



ICSSR Sponsored

International Conference on ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF STATES OF INDIA 18th-19th September, 2019



CONCEPT NOTE

Article 1 of the Constitution of India says that India shall be a Union of States. Though the states are a defining element of India, the powers that have been devolved to the states according to the Constitution (and in practice) have been a matter of debate till date. Federalism is not mentioned in the Constitution of India (while references to federal therein pertain only to federal courts). The legal domain of the state governments and the central government are set out in the State List and Union List of the Constitution respectively. However the actual division of powers between the central government and state governments and an expansion of the Concurrent List which is the joint legal domain of both has invited a good deal of scholarly scrutiny from diverse viewpoints. For instance it has been argued that the resources available to state governments fall short of the responsibilities that they are required to undertake. Furthermore India being a relatively vast country both in terms of land area and population the economic development of states is bound to be uneven especially when there is no inherent policy to counter inter state inequalities that arise due to uncoordinated economic activities. This would be the case because of both issues connected to past developments (resource endowments, political legacy etc.) and also because current policies of the central government as well as state governments may act to accentuate or diminish the differentials in development between the states of India. It has been argued for instance, that the states of south India are ahead of those of north India in a whole host of economic and social parameters. The pattern of unevenness in the development of states has not necessarily been the same in the period after independence. For instance manufacturing in West Bengal has relatively retrogressed unlike Maharashtra. The factors which may have contributed to this change need to be assessed. It has been argued that the nature of political dynamics of states could have a role in the change in the pattern of unevenness of development across states. For instance, Tamil Nadu whose political set up is dominated by state level parties for the last four decades has seen relatively better outcomes in terms of education, health, gender indicators etc. One factor that could have given rise to this phenomenon is the state specific focus of political leaders in Tamil Nadu as opposed to Uttar Pradesh where for long periods of time the state government was led by parties that were based in more than one state in India. Questions can also be raised about the structures of democratic accountability in different states whose limitations are manifested as corruption. Along the same lines there also remains the issue whether the dominant sections in society are able to achieve a meaningful balance between their near term goals (such as profits) and their long term preconditions (such as basic nutrition, universal healthcare, comprehensive education etc.) as has been argued was the case in some countries of east Asia. The achievements of Kerala in literacy, health etc. not only exceed that in other states but also some other countries such as China. Were these achievements due to state specific factors such as vibrant political organisations, legacy of some progressive policies in some parts of the state before independence or remittances from non resident Keralites? Likewise is the relatively pronounced role for manufacturing in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat attributable to state specific factors such as pro-business policies of the concerned state governments, lax environmental safeguards or the legacy of trading and industry in Maharashtra and Gujarat in the period before 1947? What factors could give rise to the differential export performance of states both in terms of magnitude and composition? Do the policies of the central government have a significant impact on the location of economic activity (both public and private sector) across states? As far as states of the North East of India are concerned how have political economy, geography etc. interacted to give rise to possible unevenness in economic development when compared to other states in India? As far as agricultural development is concerned it has been argued that rural public infrastructure developed by the central government in Western Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh gave a head start to growth of agricultural output in these states. However the cultivation of water intensive crops in areas that are agro-climatically unsuited has led to problems of ecologically unsustainability. The growth of agriculture in West Bengal in the period after the 1980s has been attributed to redistributive land reforms though the absence of commensurate support from the central government have raised issues about the sustain ability of the process. Are there any policy options available to the government of West Bengal that would enable the agricultural sector of the state to develop further? The concentration of information technology related activities (especially the higher value added components) and other high end service sector activities in the bigger cities has been attributed to enabling public policies (public education, tax concessions etc.). This has resulted not only in inequality amongst states but also inequality within states. The latter has probably received relatively lower levels of scholarly scrutiny than inequality across states. What explains the unevenness across states both in the extent and pattern of urbanisation across states? Past work on the economic development of states in India has tended to focus on some states or on some aspect of their development. The conference aims to enable the writing of detailed narratives of the political economy of development of most states in India both singly and in comparative perspective with detailed assemblage of relevant data in one place.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Conference is expected to be a key meeting for both academicians and policy makers who can bring in new insights and perspectives on the economic development of states in India. This has become more pertinent since concerns have been raised about the possible widening of the gaps in economic development among states in India in the recent period. It is hoped that the debates and discussion in the Conference will inform policy making decisions in the future. The book that is expected to emerge from the papers to be presented in the Conference could also perform an essential pedagogical function for teachers and students in presenting in one compact format a fairly complete reference on the economic development of states. It is possible that the outcomes of such conferences such as the proposed one will lead to an incorporation of such a theme in a more prominent in the teaching and study of economics in India and elsewhere. Further it is also likely research questions that will be posed in the proposed Conference will provide key leads to prospective researchers that may be developed in future work.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The international conference on economic development of states in India invites original research papers, both theoretical and empirical on the following themes:

- ⌚ Political economy of development of one state in historical perspective or an analysis of one or more aspects of its economy (such as sectoral issues, health etc.).
- ⌚ A comparative analysis of two or more states in terms of one or more economic performance and/or policy parameters (such as education, agriculture, corruption etc.).
- ⌚ The role of centre-state relations in contributing to the pattern of uneven economic development across states.
- ⌚ Comparative evaluation of inter state differences in economic development in India and any other country.

A selection of the papers presented in the Conference will be published after further revision as a book with a reputed publisher.

All accepted papers will be published in an edited Book having ISBN. (No separate publication fees)

GUIDELINES FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

- Only original and unpublished research work are sought.
- Papers and abstracts must be submitted in MS- Word Format or PDF formats.
- Abstract should not be more than 500 words with 4-5 key words. Author(s) name(s) and affiliations should be shown on a separate sheet along with the title of the paper.

- In the abstract, mention the following in order
 - Theme
 - Title of the paper,
 - Author/s
 - Abstract
 - Key words

- The abstract/full paper should be typed in Times New Roman Font size 12 (title in 14 size), 1.5 line spacing, and justified alignment if it is in MS Word Format. If the document is in PDF format, then follow the same norms..
- The entire paper submission must be in one document.
- All tables and figures should be numbered and should be aligned in the text with suitable captions.
- APA citation should be used to cite and create references.
- The length of the paper including the abstract and all diagrams should be within 8000 words.
- The abstract/full research paper in the prescribed format with names and complete address of each author including mobile number should be e-mailed at satyawati.conference@gmail.com.
- All the submitted papers will be blind reviewed.

Please direct all correspondence and submission at satyawati.conference@gmail.com.

