THE INDIAN SOCIETY OF LABOUR ECONOMICS

LABOUR ECONOMICS CONFERENCE
1-3 March 2023
Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, India

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY
Rono Hills, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, India
The Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE) [http://www.isleijle.org/] is a professional association of academics, researchers, and other stakeholders interested in the areas of labour, employment and development. The Society was founded in 1957 to promote scientific studies and disseminate knowledge on labour markets, employment, employment relations and related themes. It publishes a quarterly and peer-reviewed journal “The Indian Journal of Labour Economics” (IJLE) [https://www.springer.com/journal/41027], which is now in its 64th year of publication. Co-published with Springer the journal features scientific research on labour and employment issues.
The Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE) is pleased to announce its 63rd Annual Conference to be held in Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh during 1-3 March 2023. This Conference is being organised by the Centre for Development Studies and Department of Economics of Rajiv Gandhi University.

PROFESSOR JEEMOL UNNI, Professor of Economics at Amrut Mody School of Management, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad is the Conference President. DR. VANDANA UPADHYAY, Professor & Head, Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University is the Local Organising Secretary of the Conference.

**Conference Themes**

- The Challenge of Youth Employment
- Changing Rural Labour Markets and Rural Diversification
- Long Term Impact of COVID 19 Pandemic on the Economy and the Labour Market

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Last Date for Submission of Papers: 30 NOVEMBER 2022*
- Communication from ISLE about Acceptance of Papers: 15 DECEMBER 2022
- Last Date for Payment of Conference Charges: 31 DECEMBER 2022

*Note: The participants from outside India are advised to submit the papers latest by 15 October 2022 so as to allow sufficient time for travel and visa clearance.
Conference Structure and Duration

Conference is open to academicians, professionals, development practitioners, civil society members etc. interested in labour, employment and development issues. They are welcome to contribute papers and/or participate in the Conference.

The Conference Programme will consist of presentation of a large number of selected papers on the Conference themes. In addition, 3-4 Plenary lectures by eminent scholars/public personalities will be held during the Conference. A Global Plenary Panel on “Climate Change and its Impact on Livelihoods and Employment” is being planned. A Panel on “Creating Decent Work Opportunities in the Hill Economy of North-east India” will also be organised. As in the previous Conferences, a number of parallel panels will also be organised.

The Conference will begin at 9.00 am on 1 March 2023 and conclude by 2.00 pm on 3 March 2023. Participants are advised to reach Itanagar a day prior to the Conference and schedule their departure in the evening of 3 March 2023 or the morning of 4 March 2023.

Pre-Conference Event

A Pre-Conference Event is being organized on 28 February 2023 between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. The topics and speakers of the Pre-conference Event will be decided in due course. Those interested in participating in the Pre-Conference event should aim to reach the Conference venue by noon on 28 February 2023.

All the participants must be fully vaccinated
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Submission of Papers

- The Conference is open to scholars, professionals and others from India and outside and the proposed papers may focus on empirical contexts pertaining to India or other regions and countries of the world.

- The papers should be submitted online at http://conference.isleijle.org/ by clicking on the ‘Paper Presenter’ button.

- The length of the paper should not exceed 8000 words and should adhere to the current writing style of The Indian Journal of Labour Economics (IJLE). For further details, please visit http://www.springer.com/economics/journal/41027

- All papers should include a summary of around 500 words. The summaries of all accepted papers will be compiled into a publication which will be distributed among the Conference participants. These summaries will also be uploaded on the ISLE website.

- The selected revised papers presented in the Conference will be considered for publication in the Indian Journal of Labour Economics after peer review.

- Authors must ensure that their submissions are original. Please note that all papers will be screened for plagiarism and accordingly accepted or rejected. Further, authors are solely responsible for plagiarism violations.

- **Best Paper Award and Fellowship:** Every year ISLE gives Ruddar Datt Memorial and L K Deshpande Awards for two best papers presented in the Conference, and Surjit Singh Fellowship, to a young scholar below 40 years. For further details, visit: http://conference.isleijle.org/

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Submission of Panel Proposals

During the Conference, a number of panels will be organised in addition to a Pre-Conference event. Proposals for organising the panels are invited from scholars and institutions.

Each panel proposal should contain the following:

- Title of the panel and a description of the panel’s theme
- Titles, authors and abstracts (500-700 words) of the papers to be presented
- Names, affiliations and short biographies (100-150 words) of the proposed presenters and discussants/commentators
- Name and contact information of the Panel Organiser

*Note:* A panel session will comprise of 4-5 paper presentations. The organisers / coordinators of each Panel Session are expected to be in charge of the Panel Discussion, including raising resources for speakers’ travel and other expenditure. The proposals may be emailed to conference.isle@gmail.com and uploaded on http://conference.isleijle.org latest by 30 November 2022.

Travel Arrangements

The Indian Society of Labour Economics does not have any regular source of funding and each year the Society is able to raise some limited resources. As such, it is expected that the paper presenters, resource persons and other participants will fund their travel costs through their own institutions or other sources. For some select keynote / invited paper writers and resource persons, who are either superannuated or cannot manage their travel costs, the Society will make an effort to meet their travel expenses.
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Travel Arrangements

*Includes Rs. 1500 mandatory ISLE Annual Membership Charge.

- Conference is heavily subsidised and Conference Participation Charges cover only a small part of the overall expenses of the Conference.
- The Conference Participation Charges include payment towards a conference kit (comprising the summaries of all the papers presented at the Conference, a conference bag, stationery, etc.), local transport, modest accommodation and meals served during the Conference.
- Those paying the Conference Participation Charges after the deadline of 31 December 2022 will have to arrange their own accommodation and transportation.

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<th>Participation Category</th>
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Conference Participation Charges

The ISLE has introduced an online payment gateway from 2022 to facilitate centralized and seamless acceptance of payments and encryption of the information for an easy and secure transaction experience.

Conference Participation Charges should be paid online at http://conference.isleijle.org by clicking the ‘Conference Participation Charges’ button.
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all conference logistics related queries (accommodation, local arrangements) should be addressed on above email and phone numbers.
ISLE Secretariat

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**Ms. Priyanka Tyagi**  
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All queries relating to the Paper Submission and Payment of Conference Participation charges should be emailed only to: mail@isleijle.org

For details and updates on the Conference, please visit  
http://conference.isleijle.org/
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Assistant Professor
Department of Statistics

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The creation of decent employment for the youth is a global challenge which has dominated the policy discourse for the last several decades. The issue has been discussed more in developed countries as the youth unemployment rates have been considerably high in these countries. In developing countries, with exceptions like South Africa, the levels of youth unemployment have generally been lower. This has been mainly due to prevalence of poverty and lower educational attainments in these countries. However, of late most of the developing countries are witnessing higher levels of youth unemployment and this has become a major policy concern.

In India the youth unemployment rates have increased in recent years, particularly for those with higher level of education. India, at present, is home to the largest population of youth in the world. Its working age population including youth is still showing a rise, unlike most developed countries, where the elderly population has been increasing steadily and the growth of the working age population has been slowing down. This demographic advantage is likely to remain for at least another decade. At the same time, the increasing number of around 5 million people who are entering the labour force each year is an important challenge which is further accentuated by the technological changes. Further, there has been a growing enrolment of youth in secondary and tertiary levels of education, which has resulted in the supply of better-skilled workforce. However, there has been a significant increase in unemployment rates for the youth from 7.6 per cent in 2011-12 to
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In India the level of formal vocational/training is quite low. Only about 3% of the population reported receiving formal vocational/technical training in 2019-20. This is in sharp contrast to youth receiving such training in developed countries where the percentages range between 50-80%. Although most of the training in India is informal which our statistical system is not able to capture, there is no doubt that the level of vocational/technical training is low in the country. Further, the growing number of persons 'Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET)' is also a serious concern – 34.4% of youth were in NEET in 2019-20. There have been several interventions by the government to address this issue and a number of policies and programmes have been launched with mixed results.

In the above context, the following are some of the indicative topics for prospective paper writers on this theme.

- What are the global trends in youth employment and unemployment in both developed and developing countries? Do the trends differ between developed and developing countries?
- What are the pattern and trends of youth employment in India? Whether these patterns and trends differ across states, rural-urban, gender and social groups? If the differences are significant, what are the underlying factors?
- How does the youth employment status and quality differ across formal-informal, occupation and sectoral distribution compared to adults?
How is increasing enrolment rate in higher education and rising level of education among youth changing the supply and demand pattern in the labour market?

What are the factors for the high unemployment rates among educated youth, particularly those having better education? Whether there is a lack of enough suitable jobs as per their educational qualification? Is there a skill mismatch in the labour market?

Why educated women's unemployment rates are substantially higher than their male counterparts? Which factors could enable more educated young women to participate in the labour market?

What is the status of youth in NEET, and why has the share of youth in NEET increased over the years? Who are these youths, and why they are idle?

Which factors can play important roles in the smooth school-to-work transition of youth? What are the best international practices that India can follow to improve the school-to-work transition of youth?

New technology and digitalisation are changing the demand for skills and nature of work in the Indian labour market. How are youth affected by these changes?

What are the impacts of COVID 19 on employment of youth in the labour market?

Does the gig economy have enough potential to provide suitable jobs to the increasing number of unemployed youths especially women in India? Which policies can make the gig jobs more suitable to meet the aspiration levels of the youth?
- Have the various skill and vocational training initiatives of the government achieved the desired results? What are the reasons for the success, and failure of skills and vocational training schemes? What can India learn from international experiences?

- What are the new active labour market policies, and schemes introduced by the government in recent years, and how have these initiatives benefitted the youth population? What are the challenges in implementation and possible solutions to improve the schemes?

Papers are welcome on the implications for youth employment of the other two themes of the conference, the COVID-19 pandemic and rural diversification. The above themes are only indicative and prospective paper writers can choose other relevant topics/sub-topics from the broad theme.
Rural diversification, which forms an essential part of rural transformation, has been an important growth strategy. It encompasses not only agricultural diversification but also diversification of income, employment and occupation within the entire rural sector. The nature and pattern of rural labour markets significantly affect the pace and pattern of rural diversification and inter alia labour markets also get transformed by rural diversification. If diversification is key, it is not only diversification in production, but also diversification within households, both because individuals undertake multiple jobs, and because different family members work in different activities, with a division of labour by gender and age. There seems to be a move away from the purely agricultural household towards more complex forms of household insertion in the labour market.

In India, agriculture is by far the most dominant activity in rural areas in most parts of the country. Over time, there is a trend of long-term contraction of agriculture in economy and the share of agriculture in the GDP has declined at a rapid rate from around close to 50 percent in early 1970s to only around 13 percent in 2019-20. However, the extent of diversification of the labour force away from agriculture is very limited and has only declined from around 74 percent in early 1970s to around 46 percent in 2019-20. This structural imbalance in the economy has led to the increasing burden of the population on agriculture and low productivity of agricultural workers. While there are large inter-regional variations in the levels of agricultural productivity and wages, they are invariably lower than rural non-
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There have been several other changes in rural sector in recent years. Due to mechanization the growth in demand for labour in agriculture has declined. At the same time some alternative agricultural technologies and practices like SRI, natural and organic farming, albeit in small way have emerged and there has been a shift in agricultural production towards horticulture, dairy, poultry etc. Rural non-farm employment has been growing consistently and non-farm employment has become a major or supplementary source of income for a considerable proportion of agricultural households. The structural shift within rural non-farm employment has been driven by construction, but transport and other services, albeit small, have also grown. However, almost all employment in agriculture and more than eighty percent of non-farm employment is informal in nature.

The link between rural and urban areas through migration, commuting and trade has strengthened over the years. Increased rural-urban connections, both physical and virtual, mean that the labour market is becoming more integrated across urban and rural spaces. It is important to study regional or district labour markets rather than distinct rural and urban labour markets. The increasing attainment of education among a large proportion of rural population, including women, has implications for labour markets. Women are still more engaged in agriculture and subsidiary activities. There has been changes in the labour market institutions as well. Although, mobilization of rural labour is limited, thanks to other developments and public interventions (i.e., migration from backward areas, MGNREGA etc.) the bargaining power of rural labour has somewhat increased. There is increasing tendency towards payment of wages by piece rate, or by contracted
quantity of work, in place of daily rates, with uncertain implications for incomes of workers. The government interventions such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Rural Livelihood Missions, etc. have had profound impacts on rural areas.

All these mentioned above have considerably changed the rural landscape, both agriculture and non-agriculture sectors. It will be insightful to examine their implications and impacts on rural labour markets, rural diversification, and in fact rural transformation.

The following may be considered as indicative issues for prospective paper writers on this theme.

- How far has the process of rural diversification taken place in India? Whether or not rural diversification and in various states is related to agricultural growth? How far has crop diversification been instrumental in rural diversification?
- What role the development of rural industrialization plays in rural diversification? What are specific requirements of the non-farm enterprises so that these can be better integrated into policies and strategies at various levels?
- What are the demand side requirements for rural industries to succeed?
- What are the roles of various kinds of policies and programmes (credit, subsidies etc.) in the growth of rural industries?
- Given the growth of services in rural areas, how can development of services contribute to accelerating rural diversification?
- What are the implications and impacts of changing nature of rural labour markets on employment of workers – males, females and young?
- What are the implications of increasing mechanization of agriculture and emerging alternative technologies and practices on the labour market?
- What are the impacts of shift in agriculture towards high value crops and growth of dairying on labour markets?
- The majority of land holdings are small and marginal. Are such marginal and small holdings viable anymore?
- Is the shift from farm to non-farm activities indicative of higher productivity of the latter? If yes, what are the entry barriers and can it reduce gender and social group segmentation?
- How is rural labour market being impacted by links with urban areas (through migration, commuting, trade etc.)?
- What household labour market strategy is adopted to diversify economics activities and improve livelihoods and incomes?
- What are the gender implications of changing rural labour markets?
- What are the barriers that affect entry of female workers in non-farm employment?
- What are the implications of MGNREGA and other initiatives of the government for rural labour markets, including reducing gender and social groups discrimination in the labour market?
- What is the role of state and its agencies in accelerating the pace of rural diversification in various regions of India?
- What are the relevant international experiences from which India can draw suitable lessons?

These are only indicative topics and prospective paper writers may choose their own topics within the broad theme.
The impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the Indian economy and society has been studied by many scholars. It is over two years since the first wave of the pandemic struck India and total lockdown was imposed in March 2020. The economy has begun to recover, but the sectors hit most by the first lockdown and workers and enterprises in the informal economy are still struggling to recover their losses. The differential gendered economic impact and that on various social groups has been discussed, but little is known about how they fared in the last two years. The future of the students who lost nearly two years of education when schools and colleges were either closed or classes went online is in jeopardy. The long-term impact of the COVID 19 pandemic still lingers over us and needs careful consideration. Under this theme on the long-term impact of COVID 19, subthemes and issues that can be studied within them are highlighted below.

**Long term impact of COVID 19 on the economy and labour market**

A lot has been written on the impact of COVID 19 and the restriction placed on economic activity on employment and incomes. While the economy has revived to some extent in the two years after the pandemic hit, many sectors are still reeling under the long-term impact. What is the impact on output and employment at a macro level? Which sectors and segments of the economy are faring well or still grappling to survive? What factors have
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**Gendered impact of COVID 19 on employment and care work**

Many studies have noted a gendered impact of COVID 19 with women facing the brunt of employment losses and reduction in wages and incomes. Women were also less likely to return to work or regain their earlier employment status. Women have performed the social reproduction function in society and continue to do so. But during the pandemic the double burden of work increased many folds. This was due to the fact that children, whose schools and colleges were closed, and other members, who faced closure of their places of work, remained at home. What has been the long-term impact on the labour market? Has the intra-household burden of care work changed within the household in the long term based on experiences during the pandemic?

**Who were the losers and gainers in this period of crisis by occupations, status, social and other groups?**

What has been the impact of COVID 19 on inequality more generally – which groups have been able to protect themselves and which were more vulnerable? Did SCs fare better or worse than STs and OBCs, and much worse than higher castes? Did white collar workers do better than production workers, non-agricultural workers do better than agricultural workers and
casual workers better than regular workers? Were the wealthy and those with better social networks better able to tide over and maybe even profit from the crisis situation? All these are hypotheses that require empirical verification.

**The long term effects of the pandemic on businesses**

It has been observed that business in certain industry groups were hit more severely during the pandemic. Largely the 'touch industries' where face to face interaction was a necessity were negatively impacted more than other sectors. This included the hospitality industry, like hotels and restaurants, travel and tourism, beauty and gymnasiums and face to face retail trade of non-essential goods and services. While precipitating a large short-term decline in economic activity, the COVID 19 pandemic also brought about changes in the way businesses operate. Businesses that were able to shift to online mode were able to tide over the crisis more smoothly. There was also a change in consumer behaviour, some of which may continue after the crisis. These changes will make an impact on output, GDP, employment and prices, and their relationship in the long term. What is the longer-term impact on employment if firms go out of business? What are the long-term effects, on business organisation or the markets that businesses operate in? How will it affect the sales, employment, prices and profits in the long-term? Remote working and an acceleration of digitalisation were the most frequently cited long-term supply-side effects of the pandemic. Would business become more efficient and more resilient following the pandemic? Will firms reduce working hours or wages or simply fire workers? What are the chances of business adopting more flexible norms of work, including work from home? Which sectors of industry will be better able to adapt to these changes in the long term?
COVID 19 pandemic and domestic migration

The crisis facing migrant workers during the lockdown was revealed to us very dramatically by the media. There was an exodus of migrants who walked long distances to their homes when their places of work shutdown abruptly. Circular migration is a phenomenon in India. To what extent did these workers return to their places of work? Were they able to get back their previous jobs or were they successful in finding new ones? A large number of migrants in the informal sector set up their own small enterprises. Most of these enterprises were badly hit during the pandemic. What has been the long-term impact of this loss of jobs and incomes on the migrants? Households in some states are heavily dependent on remittances from the migrant workers. How has domestic remittances been affected by the pandemic?

COVID 19 pandemic impact on international migration and remittances

International migration was affected during the pandemic and many of the countries across the world requested the immigrants to leave the country. This was mainly because of closure of business, fear of infection and the limited capacity to attend to the health crisis within the country. International migration occurs from all states of India, but states like Kerala, Gujarat and Punjab are known for its NRI population. Remittances from these migrants form the major source of income of a large proportion of households. In Kerala it is estimated that remittances form nearly one-third of its State Domestic Product. Remittances have helped to alleviate poverty as well as sustain growth. But the pandemic created a dramatic reversal affecting poor families and the states which were dependent on it. Has this situation improved? Have immigrants been able to return or find other sources of livelihood? How have the households coped and how has the state responded to this crisis?
Long term impact of COVID 19 on education and learning outcomes and consequently on employment opportunities

While the impact of COVID 19 on employment has been studied, its long-term impact on level of education and learning outcomes are less known. The impact of the closure of schools and colleges as well as the move to online learning has caused loss of learning in the short term. However, the more dangerous aspect of this loss is the possible diminishing economic opportunities for the cohort of students who suffered. While some schools and colleges moved to online learning, the great digital divide ensured that the economically weaker section of students were left out. ASER reports on learning outcome were showing a slow improvement over the years prior to the pandemic. However, there was a large decline in language and arithmetic learning outcomes in 2020. Will the students ever be able to catch up? What is the long-term impact of this loss of learning? The need for affordable high-quality broadband and smartphones had become most evident during this crisis. Has online learning been able to compensate for the loss of physical classrooms, the guidance of teachers and learning from peers? Do employers perceive a loss of skills and if so, would this affect their hiring choices?

Mitigation policies

With the onslaught of the COVID 19 pandemic, governments have introduced many measures and policy, broadly to mitigate the effect on employment and incomes. What were the policies introduced to mainly substituted for loss of employment and income? What are some of the measures that have been particularly successful in mitigating the economic hardships? Some of these measures such as food and income support were withdrawn in a couple of months.
How did this impact the households?

Were the mitigation policies gendered and did it work to exacerbate gender inequalities? Did the design of the mitigation policy take account of the different constraints faced by women and men in the market and the domestic space? The critical role of the care economy and the role of women in it was brought out by the pandemic. Did mitigation policies take into consideration the critical role of the care work of women? Has the criticality of care work during the pandemic helped to change the social norms related to who and how care work is distributed in the household? Did it help to generate an awareness among governments and private enterprises about the role of care work?

Macroeconomics policies for revival

Governments have also introduced policies to revive the economy. What is the role of, and constraints on, macroeconomic policies as a consequence of COVID 19? What industrial support policies were introduced for recovery of output? What was the nature and timing of these policies? What were the medium-term macro policies, programmes or strategies designed/or that can be designed to revitalise the economy? What are the implications for public expenditure on treatment and vaccinations, the need for and costs of strengthening a weak public health care system?

Implications of the pandemic for the future of work

For a large segment of the population the pandemic was a reminder of the precarious nature of employment and work contracts. The issue of the future of work in the context of artificial intelligence was in the forefront prior to the pandemic.
However, the pandemic brought out in a starker fashion the importance of digitalisation in many jobs and industries. What are the possible long-term impacts of the pandemic on the future of work? How would the hours of work and possibility of work from home affect employment and incomes? How would the concept of the place of work change in the long term? Would companies opt for hiring common work spaces for employees to meet and work rather than locating them in permanent office structures? What could be the implication for the real estate sector and employment in it?

These subthemes and questions are only examples of issues that can be studied under the broad theme of long-term impact of COVID 19. We also encourage papers that draw on international experiences, perhaps comparing India's experience with some other countries. Participants are welcome to expand the ideas and present on other related issues as well.
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Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University) is the premier institution for higher education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Late Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the University on 4th February 1984 at Rono Hills, where the present campus is located. The university campus is located on a panoramic table land of 302 acres overlooking the river Dikrong bridge, locally known as Rono-Hills in the outskirts of Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh. It is connected to the national highway No. 415 leading to Itanagar. It is 6.5 km away from the National Highway 52-A and 25 km away from Itanagar, the State capital. The campus is linked with the National Highway by the Dikrong bridge. The nearest railway station is Gumto, just 10 minutes away from Rajiv Gandhi University.

Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University

The Department of Economics made its beginning in July 1991. The main objective of the Department has been to impart socially relevant education at the Post Graduate level by judicious mix of theory and empiricism. The course of study and research offering of the department has been designed to meet this objective. The Department of Economics has the distinction of acting as the nodal Department for the preparation of the First Human Development Report (HDR) of Arunachal Pradesh. The Department also has the distinction of preparing the First State Development Report of Arunachal Pradesh. The 7th, 17th and 22nd annual Conference of the North Eastern Economic Association Conference (NEEA) was organised by the Department in 2005, 2015 and 2022 respectively. Recognising the contributions of the Department, the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in 2012 sanctioned grant-in-aid for establishing the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) attached to the department of Economics.
Centre for Development Studies (CDS)

The Centre for Development Studies (CDS) was set up in 2013 as a research adjunct at the Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), Itanagar, with a generous grant from the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs), Government of India. The objectives of the Centre include the creation of high-quality research infrastructure for students, researchers and faculty members, in addition to sponsoring and coordinating research on various developmental issues having policy implications both at the regional and national level. Sponsoring national and international scholars for delivering lectures and other academic engagements and organizing national and international seminars, workshops, symposiums at periodic intervals on relevant topics and publishing working/policy papers on the research outcome of the Centre, monographs and edited volumes are other key activities of the Centre.

The picturesque town of Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh’s capital, is located in the southern foothills of the Himalayas. Itanagar is located at 27.1°N 93.62°E. It has an average elevation of 320 metres. Itanagar has a humid subtropical climate with dry, warm winters and hot, unpleasantly humid and wet summers. The first month of the pre-monsoon summer, March, is a moderately hot month in Itanagar, with average temperature fluctuating between 25°C (77°F) and 14.7°C (58.5°F). In Itanagar, the average high-temperature is relatively the same as in February - a moderately hot 25°C (77°F). Overall, the State of Arunachal Pradesh has a pleasant weather during November-March.

How To Reach Itanagar?

By Air:

Itanagar is well connected by air. Lilabari airport in Assam is around 50 km away from RGU with air connect with Kolkata and Guwahati and takes around 75 minutes depending upon the traffic situation. Flights from all major cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, etc. operate to Guwahati. Shared Taxi and buses are available from Guwahati to reach Itanagar which takes around 8 hours. Further, Dibrugarh Airport in Assam is around 220 Kms, from RGU and takes around 4 hours to reach RGU. Taxis and trains are available from Dibrugarh to Itanagar. Itanagar also has its own regular chopper service from Guwahati. There is a direct helicopter service between Guwahati and Naharlagun. Rajiv Gandhi University is around 13 Kms away from Naharlagun.

Donyi Polo airport located at Hollongi is around 28 km from RGU, and is scheduled to be operational by mid October 2022. This airport will provide hustle free connectivity to Itanagar and RGU.
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*Donyi Polo airport located at Hollongi is around 28 km from RGU, and is scheduled to be operational by mid October 2022. This airport will provide hustle free connectivity to Itanagar and RGU.*
**By Rail:** There are overnight train services (Dony-Polo Express) between Guwahati and Naharlagun. Naharlagun is the nearest railway station, where direct train Doni Polo Express runs every day from Guwahati Railway Station. Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express too run-on alternate days from Naharlagun to Delhi and Guwahati. Trains are also available between Dibrugarh and Naharlagun stations. Advance booking is advisable from IRCTC website for comfortable journey. The nearest railway station to the University is the Gumto station.

**By Road:** There is daily night and day super bus service available from ISBT Guwahati. Many premium Volvo bus service is also available in the same route. It will take about 8 hours to reach Itanagar from Guwahati by bus. Shared/Reserved taxi is also available from Guwahati airport to Itanagar (8 hours journey).

**Reception to the Delegates**

On 28 February and 1 March 2023, the delegates will be received at the Donyi Polo airport located at Hollongi and Lilabari airports and helipad at Naharlagun. They will also be received on Naharlagun railway stations as well as ISBT, Lekhi at Naharlagun.

**Inner Line Permit:** The State of Arunachal Pradesh falls under restricted area. Official permission is required to enter the state, and therefore the visitors other than natives of Arunachal Pradesh are required to obtain an Inner Line Permit (ILP) to enter Arunachal Pradesh. Inner line Permits are issued by the Secretary (Political), Government of Arunachal Pradesh, respective Deputy Commissioner and Additional Deputy Commissioner of the Districts. These can also be obtained from Resident Commissioner’s office / Deputy Resident Commissioner & Liaison Offices. Online ILP can be obtained from the official website of the Arunachal Pradesh Inner Line Permit Management System.

The weather in Itanagar in March is warm, with an average temperature fluctuating between 25°C (77°F) and 14.7°C (58.5°F).
In practice, inner line permit is quite easy to obtain online within two to three working days. For applying online, please visit the website www.arunachalilp.com on which details and procedures are also available. All the registered delegates will be sent the scanned copies of the invitation letter which they may show at the check gate/railway station/airport of the State.

For Foreigners

Individual foreigner visiting Arunachal require Restricted Area Permit (R.A.P) from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government. of India, F-1, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi- 110 001. Group tourists consisting of at least 4 (four) members can obtain the R.A.P from

- All F.R.R.O at Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai.
- Chief Immigration Officer, Chennai;
- The Commissioner Home, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar- 791 111

Weather in Itanagar in March

The first month of the pre-monsoon summer, March, is a warm month in Itanagar, with an average temperature fluctuating between 25°C (77°F) and 14.7°C (58.5°F).
Some Places of Attraction in Itanagar

Itanagar (Capital of Arunachal Pradesh) has a rich mixture of archeological sites of great historical value and built-up resources and institutions of great socio-cultural significance.

Itafort, the fort of bricks from which the state capital derives its name, is situated in the heart of Itanagar. The fort has an irregular shape, it is built mainly with bricks dating back to the 14th-15th centuries during the reign of Ramachandra, King of the Jitari Dynasty.

Geykar Sinyik (Ganga Lake) is a beautiful natural lake, locally known as GeykarSinyik is surrounded by a landmass of hard rock. The name GeykarSinyik means `confined water'.

Jawaharlal Nehru Museum has a rich collection of textiles, weaponry, household articles and handicrafts items reflecting the tribal culture and heritage of Arunachal Pradesh. There is also a Buddhist Monastery at Itanagar (Gompa) near the Museum.

Craft Centre and Emporium at Itanagar is worth visiting where one can see and buy local artifacts like wall paintings, traditional costumes made of natural vegetable and herbal dye yarns, and attractive utility items made of cane and bamboo.

Zoological Park (Zoo) is located at Chimpu. The park has a variety of fauna including avi-fauna species.

Indira Gandhi Park is a popular park located at Itanagar.

Polo Park is a small botanical garden located on top of a ridge at Naharlagun (the twin capital city).
### Some Popular Places of interest for Visitors in Arunachal Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tourist Spots</th>
<th>Popular Tourist Circuits</th>
<th>Attractions</th>
<th>Distance from RGU, Rono Hills, Itanagar</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Itanagar</strong></td>
<td>Itanagar-Ziro-Daporijo-Aalo-Pasighat</td>
<td>Ita Fort, Thupten Gatseling Monastery, Ganga Lake or Geker Sinying, Theravada Buddhist Temple, State Museum</td>
<td>25 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tawang</strong></td>
<td>Tezpur-Bhalukpong-Tipi-Bomdila-Sela Pass-Tawang</td>
<td>Sela Pass and Lake, Sangetsar (Madhuri) Lake, Tawang Monastery, Urgelling Monastery, Nuranang Falls, War Memorials, Bumla Border</td>
<td>450 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bomdila</strong></td>
<td>Tezpur-Bhalukpong-Tipi-Bomdila-Sela Pass-Tawang</td>
<td>Bomdila Monastery, Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary, Kameng Elephant Reserve, Tippi Orchid Centre, Heritage Village Thembang, Hot water spring (Dirang)</td>
<td>300 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ziro</strong></td>
<td>Itanagar-Ziro-Daporijo-Aalo-Pasighat</td>
<td>Ziro, The Subansiri Lower Dam</td>
<td>110 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pasighat</strong></td>
<td>Itanagar-Ziro-Daporijo-Aalo-Pasighat</td>
<td>Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary, Sirki Waterfall, Ellam textile industry, Bodak angling centre, Raneghat Bridge, Mebo, Komlighat, Siang River view</td>
<td>263 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tezu &amp; Namsai</strong></td>
<td>Tinsukia-Tezu–Hayuliang-ParasuramKund</td>
<td>Parasuram Kund, The Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary, Chowkham, Tengapani</td>
<td>346 km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** There will be a travel desk at the Conference venue to facilitate travel arrangements of the delegates. On 4th March 2023, depending upon the number of interested people, the Organisers can arrange a day long trip to Ziro on payment. Those interested in the trip, should contact the Conference Local Secretariat by 15 February 2023.