



# **Two Days Multidisciplinary National Conference on "Mapping Regional Disparity in India's Development Process"**

**DATE: 13-14 March, 2026**

**Organised By**

**School of Economics**

**Gangadhar Meher University,**

**Amruta Vihar, Sambalpur-768004, Odisha, India**

**(Sponsored by PM-USHA)**

## **About the University**

Gangadhar Meher University (GMU), Sambalpur, came into existence on 30 May 2015 as a unitary institution of higher learning [The Government of Odisha Order No.11598/HE Dated 30.05.2015]. The newly formed University replaced the erstwhile Gangadhar Meher College (Autonomous), one of the oldest and largest in Odisha. The University is accredited with 'A' grade by the NAAC, recently. The University presently provides both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Science, Arts, and Commerce. In addition, the University also promotes research as it offers Ph.D. programmes in many subjects. The institution's primary mission was to cater to the needs of the poor and underprivileged students of this tribal-dominated region of the State. The institution performed the role with great distinction in the subsequent years.

## **About the School**

The School of Economics has been integral to Gangadhar Meher University since its inception as a college. However, the P.G. course was introduced in the session 1966-67. The department has contributed to society and the nation through its teaching and research activities. The department has introduced M.Phil and Ph.D. courses since the academic session 2018-19. The school currently hosts 05 full-time faculty members and 08 Ph.D. students. Their research focuses on topics in Microeconomics, Economic Theory, Agricultural Economics, Political Economy, State Finance, Tribal Development, Behavioural Economics, and Financial Economics.

## About the Conference

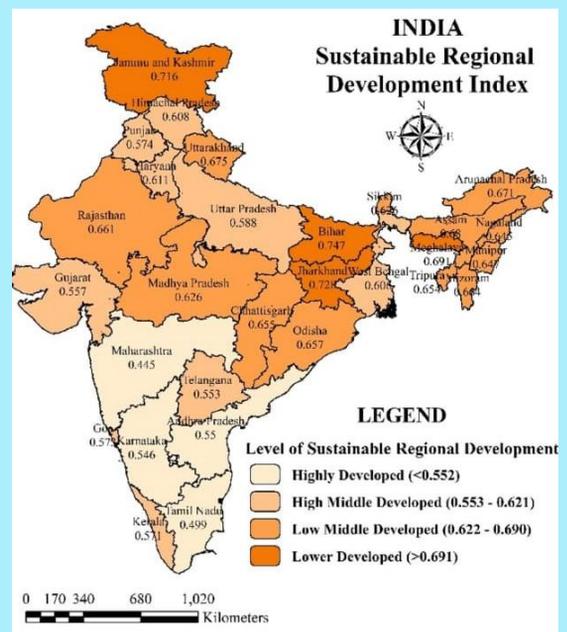
Simon Kuznets (1955) proposed that the relationship between economic growth and inequality follows an inverted U-shaped pattern. Inequality tends to rise in the early stages of development as economies move from agriculture to industry and labour shifts from rural to urban sectors. With sustained growth and higher income levels, this trend typically reverses due to structural transformation and broader opportunities. Jeffrey Williamson extended this framework to regional disparities, arguing that interregional inequality similarly widens initially but narrows over time as migration, capital mobility, government intervention, and interregional trade generate spillover effects. Convergence theories further suggest that economies with comparable structural features tend to move toward similar development outcomes.

Regional disparities constitute a major component of overall inequality and often reflect deep-rooted structural disadvantages. Populations in economically lagging regions frequently encounter limited opportunities and weaker life prospects, which can erode social cohesion and heighten political tensions. These concerns are particularly salient in developing countries where spatial inequalities intersect with ethnic or resource-based divisions.

In India, Prof. Sukhamoy Chakravarti highlighted the spatial consequences of shortcomings in planned development. Following liberalization, greater state-level autonomy has produced divergent development trajectories, with some states demonstrating stronger performance in growth, human development, and poverty reduction. This conference aims to examine these evolving patterns of regional inequality through multidisciplinary lenses.

### Conference Themes

- ✓ Macroeconomic aspects of regional disparity
- ✓ Regional imbalances across states and within states
- ✓ Sectoral (Agriculture, Industry, Health, Education) differences across regions.
- ✓ Issues in Indian economic development and public policy
- ✓ History of socio-economic disparity
- ✓ Social and political dimensions of regional disparity
- ✓ Diversity Vs. Disparity



# Call for Paper

The organizing committee invites research papers from researchers from academic institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industries, and government officials from the nooks and corners of India. The authors will be required to send a structured abstract of about 500 words on or before 11 February, 2026, via the link given below:

<https://forms.gle/zLubAtf7C3pFZ8Qq9>

The structured abstract should contain the following sections:

Originality and Purpose of the research (50 words)

Methodology (100 words)

Findings and results (200 words)

Conclusions & Policy Implications (100 words)

Limitations (if any) (50 words)

The full paper of the accepted abstract may be sent in the above link on or before 31 January 2026. The full article should not exceed 4500 words, including tables and references. The documents should be prepared using Times New Roman, font size 12, line spacing of 1.5, and a margin of 1" on top, bottom, left, and right. Selected papers may be considered for publication in a volume with an ISBN by a reputed publisher in the post-seminar period.

## Important Dates

Extended Abstract Submission	11 February 2026
Abstract Acceptance	15 February 2026
Full Paper Submission	28 February 2026
Conference Dates	13-14 March 2026

## Conference Participation Charges

Participation Category	With Accommodation	No Accommodation
Students	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 500/-
Ph.D. Students from India	Rs. 1600/-	Rs. 800/-
Academicians	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 1000/-
Corporates/ Other Delegates	Rs. 4000/-	Rs. 2000/-

# Academic Advisory Committee

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