

14th

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Indian Health Economics and Policy Association (IHEPA)

DIGITAL, DEMOGRAPHIC AND CLIMATE TRANSITIONS

EMERGING FRONTIERS IN HEALTH ECONOMICS

8-11 DECEMBER 2026

CALL FOR PAPERS

Organised by

National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO)

DST, Govt. of India, Kolkata

&

Population Studies Unit (PSU)

Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata





major research areas include Indian economy, open-economy macroeconomics, international trade and finance, environmental economics, infrastructure and productivity. Nevertheless, she has undertaken research relating to household consumption inequality and her recent work has examined inequality in rural India. This gives her a useful connection to broader questions of economic inequality, social determinants, public policy and health accounts.

- *Visiting Distinguished Professor IIT, Indore. (March 15, 2026, to date).*
- *Honorary visiting fellow, Mumbai School of Economics and Public Policy, University of Mumbai (Jan 1, 2026, to date).*
- *Director, Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research, Dharwad, an ICSSR institution under MHRD and Government of Karnataka (July 10, 2012, to Jan 9, 2014, on lien from IIT Bombay).*
- *Research Officer, RBI Unit, Dept of Economics, University of Mumbai, 1985-91.*
- *Research Associate, IFCI Unit, Dept of Economics, University of Mumbai, 1983-85.*
- *Lecturer in Degree College: St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, 1981-83.*
- *Lecturer in Degree College: Maharshi Dayanand College, Mumbai, 1977-81.*
- *Teacher Aide, Ramnarain Ruia College, 1976-1977.*
- *Visiting Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Dharwad (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022).*
- *Visiting Faculty, Centre for Development Economics (CDE), Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi, India, 15th April 2005 to 15th May 2005.*
- *Visiting Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Dharwad (2018).*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



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Conference Patron
Director
National Atlas and Thematic
Mapping Organisation (NATMO)
Kolkata



Manisha Karne
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Professor
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Udaya Shankar Mishra
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Institute of Development Studies,
Kolkata

V.B. Annigeri
Former Director
Centre for Multi-disciplinary
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Darwad, Karnataka

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Policy, University of Mumbai

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Institute of Economic Growth
Delhi

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FLAME University, Pune

Arijita Datta
Professor
Department of Economics
University of Calcutta

Md. Zakaria Siddiqui
Vice President, IHEPA
Associate Professor
Department of Economics
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

EVENT COORDINATORS



Kajori Banerjee
Assistant Professor
Population Studies Unit (PSU)
Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)
Kolkata



Md Amjad Khan
Deputy Director
National Atlas and Thematic
Mapping Organisation (NATMO),
Kolkata



Salim Shah
Secretary, IHEPA
Professor
Department of Economics
Tripura University

A black and white portrait of Dr. Anuradha Kulkarni, a woman with short, wavy grey hair, wearing glasses and a dark sari with a light-colored blouse. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.A black and white portrait of a man with dark, wavy hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark vest over a light-colored shirt. The background is plain white.

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INDIAN HEALTH ECONOMICS AND POLICY ASSOCIATION (IHEPA)

The **Indian Health Economics and Policy Association (IHEPA)** is a professional academic association registered under the **Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960**. The Association was established in the year 2010 in response to the growing need for a dedicated academic platform to facilitate the exchange of intellectual ideas, research and policy perspectives on the Indian health sector. IHEPA brings together health economists, social science researchers, policymakers and practitioners to exchange knowledge, deliberate on emerging issues and foster informed dialogue on critical challenges and strategies in health economics and policy. The Association seeks to promote interdisciplinary research, evidence-based policy discourse and professional collaboration on health sector issues in India and globally.

Vision

A vibrant and dynamic association that encourages and facilitates the exchange and sharing of knowledge, ideas and experience among researchers, policymakers and practitioners working in and on the health sector.

Objectives

To offer a platform for learning, knowledge-sharing and networking to all those interested in contributing towards a more equitable and efficient health sector.

To bridge the gap between research and practice by bringing together researchers, academicians and policymakers, both national and international.

IHEPA welcomes young scholars and researchers, grassroots practitioners, representatives of the private sector and community-based organisations to join the Association and contribute their diverse perspectives and experiences. By bringing together voices from across academia, policy, practice and communities, IHEPA seeks to foster an inclusive environment where ideas can be shared, critically debated and constructively incorporated where relevant and valuable. IHEPA also seeks to engage with the international community of researchers, experts, health sector managers and policymakers to facilitate their participation in the Association's academic and professional activities to strengthen cross-border knowledge exchange, as a truly global platform for health economics and policy.

Please visit: <https://ihepa.org>

For membership information, please visit: <https://ihepa.org/membership.php>





NATIONAL ATLAS AND THEMATIC MAPPING ORGANISATION (NATMO)

The origin of the National Atlas Organisation dates back to the year 1956 when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru approved its establishment. Professor S.P. Chatterjee, the

doyen of Indian Geography, was the founder-Director of this Organisation. It was renamed as the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) in 1978 to give institution a broad-based responsibility in the field of thematic cartography and geographical research. It is under the administrative control of the Department of Science & Technology of the Government of India. The main office or the headquarters is in the CGO building in Salt Lake (Bidhan Nagar), Calcutta. The major functional areas of NATMO revolves around Compilation of the National Atlas of India; Preparation of the National Atlas maps in regional languages; Preparation of thematic maps based on research studies on environmental and associated aspects and their impact on social and economic development; Compilation of the National Atlas of India; Preparation of the National Atlas maps in regional languages; Division of Digital mapping System & Digitised and Scanning of existing maps on digital format; Geographical Researches; Remote Sensing & GIS, Digital Image processing.

Please visit: <https://portal.natmo.gov.in/en/home.html>



Population Studies Unit, Indian Statistical Institute

The Population Studies Unit, known earlier as Demography Research Unit is one of the oldest units in Indian Statistical Institute (ISI). Population research activities were initiated at the Institute since the thirties with grants from the Government of

India. At present, the ISI is an autonomous institution of national importance that operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) of the Government of India. The Unit was renamed as Population Studies Unit in 1987-88 in view of large number of factors that affect various demographic characteristics and its resultant impact on development. The objectives of the Population Studies Unit are to promote theoretical and applied research in Demography and to impart training in Demography to students pursuing Under-Graduate, Post Graduate degrees in Statistics, Economics. The unit is also actively involved with the International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC), run by ISI, under the auspices of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and has been providing training in Statistics to sponsored trainees mainly from the countries in Middle East, the South and the South East Asia. The importance of Population Studies has increased over all the years with opening of newer and more challenging areas of population sciences. The topics considered under Population Studies are no longer studies of population structure and spatial cum temporal dynamism involving mortality, fertility and migration, but also various other population characteristics namely, nationality, ethnicity, religion, health, education, economic condition and the surrounding environment.

Please Visit: https://www.isical.ac.in/index?unit_name=PSU

CONFERENCE THEME

Digital, Demographic and Climate Transitions Emerging Frontiers in Health Economics

The Indian Health Economics and Policy Association (IHEPA) is jointly organising its 14th Annual Conference with the National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO), Kolkata and the Population Studies Unit (PSU), Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata from 8–11 December 2026 on the Theme, “**Digital, Demographic and Climate Transitions: Emerging Frontiers in Health Economics**”.

Health systems across the world are undergoing profound transformation driven by three interrelated forces: digital transformation, demographic transition and climate change. Together, these transitions are reshaping patterns of disease, healthcare demand, health financing, labour markets, technology adoption and the organisation and economics of health systems. For low- and middle-income countries, including India, these transformations are unfolding alongside persistent inequalities in access to healthcare, uneven digital infrastructure, high out-of-pocket expenditure, the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, population ageing and increasing climate related vulnerabilities. Navigating these interconnected challenges while advancing universal health coverage (UHC), equity, efficiency, financial protection and population wellbeing has become a critical policy priority.

The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence, digital public infrastructure, telemedicine, electronic health records, wearable technologies and big-data analytics is creating new opportunities to improve healthcare delivery, efficiency, continuity of care, targeting, financing and governance. India’s expanding digital health ecosystem, including the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), exemplifies these opportunities. At the same time, digital transformation raises important questions concerning digital exclusion, algorithmic bias, data privacy, cybersecurity, accountability and health-data governance.

Demographic change presents another major dimension of transformation. Population ageing, declining fertility, migration, urbanisation, increasing longevity and changing household structures are creating new demands for long-term care, geriatric services, social protection, including health and care workforce planning. The emerging “silver economy” also has important implications for health financing, labour markets, pensions, productivity and intergenerational equity. Besides, climate change is further intensifying pressures on health systems through heat stress, extreme weather events, air pollution, vector-borne diseases, food insecurity, population displacement and disruptions in health service delivery, subject to disproportionate risks on vulnerable populations.

Against this backdrop, health economics and policy research has a critical role in generating evidence for efficient, equitable, resilient and sustainable health systems. Addressing these emerging challenges requires interdisciplinary perspectives integrating economics with epidemiology, demography, public policy, data science, environmental studies, behavioural sciences and implementation research.

The conference seeks to provide a national and international platform for researchers, policymakers, practitioners, development partners and young scholars to exchange evidence, analytical approaches, policy innovations and implementation experiences relating to these interconnected transitions. Particular attention will be given to the Indian context and experiences from low- and middle-income countries, while drawing on relevant global evidence and comparative perspectives.

The conference aims to foster informed, evidence-based dialogue on how health systems can navigate these transitions while advancing universal health coverage, equity, efficiency, financial protection, resilience and population wellbeing.

- ⇒ Provide a multidisciplinary platform for discussing emerging challenges and opportunities in health economics arising from digital, demographic and climate transitions.
- ⇒ Promote rigorous empirical, theoretical, and policy-oriented research on health financing, digital health, climate resilience, workforce planning and population ageing.
- ⇒ Facilitate dialogue between researchers, policymakers, health system managers, development agencies and industry stakeholders on evidence-informed policymaking.
- ⇒ Encourage methodological innovations in economic evaluation, AI-driven analytics, impact assessment, health technology assessment (HTA) and data governance.
- ⇒ Support young researchers and early-career scholars working on emerging frontiers in health economics and health systems research.
- ⇒ Generate policy-relevant insights to strengthen resilient, equitable and sustainable health systems in India and comparable settings.

Abstract Themes

Themes	Sub-Themes	Themes	Sub-Themes
 Health Financing, UHC and Strategic Purchasing	Universal health coverage and financial protection	 Human Resources for Health and Workforce	Health workforce shortages and distribution
	Public financing and fiscal space for health		Specialist projections and workforce planning
	Strategic purchasing under PM-JAY and insurance models		Health labour markets
	Provider payment mechanisms and incentives		Migration and retention of health professionals
	Equity in healthcare financing		Productivity and performance incentives
	Public-private partnerships and mixed health systems		Digital transformation and future health workforce skills
	Catastrophic expenditure and distress financing		Rural-urban workforce inequalities
 Digital Health, AI and Data Governance	Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission and digital public infrastructure	 NCDs, Nutrition and Lifestyle Economics	Obesity, diabetes, and chronic disease economics
	Artificial intelligence and machine learning in healthcare		Nutrition transitions and food environments
	Telemedicine and digital health innovations		Behavioural economics and lifestyle risks
	Health informatics and interoperability		Cost-effectiveness of preventive interventions
	Digital exclusion and equity		HFSS foods and fiscal policies
	Ethics, cybersecurity and privacy		Urbanisation and health behaviours
	Governance of health data and algorithmic accountability		School and workplace health promotion
 Climate Change and Resilient Health Systems	Heat stress and health economics	 Disabilities, Mental Health and Wellbeing	Economics of disabilities and mental health
	Climate-sensitive diseases		Workplace stress and productivity
	Health system resilience and adaptation		Youth mental health
	Disaster preparedness and financing		Social determinants of wellbeing
	Environmental health and air pollution		Measurement of wellbeing and quality of life
	Climate-smart healthcare infrastructure		Financing mental health systems
	Economic evaluation of adaptation interventions		Digital mental health interventions
 Demographic Transition, Aging and Silver Economy	Population ageing and long-term care	 Gender, Women and Adolescent Health	Reproductive and maternal health economics
	Geriatric healthcare systems		Reproductive and maternal health economics
	Economics of ageing and pensions		Gender-responsive health financing
	Healthy ageing and productivity		Adolescent health and nutrition
	Silver economy and care markets		Menstrual health and dignity
	Intergenerational health equity		Gender inequities in healthcare access
 HTA, Economic Evaluation and Value-for-Money in Healthcare	Migration and demographic shifts		Women's unpaid care burden
	Health technology assessment methodologies		Gender and climate vulnerability
	Cost-effectiveness and budget impact analysis		
	Value-based healthcare		
	Economic evaluation of digital technologies		
	Priority setting and resource allocation		
	Real-world evidence and implementation economics		

CONFERENCE FEATURES

Gavin Mooney Doctoral Research Award

Named in honour of Prof. Gavin Mooney, a pioneering scholar in Health Economics and equity. This award recognises outstanding doctoral research presented at the conference. Open to currently enrolled Ph.D. Scholars who must be the lead author and presenter of the paper. Submission of full paper is mandatory for the consideration. A Certificate and honorarium of ₹ 10,000/- will be awarded for the best paper, as selected by the conference committee.

Recognition

All the paper presenters and participants will receive certificate for their participation and an opportunity to publish their papers in 'Health Empirics' the quarterly journal of IHEPA, subject to the journal's editorial and peer-review process.

AWARDS and ACADEMIC OUTPUTS

T. N. Krishnan Young Researcher Award

The best paper award recognises the contributions of Prof. T. N. Krishnan to Health Economics and development research for early-career researchers below 40 years of age. The researcher must be lead author and presenter. Submission of full paper is mandatory for consideration. A certificate and an honorarium of ₹ 20,000/- will be awarded for the best paper, as selected by the conference committee.

Mayanka Ambade Early Career Research and Innovation Award

Named in the memory of Dr. Mayanka Ambade, a dedicated and accomplished researcher in Health Economics. The award recognises innovative interdisciplinary research in emerging areas such as digital health, climate-health linkages, demographic transition and health systems transformation. Open to female researchers below 35 years of age, including early-career faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, research associates and doctoral scholars. The applicant must be the lead author and presenter. Full paper submission is mandatory for consideration. A Certificate and honorarium of ₹ 10,000/- will be awarded for the best papers, as selected by the conference committee.

Publication Opportunity

The best paper presented in each technical session will receive a Certificate of Recognition. In addition, the best papers from the technical sessions and the three award-winning papers will have the opportunity to be considered for publication in 'Health Empirics', the quarterly journal of IHEPA, subject to the journal's editorial and peer-review process.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

All prospective participants should register for the conference. On-the-spot registration will be done for local participants and other delegates, who will themselves take care of their travel and accommodation.

Category	Without Accommodation		With Accommodation	
	IHEPA Members	Others	IHEPA Members	Others
Early Bird Registration	₹ 1500	₹ 2000	₹ 3000	₹ 4000
Late Registration	₹ 2000	₹ 2500	₹ 4000	₹ 5000
On-the-spot Registration (Guest registration without paper)	₹ 2500	₹ 3000	-	-

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Deadline for Registration	Without Accommodation		With Accommodation	
	IHEPA Members	Others	IHEPA Members	Others
31 st October 2026	₹ 1000	₹ 1500	₹ 2000	₹ 3000

Note: Separate registration is required for attending both of the Pre-Conference Workshop and Conference.

The bank account information of IHEPA for submission of registration fee:

For online transfer (RTGS/NEFT/QR/UPI)

Name of Account: Indian Health Economics and Policy Association IHEPA

Account no: 0765102000013642

IFSC Code: IBKL0000765

Bank Name: IDBI Bank,

SAFAL PRIDE, UNIT NO 1, BASEMENT AND, GR FLOOR, SION TROMBAY ROAD, DEONAR,
MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA, PIN 400088

UPI ID: iihepa@idbi



TRAVEL SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS INFORMATION

All the outstation registered paper presenters and pre-conference workshops participants will be entitled to modest boarding and lodging facilities and the conference kit. For outstation participants (both for workshop and conference), only the 'eligible' participants (neither having any SRF/JRF/ICSSR/NFST/NFSC/NF-OBC/Similar fellowships nor employed) will be considered to receive travel support subject to availability of funds. If approved, only AC 3-tier round-trip express train fare by shortest route, except the premier trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Vande Bharat etc. will be reimbursed on the basis of their claim and subject to production of actual travel documents and undertaking. Only one author per paper accepted for presentation will be eligible for travel support, subject to the above conditions. Boarding and lodging will be provided for a maximum of 3 nights for the only Pre-Conference Workshop participants starting from 07.12.2026, for a maximum of 3 nights for the only Conference participants starting from 09.12.2026 and for a maximum of 5 nights for the participants of both the events starting from 07.12.2026.

USEFUL LINKS

IHEPA PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP APPLICATION FORM

IHEPA takes this opportunity for capacity building of students and early career researchers in the field of health economics and health policy. In this regard, two pre-conference workshops are organised on:

#1 AI, Machine Learning and Mapping for Public Health

#2 Advanced Econometrics and Causal Inference

Applications are invited for pre-conference workshop at ihepa14ac2026@gmail.com



Please download the **Pre-conference Workshop Application Form** from [here](#).

IHEPA PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Registration with requisite fee payment will be applicable after getting selection confirmation in either of the two pre-conference workshops on:

#1 AI, Machine Learning and Mapping for Public Health

#2 Advanced Econometrics and Causal Inference

Participants after receiving the confirmation of their selection, need to send the filled-in Pre-Conference Registration Form along with the fee payment transaction receipt for pre-conference registration at ihepa14ac2026@gmail.com



Please download the **Pre-conference Workshop Registration Form** from [here](#).

IHEPA CONFERENCE APPLICATION FORM

Applicants are requested to send the scanned PDF version of the completed application form with the extended abstract in the prescribed format at ihepa14ac2026@gmail.com

The extended abstract should provide an understanding of – Background and objectives, Data and methodology, Key findings or expected outputs/outcomes, Policy relevance.



Please download the **Conference Application Form** from [here](#).

IHEPA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Participants/Delegates are required to send the filled-in Conference Registration Form along with the transaction receipt of conference registration fee at ihepa14ac2026@gmail.com



Please download the **Conference Registration Form** from [here](#).

IHEPA MEMBERSHIP FORM

IHEPA welcomes all to join and strengthen the association to make it a vibrant and productive body of excellence in health economics research and policy.

Membership of the Association is open to all individuals and institutions engaged in shaping the economic and policy issues of the Indian health sector. Memberships are Individual-Life and Institutional-Life categories.



Please download the **Individual Membership Form** from:
<https://ihepa.org/membership.php>



Please download the **Institutional Membership Form** from:
<https://ihepa.org/membership.php>

Contact Us:

Salim Shah, Secretary IHEPA
✉ secretary.ihepa@gmail.com
☎ +91 9436582375

Kajori Banerjee, Event Coordinator
PSU ISI Kolkata
✉ kajori.b2012@gmail.com
☎ +91 9820506794

Md Amjad Khan, Event Coordinator
NATMO Kolkata
✉ amjad.natmo@gov.in
☎ + 91 7603038217



How to Reach

PRE-CONFERENCE VENUE

Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata

203 B. T. Road, Kolkata – 700108
(Main Campus, Near Belgachia)

01



Dum Dum
Airport



By Taxi / Cab
(Approximately
30–40 minutes)



Indian Statistical
Institute (ISI), Kolkata
203 B. T. Road

02



Howrah
Railway Station



By Taxi / Cab
(Approximately
55 minutes – 1 hour)



Indian Statistical
Institute (ISI), Kolkata
203 B. T. Road

03



Sealdah
Railway Station



By Taxi / Cab
(Approximately
15–25 minutes)



Indian Statistical
Institute (ISI), Kolkata
203 B. T. Road



How to Reach

CONFERENCE VENUE

Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI)

Eastern Regional Centre
EN-79, Sector-V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700091

01



Dum Dum
Airport



By Taxi / Cab
(Approximately
40–45 minutes)



AnSI, Eastern
Regional Centre
EN-79, Sector-V

02



Howrah
Railway Station



Take Green Line
Metro
(45–50 minutes)



Short walk
(700 metres)



AnSI, Eastern
Regional Centre
EN-79, Sector-V

03



Sealdah
Railway Station



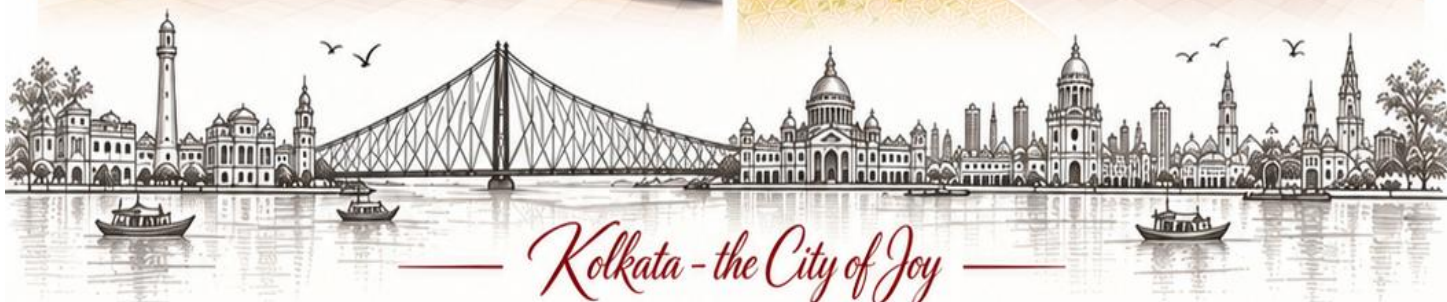
Take Green Line
Metro
(30–35 minutes)



Short walk
(700 metres)



AnSI, Eastern
Regional Centre
EN-79, Sector-V



Kolkata – the City of Joy