

Labour Migration, Development and Social Transformation

2–3 February 2027

Organised by Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai

About the Conference

Labour migration is a defining feature of contemporary economic and social transformation, shaped by uneven employment opportunities, economic restructuring, demographic change, environmental pressures and aspirations for better livelihoods. Migrant workers contribute significantly to agriculture, construction, manufacturing, domestic and care work, services and informal economies, particularly across the Global South. Yet, their contribution often coexists with precarious employment, wage insecurity, poor working conditions, inadequate housing and limited social protection. Migration can therefore create opportunities for employment, income, skills and social mobility while simultaneously reproducing labour-market inequalities and vulnerabilities.

Rapid urbanisation, technological change, digitalisation, platform economies and demographic transitions are further reshaping the nature and geography of migrant work. At the same time, the growing participation of women in labour migration, the expansion of care economies, and the increasing influence of climate and environmental change are generating new forms of mobility and new policy challenges. These transformations raise critical questions about the future of work, migrant well-being, inclusive cities, labour rights and migration governance.

The National Conference on *Labour Migration, Development and Social Transformation* seeks to focus on the changing relationship between mobility, work and development, with particular emphasis on India. Bringing together scholars, policymakers and practitioners across social science disciplines, the conference will provide a platform to critically engage with emerging forms of labour migration, changing employment regimes, gendered mobilities, migrant cities, social protection, migration governance and digital transformation. It aims to advance interdisciplinary research and policy dialogue towards decent work, inclusive labour markets, social protection and more equitable and sustainable migration governance.

Call for Abstracts

MIDS invites extended abstracts from the scholars, faculty members, and practitioners on the following themes:

1. Labour Migration and the Future of Work: Precarity, Skills and New Employment Regimes
2. Gendered Mobilities: Women, Migration and Care Economies
3. Migrant Cities: Urbanisation, Labour Markets and Inclusive Urban Futures
4. Migrant Well-being and Social Protection: Health, Rights and Decent Work
5. Governing Mobility: Migration Policy, Labour Rights and Inclusive Migration Regimes
6. Digital Mobilities and the Transformation of Migrant Work

Requirements

- Interested candidates may submit an extended abstract (up to 1000 words).
- Based on the evaluation of extended abstract and review of supporting documents, a limited number of participants will be selected for the conference to present their work.
- Selected candidates will receive intimation on selection and further guidelines for preparing the full paper and deadline for submission.
- Participation / presentation in the conference is subject to submission of full papers on prescribed time.

How to Apply

- Scan QR or [CLICK HERE](#) to access the Google Form to apply.
- Applications must be submitted via the Google Form link only; any other form will not be considered.



Registration Fee

- *Without Accommodation*
 - PhD students Rs. 2000
 - Faculty / Practitioner / Others Rs. 3000
- *With Accommodation*
 - PhD students Rs. 3000
 - Faculty / Practitioner / Others Rs. 4000
- Mode of payment and account details will be provided by email to selected candidates once the abstract is accepted after evaluation of applications.

Publication Opportunity

- Selected best papers may be considered for publication in the MIDS Journal *Review of Development and Change* co-published with SAGE.

Best Paper Awards

- Based on the feedback received and recommendations of the expert review committee, best paper awards (certificates and cash prizes) will be given under two categories:
 - (i) economics and (ii) development studies and other relevant social science disciplines.

Accommodation and Travel

Twin sharing accommodation will be provided for selected outstation participants for three days. Eligible participants may claim travel reimbursement for the shortest rail route (AC three-tier), subject to submission of original tickets and documents in accordance with the institute's norms.

Important Dates

Last date to apply / Submission of Abstracts	October 5, 2026
Notification of Status of Applications	October 31, 2026
Full Paper Submission	November 30, 2026
Registration Deadline	December 20, 2026
Conference	2–3 February 2027

Enquiries

For enquiries, please write to the Convener:

MONALISHA CHAKRABORTY, Assistant Professor, MIDS. Email: monalisha@mids.ac.in

About MIDS

Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), founded by Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah in 1971, studies the development problems of India, with a special focus on Tamil Nadu. The institute's research encompasses key areas such as development and planning, centre–state relationships, poverty and inequality, agrarian issues, gender studies, social movements, and caste and communal politics. The Institute's PhD programme, affiliated with the University of Madras, has been indispensable in promoting social science teaching and training. The key objectives of the institute revolve around conducting interdisciplinary research and educational activities to promote social sciences and furthering development.