



Indian Association for the Study of Population

GENERAL SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT: 2024-25

Dear distinguished members of IASP,

Another productive year has passed in the activities of our Association and I am delighted to present you the report of activities of IASP during the past year.

I. 46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF IASP TO BE HELD AT ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (AnSI) KOLKATA FROM 27 TO 29 NOVEMBER 2025

The 46th Annual Conference of IASP is being held at AnSI, Kolkata in collaboration with the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) from 27 to 29 November 2025. The call for abstracts was sent out in June 2025 and the deadline for abstract submission was 31 August 2025. The abstract submission and review process was completed online. The theme of the conference is *People, Planet, Prosperity: Demographic Drivers of India's Inclusive Growth*. Abstract of papers were invited under the following subthemes.

1. Nuptiality, Fertility, Infertility and Family Planning
1.1. Trends in fertility levels, preferences, and determinants
1.2. Shifts in age at marriage and delayed marriages
1.3. Marriage dissolution, remarriage, and family formation
1.4. Infertility: prevalence, socio-cultural drivers, care-seeking
1.5. Teenage pregnancy and its socioeconomic impact
1.6. Unmet need, postpartum contraception, contraceptive dynamics
1.7. Innovations in contraceptive technologies and outreach
1.8. Role of men and digital platforms in FP decision-making
2. Mortality, Longevity and Morbidity
2.1. Life expectancy trends by region and gender
2.2. Lifecycle mortality: infants to elderly
2.3. COVID-19 and mortality shocks
2.4. Healthcare access and mortality reduction
2.5. Epidemiological transition and causes of death
2.6. Maternal and child mortality: gaps and solutions
2.7. Role of NRHM, ICDS, community-based care
2.8. Traditional practices affecting mortality
3. Reproductive and Sexual Health
3.1. SRHR of adolescents and youth
3.2. Access to SRH services and socioeconomic determinants

3.3.	SRHR during COVID-19 disruptions
3.4.	Reproductive rights, justice, and legal frameworks
3.5.	SRH for men and marginalised groups
3.6.	Use of digital tools and helplines
3.7.	Equity in SRH service delivery
3.8.	Disability inclusion in reproductive care
4.	Urbanisation and Rural Demography
4.1.	Urban-rural population shifts and planning
4.2.	Emerging rural-urban continuums
4.3.	Urbanisation and infrastructure stress
4.4.	Rural deprivation and basic services access
4.5.	Migration-driven urban growth
4.6.	Disparities in demographic transitions
4.7.	Urban poverty, slums, and informal settlements
4.8.	Governance challenges in growing towns
5.	Poverty, Income Inequality and Health
5.1.	Health and financial vulnerability
5.2.	Out-of-pocket expenditure and insurance gaps
5.3.	Food insecurity, nutrition, and poverty traps
5.4.	Vulnerable groups: tribal, migrants, disabled
5.5.	Role of Ayushman Bharat and DBTs
5.6.	Intersection of poverty with caste, gender
5.7.	Access to digital health and telemedicine
5.8.	Regional health-poverty disparities
6.	Ageing and Generational Dynamics
6.1.	Regional trends in population ageing
6.2.	Elderly access to healthcare and long-term care
6.3.	Economic vulnerability and pensions
6.4.	Morbidity, NCDs, and mental health in old age
6.5.	Family dynamics and caregiving roles
6.6.	Elderly women: widowhood, dependency
6.7.	Financial and digital inclusion of the elderly
6.8.	Role of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and state programs
7.	Migration and Development
7.1.	Rural-urban migration patterns and drivers
7.2.	Climate-induced and distress migration
7.3.	Role of remittances in regional economies
7.4.	Social integration and service access for migrants
7.5.	Gender roles, children, and migration impacts
7.6.	Internal displacement, trafficking, and safety
7.7.	COVID-19/pandemic and reverse migration
7.8.	Migration policy frameworks and gaps
8.	Adolescence and Human Development
8.1.	Access to adolescent health and SRHR
8.2.	Mental health, substance use, emotional wellbeing

8.3.	Role of education and life skills
8.4.	Gender norms, menstruation, safety, mobility
8.5.	Boys and masculinities: promoting gender equality
8.6.	Transition to adulthood: employment, education
8.7.	Influence of digital media and identity
8.8.	Disabilities, social inclusion, and services
9.	Public Health and Nutrition
9.1.	Undernutrition in early childhood and the role of Anganwadi Centres
9.2.	Anaemia, stunting, and wasting over the life-cycle
9.3.	NCDs and nutrition transitions
9.4.	Immunisation, coverage gaps and hesitancy
9.5.	Food fortification and nutrition security
9.6.	Adolescent nutrition: gender and school programs
9.7.	Climate, agriculture and food-nutrition linkages
9.8.	Public distribution system and ICDS role
10.	Tribal Health and Demography
10.1.	Health and nutrition inequalities among tribals
10.2.	Cultural barriers to healthcare in tribal areas
10.3.	Maternal and child health in tribal populations
10.4.	Urbanisation, displacement and tribal health
10.5.	Traditional food systems and health
10.6.	Government schemes for tribal health
10.7.	Gender roles and reproductive health
10.8.	Tribal youth: education and access
11.	Demographic Approaches to Sustainable Development
11.1.	Population dynamics and SDG goals
11.2.	Regional demographic diversity and planning
11.3.	Demographic dividend and economic productivity
11.4.	Urbanisation and demographic adaptation
11.5.	Environment-population interactions
11.6.	Health system resilience to demographic stress
11.7.	Role of education and skill-building
11.8.	Sustainability and resource distribution
12.	Climate Change and Population
12.1.	Health impacts of extreme weather (heat, floods, storms)
12.2.	Climate-induced displacement and migration
12.3.	Air pollution and demographic consequences
12.4.	Climate-related disease pattern shifts
12.5.	Gendered vulnerabilities in climate events
12.6.	Sustainable, climate-resilient health systems
12.7.	Inequities in health outcomes from climate risks
12.8.	Demography and climate action modelling
13.	Gender and Development
13.1.	Gender gaps in health, education, and labour
13.2.	Child marriage, GBV and safety
13.3.	Women's economic empowerment and credit access

13.4. Education access, gender norms, and skilling
13.5. Gender equality indicators and measurement
13.6. Gender and disability intersection
13.7. Role of Panchayats, SHGs, and local institutions
13.8. Transgender and LGBTQI+ inclusion
14. Education, NEP 2020 and Life Skills
14.1. NEP reforms and school-level inclusion
14.2. Early childhood education and foundational learning
14.3. Gender disparities in educational access
14.4. Life skills and employability pathways
14.5. EdTech innovations and digital learning divide
14.6. Adolescent education, re-entry for girls
14.7. Integration of SRHR and life skills in curriculum
14.8. Vocational education and youth aspirations
15. Data for Development
15.1. Use of AI/ML in demographic analytics
15.2. Innovations in surveys, censuses and data quality
15.3. Linking administrative, big data and health records
15.4. Monitoring and evaluation for SDGs
15.5. Open data platforms and decentralised planning
15.6. Challenges in data ethics, consent and privacy
15.7. Community-level data systems
15.8. Disaggregated data for gender and inclusion
16. Economic Development
16.1. Regional disparities in development outcomes
16.2. Structural shifts in employment and economy
16.3. Linking demographics with GDP and labour force
16.4. Informal sector and social security gaps
16.5. Harnessing demographic dividend effectively
16.6. Youth skilling and entrepreneurship
16.7. Financial inclusion and economic security
16.8. MSMEs and sectoral growth with population strategies
17. Miscellaneous
17.1. Cross-cutting population research innovations
17.2. Behavioural insights in demography
17.3. Experimental models and case studies
17.4. Population ethics, inclusion and surveillance
17.5. Lessons from global demographic trends
17.6. Culture, values, and fertility transitions
17.7. Transdisciplinary and participatory methods
17.8. Forecasting demographic futures

A total of 391 abstracts were received. After reviewing a total of 262 abstracts were accepted (121 for oral and 141 for poster presentations). The organising committee of the conference consisted of the following:

- Prof Suresh Sharma
- Dr Anil Chandran S
- Dr Ajay K Singh
- Dr Jeetendra Yadav 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 Dr Niranjana Saggruti, India Country Director, Population Council.

The sessions at the Conference

The three-day conference will start with the inaugural session at 09:00 AM on 27th November 2025. There will be six plenary sessions and 15 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 in the *Awards cum Felicitation Ceremony* on the first day 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. A call for registration was sent out on the social media platforms of IASP. A total of 37 participants 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 September 28, 2025. The received essays were reviewed by a three-member committee of demographers and the winners were chosen. Ms Anjum Khatoon, Ms Vandita Ranjan and Ms Anaswara BG are the winners of the Sudesh Nangia Award.

Prof KB Pathak Award

A brochure was circulated among the members of IASP asking for the submission of papers for the Prof KB Pathak Award. A total of 15 papers were received for the Award. The papers were reviewed by a two-tier committee of demographers which has decided to confer the Award to Dr Jalandhar Pradhan for his paper titled *Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases in South Asia: 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.

1. Assessing Health Risks of Unsafe WaSH in India: A Systematic Review and Implications for Policy by Simrit Kaur and Kamaldeep Kaur Sarna

2. Ultra-low fertility with traditional contraceptives -a case study of Tehran city by Maryam Hosseini, Gouranga Dasvarma, Udo Saikia, and Hajieh-Bibi Razeghi-Nasrabad,

For the best technical paper, the award will be jointly given to the following two papers:

1. Inequality in Transition: A Four-Decade Analysis of India's Consumption Shifts using NSSO Data by Suryakant Yadav and Nilesh Jagannath Yadav
2. Forecasting Scheduled Tribe Student Enrollment in India Using the ARIMA Algorithm: A Data Mining Approach by Suman Pal and Vinod Kumar

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, November 29, 2025. Five papers are shortlisted for presentation in this session from among the 12 submissions received. 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 at the Poster Session of the conference by young scholars will be given away 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 11 full papers. These were reviewed by a committee of demographers and six papers were shortlisted. These five papers will be presented at the specific session on Day 3, 29th November 2025. 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.

Pre-Conference Workshop

In collaboration with Amity University, IASP has organised a Pre-Conference Workshop on 26th November 2025 at the Department of Geography, Amity University Kolkata. The workshop was on 'POP MAP 25 – A Workshop on Mapping and Analyzing Population Data. The workshop was attended by about 100 participants.

The conference is sponsored by the following agencies.



II 45TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF IASP HELD AT JNU, NEW DELHI FROM 12 TO 14 DECEMBER, 2024

The 45th Annual Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP) was held from 12 to 14 December 2024 at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, on the theme *Leaving No One Behind: Navigating Population Dynamics and Sustainable Development in India*. The conference brought together demographers, public health experts, researchers, policymakers, and students from across the country. Over the three days, the event featured twenty-two technical sessions, five plenary sessions, and two poster sessions, with more than 160 oral presentations and 125 poster presentations, reflecting the diversity and depth of ongoing demographic and public health research in India.

The Pre-Conference Workshop held on 11 December 2024 on *Geospatial Representation of Population and Health Data* was attended by more than 40 participants, representing a range of academic and research institutions. Key participants included researchers from AIIMS Delhi, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), University of Delhi, Public Health Foundation of India, and Population Research Centres from Lucknow, Baroda, and Delhi. The workshop brought together students and experts from diverse fields, including public health, geography, and population studies, to discuss the use of geospatial tools in analysing population and health data, facilitating cross-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange among attendees from institutions across India.

Day 1: 12 December 2024

The conference began with a formal inauguration at the Convention Centre, Auditorium I. The session opened with an invocation and the lighting of the lamp, symbolising knowledge and progress. Prof. KK Sharma, Dean of the School of Social Sciences at JNU, welcomed the participants, setting the stage for an engaging event. Dr Anil Chandran S, General Secretary of IASP, provided an overview of the conference's objectives and agenda. Prof. Suresh Sharma, President of IASP, delivered an inspiring address, emphasising the importance of population research in achieving sustainable development. The inaugural address by Prof. Dipendra Nath Das, Rector of JNU, underscored the need for evidence-based policies in population management. Ms Andrea M. Wojnar, UNFPA Representative for India and Bhutan, presented a thought-provoking keynote address, while Mr Arjan de Wagt, Deputy Representative for UNICEF India, delivered a spotlight talk. The session concluded with the release of the Demography India, the announcement of the K Srinivasan awards and KB Pathak Award, and a vote of thanks by Dr Jeetendra Yadav.

Plenary Session 1: UNICEF: The first plenary session, hosted by UNICEF, focused on integrating population dynamics with sustainable development goals. Moderated by Dr Bhaswati Das, the session brought together prominent experts, including representatives from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), NITI Aayog, and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD). Renu Singh, Country Director of Young Lives India, presented insights into child development and social disparities, while Prof. Purushottam M. Kulkarni, a renowned demographic expert, shared his expertise on population policies and health. The discussions highlighted the critical role of data-driven strategies in achieving SDG targets.

Plenary Session 2: Population Council: The second plenary session, organised by the Population Council, explored innovative approaches to capacity building and health interventions in India's northeastern states. Dr Subrato Mondal from USAID India moderated the

session, while Prof. F. Ram, former Director of IIPS Mumbai, served as the chair. Dr Punit Mishra introduced the RASTA initiative, which leverages evidence-based implementation to enhance healthcare delivery. Discussions also included assessing geographical vulnerabilities in maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) and addressing the unique health challenges of tribal populations in the northeast. A panel discussion with experts like Prof. Laishram Ladusingh and Dr Zorinsangi provided actionable insights for improving health programs in these regions.

Plenary Session 3: PSI India Private Limited: The third plenary session, hosted by PSI India Private Limited, focused on fostering innovative solutions for population challenges. Moderated by the PSI team and coordinated by Dr Gudakesh, the session featured presentations by Ravi Subbiah, Senior Director of Programs, and Kali Prosad Roy, Director of Programs at PSI. Entrepreneurs Anshul Khurana and Deepak Kumar shared their innovative models in health and nutrition. The session emphasised public-private partnerships in advancing health and well-being, spotlighting scalable solutions for addressing population disparities.

George Simmons Memorial Lecture: The day concluded with the prestigious George Simmons Memorial Lecture, delivered by Major General (Prof.) Atul Kotwal, Executive Director of the NHRDC. Chaired by Dr Suresh Sharma, the lecture reflected on the evolving challenges in population health and the need for strategic responses to foster equity and sustainability in healthcare.

The evening wrapped up with a vibrant cultural program, providing attendees with an opportunity to unwind and network, followed by a gala dinner at the School of Social Sciences.

Day 2 – 13.12.2024

Parallel Technical Sessions (09:00 AM - 10:30 AM): Day 2 commenced with parallel technical sessions across diverse thematic areas. Each session was chaired by esteemed academics, supported by co-chairs, session coordinators, and rapporteurs.

Technical Session 1: Held at the Convention Center, Auditorium I, this session on Mortality, Longevity, and Morbidity was led by Prof. S.C. Gulati and co-chaired by Prof. Nandita Saikia. Presentations spanned the effects of health insurance on life expectancy, infant mortality among underage mothers, and occupational health hazards among waste pickers. Researchers highlighted critical insights into mortality patterns, disease survival, and health equity in India.

Technical Session 2: Focused on Mortality, Longevity, and Morbidity, this session took place in Room 133, SSS III Building. With Prof. A.K. Sharma as Chairperson and Dr Asharaf Abdul Salam as Co-Chair, discussions delved into morbidity-free life expectancy, injury-related mortality, and survival modeling of neonatal morbidity. Themes of health paradoxes and disparities emerged as significant.

Technical Session 3: Dedicated to Migration and Development, this session in Room 134, SSS III Building was chaired by Prof. Aslam Mahmood and co-chaired by Dr Juel Rana. Topics included migration drivers, its effects on older parents' food security, and insights into internal migration's impact on international migration patterns. Presenters explored the socio-economic dimensions of migration through varied methodologies.

Technical Sessions 4 & 5: Both sessions on Gender and Development unfolded in Rooms 202 and 203 of the SSS III Building. Chaired by Prof. Sudesh Nangia and Prof. Anuradha Banerjee, respectively, these sessions examined domestic violence, women's empowerment in tribal

versus non-tribal communities, and everyday challenges faced by women in informal occupations. Innovative gender-focused studies explored patriarchal structures and community-specific gender dynamics.

Technical Sessions 6 & 7: Addressing Nuptiality, Fertility, Infertility, and Family Planning, these sessions were held in Rooms 205 and 208. Led by chairs including Dr Sanjay Kumar and Prof. P.M. Kulkarni, topics included infertility's psychological impacts, fertility patterns among tribal women, and educational pairing's shift toward hypogamy. Critical discussions highlighted gaps in contraception access and fertility counselling.

Felicitation of Senior Demographers (10:30 AM - 11:30 AM): The next segment honored distinguished demographers, including Prof. D.C. Nath, Prof. Sulabha Parasuraman, Prof. RB Bhagat, Prof. NS Bist and Dr KVR Subramaniam, for their exemplary contributions to the field. Dr Suresh Sharma moderated the felicitation ceremony, celebrating decades of impactful work.

Plenary Session 4 (11:45 AM - 01:15 PM): The plenary session on Increasing Accessibility to Maternal Health & Nutrition Services for the Most Vulnerable Pockets, hosted in Auditorium I, featured prominent speakers such as Dr Zoya Ali Rizvi (Government of India) and Surabhi Chaturvedi (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation). Discussions covered innovative community models, nutritional interventions, and strategies to address maternal anaemia and health disparities in marginalised populations.

Poster Session 1 (01:15 PM - 03:15 PM): A Poster Session was held in the CSRD Corridors. Researchers presented diverse studies, enriching the conference with visual and interactive dissemination of their work.

Plenary Session 5 (03:15 PM - 04:15 PM): Chaired by Mr Rakesh Kumar Maurya and co-chaired by Prof. T.V. Sekher, the session focused on Sustainable Development and Health: Insights from PRC Research. Presenters like Dr William Joe and Dr Rajesh Aggarwal shared findings on Population Research Centre initiatives and their policy implications.

Technical Sessions Slot 2 (04:30 PM - 06:00 PM): The day concluded with additional technical sessions:

Technical Session 8: Focused on Nuptiality, Fertility, and Family Planning, discussions explored psychological insights into fertility, marital violence in consanguineous marriages, and the nexus between religiosity and fertility trends.

Technical Session 9: Centred on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Health, topics ranged from catastrophic healthcare expenditures in Kerala to health disparities linked to housing environments.

Technical Sessions 10 & 11: Both sessions addressed Public Health and Nutrition. Researchers presented interventions for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, maternal nutrition disparities, and the Poshan Abhiyaan's impact on undernutrition.

Day 3 - 14 December 2024

Award Presentations (09:00 AM to 10:30 AM)

Prof. Chandrasekharan Award Presentation

This session, held in Room 134 of the Cartography Laboratory, SSS III Building, featured six thought-provoking presentations coordinated by Dr Jeetendra Yadav. Research topics ranged from the prevalence of self-reported strokes among hypertensive patients in Bankura, West

Bengal, to the inequalities in maternal healthcare utilisation in urban India. Other highlights included studies on rural-urban tobacco consumption disparities, the health insurance dilemma in India, and seasonal survival differences by sex, region, and residence. These presentations offered critical insights into public health challenges and demographic nuances in the Indian context.

Prof. PP Talwar Award Presentation

Held in Auditorium I of the Convention Centre under Dr Ajay Singh's coordination, this session spotlighted five exceptional studies. Presentations covered diverse topics such as infant mortality trajectories across Indian states, the multidimensional impact of remittances in BIMSTEC countries, and intersectional inequalities in functional limitations among older adults. Additional research explored late-life depression's financial burden and parenthood expectancy at the state level. The session emphasized the intersection of demographic trends and public health policy.

Plenary Session 5: Leave No One Behind – Enhancing Holistic Acceptance of Family Planning (11:00 AM to 12:30 PM)

Moderated by Sapna Kedia and coordinated by Dr Rahul Kumar, this session at Auditorium I explored innovative strategies to enhance family planning inclusivity. Presentations addressed themes such as the perspectives of women and frontline workers on injectable contraceptives (DMPA-IM), the influence of women's and men's social networks on family planning behaviours, and the critical role of early adolescent engagement in SRHR programming. This session underscored the need for gender-sensitive and community-centred approaches to family planning.

Poster Session 2 (12:30 PM to 02:30 PM)

The CSRD Corridors hosted a vibrant display of research posters, showcasing diverse studies in demography, public health, and social development. This interactive session allowed participants to engage with researchers and delve into topics ranging from child nutrition to migration trends.

Technical Sessions – Slot 3 (02:30 PM to 04:00 PM)

Session 16: Urbanization and Rural Demography

Auditorium I of the Convention Center saw discussions on land transformation in urban villages, maternal health among the urban poor, and rural development through livelihood revitalization. Papers also addressed governance issues in census towns, poverty among socio-religious groups, and demographic trends in Northeast India.

Session 17: Public Health and Nutrition

Held in Room 133, this session highlighted disparities in healthcare-seeking behavior, the impact of landholdings on childhood stunting, and concurrent anemia and stunting in children. Additional studies focused on cancer trends in rural Kashmir and distress financing for institutional deliveries.

Sessions 18, 19, 20: Ageing and Generational Dynamics

Three parallel sessions in Rooms 134, 202, and 203 explored topics such as the life satisfaction of elderly workers, the association between poverty and depression, and gender differences in

elder abuse. Papers examined frailty, food insecurity, and cognitive impairment, shedding light on aging populations' challenges in India.

Session 21 & 22: Miscellaneous Papers

These sessions, held in Rooms 205 and 208, featured diverse topics, including tribal livelihood diversification, slum conditions in Kolkata, declining child populations in classrooms, and the epidemiological transition in India. Discussions also covered gestational diabetes, NCD prevalence among migrants, and diabetes-related disabilities in older adults.

Valedictory Session (04:00 PM to 05:00 PM)

The valedictory session in Auditorium I concluded the conference with reflections by IASP President Prof. Suresh Sharma and Vice President Dr A. G. Khan. Awards for outstanding research, including the Prof. Chandrasekharan and Prof. PP Talwar Awards, were announced. Prof. Padmavathi Srinivasan's book was released, and a report on the conference was presented by Dr Ajay Singh. The session ended with a vote of thanks from Dr Bhaswati Das, followed by a group photo.

Awards

The details of the various awards bestowed 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. Ms Shraddha Chaurasiya, Ms Surabhi Singh and Ms Preety Sharma were the winners of the Sudesh Nangia Award and were presented with cash awards, certificates and mementoes.

Prof KB Pathak Award

Ms Madhurima Sharma was awarded the Prof KB Pathak Award for her paper titled *Socioeconomic Inequality in Cognitive Impairment among India's Older Adults and its Determinants: A Decomposition Analysis*.

Prof K Srinivasan Award

For the best substantive paper, the award was given to the following two 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 was given to the paper:

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

The conference is sponsored by the following agencies.

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III NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF IASP

The Northern Regional Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP) on *Demographic Dividend and Inclusive Growth in North India* was successfully organised on 20–21 March 2025 at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh, in collaboration with the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences of NIT Hamirpur. The conference brought together scholars, researchers, students, and practitioners from across the northern region to deliberate on issues related to population dynamics, demographic dividend, health, gender, youth, and inclusive development.

The conference commenced on 20 March with a formal inaugural ceremony in the Mini Auditorium of NIT Hamirpur. The proceedings began with the invitation of dignitaries to the dais, a floral welcome by students, and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Dr Rinshu Dwivedi, Internal Organising Secretary of IASP, delivered the welcome address, after which Dr Rajesh Chauhan, Northern Regional Coordinator of IASP, outlined the purpose and significance of the conference. Prof. Suresh Sharma, President of IASP, delivered the Presidential Address, highlighting the need for evidence-based demographic research to strengthen growth and development in North India. The Chief Guest, Prof. Shashi Kumar Dhiman, Vice-Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh Technical University, addressed the gathering and shared his perspective on demographic challenges in hilly regions. Dr Manoj Sharma, Co-patron and Internal Organising Chairman, delivered his remarks, followed by a special address by Dr Archana Santosh Nanoty, Registrar of NIT Hamirpur. The Guest of Honour, Prof. Hiralal Murlidhar Suryawanshi, Director of NIT Hamirpur, emphasised the role of academic institutions in shaping demographic discourse. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr Jeetendra Yadav, Treasurer of IASP.

The first plenary session was held after the inaugural session on the theme *Health and Development*, chaired by Prof. Suresh Sharma, with Dr Manoj Sharma as Co-Chair and Dr Rinshu Dwivedi as Moderator. The session featured insightful presentations by senior academics and public health experts, including Prof. N.S. Bist, Dr Anmol Gupta, Prof. Parveen

Kumar, and Prof. Amit Sachdeva. Their contributions covered a wide range of regional health and development concerns, including disease burden, programme implementation challenges, and pathways for improving health outcomes in North India.

Post-lunch, the conference transitioned into the technical sessions. The first technical session, held in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, focused on *Health and Well-being*. Chaired by Dr Anil Chandran S, General Secretary of IASP, the session included presentations on health data reliability, mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, emotional intelligence and pro-environmental behaviour, quality of life among PLHIV, disparities in multimorbidity among women, and adolescent undernutrition in North India. The session reflected the diversity of health research emerging from the region and highlighted both methodological innovation and policy relevance.

This was followed by the second technical session of the day, on the theme of *Gender Equality and Youth*. Chaired by Dr A.G. Khan, Vice President of IASP, the session included papers on gender disparities in the labour market, inequalities among Scheduled Tribe women, cultural negotiations in different communities, women's workforce participation, psychological impacts of media content on adolescents, and youth employment challenges in Uttar Pradesh. Discussions emphasised the critical need for gender inclusion and youth-centred policy frameworks in North India.

The day concluded with a poster presentation session on the theme, *Population Growth and Its Socio-Economic and Environmental Impact*. Students and young researchers presented posters on issues such as overpopulation and climate change, unemployment, pandemic preparedness, food insecurity, urbanisation, migration, slum conditions, religious gatherings, environmental degradation, and transportation challenges. This interactive session allowed participants to engage with innovative ideas and analytical approaches. The evening concluded with a cultural programme followed by dinner, providing an opportunity for informal networking and appreciation of local cultural performances.

The second day of the conference began with the third technical session on the theme, *Mortality and Morbidity*. The session included presentations on rural–urban obesity gaps, under-five mortality in Himachal Pradesh using machine-learning approaches, healthcare utilisation patterns, uncontrolled diabetes in Northern India, regional disparities in child malnutrition, tribal resilience and cultural interactions, and equity in educational attainment among tribal communities. These studies provided valuable insights into inter-regional and inter-community variations in health outcomes.

This was followed by a technical session on *Reproductive Health*, featuring papers on the effectiveness of reproductive health extension programmes, unmet needs in maternal and child health, gestational anaemia, healthcare provider choices in Himachal Pradesh, coverage of antenatal iron-folic acid supplementation, and dietary heterogeneity among women in North India. The session underlined persistent reproductive health challenges in the region and emphasised the importance of improving service delivery, awareness, and behavioural interventions.

The conference concluded with the valedictory session, chaired by Prof. Suresh Sharma. Reflections on the conference were presented by Dr Archana Muthye, Joint Secretary of IASP, summarising the key academic contributions and discussions held over the two days. Dr A.G. Khan, Vice President of IASP, delivered the valedictory address. Participants shared their feedback, expressing appreciation for the enriching deliberations and the hospitality of the host institution. Dr Anil Chandran S, General Secretary of IASP, conveyed appreciation to NIT Hamirpur for its support and collaboration in hosting the regional conference. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Zareena J.M., Internal Organising Secretary, followed by lunch.

Overall, the Northern Regional Conference at NIT Hamirpur provided a vibrant platform for academic engagement, capacity building, and regional networking. It facilitated meaningful discussion on population, health, and development issues pertinent to Northern India and strengthened IASP's ongoing efforts to promote inclusive and evidence-based demographic research across the country.

IV NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF IASP

The Northeastern Regional Conference of IASP on *Demography, Health and Development: Insights from Northeast India* was organised from 29 to 30 May 2025 at Shri Ramasamy Memorial University (SRMUS), Sikkim. The conference provided a platform for academicians, researchers, students, practitioners, and policymakers from across the northeastern region to discuss emerging demographic challenges, health system issues, and development concerns unique to the Northeastern States. The event was jointly organised by IASP and SRM University Sikkim and witnessed enthusiastic participation from scholars representing diverse disciplines.

The conference commenced on 29 May with the inaugural ceremony held in Room 403 of the Science Block. Dr Ajay K. Singh, Joint Secretary and Regional Coordinator of IASP, delivered the opening remarks and highlighted the significance of organising a regional conference dedicated to the demographic and health issues of Northeast India. Prof. Suresh Sharma, President of IASP, delivered the Presidential Address, emphasising the importance of region-specific demographic analysis and the need to strengthen research capacities in the northeastern

region. Prof. Ch. Satish Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SRM University Sikkim, has delivered the inaugural address. In his inaugural address, he has underlined the crucial role of collaborative academic platforms in addressing the region's development challenges. Dr Anil Chandran S, General Secretary of IASP, delivered the concluding remarks of the inaugural programme, stressing the commitment of IASP to support demographic research across diverse regions of the country. A vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Jeetendra Yadav, Treasurer of IASP.

The first plenary talk was delivered by Prof. Ravi Verma from ICRW. He underscored the complexity of health system strengthening in the northeastern region and highlighted the urgent need for targeted interventions.

Post-lunch, the technical sessions began, with two parallel sessions scheduled for the afternoon. The first parallel session focused on maternal and reproductive health in Northeast India and featured presentations on maternal morbidity trends, barriers to institutional delivery in Himalayan regions, continuum of maternal healthcare, spatial patterns of antenatal care quality, the role of STIs in primary infertility, and the influence of maternal undernutrition on adverse pregnancy outcomes. Chaired by Prof. Suresh Sharma, the session generated valuable discussions on strengthening maternal health services in challenging geographic and socio-economic settings.

Parallel to this, another session on morbidity and public health discussed determinants of childhood immunisation, the influence of screen time on sleep hygiene, the use of technology for substance abuse monitoring and public health integration in Sikkim, financial and health literacy related to retirement planning, and awareness of cervical cancer among female sex workers. This session, chaired by Dr Jeetendra Yadav, brought forward the interplay between behavioural, technological, and socio-economic factors influencing health outcomes in the region.

Following the break, two additional parallel sessions were held. The first session on child health and nutrition featured papers on underweight among lactating women, anthropometric failure among children, childhood malnutrition, dietary diversity in tribal communities, breastfeeding practices in India, and malnutrition trends in Northeastern India using NFHS data. These presentations underscored persistent nutritional challenges, the need for tribal-sensitive programming, and the importance of targeted nutritional interventions.

Simultaneously, the parallel session on causes of mortality and morbidity in Northeast India covered a wide array of issues, including family relations among injecting drug users, community-based surveillance for diabetes management, ethnobotanical knowledge of medicinal plants in Sikkim, cervical cancer awareness through social media, ethnomedicinal practices for Alzheimer's and dementia, and predictors of tobacco use based on GATS-2 findings. The session highlighted the role of traditional knowledge systems, digital communication tools, and behavioural risk factors in shaping population health outcomes.

The final technical session of the day focused on fertility, sexual behaviour, and population dynamics. Presentations examined infertility trends, reproductive morbidity, determinants of risky sexual behaviours among unmarried young men, demographic and fertility challenges in the Northeast, trends in teen pregnancy and associated maternal risks, and patterns related to age at menarche. This session facilitated important dialogue on youth health, sexual behaviour, and changing fertility patterns in the region. The first day concluded with a cultural programme followed by dinner.

The second day of the conference on 30 May began with a technical session on migration, livelihood, and socioeconomic transitions. Presenters discussed emerging migration trends, intentions to re-migrate, rural–urban migration in Assam, the impacts of livelihood diversification initiatives such as NRLM, methodological approaches for studying left-behind women, and benefit incidence analysis of public spending in Northeastern India. The session offered important insights into mobility, livelihood vulnerabilities, and regional development.

This was followed by a session on health systems, ageing, and chronic conditions, chaired by Dr Anil Chandran. Papers addressed factors influencing repeated C-sections, inpatient health expenditure patterns, determinants of hypertension among middle-aged and older adults, the implications of population ageing on demographic dividend and economic growth, regional disparities in longevity, psychosocial stress due to human–elephant conflict, and HIV patterns in the Northeast. The session highlighted the growing burden of chronic diseases and the need for stronger financial and institutional health system support in the region.

The conference concluded with a valedictory session attended by the IASP leadership, including Prof. Suresh Sharma, Dr Anil Chandran, Dr Jeetendra Yadav, and Dr Ajay Kumar Singh, along with Prof. Ch. Satish Kumar, Hon. Vice Chancellor of SRM University Sikkim. Reflections on the conference emphasised the richness of discussions, the relevance of the themes addressed, and the enthusiasm of participants. The hosts expressed gratitude to IASP, and a vote of thanks was delivered by SRM University Sikkim. The final session was followed by lunch, and the conference concluded with a dinner later in the evening.

Overall, the Northeastern Regional Conference at SRM University Sikkim successfully provided a vibrant platform for academic exchange and strengthened the regional presence of IASP. The deliberations highlighted the uniqueness of demographic, health, and development challenges in Northeast India and reinforced the importance of continued collaborative research to inform policy and planning for the region.

V OBSERVANCE OF WORLD POPULATION DAY

World Population Day 2025 was observed by IASP on July 11 at IEG, Delhi. The programme was in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and Population Research Centre, Institute of Economic Growth. The inaugural session was chaired by Shri A R Nanda, Former Health Secretary, Govt. of India. Shri Pravin Srivastava, Former Secretary and Chief Statistician of India, Shri Kal Singh, Director General (Stats), Govt. of India, Dr. Sutapa B. Neogi, Director, Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), Delhi, Prof. Dipendra Nath Das, Rector-II, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi and Prof. Prem P. Talwar, IAPPD were the guest speakers. Professor Suresh Sharma, President, IASP delivered the welcome address and Dr Ajay Singh proposed vote of thanks. After lunch there was a Workshop on 'Geospatial Representation of Population & Health Data' and the Resource Person was Dr. Rakesh Arya, CSRD, JNU, New Delhi followed by a poster presentation.

Distinguished Lecture Series

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

Lecture No.	Delivered By	Topic
22	Dr. Raman Mishra	Female Sterilization in India: Unveiling Trends and Patterns from NFHS Data
23	Bidhubhusan Mahapatra	A Refugee-led framework to measure progress towards durable solutions among Syrian refugees living in Jordan
24	Sanjana Arora	Echoes of inequity: Barriers to accessing healthcare services among older migrants in Norway
25	Dr Akansha Singh	Machine Learning in Population Research: Opportunities and Challenges
26	Dr. Sumit Mazumdar	Future-proofing India's Health Financing Systems in Challenging Times: Some Considerations
27	Dr. Joe Thomas	Policy Challenges in Promoting Healthy Ageing in India
28	Ms. Varsha Srivatsan	Smart Surveys, Actionable Evidence: PMA Surveys and the Future of Survey Research with AI/ML

29	Dr Soumya Alva and Emily Stammer	Complexity-aware monitoring: Using participatory approaches to explore and map causal pathways to inform public health programmes and evaluations
30	Dr Shekhar Chauhan	Cross-National Gender differences in numeracy and fluency measures of cognitive function across six welfare regimes

Publication of Demography India

During the period four issues (two regular and two special) of the journal Demography India were published, Volume 53 Special Issue (December 2024) volume 53 Number 2, Volume 54 Number 1 and Special Issue: RASTA (2025). All the 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.

New Life Members

Our membership base is increasing. Currently, we have 982 life members. During the reporting period 107 new members are added.

Concluding Remarks: As we move forward, I extend my sincere thanks to all members of the Association, our collaborators, partner institutions, and the Executive Committee for their unwavering support and active engagement in strengthening the activities of IASP. The past year has been marked by significant academic contributions, successful conferences, vibrant regional engagements, and continued progress in our publication and outreach efforts. Under the leadership of our President, Prof. Suresh Sharma, the current Executive Committee will continue to work with the same dedication and collective spirit as we move towards the completion of our term in August 2026. I am confident that with your continued cooperation and commitment, IASP will further consolidate its role as a leading professional body in advancing demographic research,

fostering collaboration, and contributing meaningfully to policy and development discourse in India.

Thank you...