

**Minutes of the
General Body Meeting of the
Indian Political Economy Association (IPEA)**

At the 22nd Annual Conference of IPEA

Venue: Economics Department, University of Jammu, Jammu

Date: December 14, 2018

Prof V Upadhyay thanked the Jammu University's Department of Economics for organizing the 22nd Annual Conference of Indian Political Economy Association. He briefed about Indian Political Economy Association (IPEA) and shared that IPEA have a provision of collectively sharing responsibilities as Authorized Signatories. Last year Prof Surajit Mazumdar and Dr Anamika Priyadarshini had joined as two of the authorized signatories of IPEA and this year we are proposing the name of Prof C S Verma. Prof Verma accepted the request.

Prof Upadhyay updated the General Body (GB) of IPEA about last year's main expenditure which included organizing conference, advertisement about the conference in EPW and website maintenance. About Rs 13000 was spent on advertisement and 4500 on website maintenance. After that IPEA has about Rs 200,000 as balance.

Prof Upadhyay also emphasized over the need to promote the Association among likeminded and concerned academics and encourage them to become life members of the Association. He also briefed the GB about 3 new concepts that IPEA is interested to focus on in near future. These concepts are:

- i) **Journal of IPEA:** A three members committee has been formed to work at this front. This committee includes Prof S P Singh, Prof Surinder Singh and Dr Anamika Priyadarshini. The Journal Committee of IPEA is expected to prepare a concept note on how we intend to initiate the journal. The Committee will be submitting the note after two months. The idea is to first prepare a concept note and then begin as a web journal of IPEA. The Committee will also be responsible for approaching an appropriate publishing company of international repute for the journal.
- ii) **Promoting Political Economy:** The signatories appealed to the members of General Body to think of ways to promote the subject of political economy in academia. Example of Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa, where a course on Political Economy has been introduced, was shared by the Signatories and the members of GB. Reference of Punjabi University Patiala and University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad was also shared and the need to promote the subject in more universities was recognized by the GB.
- iii) **Workshop on Political Economy:** Prof Upadhyay shared that IPEA has some money that remained unspent during the last conference at IIT Delhi and this money

could be used for organizing a one-week long workshop on Political Economy. The objective of the workshop could be to prepare an edited volume on the main aspects of political economy. It was recognized by the GB that arena of political economy is expanding and we need new frameworks to address issues like gender, environment etc. In this backdrop, the proposed workshop would aim at preparing a volume on political economy that addresses core issues of concern and could be approachable for interdisciplinary courses.

Prof Balwinder Singh Tiwana offered to organize the next 23rd Annual Conference of Indian Political Economy Association in Patiala, tentatively in October or early November (2019). The GB members applauded and thanked Prof Tiwana for the invite.

Prof Ramanmurthy insisted that we should aggressively promote our forum. He questioned that why can't we at public universities have courses on political economy or Marxist economy if private universities like Ashoka and Shiv Nadar are offering such courses? Prof Ramanmurthy appealed the GB to have a belief that political economy has a much larger acceptance and we should recognize it. We should promote ourselves through our web journal too.

Prof S. P. Singh drew the GB Members' attention on few issues. His first concern was how to mobilise resources to invite eminent scholars and second was regarding the quality of papers as many papers submitted in the conference might be copied from already published documents. Some GB members also shared their concern about challenges in addressing the issue of plagiarism in papers presented in IPEA conference.

Prof D M Diwakar insisted that IPEA should be clear about how it defines plagiarism and must avoid such screening process which may result as an implication to accept WTO policies on Intellectual Property Right. Prof Upadhyay clarified that IPEA would just like to discourage cut and paste work. Dr Anamika Priyadarshini emphasized that IPEA would certainly not like to subscribe to monopolistic policies of WTO and other imperialist institutions and discouraging plagiarism does not necessarily implies subscribing to those policies either. Prof S P Sinha also insisted that discouraging plagiarism should be a concern. Dr Priyadarshini also drew attention towards IPEA's paper accepting process under which all abstracts submitted for presentation are accepted and it is very difficult to ensure the quality of paper through this approach. Prof Ramanmurthy added on a lighter note that some bourgeoisie norms like regulation for plagiarism are actually good and we should promote it.

Prof Balwinder Singh Tiwana suggested that we should first focus on quantity and then eventually we will be in a position to ensure good quality as well. He expressed his concern over lack of interest for reading and writing among young students and insisted that we should be prepared to guide students.

Prof Balwinder Singh Tiwana suggested that IPEA should not have more than 3 themes in one conference.

Prof Rajinder Singh emphasized again over the need to generate resources and suggested that signatories should take initiative and donate to the Association as well as also write regularly for the journal or website of IPEA. He added that we should invite experts to contribute to our journal/website. Prof Abhay Godara suggested that members, specially Authorized Signatories, should contribute for the IPEA. Prof Balwinder Singh Tiwana volunteered to

contribute Rs 10000 to the Association and Dr. Manoj Siwach, Dr. Abhey Godhara and Prof. Jasbir Singh also volunteered to contribute Rs. 10000 each. Authorized Signatories namely Prof. V Upadhyay, Prof S P Singh, Dr. Anamika Priyadarshini, Dr. C S Verma and Prof Ramana Murthy also volunteered to contribute each of them Rs. 10000 in the Association's fund.

Prof Rajinder Singh reminded how Prof Manoj Siwach and others at Chaudhary Devi Lal University are working for the promotion of the subject of political economy and he proposed that Prof Manoj Siwach should also be one of the authorized signatories of the IEPA. This proposition was accepted unanimously and also by Prof Manoj, who was invited on the dais to join the group of Authorized Signatories.

Professor Surinder Singh alerted that it seems the Association is confining political economy within the Marxist framework whereas it should attempt to create an interdisciplinary space and try to make it applicable for wider range of disciplines and schools of thoughts. Most of the schools are finding disciplinary frameworks restrictive and we should try to make our forum an open space.

Finally, Professor Balwinder Singh Tiwana presented the vote of thanks to participants of GB meeting and to the organisers of 22nd Annual Conference of IPEA specially the Department of Economics, University of Jammu Jammu.