

## The Indian Society of Labour Economics

The Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE) is a professional association of researchers, scholars and other stakeholders interested in the area of labour, employment and development issues. The Society promotes scientific studies of labour markets, employment, employment relations and related issues and disseminates knowledge. It publishes a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal The Indian Journal of Labour Economics (IJLE), which is now in its 69<sup>th</sup> year of publication. Promoting and featuring scientific studies on labour and employment issues, the journal is co-published with Springer. More information on the journal is available on <http://www.springer.com/economics/journal/41027>



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## 6<sup>th</sup> THE INDIAN SOCIETY OF LABOUR ECONOMICS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

19-21 January 2026 | Symbiosis School of Economics, Symbiosis International (Deemed) University, Pune, India

### Panel on Sustainability and Healthcare in the Global South

Organised by



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**SYMBIOSIS**  
FACULTY OF MEDICAL  
AND HEALTH SCIENCES

20 January 2026 | Pune



# About the Panel

## Sustainability and Healthcare in the Global South

### Background

Symbiosis International University, Pune, is pleased to announce its upcoming international conference that brings together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and development experts to examine one of the most critical challenges shaping the 21st century: the evolving relationship between health systems, inequality, human development, and the future of work in the Global South.

Across countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, health systems are undergoing significant transitions driven by forces such as unequal access to care, demographic shifts, structural transformation of economies, environmental degradation, and climate-related health shocks. These dynamics have profound implications not only for population health but also for the livelihoods, mobility, and skill requirements of millions of workers who sustain the healthcare ecosystem. India stands at the forefront of this transformation. As one of the fastest-growing and most labour-intensive healthcare markets, the sector is expanding across hospitals, diagnostics, AYUSH, public health, digital health, geriatric care, and nursing. This rapid growth is accompanied by rising demand for skilled professionals, increasing feminisation of the workforce, internal and overseas migration of health workers, and the emergence of green jobs driven by sustainable and climate-resilient healthcare infrastructure.



Yet, the opportunities created by this expansion are deeply intertwined with persistent inequities. Differential access to healthcare reinforces broader social and labour market disparities, while environmental risks and climate change threaten to widen health and human development gaps across regions and communities.



# About the Conference

This conference seeks to create a multidisciplinary platform to explore the ways in which inequality, HDI trends, demographic transitions (including population ageing), climate change, and structural economic shifts intersect with the evolving healthcare workforce in the Global South. It aims to foster dialogue on critical questions such as:

- What new skills and competencies are required for green, climate-resilient, and sustainable health systems?
- How will climate change reshape disease burdens, service needs, and labour demands across healthcare domains?
- What does the transition towards sustainable healthcare infrastructure mean for employment, training, and workforce planning?
- How do healthcare inequalities perpetuate labour market inequalities, especially for women, low-income groups, and marginalized communities?
- How can healthcare systems in the Global South balance rapid economic growth with inclusive development, workforce well-being, and environmental sustainability?

## Why This Conference Matters

The future of healthcare lies at the intersection of equity, climate resilience, skilled human capital, and sustainable development. As countries strive



to achieve universal health coverage, improve HDI indicators, and build resilient institutions, the need for evidence-based dialogue has never been more urgent. This conference will generate actionable insights, collaborative research opportunities, and policy recommendations that can shape the trajectory of healthcare systems for decades to come.

By convening diverse voices—academics, healthcare leaders, industry experts, government representatives, development agencies, and students— Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences aims to contribute meaningfully to global conversations on health, inequality, and the future of work, while foregrounding the unique challenges and opportunities of the Global South.

As a part of Conference, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences wishes to conduct Panel Discussion to delve on the theme “Sustainability and Healthcare in the Global South”.

### **Learning Outcomes of the Panel Discussion**

By the end of the Panel Discussion, participants will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an enhanced understanding of how inequality and human development indicators shape healthcare systems in the Global South.
2. Analyse the effects of demographic transitions—especially ageing populations—on healthcare demand and workforce planning.
3. Evaluate the impact of climate change on disease profiles, healthcare delivery, and the future health workforce.
4. Identify the new skills and competencies required to build green, sustainable, and future-ready health systems.
5. Recognize opportunities for green and sustainable employment within healthcare



6. Assess workforce trends such as increasing feminisation, rising skilled labour demand, and internal & international migration of health workers.
7. Formulate strategies to address healthcare inequality and its influence on broader labour market disparities.
8. Engage in interdisciplinary discussions that integrate public health, economics, climate science, and human development perspectives.
9. Apply insights gained to support institutional, governmental, and sectoral planning for inclusive and resilient health workforces.



# Programme

**TUESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2026**

- Chair : **Rajiv Yeravdekar, Provost**  
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences
- Welcome Address : **Sammita Jadhav**  
Director, Symbiosis Institute of Health Sciences,  
Symbioses International University
- Moderator : **Ishita Ghosh**  
Associate Professor  
Symbiosis School of Economics, Symbiosis  
International University
- Panelists : **Irudaya Rajan**  
Founder & Chair of the International Institution of  
Migration and Development
- : **Sachin Chaturvedi**  
Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University
- : **Tanay Gunjekar**  
Associate, Vice-President  
ISS-STOXX (ISS: Sustainability Solution)



## Biographies of the Resource Persons



**Dr. Rajiv Yeravdekar**

Provost- Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences, Symbiosis International University



**Dr. Sammita Jadhav**

Director- Symbiosis Institute of Health Sciences, Symbiosis International University



**Prof. Irudaya Rajan**

Founder & Chair of the International Institution of Migration and Development (Migration & Demography)



**Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi**

Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University





**Mr. Tanay Gunjekar**

Associate Vice-President, ISS-STOXX (ISS-Sustainability Solutions)



**Dr. Ishita Ghosh**

Associate Professor, Symbiosis School of Economics,  
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