



CALL FOR PAPERS

Loyola College, Department of Economics (Shift II)

in collaboration with

Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS)

and

**Loyola Institute of Social Science
Training and Research (LISSTAR)**

organises

A Two-Day National Conference on

India's Developmental Challenges

1–2 March 2027

Lawrence Sundaram Hall (LS Hall)

Loyola College, Chennai

Conference Tracks

1. Labour and Technology

This track explores the transformation of labour markets amidst rapid technological change, focusing on the ways automation, artificial intelligence, and digitalisation are reconfiguring employment patterns, the organisation of work, and labour relations. It invites critical engagement with the political economy of technological change, gig economy, platform capitalism, algorithmic workforce management, and precarity. The track welcomes research on how technological disruption interacts with existing inequalities across caste, class, and gender. It further explores the future of decent work, the erosion of labour rights, and policy frameworks necessary to strengthen labour protections in increasingly digitalised economies.

2. Climate Economics, Energy and Sustainability

This track examines the macroeconomic dimensions of Ecological transition, evaluating the viability, costs, and financing mechanisms of decarbonization pathways. It analyses market-based mitigation instruments such as carbon pricing and emissions trading systems. It integrates Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks into corporate finance and investigates issues pertaining subnational natural resource governance. Other areas of focus are Just Transition, interstate water and resource sharing, and public investments in climate-resilient infrastructure. The track welcomes research on public investment in climate-resilient infrastructure and the distributional and developmental implications of climate policy.

3. Regional Growth and Development

In a vast and diverse country like India, national-level analyses, while important, can often obscure significant regional variations. As the literature suggests some of the most important social and economic transformations are unfolding at the state and regional levels. This track invites analyses that foreground these regional dynamics and examine how growth and development are shaped by distinct historical, institutional, economic, and social contexts. The track welcomes papers examining subnational economic growth and development, regional disparities, and the fiscal dimensions of federalism, including state fiscal space and Finance Commission devolution.

4. Poverty, Inequality and Social Welfare

This track examines the changing nature and dimensions of poverty and inequality in India. It invites research that examines the processes that drive poverty and inequality along the axes of caste, class, and gender, including inequalities in income and asset ownership, particularly land. It also welcomes research on social mobility, multidimensional poverty, and state welfare provisioning. The track particularly welcomes analyses based on large-scale national household surveys, complemented by field-based studies.

5. Economics of Education and Health

The track focusses on human development as an indispensable aspect of sustainable economic growth and social justice. It examines public provisioning deficits across health and education. It investigates the burgeoning burden of out-of-pocket health expenditure, secondary and tertiary care pricing, and the efficacy of public health insurance programs in reducing medical-induced impoverishment. The track invites research on learning outcome disparities, the digital divide, and student debt burdens.

Submission Guidelines

- ✎ The title page must contain the full title of the paper, full name of the author(s), academic/professional designation, institutional affiliation, and email address for correspondence
- ✎ Abstract length: 150–200 words
- ✎ Paper length: within 6000–8000 words, including references, tables/figures and keywords
- ✎ Keywords should contain 4–6 words including 2–4 relevant JEL classification codes
- ✎ Please use 12–point Times New Roman, with 1.5–Line Spacing for formatting
- ✎ Referencing Style: APA 7th Edition recommended
- ✎ Submissions must be in MS Word

Applications

- ☐ Applications for paper presentation must be submitted via the Google Form only; applications via any other means will not be considered.
- ☐ [CLICK HERE](#) or Scan QR to access the Google Form to apply.
- ☐ Candidates from historically underrepresented backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.



Registration Fee Structure

Students (UG/PG)	₹400 (Poster Presenter)	₹300 (Non-Presenter Delegate)
Research Scholars	₹750 (Paper Presenter)	₹400 (Non-Presenter Delegate)
Faculty and Academicians	₹1000 (Paper Presenter)	₹600 (Non-Presenter Delegate)
Policy Practitioners and Industry Professionals	₹2000 (Paper Presenter)	₹1200 (Non-Presenter Delegate)

Note: Registrations will open for non-presenting participants from 2nd January 2027 onwards. Shortlisted paper presenters will be contacted through email for registration.

Accommodation

Participants are requested to make their own travel arrangements, as no TA/DA will be provided. However, the organising committee is actively working to arrange subsidised or complimentary accommodation for outstation delegates. Please write to us at the email given below for any enquiries.

Best Paper Awards

Based on the evaluations and recommendation of the expert review committee, best paper awards (commendation certificates) will be conferred under two categories: Best Student Presenter and Best Paper Presenter (Faculty/Practitioner).

Publication Opportunity

Papers accepted for the conference will be published in an edited volume of Conference Proceedings as a book. Best-presented and peer-reviewed manuscripts may be considered for publication in special thematic issues of the MIDS journal, *Review of Development and Change*, and LISSTAR's journal, *Social Glance: Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*. Acceptance for the conference does not guarantee automatic acceptance in the journals, which is determined through peer-review in line with the journals' editorial standards.

Important Dates

- ☐ 15 December 2026 Last date to apply / Full paper submission deadline
- ☐ 27 January 2027 Intimation of Acceptance
- ☐ 1–2 March 2027 Conference Dates

Enquiries

For enquiries, please write to the coordinators: econconfs2@loyolacollege.edu

About the Organisers

Loyola College

Founded in 1925 by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai, stands as one of India's foremost institutions of higher learning, distinguished by a century-long legacy of academic rigour and transformative leadership. Re-accredited with 'A++' grade by NAAC and conferred the status of 'College of Excellence' by UGC, Loyola consistently ranks among the nation's premier institutions. The college fosters a vibrant ecosystem that bridges theoretical inquiry with public service. Across its centenary heritage, Loyola continues to nurture visionary thinkers, policymakers, and scholars dedicated to advancing knowledge, human dignity, and social justice.

Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS)

Founded in 1971 by Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah, and reconstituted in 1977 as a National Institute, MIDS is jointly sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu. MIDS stands as one of India's foremost centres for critical social science and development policy research. Renowned for its work on agrarian change, rural political economy, and marginalised communities, MIDS serves as a crucial intellectual bridge connecting rigorous empirical analysis with progressive policy formulation. The institute houses the prestigious Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Chair Professorship. MIDS faculty actively contribute to state, national, and international advisory bodies, shaping contemporary debates on social justice, fiscal federalism, and inclusive development. As the lead knowledge partner, MIDS collaborates to steer the conference's academic direction, session deliberations, and scholarly discourse.

Loyola Institute of Social Science Training and Research (LISSTAR)

Established in 2007 by the Jesuit management, LISSTAR functions as a dedicated interdisciplinary research, training, and policy unit of Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai. LISSTAR has built strategic research alliances with prominent national and international institutions, such as Centre for Development Studies (CDS), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Japan. The institute hosts specialised workshops, field-level assessments, and academic dialogues addressing pressing human development questions. As an official partner, LISSTAR provides research advisory, event facilitation while offering a vital dissemination avenue through its peer-reviewed multidisciplinary journal, *Social Glance: Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*.

Department of Economics (Shift II) and LEAT

As one of Loyola College's founding departments established in 1925, the Department of Economics was shaped by the intellectual vision of Rev. Fr. F. Basenach, SJ, of the London School of Economics, embedding rigorous scholarship and social justice into its core pedagogy. The department has nurtured an extraordinary lineage of economic thinkers, policymakers, and scholars most notably Dr. C. Rangarajan (former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council). Continuing this legacy, the Department of Economics aims to equip students with empirical and critical tools to analyse contemporary socioeconomic realities. Supported by its Student-Faculty Forum, the Loyola Economics Association for Transformation (LEAT), the department convenes this Two-Day National Conference, and provides a national platform for researchers and students to deliberate, collaborate, and contribute to critical developmental challenges facing the nation.