

55th Annual Conference Orissa Economics Association

February 11-12, 2023

Venue:

Kalahandi University, Manikya Vihar, Bhawanipatna, Odisha

The 55th Annual Conference of the Orissa Economics Association (OEA) will be held at the Kalahandi University, Bhawanipatna, Odisha during February 11-12, 2023 (Saturday-Sunday). The conference is being jointly organised by the OEA and the Departments of Economics and Mathematics at the Kalahandi University. The OEA invites full-length research papers for the conference on the following two broad themes: (1) **Transforming Local Economies: Livelihood and Migration Challenges in Odisha**, and (2) **Urbanisation, Communities and Sustainable Development**. Authors are requested to submit their papers addressing any of the suggested/indicative sub-themes or thereabouts. We encourage paper writers from other disciplines of social science and science as well to submit papers on the aforesaid broad themes.

Theme 1: Transforming Local Economies: Livelihood and Migration Challenges in Odisha

Chronic deprivation both in terms of regenerating and upgrading local resources – both natural and human – in several parts of Odisha has resulted in large scale distress migration mostly to the urban informal spaces of other states where exploitation and poor working conditions are commonplace. The crisis of livelihood in the tribal areas of southern Odisha has been particularly severe and widely noted. The region has Scheduled Tribes as about one third of its population (the state average being 22.8 per cent). Following the Tendulkar methodology, 48 per cent of the households in south Odisha live below the poverty line (as compared to 21.65 per cent in coastal Odisha, 40 per cent in north Odisha and 35.69 per cent for the state). The literacy rate in south Odisha is around 60 per cent against the state average of 73 per cent, 76 per cent in north Odisha and 75 per cent in coastal Odisha. South and western Odisha send maximum migrant workers to other states. Due to low levels of education and skill many of them work in low-paying jobs and live in subhuman conditions.

Nevertheless, these regions have undergone rapid changes in recent years. Kalahandi is back in reckoning as the rice bowl of Odisha. In January 2021 the Chief Minister inaugurated the Upper Indravati Lift Canal System built at a cost of Rs. 986.71 crore, comprising 43.26 km of concrete canals and 1142 km of underground pipelines, that has the capacity to irrigate 25275 hectares of cropland. These and other infrastructure such as roads, electricity, etc. have also been receiving enhanced emphasis. As these will have implications for the local economies. It is important to deliberate on the emerging challenges and opportunities. The papers may be prepared, but not strictly limited to, under the broad subthemes:

Subthemes

- Tribal economy, poverty and migration
- Political mobilization of tribals
- Alternative paradigms of tribal development
- Unemployment and outmigration from coastal regions
- Emerging out of the Covid-19 pandemic
- Infrastructure and local economic development
- Enhancing non-farm livelihood options
- Rethinking value-adding farming and forestry
- Forest rights of tribal population
- Climate change and local economies
- Withdrawal of youths from agriculture and labour supply issues
- Transformation of local economies and livelihoods of rural artisans
- Impact of mining on the local economy
- Gendered response to local economic concerns

Theme 2: Urbanisation, Communities and Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Inter alia, it purports ensuring access to all adequate, safe, affordable and sustainable housing, basic services and public transport, by 2030. It also seeks to significantly reduce the number of deaths and disasters those water-related and substantially decrease the direct economic losses, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations; paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management. SDG 11 further aims to support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.

Indian cities are already facing the serious challenges of pollution, traffic congestion, waste management, housing for slum dwellers, space allocation for all commuters (pedestrians, cyclists, car, public transport etc), scarcity of drinking water, and safety of women. The Smart Cities initiative also has taken off as originally announced. A major constraint is financing and managing these services/infrastructure through urban local bodies. The health and job concerns of millions of migrant workers during the Covid-19 pandemic have raised deeper concerns over the grossly neglected informal sector in India. Relocation of settlements of the urban poor, often migrant workers, has been a tricky issue to address. The baffling question of converting the burgeoning 'Census' towns as 'Statutory' towns remains. The discrimination based on identity, gender and class in urban and peri-urban spaces has been widely debated. In this context, how do we achieve the SDG 11 by 2030? What are the institutional – both state and societal - responses to these old and new challenges faced by urban India? Papers under this broad theme may consider the following subthemes, not strictly though:

Subthemes

- Urban local bodies in small and medium towns
- Financing the urban infrastructure

- Burgeoning of Census towns and policy responses
- Covid-19 pandemic and urban communities
- Disadvantaged communities in urban development
- Urbanisation and the natural environment
- Unbundling the urban informal sector
- Women and work in urban India
- Ruralisation of the urban space
- ‘Smarting’ the urban through policy
- Urban Ecosystems
- Waste and resource management in urban areas
- Rights over urban spaces
- Slums, housing and transportation

Proposals for Specials Panels

Interested scholars or organisations working around the above broad themes or subthemes from any discipline may submit proposals for specials panels indicating names of presenters and titles of individual papers.

Instructions for Paper Submission

Only unpublished full papers will be accepted for the conference. The following needs to be attended to while preparing the papers:

- Title of the Paper
- Name(s), institutional affiliation(s), contact number(s) and email id(s) of author(s)
- An abstract of about 200-250 words
- Keywords (up to 5)
- JEL Classification Codes (up to 5)
- Introduction
- Review of literature
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Analysis
- Findings
- Conclusion
- References
- Appendices (if any)

The length of the paper should be limited to 7000 words including tables and references. Papers should be typed in Times New Roman font of size 12 and line space should be kept at 1.5. Papers should be submitted only in electronic format by email. Researchers should send their complete papers in MS-Word format to the Secretary, Orissa Economics Association, in the email id orissaea@gmail.com

Best Paper Awards

Two best papers from each theme will be selected for the *Baidyanath Misra Best Paper Award* and *Prasanta Pattanaik Best Paper Award*. These will be chosen during the conference based on the quality of the paper and oral presentation. For this purpose, only the authors/co-authors below 35 years of age would be considered. For the award-winning paper, in case of multiple authors, eligible co-authors will share the cash award. Co-authors of a given paper have to specify the name of only one author who will present the paper. Concerned applicants will have to fill up a separate application form providing proof of age during the conference. Each **award carries a certificate and Rs. 10,000 cash prize** and shall be presented at the valedictory session of the conference.

Important Dates

- Last date for full paper submission: December 15, 2022
- Communication on acceptance of papers: December 31, 2022
- Online registration starts: January 1, 2023
- Online registration closes: January 25, 2023
- Conference Dates: February 11-12, 2023

(For paper presentation and participation in the conference prior registration is mandatory)

About Kalahandi University, Bhawanipatna

The Kalahandi University is located in the Kalahandi district in south-western part of Odisha. The University originally took shape as Kalahandi Science College on July 28, 1960 as a private college and subsequently was taken over by the Government of Orissa on December 1, 1961. It was then renamed as Government Science College, Bhawanipatna. The College was conferred Autonomous Status in 2002. On September 1, 2020 it was upgraded to an affiliating university and was named Kalahandi University, Bhawanipatna. The University offers a variety of courses at different levels. Besides Arts, Science and Commerce at Higher Secondary and Degree levels this institution also offers M.A., M.Com. and M.Sc. in 16 subjects. The university is about 400 km in the south from the state capital Bhubaneswar. The University is only 3 km from the Bhawanipatna railway station. From Bhubaneswar one can take the Bhubaneswar-Junagarh Road SF Express to reach Bhawanipatna. Night coach buses also ply to Bhawanipatna from Bhubaneswar and other cities in the state. People travelling from other parts of Odisha and state can also use Kesinga railway station (34 kms) or Titlagarh railway station (50 kms) to reach Bhawanipatna.

Kalahandi district has a number of beautiful places to visit. To name a few: The famous Manikeshwari temple is located within Bhawanipatna town; Dokarichanchara in the village Kokasara, on the border of Kalahandi and Nabarangpur district; Phurlijharan, 15 km from Bhawanipatna; Gudahandi hills, situated in the vicinity of Khaligarh, a village

close to the Koraput District boarder, about 77 K.Ms from Bhawanipatna on the road towards Nawarangpur. Rabandarh, a place of great scenic beauty lying about 12.8 K.Ms from Bhawanipatna; Junagarh, the old Capital of the Ex-State of Kalahandi; Belkhandi Situated on the confluence of the river Tel and Uttei, is 67 K.Ms from Bhawanipatna.

About the Orissa Economics Association

The Orissa Economics Association, founded in 1968, was accorded the status of a learned registered society by the Government of Orissa under the Societies Registration Act, 1868 (number 5358/1968-69 dated 27.04.1968). It is one of the oldest regional academic associations in the country. The Association was founded at Ravenshaw College, Cuttack by Professor Sadasiv Mishra (first President) and a dedicated team of eminent economists, namely, Dr. Debendra Chandra Mishra, Dr. Chakradhar Mishra, Dr. Kshetra Mohan Patnaik, Shri Ghanashyam Das, Dr. Baidyanath Misra (first Secretary), Dr. Bidyadhar Mishra and Shri Ranga Lal Agarwal. At present, OEA has about 750 individual life members and two institutional members. The broad objectives of the Association are as follows: (1) To meet from time to time to discuss economic issues of contemporary interest; (2) To impart necessary information and expertise to the teachers of economics in Odisha with a view to improving upon the methods and standards of teaching in economics; and (3) To stimulate research in the discipline of economics in the state. Professor Keshab Das from the Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad is the present President of OEA. The past Presidents of the Association included Professor Prasanta Pattanayak, University of California, USA; Professor Prabhat Patnaik, JNU; Professor Santosh Panda, former Pro-VC, South Asian University, New Delhi; Professor Pulin Nayak, former Director, Delhi School of Economics; Professor Manoj Panda, former Director, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi and so on. For more details about the OEA please visit our website orissaea.in.

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