

7TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

of

THE SOCIETY OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT



**Towards Inclusive and Sustainable
Rural Development in India:
Socio-Economic Challenges and Pathways**

October 30-31, 2026



Organised by
Department of Economics
Punjabi University, Patiala
Punjab, India

Invitation

It gives us immense pleasure to inform you that Department of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, India, in collaboration with The Society of Economics and Development (TSoED) as well as Planning Commission Chair and Centre for Research in Economic Change from Punjabi University, Patiala, is going to organise 7th Annual Conference of TSoED on the theme " **Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Rural Development in India: Socio-Economic Challenges and Pathways** ", October 30-31, 2026. The aim of the conference is to provide a platform to academicians, researchers, scholars and policy makers to share their rich experiences about the theme. You are invited to participate and contribute in this conference.

Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, India
(www.punjabiuniversity.ac.in)

Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, India, one of the premier institutions of higher education in the north of India, was established on the 30th April, 1962 under the Punjabi University Act 1961. This is the second University in the world to be named after a language, the first being Hebrew University of Israel. Initially, the University started with the objective of developing and promoting the language, literature and culture of the Punjabi people. Over the time, it has evolved into a multi-faceted multi-faculty educational institution. Presently, it has fifty-five teaching and research departments, covering disciplines in Humanities, Arts and Sciences as diverse as Fine Arts, Biotechnology, Forensic Science and Space Sciences. The university provides international standard facilities for students and researchers in various disciplines. The University has a modern and well-planned campus, situated on Patiala-Chandigarh road at a short distance from the main Patiala city. Sprawling across 316 acres, the campus is away from the din and noise of the city. It presents a splendid sight of magnificent buildings which include the famous Guru Gobind Singh Bhawan.

Department of Economics
(<https://economics.punjabiuniversity.ac.in/Pages/DepartmentPunjabi.aspx?dsenc=27>)

The Department of Economics is one of the few departments in the country, which have been designated as Centres for Advanced Studies (CAS) by the UGC. It is one of the pioneer departments of the university, established in the year 1963. Its research unit, Centre for Research in Economic Change (CREC), was established in 1973. In recognition of its contribution to teaching and research, the department was awarded DSA in 1977 by the UGC and later upgraded to DSA (Phase-IV). In 2010, the UGC has granted CAS-I status to the Department. The department is serving a wide array of courses which include Five year UG-PG Programme (Honours with Research) in Economics, M.A. (Honours) in Economics and Ph.D. courses. In addition to research projects, the Department and the CREC are actively involved in research consultancy for the government, corporate world and other agencies. The Department along with the CREC, is proud of organising many International as well as National Conferences/Seminars/Round Table Discussions/Guest Lectures.

The Society of Economics and Development

(<https://www.soed.in>)

The Society of Economics and Development was founded in 2004. It is a registered society and a not-for-profit association. The Society of Economics and Development is a scientific society of individuals and institutions interested in the field of Economics and related disciplines. Being a scientific society, its principal aim is to promote the research effort in the fields of Economics, Sociology, and Business Studies. The membership of the society is open to all professionals all over the globe who are actively involved in the betterment of society, and their work addresses a broad range of disciplines such as economics, applied economics, rural development, resources and environment, food and consumer issues, and agribusiness. The Society of Economics and Development brings together researchers and other professionals interested in solving the problems of society and enhancing the knowledge and understanding of Economics, Agricultural Economics, Consumer Behaviour, and development, and to exchange experience, ideas, and information between economists, agricultural economists, social scientists, and business management scientists. The vision of The Society of Economics and Development is for professional advancement and dissemination of knowledge about agricultural development, environmental, consumer behaviour, natural resources, and associated areas of economics, applied economics, and other related disciplines. The mission of The Society of Economics and Development is to advance the subject of economics as a vehicle for understanding economic development and to apply and communicate this knowledge for the improvement of economic well-being. The Society brings out a quarterly journal, Indian Journal of Economics and Development (ISSN 2277-5412; E-ISSN 2322-0430), Impact factor: 0.2 (Web of Science, 2025), Resurchify Impact Score: 0.23, NAAS Score: 6.20 (2026), Indexed in Emerging Sources Citation Index (Clarivate Analytics: Web of Science), Indexed in SCOPUS (SJR = 0.15), Index Copernicus (ICV 2023: 105.09), and UGC Approved (UGC-Care List Group II). This Journal is regularly published, widely read and circulated, has high impact and attracts high-quality papers from international and national researchers. The Conferences / Seminars organized by The Society of Economics and Development provide an excellent forum for both general lectures and presentations to enable the students and scientists to update their knowledge. The present Conference/Seminar will also be highly useful for the faculty members, researchers and students.

How To Reach Punjabi University, Patiala

Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab is located on the Chandigarh-Patiala-Bathinda National Highway No. 22, about 7 kms. from Patiala city (15 minutes journey), nearly 50 kms. from Ambala cantonment (1 hour journey), about 70 kms. from Chandigarh (1:30 hours journey) and approximately 251 kms. from New Delhi (about 5:30 hours journey). The nearest Airport is Chandigarh International Airport (approximately 1:30 hours journey). The nearest Railway Stations are Patiala City jn: (7 kms. & 10 minutes journey), Rajpura jn: (25 kms. & 30 minutes journey) and Ambala cant. jn: (50 kms. & 1 hour journey). Taxi charges from New Delhi Airport to Patiala vary between Rs. 3000-6000 (rates negotiable). Following routes may be taken to reach Punjabi University, Patiala:

Direct Connectivity

New Delhi - Patiala (251 Kms)

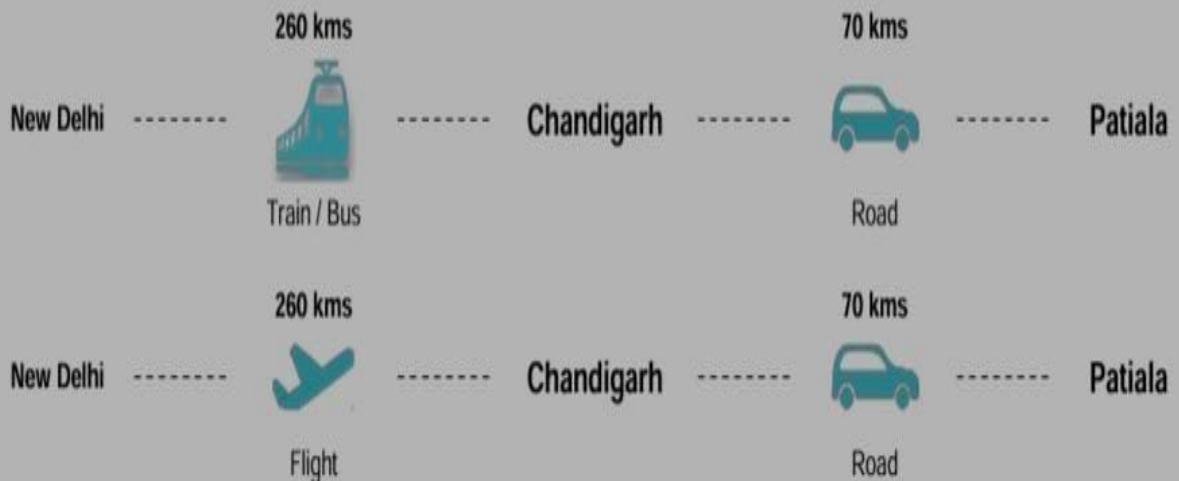


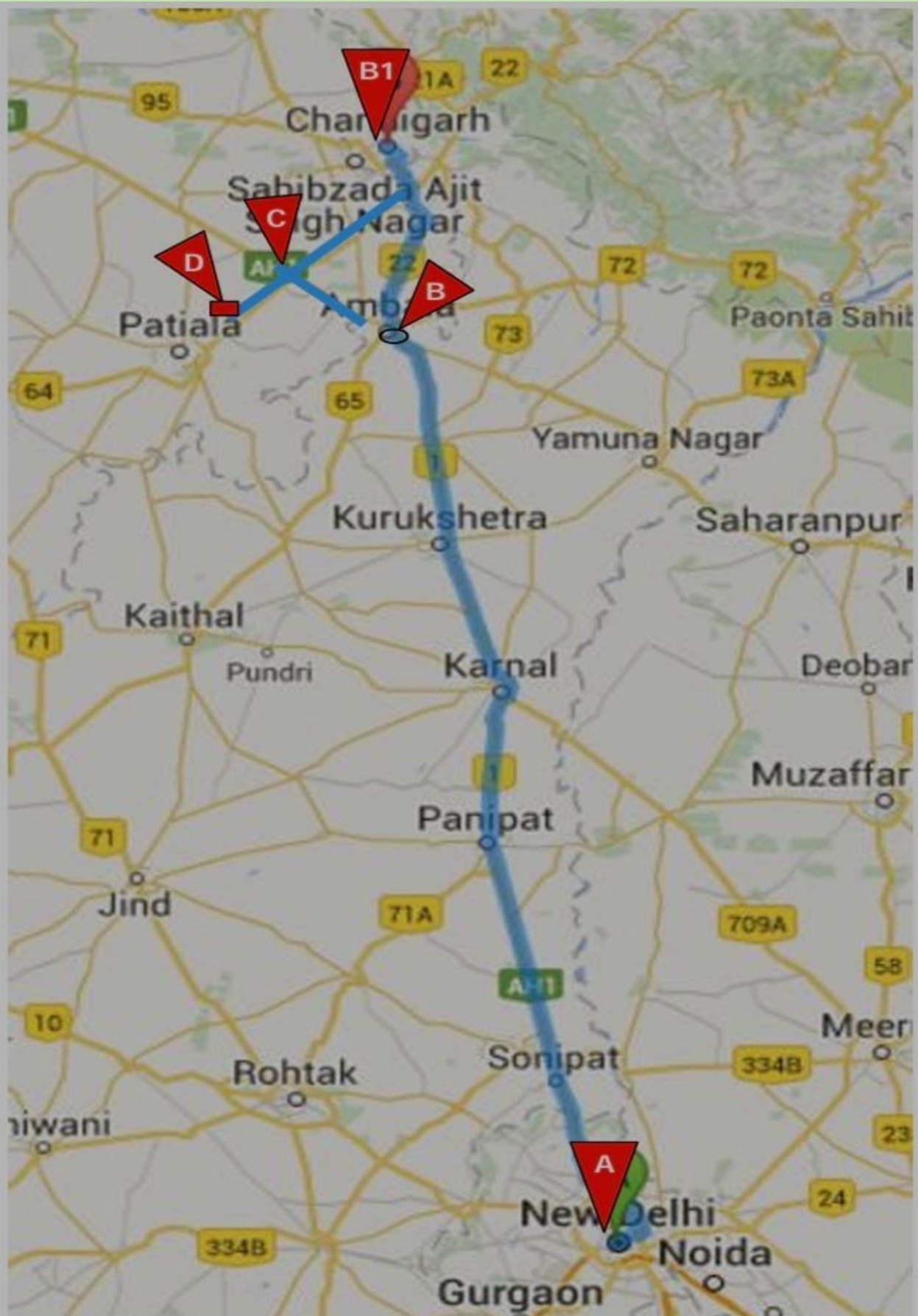
Indirect Connectivity

New Delhi - Ambala - Patiala (259 Kms)



New Delhi - Chandigarh - Patiala (330 Kms)





A – New Delhi B – Ambala Cantt. B1 – Chandigarh
C – Rajpura D – Punjabi University, Patiala

7th TSoED Conference Invitation

The faculty members, researchers and students are invited to share their thoughts / views on ‘ Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Rural Development in India: Socio-Economic Challenges and Pathways ’, in the light of the following:

Rural development, an enhancement procedure in the quality of life and economic well-being in rural communities, must have an element of inclusivity in it, meaning thereby that the gains of economic development, infrastructural growth, and enriched social services should also reach all members of rural populations, particularly the marginalised groups, women, and small farmers and labour class. This process prioritises equal opportunities, livelihood security, and the active participation of marginalised communities and women in grassroots growth. It consists of a multi-pronged strategy in development of infrastructure, agriculture, food security, skill development, education, healthcare, and livelihood generation to bridge the gap between rural and urban areas as well as to reduce poverty and reduce socio-economic disparities through targeted empowerment, livelihood creation, and capacity building. However, this is hindered by structural issues like agrarian distress and limited livelihoods, over-reliance on low-productive agriculture, fragmented landholdings, health and education related infrastructural deficiency, limited non-farm employment, social and gender inequalities, along with the vulnerability to climate change. Although the central government has launched / initiated many a welfare and development schemes and programs like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), now known as Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajivika Mission (Gramin), providing assured wage employment, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and micro-credit platforms aimed to bring the marginalised into the formal banking system, and the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) focusing on skill development for rural youth, still, much needs to be done in this direction. The present conference aims to bring the economists, planners and policy makers on a common platform to discuss, analyse and infer on the issues related to inclusive rural development, and provide appropriate and pointed solutions and suggestions in this direction.

In the backdrop of this, the paper writers may focus on the following sub-themes:

1. Agrarian Transformation, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods

- Agrarian distress and farmers' welfare
- Land reforms, tenancy and land inequality
- Sustainable and climate-smart agriculture
- Crop diversification and farming systems
- Livestock, fisheries and allied sectors
- Natural resource management
- Rural livelihood diversification
- Food and nutritional security

2. Agricultural Markets, Cooperatives, Rural Finance and Value Chains

- Agricultural marketing reforms
- Cooperatives, FPOs and collective action
- Rural credit and financial inclusion
- Crop insurance and risk management
- Contract farming and market linkages
- Agricultural value chains and supply chains
- Digital agriculture and market intelligence
- Public-private partnerships in agriculture

3. Rural Entrepreneurship, Employment and Economic Diversification

- Agro-processing and value addition
- Rural industries and MSMEs
- Agribusiness management
- Start-ups and innovation in rural areas
- Skill development and capacity building
- Non-farm employment opportunities
- Rural tourism and creative industries
- Youth entrepreneurship and employment generation
- Educational and Health Infrastructural Accessibility in Rural Areas

4. Poverty, Social Inclusion and Gender Equity in Rural Development

- Rural poverty and multidimensional deprivation
- Income and wealth inequality
- Social exclusion and marginalization
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Tribal and vulnerable communities
- Migration and rural labour dynamics
- Social protection and welfare programmes
- Inclusive growth and human development

5. Climate Change, Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Rural Development

- Climate change adaptation and resilience
- Water resource management
- Sustainable use of land and biodiversity
- Renewable energy in rural areas
- Environmental sustainability and ecosystem services
- Disaster risk reduction and rural vulnerability
- Circular economy and green rural development
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and rural transformation

*** CALL FOR PAPERS ***

Important Dates

Conference Dates: October 30 – 31, 2026

Deadline for Abstract upto : August 15, 2026

Notice of Acceptance for Presentation upto: August 20, 2026

Deadline for Full Paper upto: September 20, 2026

Last Date of Registration: September 25, 2026

PAPER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Email your **Abstract** and full **Research Paper** at soed2026pup@gmail.com.
- Please also upload your **Abstract** at the **GOOGLE FORM Link** given below.
(Note: Consult guidelines for authors at <https://www.soed.in> for the preparation of Abstract and the Research Paper.)
- Each contributor is requested to send only one paper as a Lead Author.
- The papers will be reviewed by a panel of experts and the **Selected Papers** will be published in the *Special Issue* of the Indian Journal of Economics and Development.

*** Registration Fee ***

Participant	Member	Non-Member
<i>With Accommodation (on sharing basis)</i>		
Faculty (Serving & Retired), Accompanying Persons as well as Students / Research Scholars	Rs. 4,000	Rs. 5,000
<i>Without Accommodation</i>		
Faculty (Serving & Retired) / Accompanying Persons	Rs. 3,000	Rs. 4,000
Students / Research Scholars	Rs. 2,000	Rs. 3,000

*** An additional Rs. 500 will be charged for Late / On The Spot registration. Those registering later than September 25, 2026, may have to arrange their own accommodation.**

The TSoED's Bank Account detail for electronic transfer of registration fee:

Name of a/c Holder: **THE SOCIETY OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT**

Name of the Bank: **BANK OF BARODA**

Bank Account No: **29380100016272**

IFSC code: **BARB0PAULUD**

(Note: it is ZERO after BARB)

Branch: **PAU, LUDHIANA**

*** GOOGLE FORM Link for Registration ***

<https://forms.gle/aMjbwAwwg9ujLHDt9>

Patron

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Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor
Punjabi University, Patiala

Local Organising Committee

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