



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
(HYBRID)  
ON  
SOCIETY, CULTURE AND SOCIAL CHANGE:  
KASHMIR AND BEYOND  
SEPTEMBER 6TH & 7TH, 2022**

**Organized by  
Islamic University of Science and Technology, Kashmir (IUST)  
in Collaboration  
with  
Indian Sociological Society (ISS)**

**Last date of Abstract Submission: 25.08.2022**

One University Avenue, Awantiopra, Pulwama-192122 (J&K)

*About the Seminar & the Theme*

The dynamics of social change cannot be conceived in isolation from a social setup. The extent to which a society undergoes changes is well determined by its ethos constituting the crux of a culture. This being so, the change in the sub-continent can be seen more as an outcome of the interplay of internal and external forces owing to its rich historical traditions and evolution. The pluralistic ethos of the country rooted in a rich socio-cultural matrix represents a melting pot wherein, diverse faiths such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism etc. have flourished together in a rich cultural exchange over centuries, which aptly earns it an epithet of the land of unity in diversity. The diversity in the case of India can be looked into from a wider perspective for it extends beyond the realms of faith into the geographical and climatic arenas. Because of this, the perspective of the people, and the underlying approach towards societal changes vary from one sub-society to another.

While looking at the valley of Kashmir, it represents a mosaic of social, economic, religious, intellectual, and philosophical diversity. The rich social fabric rooted in diverse faiths alongside the little and folk traditions flourishing in the teachings of various Sufis, Rishis and Saints is symbolic of a pluralistic ethos which has imparted enormous flexibility and tolerance not only to the Kashmiri society but the regions beyond. It is the home to several castes, tribes and ethnic groups like the Kashmiris, Punjabis, Dogras, Paharis, Pashtuns, Shinas, Dards and Gujjars. It is a place where Shaivism and Sufism schools merged religion and philosophy and promoted and advocated idealism, asceticism, austerity, desertion of worldly life, and divine love. Kashmir Shaivism (trikha), emphasized the non-

dualistic philosophy affirming the single reality, being, and absolute consciousness - Shiva. Sufism, the Islamic mysticism advocated the Divine Unity (Tauhid) and the theory of existential monism believing in the individual's intimate communion with God through contemplation based upon intuition and insight.

It is this essence of togetherness, which promoted shared culture and enabled the continuity of the Indian civilization notwithstanding the rigid and obscurantist practice and ideology of some



major religious thoughts. Kashmir, a part of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), has experienced turmoil for several decades now yet, the resilience to such upheavals could be seen to be a direct outcome of the composite culture as experienced by the people. The situation equally holds true for India, which has thrived through several vicissitudes by the dint of rich social and cultural diversity. However, some people from Kashmir as also from other states migrated from their original places and settled in various parts of the country and abroad, carrying with them their cultural traits and constituting a significant diaspora. The transformation in recent times due to universalizing processes of modernization and globalization facilitated by information and communication technology (ICT) and media impacted the society and culture of people both in Kashmir and India in varied ways of language, economy, literature and tradition.

In this backdrop, the present International Conference is an attempt to bring people from diverse regions of UT of J&K, India and abroad on a common platform to deliberate on the society and culture of Kashmir and India from the viewpoint of socio-economic, philosophic and religious dimensions including the study of communities, ethnic groups, institutions, traditions and linguistic and regional diversities. The Conference will also focus on the transition that society and culture are going through due to the effect of modern forces of change and globalization, and how they counter and respond to such impacts.

### *The Sub-themes*

The proposed International Conference will focus on the present social and cultural scenario and the process of change in Kashmir and India. It will have the following sub-themes:

1. Society, Culture and Change: An Interface.
2. Religion, Language, Folklore, Craft, Gender, Tribes, Stratification and Ethnicities.
3. Science, Society, Environment, Media and Technology.
4. Modernization, Globalization and Information & Communication Technology (ICT): Societal and Cultural Challenges.
5. Kashmiri and Indian Diaspora: Understanding Social

Change.

6. Urbanization, Rural Reconstruction, Tourism and development.

### *About Indian Sociological Society*

The Indian Sociological Society (ISS or Society) was established in 1951 in Bombay with 107 members. The key initiative in its formation was taken by G. S. Ghurye, the then Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Bombay. It started the publication of the Sociological Bulletin in 1952 biannually. Around the same time, another initiative was taken by sociologists at Lucknow, Radhakamal Mukerjee, and D. P. Mukerji who established the All India Sociological Conference (AISC). Six conferences were organized between 1957 and 1961. Soon these two organizations merged and held a conference in Bombay in October 1967. The conference was inaugurated by G. S. Ghurye and M. N. Srinivas was elected the new President. Following this change, the Society's office shifted from the University of Bombay to the University of Delhi. The ISS office was located at the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, and functioned from there from 1989 to March 2017 when it shifted to its own premises at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

The number of annual issues of ISS Journal, Sociological Bulletin increased to three in 2004, and four in 2021, with one special issue. The ISS also publishes Hindi Journal, Bharatiya Samajshastra Sameeksha since 2014. Both these Journals are now published by the SAGE from 2017-18 onwards. An E-Journal, Explorations is also published by the ISS, besides E-Newsletter published thrice a year. All these journals are peer-reviewed, and are governed through a common set of Editorial Guidelines.

Organizing the All-India Sociological Conferences (AISC) is a regular feature of the ISS. Till 2021, 46 All India Sociological Conferences have been organized. The ISS also organizes the Young Scholars' Workshop at the time of the annual Conference. The Society possesses the distinction of having organized the XI World Congress of Sociology in Delhi in 1986. Since then, the Indian Sociological Society has taken great strides with its life membership increasing to more than 5000 in early 2022. To be in sync with global trends, the Society periodically upgrades its website



and conducts all communications online be it membership, conference abstract submissions, subscriptions or online voting during ISS elections.

In the latter half of the 1990s, the Society adopted the concept of Research Committees (RC) and Adhoc Groups (AG) along the lines of the International Sociological Association (ISA). The Society's major academic work is being conducted through these Research Committees allowing its members to participate in meaningful dialogue and exchange of views. The number of RC today has increased to 28, which encourages young and old members to present their papers in these Committees at the AISC. The RCs are governed by certain rules and regulations. The Society has initiated a programme of academic writing and research workshops and uploaded academic protocols on its website.

In addition to these activities, the ISS has three endowments in memory of Professors M. N. Srinivas, Radhakamal Mukerjee, and Yogendra Singh. The ISS conducts lectures at the AISC in their names and in addition, gives an annual prize to young sociologists in honour of Prof. M.N. Srinivas. Besides, the Society instituted the Life Time Achievement Award in 2005, which is presented to the awardees at AISC. Till 2021, it has honored 42 Indian Sociologists.

### Valley of Kashmir

Nestled in the Himalayas with bountiful natural beauty, Kashmir a division of the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is bestowed with mountains, rivers, freshwater lakes, swamp lands, springs, gardens, meadows, ridges, and valleys. Located strategically in the northwest part of

India, it shares a major part of its international border with Pakistan. J&K, a state in India from 1954 to 2019, is reorganized as the UT with effect from 31 October 2019. According to the 2011 Census, J&K state

has a total population of 12.55 million with an area of more than 222,236 square kms. Islam is practiced by 68.3 percent of the state population, and 28.4 percent follow Hinduism, while there are other religious minorities like Sikhism (1.9%), Buddhism (0.9%), and Christianity (0.3%). More than 95 percent population of Kashmir

follows Islam. There are, however, different sects, ethnic communities, castes, tribes, and races. Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh were three diverse regions of the state. Today, Jammu and Kashmir is a Union Territory under Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor having 20 districts, ten each in Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

September is a pleasant month to visit Kashmir. It is usually a dry month with the average temperature varying between 12.5°C to 27.5°C. Srinagar, the largest city of J&K is well connected by road, National Highway NH1A (connecting Jammu) and NH1D (connecting Ladakh), and also has a railway station. Srinagar International Airport has regular domestic flights from major cities of India. The IUST is located in South Kashmir town of Awantipora at a distance of 35 kms from Srinagar Airport.

### About Islamic University of Science & Technology

Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST) is a Public University located in South Kashmir at the historical town of Awantipora located 32 kms away from Srinagar, the summer capital of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, India. The town has been of great socio-religious and political significance being the seat of Awanti Varman, the king of the Utpala dynasty of the ninth century CE. Besides the host of Sufi saint, Hazrat Sayid Hassan Mantaqi (ra) of the early fifteenth century AD descended from the West Asian Sufi Order and contributed to the field of logic apart from being a religious scholar and a saint. The shrine and the temple of two religious traditions are located close by on the eastern and western sides of NH1, representing a living example of pluralistic tradition and a harmonious blend of *Kashmiriyat* from the times immemorial. The sprawling campus of the University has its back from the eastern side, a mighty **Wastoorwon** hills and on its western side a majestic river Jhelum. The campus in its neighborhood has a newly established AIIMS.

The IUST was promulgated by an Act of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislative Assembly in November 2005. The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of J&K is the Chancellor of the University. The University is recognized by the UGC and AICTE and is a member of AIU and was granted institutional accreditation earlier in 2015 and currently in June

2022. The University is striving to be a leading institution in the field of Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences.

In recognition of the contributions of the University, the Union Territory administration has recently handed over 1350 kanals of land being planned for further infrastructural development and the establishment of a solar and biodiversity park. The University has a rich sports infrastructure with a World-class athletic track. Given the Green protocol, the University is ensuring a sustainable environment. Therefore the delegates are requested to kindly cooperate and avoid plastics and other non-degradable materials on the campus.

### Organising Committee



**CHIEF PATRON**  
**Shri Manoj Sinha Ji**  
 Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K  
 & the Chancellor, IUST



**PATRON**  
**Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo**  
 Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, IUST,  
 Awantipora- J&K



**CONVENER**  
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 President, Indian Sociological Society &  
 Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Jammu



**ORGANISING SECRETARY**  
**Prof. Pirzada Mohamad Amin**  
 Professor of Sociology & Controller of Examination, IUST



**Prof. Manish K. Verma**  
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**Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik**  
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**Prof. Lily Want**  
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**Prof. Shruti Tambe**  
 Treasurer, Indian Sociological Society



**Prof. Ayaz Hassan Moon**  
 Dean Research, IUST



**Prof. Naseer Iqbal**  
 Registrar, IUST

### Important Dates

Last date of Abstract Submission: **25.08.2022**

Participants can send their abstracts maximum in 300 words, font size 12, spacing 1.5, in Times New Roman at

**Email: [issconf.awantipora@gmail.com](mailto:issconf.awantipora@gmail.com)**

### Registration Fee

Faculty Members /Academicians : Rs. 4000/-  
 Scholars: Rs. 2500/-  
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 Online Presentation: Rs. 1000/-

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Accommodation Required: Yes/ No  
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