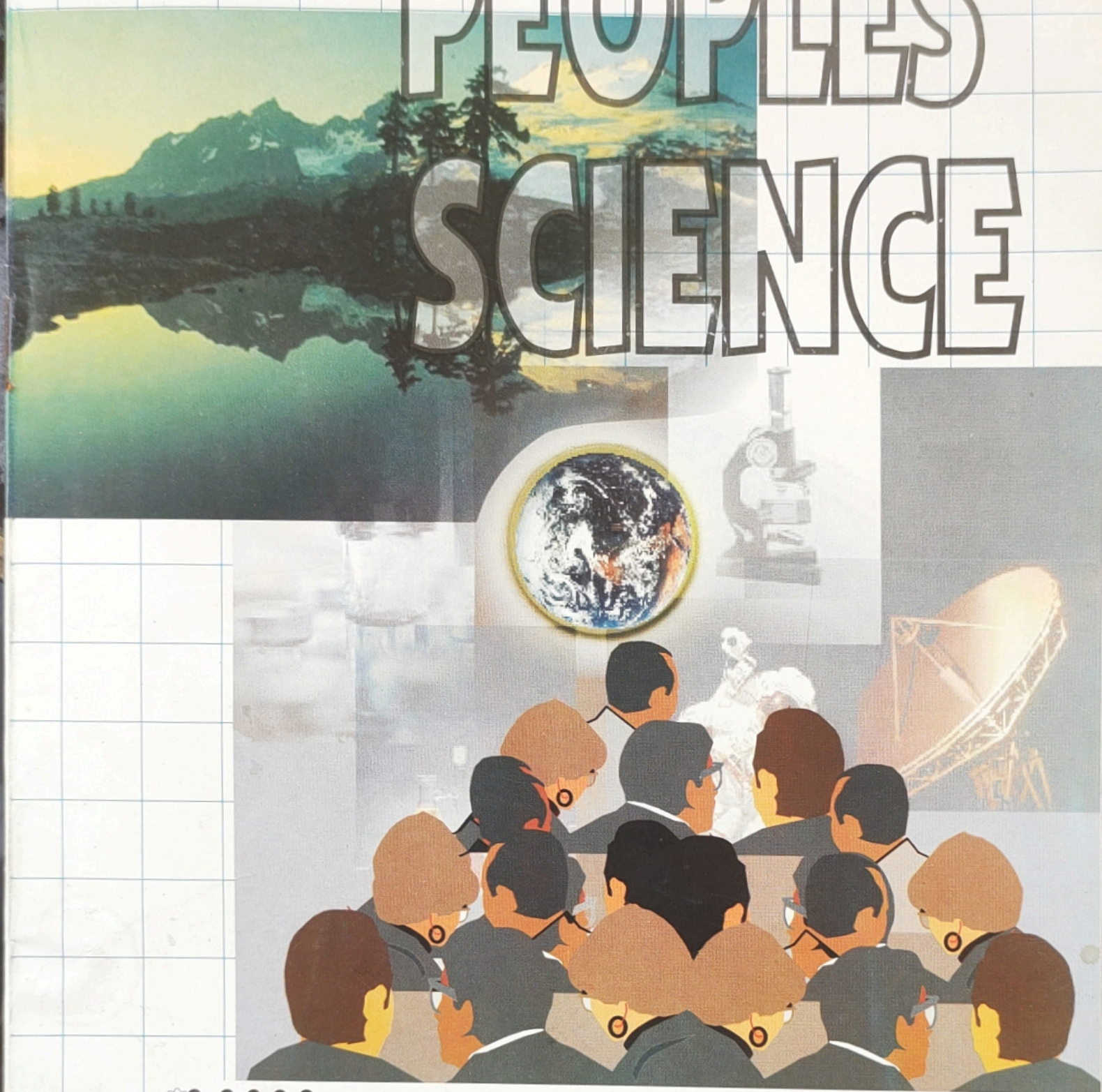


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peoples' science



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8TH ALL INDIA PEOPLES' SCIENCE CONGRESS



Peoples' Science Movement in the country was initiated with the idea of propagation of scientific temper among common people. 'Science for the people', 'Science awareness' were the focus of the movement. People witnessed the euphoric success of organised Peoples' Science Movement in 1986 through 'Bharat Jana Vigyan Jatha'. Since then a network of PSM organisations were formed as, All India Peoples' Science Network.' Today AIPSN has 35 members organisations all over the Country. The movement, over the last decade, grew multifold and took up issues like literacy, peoples' health, elementary education, Samata—science awareness among women, technology transfer and group enterprise development, cosmic voyage, S&T policy issues, fight against obscurantism & fundamentalism etc. All India Peoples' Science Congress is being organised periodically, where delegates from all over the country join to evaluate the progress, discuss various science and technology related issues and decide upon the future task.

During 9th-13th November, 98, the 8th All India Peoples' Science Congress was held in the 'Ruins of Nalanda'—the ancient place of learning in Rajgir, Bihar. The journey of AIPSC started in

1st AIPSC	Kannanore, Kerala	KSSP
2nd AIPSC	Calcutta, West Bengal	PBVM
3rd AIPSC	Bangalore, Karnataka	KRVP
4th AIPSC	Bombay, Maharastra	LVS
5th AIPSC	Hisar, Haryana	HVM
6th AIPSC	Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	JVV
7th AIPSC	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	MPVS, Ekalavya
8th AIPSC	Nalanda, Bihar	BGVs Bihar

In Kannanore where first Congress was held, interaction was initiated amongst PSM activists at national level. The national level apex body for Peoples'

Science movement—All India Peoples' Science Network was formed there, which organised subsequent Congresses at Calcutta, Bangalore, Bombay, Hissar, Hyderabad, Bhopal and Nalanda.

Nalanda in Bihar is a historical landmark of education and was the citadel of academic research during mediaeval period. Eighth AIPSC was held just opposite to the relics of old Nalanda University during 9-13th November, '98. The congress was organised jointly by AIPSN and Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samity, Bihar. Nearly 400 delegates from all over the country participated in the Congress and 85 speakers from various discipline took part in the discussion, which were undoubtedly of high quality. The Congress was inaugurated on 9th November by Shri Gunakar Mulay in presence of Dr. Dinesh Abrol, General Secretary and Dr. Venkatesh Athreya, President of AIPSN. Following the inaugural session, a panel discussion was held on "Science & Peace". Dr. Vinode Raina, Shri Prabir Purakayastha, Shri Gahar Raza and Shri N. D. Jayprakash taking part in the discussion highlighted the issues related to use of nuclear weapon against mankind.

The next three days, the discussions were held on the following topics :

- Challenges of development in the age of globalisation (Speakers : Dr. S. K. Sinha, Dr. Prabhat Pattanaik).
- Panchayati Raj and Participatory development (Speakers : Dr. M. P. Parameswaran, Shri Mehaboob Zahedi, Shri T. P. Kushikannan).
- Liberalisation, Privatisation and Alternatives (Speakers : Shri K. Ashoke Rao, Shri P. Purakayastha, Shri Gautam Ray, Shri G. N. Chatterjee, Dr. Subimal Sen.

- d) Technology Upgradation Initiatives for Peoples' Oriented Development (Speakers : Dr. U. Trivedi, Shri Laxman Prasad, Shri Sailapati Gupta, Dr. T. Sunderaraman, Shri Jogendra Walla, Shri Satish Kumar, Shri Dinesh Abrol etc.).
- e) Science Communication (Speakers : Shri Sankar Chakrabarty, Shri Gahar Raza, Smt. Usha Menon, Shri Gunakar Muley).
- f) Science, Culture & Secularism (Speakers : Prof. K. N. Panikkar, Shri Dhruva Raina).
- g) Literacy, Post-literacy and Continuing Education (Speakers : Shri Ghalib, Dr. Kuldip Singh Tanwar, Dr. Anita Rampal).
- h) School Education, Curriculum Design etc. (Speakers : Dr. Vinode Raina, Shri Dayaram).
- i) Primary Production (Speakers : Dr. M. K. Prasad, Dr. Parthiba Bose, Dr. Utsa Pattanik, Dr. Bhabani Joardar, Shri S. P. Ganchowdhury, Shri Arunava Mishra, Dr. Tapan Mishra, Shri Somnath Bhattacharya, Dr. Archana Prasad).
- j) Samata (Participated by the PSM Groups).
- k) PSM & Health (Speakers : Dr. T. Sunderaraman, Dr. R. S. Dhaia, Dr. Kuntal Biswas).
- l) PSM & Gender (Speakers : Smt. Kamal Srivastava, Shri Thomas Franco, Smt. Sumita Bajpai).
- m) Panchayet Development Report Presentation by Different PSM Groups.

In the afternoon of 12th, a special session was organised on "Challenges of Development in Bihar", where eminent personalities like Shri S. P. Sukhla, Shri Saibal Gupta, Shri Iswari Prasad took part.

The Valedictory session was addressed by Shri Kanti Biswas, Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education of Government of West Bengal and Shri Sridip Bhattacharya and Dr. M. K. Prasad.

It was felt that in the present context of our country, when planful efforts are being effected to nourish religious fundamentalism, it is the primary task for the scientific community to launch campaign on building science awareness. At the sametime, when the self-reliance and sovereignty of the country are being threatened by the forces of liberalisation, Peoples' Science Movement should take up the challenge to go to the people with critical review of this policy and the alternatives. The responsibility to fulfil the above

objectives and the stupendous task of spreading both literacy movement and post-literacy programme, demand for strong network and organisational consolidation. The General council of the Congress discussed at length about the organisation aspect where all member organisations assured of sharing greater responsibility.



The new Executive Committee was elected with following members :

President : Dr. M. K. Prasad

Vice President : Dr. Vinode Raina
Dr. Dinesh Abrol
Dr. T. Sunderaraman

General Secretary : Shri Sridip Bhattacharya

Joint Secretary : Dr. Amit Sengupta
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