I am presenting the annual report and audited statements of accounts of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing for the year 2020-21. This is the 56th annual report of the Institute.

Like other organizations and people across the country and world, the year 2020-21 was challenging for the Institute. It was a matter of gratification that we were able to get all our staff and students vaccinated against corona virus in the early days of vaccine availability in the country. I congratulate our ENT Department in taking a lead role in vaccination drive at the Institute.

The Executive Council of the Institute met after four years gap on 22nd July 2020 in virtual mode. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon’ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India chaired the meeting which deliberated various policy matters related to the Institute. The Standing Finance Committee also met during the reporting year under the chairpersonship of Mrs. Vandana Gurnani, I.A.S., Additional Secretary (Health), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India on 14th December 2020 in virtual mode.

The Institute secured membership in the prestigious World Health Forum, an organ of the World Health Organization in recognition of its contribution to the promotion of the World Hearing Day 2021 through various programmes and activities over a span of one month.

During the lockdown period, we were able to shift quickly to electronic mode and deliver all our academic programmes online without any time delay. Also, the students were extended with emotional and mental health support especially for those who continued to live on campus.

As in previous years, we offered 18 long-term academic programmes on communication disorders and allied fields and 257 students were admitted. Unlike previous years, in 2020-21, National Level Entrance Examinations were conducted online with … centres across the country.

Even during the pandemic restrictions, the Institute faculty, research staff and students managed to publish 97 articles in reputed scientific journals, 86 papers in in-house journals and 16 books/ book chapters. Also, 19 scientific papers were presented in seminars and conferences. In addition to the Govt. of India research funding agencies like Department of Science and Technology, we were successful in getting an international research fund from the United Nation’s Global Partnership for Assistive Technology during the reporting year.

The clinical assessment and rehabilitation of communication disorders were provided in both physical and virtual mode. Seventeen WhatsApp groups were formed to ensure hurdle-free access to our clinical services during pandemic, and we received a lot of appreciation and positive feedback from our clinical clients for the same. Totally, …. Clients registered for availing the clinical services during the reporting year.

Our ambition to reach out and serve the people with communication disorders in the country have been further strengthened this year with the establishment of seven more Out Reach Service Centres across the country. Of these, one OSC was inaugurated at the Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri by Shri. V. Somanna, Hon’ble Housing Minister, Govt. of Karnataka on 27th October 2020 and the remaining six OSCs were inaugurated by the Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon’ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India in virtual mode on 3rd March 2021 in virtual mode. The process for opening more OSCs in the coming years are progressing.

In addition to the services provided at the OSCs, the Institute continued to provide school screening, industrial screening, elderly screening during the reporting year. It is gratifying to report that we organized 70 communication disorder screening camps and assessed more than five thousand people for communication disorders. The camps include the ones conducted at Gujarath in commemoration of the historic Dandi March.

We broadened our public education activities further by organizing a variety of programmes and activities over several media and platforms reaching millions of people across the country and world. The World Hearing Day celebrations of the Institute attracted international attention consecutively for the second time in 2021. Under AIISH AISIRI, a radio programme initiated in collaboration with the All India Radio for creating public awareness on communication disorders, the experts of the Institute delivered 23 talks in 2020-21. In addition, several awareness programmes were conducted through other radio and television channels including Doordarshan. We enhanced our social media activities by creating accounts on Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube, and improved our reach and engagement considerably. The faculty and staff created hundreds of live and animated videos during the lockdown period and disseminated over the social media platforms. The routine public education activities like Monthly Public Lectures, publication of newspaper and magazine articles etc. were also continued during the reporting year.

Our new centre of excellence building with a functional area of 1,22,200 Sq. ft. is getting ready to be opened in 2022 and the civil work at the new Varuna campus and major upgradation of our IT infrastructure are progressing. The Institute issued Letter of Indent for Project Management Consultancy to M/s. National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. (NPCC), for setting-up of infrastructure required for establishing an AIISH-like institute at Kanpur, U.P. Land acquisition is in progress to establish another AIISH-like institute at Agarthala, Tripura.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Institute managed to perform above expectations in 2020-21 as demonstrated by this report, and I am truly grateful to our parent Ministry, Executive Council, Academic and Financial Sub-committees for supporting us in all our endeavours. I must also acknowledge that nothing would have been achieved without the dedication and commitment of the staff and students of the Institute. Many thanks to them all.

Even at the time of writing this report, the pandemic is continuing and uncertainty prevails all over the world. Hope we will soon overcome all the challenges posed by the virus and have a happy future ahead.

essential workers who remained on our campus throughout this period – supporting students who continued to live on campus, keeping our buildings safe, and keeping some of our laboratory facilities open so our researchers could develop vital work on the epidemiology and treatment of Covid-19.

I am immensely proud of our enhanced public education activities over several media and platforms

13-storey building on the City’s northern gateway to open in 2023/24

Earlier in the year

As a key contributor to the

which are mentioned elsewhere in this report

I must acknowledge that nothing would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of all members of the University community whom we thank for their sustained efforts and support

switching rapidly to online teaching and supporting our students, particularly those anxious about their final year arrangements.

The continued COVID19, we will continue to take such steps as may be necessary to respond to these challenges

it is pleasing to see this recognised in

We took a lot of efforts by organizing our strong performance in the national league tables and other accolades

We will continue to build on our efforts going forward to prevent consumer harm and ensure that consumers are protected.

Finally, as every cloud has a silver lining, I would highlight two positives from the impact of COVID19. Firstly,

proud of the activities that are highlighted in this report and