

International Conference on Digitalisation, Market and Society

2 - 4 December 2025

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Mohali, Punjab, India

The effect of digitalisation in our everyday life is transforming the world of work, employment relations, labour markets, social institutions, and gender norms. The fourth industrial revolution, with the advent of artificial intelligence (AI), automation, and data-driven technologies, is reshaping industries, altering economic and social organisations of the labour market, and influencing socio-economic inequalities. At this juncture, we aim to critically reflect on how society and the economy are interplaying together in response to everyday digital effects on the lives of the commons, particularly consumers, workers, and producers, and understand collective efforts to address this socio-economic, demographic, and political structural transformation.

The conference is organised by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) of IISER Mohali in collaboration with Brandeis University, Massachusetts, USA and The Institute for New Economic Thinking and Its Young Scholars Initiative (INET-YSI), with funding from SPARC, Ministry of Education, Government of India. The conference intends to bring together academicians, young scholars working on these issues, policymakers, and experts from different organisations to explore how digitalisation reshapes work and society, examining key themes such as economic shifts, evolving social relations, gender dynamics, and cultural transformations. The conference aims to generate policy-oriented insights for an inclusive future by fostering dialogue across disciplines.

Programme Schedule

2 December 2025

Time

15:30 - 16:30 Registration

16:30 - 17:00 Tea/Coffee & Snacks

Opening Talk: Professor Balaji Parthasarathy, IIIT Bangalore

The Uneven Socio-Spatial Impact of Digital Technologies: India's Experience over a Half-Century

17:00 - 18:30

Chair: Professor Arvind, IISER Mohali

Venue: LH-7, LHC

19:00 - 21:00 Conference Dinner by INET

3 December 2025

07:30 - 09:00 Registration

Venue: LHC Foyer

09:00 - 11:00 Inaugural Session

Venue: LH-7, LHC

09:00-09:15 Welcome Address

Professor Anil Kumar Tripathy
Director, IISER Mohali

09:15-09:25 Introductory Remarks from the
Dept. of HSS, IISER Mohali

Dr Parth R Chauhan
HoD, Dept of HSS, IISER Mohali

09:25-09:30 Introductory Remarks from INET-
YSI

Sunanda Nair Bidkar
Director, International Strategy &
Advancement INET-YSI, New York

09:30-09:45 Introduction to the Conference

Dr Debdulal Saha, IISER Mohali

09:45-10:15 Inaugural Speech

Hon'ble Member, NITI Aayog,
New Delhi (TBA)

10:15-11:00 Keynote Address

Speaker: Professor Reetika Khera, IIT
Delhi

Reflecting on Digitalisation in India

Chair: Professor Jonathan S Anjaria,
Brandeis University, USA

11:00 - 11:15 *Tea/Coffee & Snacks*

Venue: LHC Foyer

11:15-13:15 **Plenary Session 1: Emerging Gig Economies and Labour Questions**

Chair: Professor Amit Kulshrestha, IISER Mohali

Venue: LH-7, LHC

India's Changing Labour Market
and Platform Work

Professor Balwant Singh Mehta, IHD, New
Delhi

Labour Market Dynamics in
Emerging Gig Economies:

Dr Dhanya M B, VVGNLI, Noida

Rethinking Work

Do Social Identities Matter in
Platform Work? Unpacking the

Dr Gayatri Nair, IIIT Delhi

Narrative of Formalisation &
Transformation in the Platform
Economy

13:15 - 14:15

Lunch Break

Venue: LHC Foyer

14:15 - 15:45 **Plenary Session 2: Policy and Institutional Challenges**

Chair: Professor Balaji Parthasarathy, IIIT Bangalore

Venue: LH-7, LHC

Regulating Platform Work in India:
Where Do We Stand?

Dr Anamitra Roy Chowdhury, Assistant
Professor, JNU, New Delhi

Emerging Policy Solutions for
Digital Platforms and Gig Workers

Dr Manjunath G., ADLS Labour
Commissioner (Industrial Relations),
Government of Karnataka

15:45 - 17:15 **Thematic Session 1: Digital
Inclusion in Enterprises**

Chair: Dr Dhanya M B, VVGNLI
Noida

Venue: LH-1, LHC

1. Digital Gender Gap in Indian
Enterprises

*Samarth Gupta, Assistant
Professor, IIM Kolkata*

2. Determinants of Digital
Technology Adoption Among Small
Firms in India *Jayati Chatterjee,
PhD Research Scholar, IIT Madras*

3. Innovation and Survival: The
Tale of Digital Ventures in India

**Thematic Session 2: Addressing Social
Inequality through Digital Inclusion**

Chair: Dr V Rajesh, IISER Mohali

Venue: LH-3, LHC

1. Digital Empowerment or Digital Divide?
Evaluating the Implementation and
Socioeconomic Impacts of India's Unique
Disability ID (UDID) Scheme
*Rohan Yadav, PhD Research Scholar,
IGIDR, Mumbai*

2. Caste and The Third Digital Divide:
Understanding Differential Digital Gains
Among School Students.
*Aishwarya Prakash, PhD Research
Scholar, CDS, Trivandrum*

3. Redefining Agency: How Digital Tools
Shaped Identity and Social Relations

*Manmeet Kaur, Post-Doctoral
Researcher, IIT Kanpur*

Among Marginalized Women in Uttar
Pradesh

*Kirtika Trehan, PhD Research Scholar,
Delhi University*

17:15 - 17:30 *Tea/Coffee & Snacks*

Venue: LHC Foyer

17:30 - 19:00 **Thematic Session 3: Work and
Labour in Platform Economy**

Chair: Dr Anamitra Roy
Chowdhury, JNU New Delhi

Venue: LH-1, LHC

1. Compelled to Move: Platform
Work, Gender, and the Algorithmic
Structuring of Mobility
*Mansi Kumar, PhD Research
Scholar, Georgia State University,
Atlanta*

2. Division of Labourers in the Gig
Economy
*Bikash Padhan, PhD Research
Scholar, IISER Mohali*

3. Modelling the Dynamics of
Cross-Border Online Gig Work:
Signals of Quality and Its Impact on
Job Match Rate
*Chandrima Bhattacharya, PhD
Research Scholar, IIIT Bangalore*

**19:00
onwards**

Conference Dinner

Venue: LHC Foyer

**Thematic Session 4: Digitalisation and
Economic Growth**

Chair: Dr Pradeep K Choudhury, JNU, New
Delhi

Venue: LH-3, LHC

1. Impact of Digitalization on the
Economic Growth Effect of Monetary
Policy: Evidence from Asia-Pacific
Developing Economies
*Madhabendra Sinha, Assistant Professor,
Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan*

2. Does Digital Financial Inclusion Reduce
Household Vulnerability to Poverty?
Insights from Rural Eastern India
Sunil Khosla, VIT-AP University, Amaravati

3. Smartphone Ownership, Economic
Empowerment and Women's Property
Rights: Experimental Evidence from
Malawi
*Shreya Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor,
Center for Advanced Financial Learning
and Research, Mumbai*

4 December 2025

08:30 - 09:00 Registration

09:00 - 10:30 Plenary Session 3: Digital Interface between Economy and Society:
Computational and Modelling Challenges

Chair: Dr Neeraja Sahasrabudhe, IISER Mohali

Venue: LH-3, LHC

Invisible Infrastructures -

Ms Anita Gurumurthy, IT for Change,
Bangalore

Reimagining Publicness in the Age
of Algorithms

Questions in the Political Economy
of AI and Algorithms

Dr Anupam Guha, IIT Bombay

10:30 - 10:45 *Tea/Coffee & Snacks*

Venue: LHC Foyer

10:45 - 12:45 Thematic Session 5: Digital Divide
and Inequality

Chair: Dr Samaresh Bardhan,
IIT Ropar

Venue: LH-1, LHC

1. Does Inequalities in Access to
Smartphone and Internet Lead to
Poor Learning Outcomes? Evidence
from Rural India

*Pradeep Kumar Choudhury, Asst.
Professor, JNU, New Delhi*

2. Exploring the Digital Gender
Divide Among Adolescent Youth in
India: A Fixed Effects Estimation
Study

*Taronish Pastakia, PhD Research
Scholar, IIM Ahmedabad*

3. Inequalities in Digital Usage

**Thematic Session 6: Digital Space and
Gender**

Chair: Professor Anu Sabhlok, IISER
Mohali

Venue: LH-3, LHC

1. Digital Platforms and the Marriage
Economy: Informal Labour, Aesthetic
Entrepreneurship, and the Making of
Desirable Weddings in Post-Reform India

*Debalina Roy, PhD Research Scholar, IIT
Mandi*

2. Digital Space and Its Relationship with
Sex Work

*Kadambari, PhD Research Scholar, Delhi
University, Delhi*

among Adolescents: An Empirical Study of Hooghly District in West Bengal *Shreyashi Mitra, PhD Research Scholar, The University of Burdwan, Hooghly*

4. Digitalisation and Gender Inequality in Labour Markets: Evidence from BRICS *Bhavana Komma, PhD Research Scholar, GITAM, Visakhapatnam*

3. Digitalising Discipline: Surveillance, Izzat, and Gendered Governance in Delhi NCR Garment Factories *Anjali Chauhan, PhD Research Scholar, Delhi University, Delhi*

4. Double Burden and Digitalisation: Underpaid Labour of ASHA and Anganwadi Workers in Rural Uttar Pradesh *Rashmi Pal, PhD Research Scholar, Delhi University, Delhi*

12:45 - 13:45 *Lunch Break*

Venue: LHC Foyer

13:45 - 14:35 **Special Lecture: Understanding Platform Work in India Through Ethnographic Research**

Speaker: Professor Jonathan Shapiro Anjaria, Brandeis University, USA

Moderator: Dr Debdulal Saha, IISER Mohali

Venue: LH-3, LHC

14:35 - 15:25 **Perspective Talk: Building Social Security and Fair Work Standards for India's Gig and Platform Workers: Lessons from Ground-Level Organizing**

Speaker: Mr Shaik Salauddin, TGPWU & IFAT, Hyderabad

Moderator: Dr Ritajyoti Bandhyopadhyay, IISER Mohali

Venue: LH-3, LHC

15:25 - 15:45 **INET-YSI Interaction with Young Scholars**

Venue: LH-3, LHC

15:45 - 16:45 Thematic Session 7: Collective Action in the Platform Economy

Chair: Dr Ritajyoti Bandhyopadhyay, IISER Mohali

Venue: LH-1, LHC

1. How Gig Platforms Resist Workers' Resistance: Insights from Food Delivery Workers in Trivandrum

Mohammed Anfas K, PhD Research Scholar, CDS, Trivandrum

2. Fragmented Unity, Cooperation and the Politics of Well-being: An Exploration of the Relationship between Autorickshaw Unions and Ride-hailing Aggregators in Ahmedabad, India

Satya Oza, PhD Research Scholar, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad

16:45 - 17:00 Tea/Coffee & Snacks

Venue: LHC Foyer

17:00 - 18:30 Closing Session

Venue: LH-7, LHC

17:00 - 18:00 Valedictory Address

Thematic Session 8: Platforms, Security and Behaviour

Chair: Dr Samarth Gupta, IIM Calcutta

Venue: LH-3, LHC

1. Understanding "Love for Variety" on a Platform: A Theoretical Perspective,
Dr. Sovik Mukherjee, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

2. Data Privacy and Security Concerns in Emerging Digital Economy: A Case of Indian Smart City
Anu Rao, PhD Research Scholar, IIT Jodhpur

Professor S Chandrasekhar, IGIDR, Mumbai
Beyond Connectivity: Understanding Online Purchasing and Digital Gaps Through NSS Data

Chair: Professor Sudeshna Sinha, IISER Mohali

18:00 - 18:20 Closing Remarks

Dr. Neeraja Sahasrabudhe, IISER Mohali

18:20 - 18:30 Vote of Thanks

Dr. Debdulal Saha, IISER Mohali

19:00 - **Dinner**
onwards **Venue:** LHC Foyer

ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT INET-YSI

Sunanda Nair-Bidkar, Director, International Strategy & Advancement, Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET), New York

Christina Kujur, Organizer, INET-YSI

Bikram Barman, Coordinator, INET-YSI

ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT IISER MOHALI

Dr. Debdulal Saha, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (DHSS), IISER Mohali

Dr. Neeraja Sahasrabudhe, Department of Mathematical Sciences, IISER Mohali

Anibesh Singh, PhD Scholar, IISER Mohali

Alinda Merrie Jan, PhD Scholar IISER Mohali