

SOCIAL SCIENCE GAZETTEER*Special Volume**July 2026: pp 13 – 14***Editorial**

It was in 2025, that my friend Professor Rajiv Gupta, requested me to be the Guest Editor of this Special Volume titled, “*Challenges Before Social Sciences*”.

In the weeks before, Rajivji had been in conversation with people including me about the evolving social reality by sharing information about changes taking place in India and in the rest of the world. We expressed our apprehensions about how to comprehend them. These discussions have resulted in the decision to bring out this special volume and he requested me to be the Guest Editor. This led to the writing of a concept note which we sent to scholars inviting them to express their views, or to write and add their insight by contributing a paper on the issues highlighted.

I am crystallizing here the points raised in the concept note and the resulting discussions.

The last forty years or so witnessed big changes in the social milieu in India and in the world, resulting in various disciplines of Social Sciences facing scholastic hurdles to comprehend and explain this emerging social reality. Changes in information and communication technology have led to unleashing the forces of globalization, bringing rapid changes in economy, society, culture and political processes. Neoliberal market forces have taken hold, inequality has widened with benefits of globalization going to the rich and powerful, impacting culture, politics and other aspects of society. This path of development has also had impact on environment and health. These challenges beg the need to go beyond disciplinary boundaries, by searching for interdisciplinary explanations.

The hurdles to scholastic comprehension of this emerging new social reality could be at conceptual, epistemic, or theoretical level. The scholars have responded by focusing on what they considered to be

most relevant. In doing so, each one of them has gone beyond their disciplinary training, to examine various linkages and dimensions which need to be brought forth to the wider audience. I thank the authors of the present set of papers for responding to our request and to enrich the discussion.

I am not presenting the gist of these papers here, as the abstract of each paper gives a good overview. All that I need to say is that the paper writers are Indian scholars from different institutional settings in the country and are of different cultural background. Each one of them has given new insights and has made our understanding richer.

The papers have been published under three sections. The first section has papers which focus on the conceptual, epistemic and theoretical aspects. The second section has papers which focus on analyzing a substantive theme chosen by the author. The third section is from the archives of Indian Social Science Association.

I hope that these papers stimulate discussion in the world of Social Sciences.

N Rajaram

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Guest Editor of this Special Volume of *Social Science Gazetteer (SSG)*, **Professor N Rajaram** is closely associated with ISSA and a regular contributor to SSG. The Indian Social Science Association gratefully acknowledges his support and applauds his continued creativity and support.

Managing Trustee, ISSA
