bearers

The joint meeting of the past and present term EC members of IASP was held at 11:00 AM on 25 August 2024 and the newly elected members unanimously agreed on the following assignments:

- **Vice President 1:** Dr. A.G. Khan
- **Vice President 2:** Dr. Dilip Kumar
- **General Secretary:** Dr. Anil Chandran S.
- **Treasurer:** Dr. Jeetendra Yadav
- **Joint Secretary 1:** Dr. Ajay K. Singh
- **Joint Secretary 2:** Dr. Archana Muthye
- **Regional Secretary - East:** Dr. Emily Das
- **Regional Secretary - West:** Dr. Gudakesh
- **Regional Secretary - North:** Dr. Rajesh Kumar Chauhan
- **Regional Secretary - South:** Dr. Usha Ram

Co-opted EC members

The EC meeting held on 25-07-2024 has decided to nominate Dr Subrato Mondal and Dr Rajib Acharya as Co-opted members to the Executive Committee.

VII NEW INITIATIVES

1. IASP initiated an essay competition in 2022 and has been conducting the essay competition and giving away awards for winners during the annual conference. Professor Sudesh Nangia has decided to contribute Rs 500,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh only) to IASP towards instituting the Prof. Sudesh Nangia Award for the essay competition. This year onwards three awards will be given, Rs 10,000/- for the first prize, Rs 7500/- for the second and Rs 5000/- for the third prize.
2. Professor PP Talwar has contributed Rs 300,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh only) to institute an award for women demographers titled 'Women in Technical Demography' and a technical paper presentation competition will be held annually during the IASP annual conference and cash prizes will be given to outstanding women demographers. More details of this award can be found on the IASP website www.iasp.ac.in

The End