

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE INAUGURAL FUNCTION OF 42ND INDIAN SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESS AT KALINGA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA ON 27TH DECEMBER, 2018

Prof. V.N. Bhoraskar, Vice-President, ISSA,
Prof. Dinabandu Sahoo, Director, IBSD,
Others dignitaries on the Dais,
All the participants from different parts of the country,
Dear young students,
Distinguished Invitees,

I am happy to be associated with the inauguration of the 42nd Indian Social Science Congress here at this wonderful campus. It is always a daunting challenge to organize an event of this scale. I would like to congratulate the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology under the able leadership of Dr. Achyuta Samanta for their persevering endeavour to organize such a mega event successfully.

It is heartening to learn that the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, a sister Institute of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology has become the World's largest free residential Institute for indigenous and tribal children, one of its kind in the entire world to provide food, accommodation health care to 27,000 tribal children to pursue education from KG to PG and Doctoral programmes absolutely free. It is, indeed, a tremendous achievement that both KISS and KIIT have become Deemed Universities and KISS has earned the singular distinction of becoming first ever University in the World exclusively for the tribal students.

As you are well aware, tribal development has been a thrust area for the Government since independence and several schemes and programmes have been implemented. There has been significant improvement but the desired level has remained as elusive as ever. The tribal communities continue to remain largely backward and they are subjected to various forms of exploitation till today in spite of several legislations to safe-guard their rights

and there is always a slip between the cup and the lip. The contribution of KISS for the welfare of the tribal children and amelioration of the condition of the tribal in general is really praiseworthy.

The Indian Social Science Congress strives to bring all branches of science together under its umbrella with a view to building science of Nature-Man-Society in Indian conditions and the world at large. All branches of science – social, historical, philosophical, linguistics, juridical, physical, chemical, biological, mathematical, ecological, environmental, medical, health, agricultural, engineering, biotechnological, computer and information technological are represented through 21 Interdisciplinary and 32 Multidisciplinary Thematic Research Committees. Since there is no scientific literature in Indian languages even after 70 years of India's independence, which has led to a decline in the quality of science education and research in our country, the Indian Academy of Social Sciences through Indian Social Science Congress is striving to produce scientific literature in forms of monographs, books and proceedings in all Indian languages. Building bridges between universities/colleges/institutes/laboratories and the people and society is another vital object of the ISSC. The 42nd Indian Social Science Congress is being held in Odisha and full credit goes to the State government that such a scientific activity of much beneficial consequence is happening here. An event of this magnitude takes several grueling months in preparation specially the logistic and the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences and Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology have played their role with immaculate excellence.

Not only in Social Sciences but also in Science and technology, India is becoming one of the world's powerhouses. The country has seen steady increase in Government spending on research and development and has a critical mass of well-educated professionals and a vast pool of scientists and technologists. Even the private sector is stepping up its efforts and providing an increasing proportion of funding. In recent years, Government has

announced plans to establish many new Universities, Technology Institutes, new Institutes of Science Education and Research, hundreds of Polytechnic and Vocational Schools and thousands of Skills Development Centres. The long-standing question of whether India will ever emerge on the world stage of technology has largely been answered. But whether that future will be inclusive of all its citizens still remains a poser. Our endeavour should be to spread the wing of knowledge and development to every nook and corner of the country touching the life of every citizen through science and technology. In this, the Scientists and Research Scholars have a well chalked out role to play. Here, the contribution of KIIT is quite commendable.

I would also urge that research work should not be rendered a onetime exercise for a limited purpose. The scientific temperament should be sustained in the social science sector and there should be continuity in their quest to better the condition of the people. Oftentimes, it has happened that research is done and the result consigned to oblivion. The findings should be disseminated and put to proper use. I would even suggest setting up of a Research Centre of a National level in every State so that research work goes on with focus on practical applicability. This Social Science Congress will see the congregation of renowned social scientists, research scholars and students from within the country and abroad under one roof. It will provide the platform for exchange of knowledge and experiences for a better human society. I am hopeful that after meaningful deliberations and discourses along with presentation of papers, the Social Science Congress will come out with recommendations for a definitive way forward.

With these words, I wish for the continued and collective efforts of the Indian Social Science Community for making the Congress a grand success and I thank the organizers for inviting to this memorable function.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.