



Pt. Ravishankar Shukla
University, Raipur (C.G.)



Indian Economic Association

102nd

*Annual Conference of
The Indian Economic Association
December 27-29 , 2019*



Organized by

School of Studies in Economics
Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur
Pin- 492010, Chhattisgarh, India
<http://www.prsu.ac.in>

The Indian Economic Association



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President, IEA



Dr. G. Viswanathan
President Conference, IEA



Prof. B.P.Chandramohan
Vice-President, IEA



Dr. Devendra Awasthi
General Secretary, IEA

The Indian economic association is the oldest. Largest and most prestigious organization of professional economists and policy makers in India, established in 1917 by Professors C.J. Hamilton. Percy Anstey and Prof. Dr. Gilbert Slater of Calcutta. Bombay and Madras Universities. It is now celebrating its centenary second Conference in 2018. More than 7000 members of the Association represent teaching. Research and policy studies from all parts of the country. The Association also has a good number of members abroad. Dr. Manmohan Singh, Former Prime Minister of India, Prof. Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate, have served as the Presidents of the Indian Economic Association. Former Presidents of the association include eminent Economists like. Dr. Gilbert Slater and Percy Anstey, (both from London School of Economics), Sir. M. Visvesvaraya, Sir. M.L.Darling, Sir Manohar Lal, John Mathai, P.J.Thomas, V.L.D. Souza, D.R.Gadgil, B.V. Narayanaswami, P.S. Lokanathan, A.K. Dasgupta, D.T. Lakadwala, Kamta Prasad, M.Madaiah, V.K.R.V. Rao, I.G.Patel, P.R.Brahmananda, K.N.Raj, V.M.Dandekar, Malcolm S. Adisheshaiah, Bhabatosh Datta, Vedagiri Shanmugasundarm, Gautham Mathur, S.Chakrabarty, D.L.Narayana, Alakh Ghosh, Raj Kumar Sen, C.Rangarajan, A.M. Khusro, V.R.Panchamukhi, Raja J. Chelliah, Yasodha Shanmugsundarm, K.C.Reddy, C.H.Hanumantha Rao, Sukhadeo Thorat, Kaushik Basu, M.S.Ahluwalia, L.K.Mohan Rao, Y.V. Reddy, Tapan Kumar shandilya and many many more during the last 100 years.



Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat
Patron & Chief Editor, IEJ



Dr. Anil Kumar Thakur
Convener, Coordination
Committee, IEA

The 102nd Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association is to be held in Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India from 27th to 29th December 2019. The central theme for the conference is *Economic Growth, Fiscal Federalism, Livelihoods and Environment*.

FROM VICE CHANCELLOR'S DESK...

Dr. Keshari Lal Verma

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Dear Friends,

First and foremost, I thank all IEA dignitaries to give Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur an opportunity to host the 102nd Annual conference of IEA. It is a matter of great honor for the Institution to organize this grand academic event. The foundation stone of PRSU is laid down on the essence of academic pursuit and excellence. Every school of studies in the university endeavors for evolving holistic development and excellence of the students. Research and Development forms the backbone of our curriculum. The faculties and students are engaged in various path breaking innovative research activities throughout the year. All the schools in the university organize conferences, seminars and workshops on contemporary and relevant issues from time to time. This facilitates research in thrust areas which eventually lead to necessary metamorphosis in the academia.

The IEA Annual conference organized by the School of Studies in Economics on “*Economic Growth, Fiscal Federalism, Livelihoods and Environment*” is a splendid venture to provide a common platform for academicians, teachers, students, research scholars and industry personnel across the state and the country to discuss and deliberate on contemporary issues, trends, opportunities, challenges and threats in the economic growth of the country.

It is my pleasure to cordially invite all the members of the IEA, its former and the present functionaries, the Executive Committee members representing the various regions of the Indian union, and the foreign delegates to participate in the ensuing IEA conference being held from December 27 to 29, 2019 in Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India.

We feel proud to host the third centenary conference of the Indian Economic Association at the university. As the Vice-Chancellor of the university, I extend my heartiest greetings to all the delegates to participate and share their views in various deliberations during this three day academic event.

Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University founded on 1st May 1964 through the Madhya Pradesh State reorganization Act 1956, is one of the premier institutions of higher education & learning in Chhattisgarh. It is the biggest and the oldest institute of higher education in the state which imparts knowledge par excellence by rendering quality education to the students of Chhattisgarh including the tribal regions and neighboring states. The University has grown by leaps and bounds by establishing excellent infrastructure spread over an exemplary clean and lush green 207 acre campus. At present PRSU comprises 27 Schools of Studies and inter disciplinary centers offering post graduate, certificate and diploma, post graduate diploma and research programs up to D.Lit. level. The total student strength of PRSU campus is about 130,000. The University has ensured the development of collaborative environment conducive to learning, exposure to the best international practices and promotion of innovation and creativity. The University has significant contribution in the area of research, development and consultancy. It has NAAC accreditation with Grade A .

School of Studies in Economics, a versatile teaching department, is one of the oldest departments of the University, established in 1971. Apart from post-graduate program in Economics, the department also runs M. Phil. and Ph.D. courses. The department has elaborate facilities for research in International Trade, Developmental Economics, Agricultural Economics, Public Finance and Population Studies among others. The Alumni of this department are rendering their services in various national and International organizations of repute. The department provides an excellent opportunity and enabling environment to the students for the exchange of their views and updating knowledge by organizing Guest Lectures/ Workshops/ Seminars/ Symposium/ Conferences in various core fields of Economics. In addition to giving emphasis on scholastic learning, the department also focuses on co-scholastic learning of students through organizing industrial visits, excursions and outreach activities and various competitive events from time to time. The department is well equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and research. The departmental library has enough number of books and journals. The computer lab is comprised of all the essential facilities including internet. Apart from teaching, the faculties of the department are also involved in research guidance / project work and other research activities. Equal opportunities are extended to all the students belonging to SC/ST/OBC as well as to the students from economically weaker sections of the society.

Themes for IEA 102nd Conference 2019

Theme 1. Economic growth, International Trade and ‘Make in India’: Global and domestic challenges

Indian economy has been growing at around 7-7.5% p.a. in recent years. While India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, the current growth rates are much lower than the 8% plus growth rate witnessed in the first decade of this millennium suggesting that the economy is probably performing below its potential. Achieving a faster growth is imperative not only to realize the latent potential but also from the perspectives of employment generation for the growing numbers of young Indians and long-term poverty removal. While the government has initiated several pro-growth reform measures such as the introduction of Goods & Services Tax (GST), Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), ‘Make in India’ initiative, various administrative measures that has helped improve the country’s global ranking in ease of doing business, among others, it nevertheless is a fact that economic growth has not accelerated as was expected prior to these reforms. The challenges to growth are both global and domestic. Two areas of concern are exports and capital formation.

Sub-themes

- ❖ Global challenges for economic growth
- ❖ International trade and exports.
- ❖ Exports and Make in India. Policies for raising exports.
- ❖ Foreign Direct Investment
- ❖ Domestic challenges for economic growth
- ❖ Increasing investment : Household, corporate for Make in India
- ❖ Monetary policy for maintaining balance between growth and inflation
- ❖ Fiscal policy, GST and growth
- ❖ Banking, NPAs, Insolvency Bankruptcy Code

Theme 2. Rural Development: Agriculture and Rural non-farm

Rural development is often treated synonymously with agricultural development. While this was valid historically when agriculture was the dominant sector in rural areas and often the only source of livelihood for most of the rural households, this is no longer true in large parts of the country. As per the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) 70th Round Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) for the year 2012-13, at the all India level, agriculture was the main source of income for about 64% of the agricultural households (which are themselves distinct from rural households), while for 22% of them wages and salaries was the main source of income, followed by non-agricultural enterprises. This suggests that rural non-farm activities are fast becoming an important aspect of the rural economy in the country, even as agriculture remains an important activity. Thus, rural development should encompass both agricultural and rural non-farm sectors. Indeed, agriculture and rural non-farm activities should not be seen as substitutes but as complementing each other.

Sub Themes

- ❖ Agriculture diversification
- ❖ Farmers’ distress
- ❖ Doubling Farmers Incomes

- ❖ Technology and agriculture
- ❖ ICT and rural development
- ❖ Rural non-farm sector: Manufacturing and services
- ❖ Factors determining growth of rural non-farm sector
- ❖ Agriculture and rural non-farm linkages
- ❖ Investment in infrastructure for rural development
- ❖ Institutions, governance and rural development
- ❖ Rural and urban linkages

Theme 3. Fiscal Federalism

Fiscal relations between the Union and State governments have undergone a major change following

- (i) the adoption of the system of revenue transfers as recommended by the 14th Finance Commission,
- (ii) The abolition of the Planning Commission, and (iii) the Constitutional amendment that enabled the introduction of GST. These changes have fundamentally altered the taxation powers of states, and the manner in which tax revenues are shared between the Union and States, both of which affect the ability of States to provide public services. In this context, the formation of the 15th Finance Commission is an opportunity to address several issues in fiscal federalism. Some of the important issues in this context are the following:

Sub-Themes

- ❖ Vertical imbalance in taxation and expenditure responsibilities, GST
- ❖ Horizontal allocation of resources, 15th Finance Commission
- ❖ Conditional versus unconditional grants
- ❖ Finance Commissions and regional imbalances
- ❖ Expenditure responsibilities of the Union and States. Expenditure in some socially important sectors, viz., agriculture, Health, education, water and sanitation
- ❖ Cesses and surcharges: Role of Centre and States
- ❖ Reinventing of Niti Ayog

Theme 4: Livelihoods and social protection: Jobs, universal basic income etc.

Providing productive livelihoods is important for inclusive growth and reduction in poverty. There are concerns about job creation in India. Nearly 90% of workers are in informal sector. There is problem of working poor. People are working but at low wages and incomes. Over time, workers have to be shifted from agriculture to non-agriculture and informal to formal sectors. At the same time, we need to have social protection programmes because poor and disadvantaged sections face several risks like health risks, weather risks, unemployment risks, financial risks etc. In India, we have several preventive, protective and promotional social protection programmes. There is also debate on universal basic income and schemes like PM-KISAN and several State Government schemes. There can be trade-off between these programmes and expenditure on human development.

Some prefer to have better old age pension schemes and maternity entitlements than providing universal basic income.

Sub-Themes

- ❖ Creating quality jobs
- ❖ Shifting workers from agriculture to non-agriculture
- ❖ Raising productivity and wages of informal workers
- ❖ Social protection programmes in India: Preventive, protecting, promotional schemes
- ❖ Merits and demerits of programmes like Universal Basic Income, PM-Kisan, NYAY
- ❖ Tradeoffs between social protection schemes and expenditure on health and education
- ❖ Accessibility of social protection schemes for socially and economically disadvantaged sections.

Theme 5: Environmental issues

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda adopted by UN General Assembly in 2015 set a plan of action over the next fifteen years in areas that are of critical importance to “People and Planet” to bring about “Prosperity and Peace” through “Partnerships”. Implicit in the SDGs is recognition of the need to maintain balance between economic growth and Social and environmental development. While an accelerated growth is required to alleviate wide spread poverty in the country, natural resource depletion and environmental pollution resulting from it must be accounted for. Improved economic conditions also induce change in consumption patterns and life style of people enhancing the environmental stress. Continuing with a “Business-as-Usual” approach towards environment might result in an irreversible damage to our ecosystem.

India has a long history of environmentalism with the passage and codification of various Acts even before the pre-reforms period, started in 1974. The National Environmental Action Plan, proposed in pre-reforms period (as early as in 1990s) to integrate the environmental damages in all sectors of the economy must be accelerated. Existing environmental regulations in the country are among the most stringent laws exist elsewhere. However, their implementation and enforcement had been inadequate. This has resulted in continued deterioration of ecology and environment and needs to be corrected.

Sub-Themes

- ❖ Air pollution caused by industries, rapid growth in transportation, especially personal transport vehicles, natural resources industries, large-scale seasonal burning of agricultural residues.
- ❖ The health hazards posed by air pollution.
- ❖ Water pollution.
- ❖ Management of waste in terms of recycling
- ❖ Climate change and extreme events
- ❖ Climate change and agriculture.
- ❖ Policies for adaptation and mitigation of climate change.
- ❖ Role of women in climate change and environment issues.

Special Session on the Economy of Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh state came into existence on 1st November 2000 by carving out the erstwhile state of Madhya Pradesh. The state of Chhattisgarh inherited backward economy from its parent state Madhya Pradesh, which was then called as one of the BIMARU states of the country. Chhattisgarh is one of the 29 states of India, located in the center - east of the country. With a population of 25.5 million in 2011, it is the 16th most populated state in the country. The special session of the 102nd Annual Conference will be dedicated to the discussion on “*The Economy of Chhattisgarh*”.

Research papers are invited for the following main themes and sub-themes. Authors are free to choose the main theme or any of the sub themes mentioned as below.

1. Trends and Prospects of Faster and Sustainable Economic Growth:

Sustainable Economic growth is a rate growth which can be maintained with out creating other significant economic problems, mostly for future generations . There is clearly a trade off between rapid economic growth today and growth in the future. Nowadays rapid growth may exhaust resources and create environmental problems for future generations. The state of Chhattisgarh has implemented all Central and UN development programmes resulting in average annual GDP growth of 7 percent. In spite of implementation of all the development programmes, RaghuRam Rajan panel (2012) placed Chhattisgarh as fourth less developed state in the country. In last six years though the average annual growth of GDP remained around 7 Percent, however situation of backwardness of economy did not change much.

Sub-themes :

1. Causes of continuation of backwardness of economy and prospects of growth.
2. Achievements and shortfalls of UNDP MDGs.
3. UNDP Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)- Challenges and prospects.
4. Impact of Left wing extremism on development of the tribal areas of South Chhattisgarh.

2. Agricultural Economy

Chhattisgarh was known as the ‘Rice Bowl’ of Central India during British days. Crop production with widening cropping pattern, horticulture, dairying, poultry farming and fisheries development programmes were implemented successfully since the launching of the five year plans. In spite of intensive agricultural development programmes, Chhattisgarh laggard in agricultural productivity and farmers income. Successive state governments waived institutional farm loans to tackle farmers distress.

Sub –themes :

1. Causes of low productivity of crops and prospects of higher productivity.
2. Causes of chronic indebtedness of farmers and prospects of debt free farmers.
3. Impact of farmers relief schemes on state finances.
4. Narva (Small water channel), Garva (cattle), Ghurva (Manure) and Bari (Kitchen garden) model of agriculture and farmers development of present government.

3. Industrial Economy

The economic growth provided by industrial development is a well-sustained growth that can transform an economy. Industrial growth and economic growth go hand in hand. Economies thrive when an industry is growing because a growth in the industry means more jobs, more income, and more opportunities. The rapid development of industries promote the growth of agriculture, transport and communication. The industrial environment of the country is changing at a fast pace due to enhanced impetus on economic liberalization, privatization and globalization. Chhattisgarh is amongst the richest States in India in terms of mineral and forest resources, with large untapped potential for industrialization. Chhattisgarh, endowed with abundant natural resources viz forests and mineral deposits including precious metals. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector occupies an important position in the State's industrial economy and continues to contribute to industrial production, export, creation of employment opportunities etc. Chhattisgarh can become one of the India's most developed states, provided it balances the pulls from different directions and turns the 'paradox' into an opportunity for growth and equitable development.

Sub –themes :

1. Causes of industrial backwardness and prospects for faster industrialization.
2. Causes of Regional disparity and prospects for balanced regional development.
3. Prospects of FDI in IT and other high-tech industries.
4. Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises in Chhattisgarh.

4. Poverty and Unemployment in Chhattisgarh

Poverty and unemployment are closely related. High poverty has a multiplier effect on quality of life, deprivation, malnutrition, illiteracy and low human resource development. The state has the highest poverty rate in the country and the pace of poverty reduction is also slower than in other low income states. In spite of poverty alleviation programmes the magnitude of poverty is still very high in the state.

Sub –themes :

1. Causes of continuation of high magnitude of poverty in Chhattisgarh .
2. Multi-dimensional poverty in Chhattisgarh.
3. Prospects of Poverty free Chhattisgarh.
4. Rural Livelihood mission and Urban Livelihood mission programmes.

5. Current Development and Welfare Programmes

The economic and social aspects of a plan of development are closely interconnected. Several of the social programmes have been implemented in the state. Development over the past decade of social welfare activities as an integral part of the economic growth has gained much more a significance which extends beyond the range of services established or the extent of resources utilized. They express the concern of the community for the welfare of its many vulnerable sections and emphasize an essential value in national development. In drawing large numbers of voluntary workers, specially women, into the field of creative social service, the community is itself enriched and strengthened. Inevitably, extension in a field of activity as varied and dispersed as social welfare brings its own problems, and these call for systematic review from time to time of what has been achieved and of the measures needed to improve the quality of welfare services. Moreover, with the establishment of democratic institutions at the district and block levels, the manner in which the voluntary organizations might fulfill the tasks assigned to them will need further consideration. From financial inclusion to better health care, the government backed schemes are helping to improve the overall quality of life for society's less fortunate population. Over the years, the Chhattisgarh government has introduced several schemes that have not only helped the inhabitants to improve their standard of living, but also contributed to the growth of state's economy.

Sub –themes :

1. Skill India Programme and prospects of Quality employment in Chhattisgarh.
2. Entrepreneurship Development programmes and employment generations.
3. Level of Financial Inclusion under PMJDY.
4. Aspirational Districts programme in Chhattisgarh.

Papers on the above topics are invited. Hard copy of the paper along with a CD should be sent to the Convener, special session on the Economy of Chhattisgarh Dr. Hanumant Yadav and also a soft copy by e-mail to Dr. Ravindra .K.Brahme, Local Organizing secretary 102nd annual conference IEA on their addresses latest by 15 October 2019.



Dr. Hanumant Yadav

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

Papers must reach latest by 15th October 2019. Papers received after the last date will not be considered for publication in the Special issue of the Journal. Members can however be allowed to present their papers received after the due date only with the permission of the Chair.

SIZE OF PAPER AND NUMBER OF COPIES

The paper should be in about 3000 words typed in **Times New Roman font 12 in 1.5 space, with an abstract of 500 words.** Papers without abstracts will not be considered for publication. Along with a hard copy, the CD containing the paper must be sent. Articles should be typed in MS-WORD only. Research Papers on other formats, like pdf will not be considered. Papers without the Abstract will also not be considered. Kindly also mention your date of birth in your forwarding letter for consideration of awards for your paper.

Hard copy of the paper along with a CD should be sent to the Convener, Coordination Committee, IEA Dr. Anil Kumar Thakur, latest by 15th October 2019 and also a soft copy by email to Dr. S. Narayanan, Coordinator and Special Invitee, Executive Committee, IEA on their addresses given below.



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The list of papers received would be displayed on IEA's website indianeconomicassociation1917.com by 25th October 2019. The senders of papers are requested to see this list to confirm the receipt of their papers by the IEA Office to safeguard against lost/ delays in postal transfers. Those whose names do not figure in the list are requested to send emails of their paper along with a scanned copy of proof of having sent it earlier to Dr. Anil Kumar Thakur at the given email addresses, latest by **30th October 2019** for the same to be considered for onward action.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last date for submission of Paper:	15 th October 2019
Notification of Papers received on IEA's website:	25 th October 2019
Last date for receipt of papers lost earlier in postal transfers:	30 th October 2019
Notification of accepted papers on IEA's website:	20 th November 2019

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THE PAPER WRITERS

- ❖ The papers of only those authors will be considered who members of the Indian Economic Association are. Those who are not the members of the IEA, but wish to submit their papers, will have to first become members by filling the requisite form and fees, the details of which are available on the **IEA website: www.indianeconomicassociation1917.com**.
- ❖ **The co-authors too need to be the members of the IEA.** Co-authors, who are not the members of the IEA will automatically, have their names deleted from the paper author(s) unless they too become the members.
- ❖ Contributors of research papers are required to mention **their Email ID, Phone / Mobile Number and address with PIN code along with their names and age in their covering letter. These are essential for co-authors also.** This information is mandatory. It will help the editorial board to communicate to the contributors in an efficient manner.
- ❖ **The paper contributors, including co-authors, need to also mention in their forwarding letters their Permanent Membership Number. The latest IEA's Membership Profile 2017 is also available at IEAs Website indianeconomicassociation1917.com for your ready reference.** New applicants must mention "membership applied for" (along with the category of membership—annual or life) in the forwarding letter. Papers without membership numbers of authors and co-authors will not be considered
- ❖ **By sending your paper, if accepted for publication in full, you are implicitly undertaking to come and present the Paper during the Annual Conference. The failure to abide by the same will amount to your future Paper contributions to the IEA being liable to be rejected for any further action.**

TOURIST PLACE IN CHHATTISGARH

Nandanvan Jungle Safari, Naya Raipur

Naya Raipur city is developing into a world class city. It is the vision of the Former Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh to create a world class Zoo & Safari in Naya Raipur. In fact this is one of his dream project. The proposed area is adjoining the Botanical Garden. The whole area, thus shall be developed as a conservation, recreational and educational site. Nandanvan Jungle Safari, Naya Raipur will provide pleasing experience to the visitors not only about the local wildlife but also about national wildlife. The exhibits care and awareness will be of such a level to promote conservation of wildlife.



Purkhauti Mukangan, Raipur

Keep your gadgets away and spend a day at Purkhauti Mukangan, a delightful garden reflecting the rich culture of Chhattisgarh. The Hon'ble A.P.J Abdul Kalam inaugurated the place in November 2006. Since then, this garden is a place that attracts tourists and locals alike. Folk art, life-like tribal figures, vibrant sceneries add on to the beautiful experience. Not only is the garden eye-catching to visitors, but it also spreads cultural awareness about preserving our bio-cultural diversity.



Gangrel Dam

Gangrel Dam, also known as the R.S. Sagar Dam, is located in [Chhattisgarh](#), [India](#). It is built across the [Mahanadi River](#). It is located in [Dhamtari district](#), about 15 km from dhamtari and about 90 km from [Raipur](#). It is the longest dam in Chhattisgarh. This dam supplies year round irrigation, allowing farmers to harvest two crops per year. The dam also supplies 10 MW of hydro-electric power capacity.



Chitrakote waterfalls

Chitrakote waterfalls is supposed to be the Niagara falls of India. It is the broadest waterfall in India. During monsoon one can see its might. The river Indravati falls from a height of 29 m (96 ft) to form this waterfall. It is located 48 kms (30 mi) from Jagdalpur and is accessible by road only. There is a helipad but it is used by the government only.



Mainpat: Shimla of Chhattisgarh

Mainpat is one of the most famous places in Chhattisgarh. The hill station is known as The Shimla of Chhattisgarh. Its near to Amibakapur in Sarguja district. Basically, Mainpat is famous for its greenery, waterfalls, Budha monastery and Jungles. The hill station is gradually becoming popular among tourist for its natural beauty and landscapes. It is dividing into several camps. Mainpat is a very peaceful place with simplicity. The small place is established on a hilltop and surrounded by Jungles. This is the best place for nature lovers and really awesome.



Ratanpur fort

Ratanpur fort in Bilaspur district, is an old fort whose exact date of construction is cloaked in mystery. The fort is guarded on all four sides by gorges. It has four entrances - Singh, Ganesh, Bhairav and Semar Dvars. Near the entrance of the fort is a huge stone statue presumed to be that of the valiant king Gopal Rai, of which only the

head and the feet remain. A little further down the road, one can see the Laxmi Narayan Temple which was built by the Maratha queen, Anandi

Bai. It is next to the much older Jagannath temple, built by Kalyan Rai that houses beautiful images of Jagannath, Balaram and Subhadra. The west gate of the fort faces Motipur, where the twenty queens of Lakshman Rai is said to have performed Sati. Bilaspur's Ratanpur fort, at present, lies in a dilapidated state. Over the years, the fort has lost its grandeur and splendour. It is not difficult to form a conception as to how the fort looked during its prime.



Champanan

Champanan, formerly known as Champajhar, is a village in the Raipur district which lies about 60 kms from the state capital of Raipur. The village is identified with Champaranya and therefore has religious significance as the birthplace of the Saint Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya, the reformer and founder of the Vallabh sect also known as Pushtimarg. A temple has been constructed in his honour. Near this is a temple of **Champakeshwara Mahadeva**.



Sirpur

Sirpur or Shripura as it was known in ancient times, is a small village located on the right bank of Mahanadi 83 kms to the north-east of Raipur. It was the capital of Dakshin Koshala under the Sarabhapuriyas and Panduvanshis. The Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang visited Sirpur in 635 AD. Sirpur has archaeological remains associated with Shaiva, Vaishnava, Buddhist and Jain faiths. Among the numerous temples and Buddhist monasteries (viharas), the most notable are the **Lakshman temple**, **Gandheswara temple**, **Anandaprabhu Kutir vihara** and **Swastika vihara**.



Dongargarh

Dongargarh is a major religious centre. A popular landmark of the place is **Maa Bamleshwari Devi temple** situated on a hilltop which is 1,600 ft high. It is of great spiritual importance and a legend is associated with this shrine.



Bhoramdeo

Bhoramdeo temple is a very old hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and is located at a distance of 18 kms from Kawardha town in Kabirdham district. This temple, scenically situated amidst mountain ranges, was built in the period of 7th to 11th century AD.



Girodhpuri Jaitkham

One of the greatest sons of the city is Guru Ghasidas, the founder of the Satnami sect, after whom the university of Bilaspur is named. Guru Ghasidas had a holistic vision and felt that systemic reforms to remove social injustice and inequality would remain inadequate and incomplete without reforming individuals. All over Chhattisgarh there are numerous shrines and ashrams celebrating the perennial ideas that fed this movement. The place where Guru Ghasidas was born is known as Giraudpuri. Jaitkham at Giraudpuri is one of the tallest and most famous tourist attractions in Chhattisgarh.



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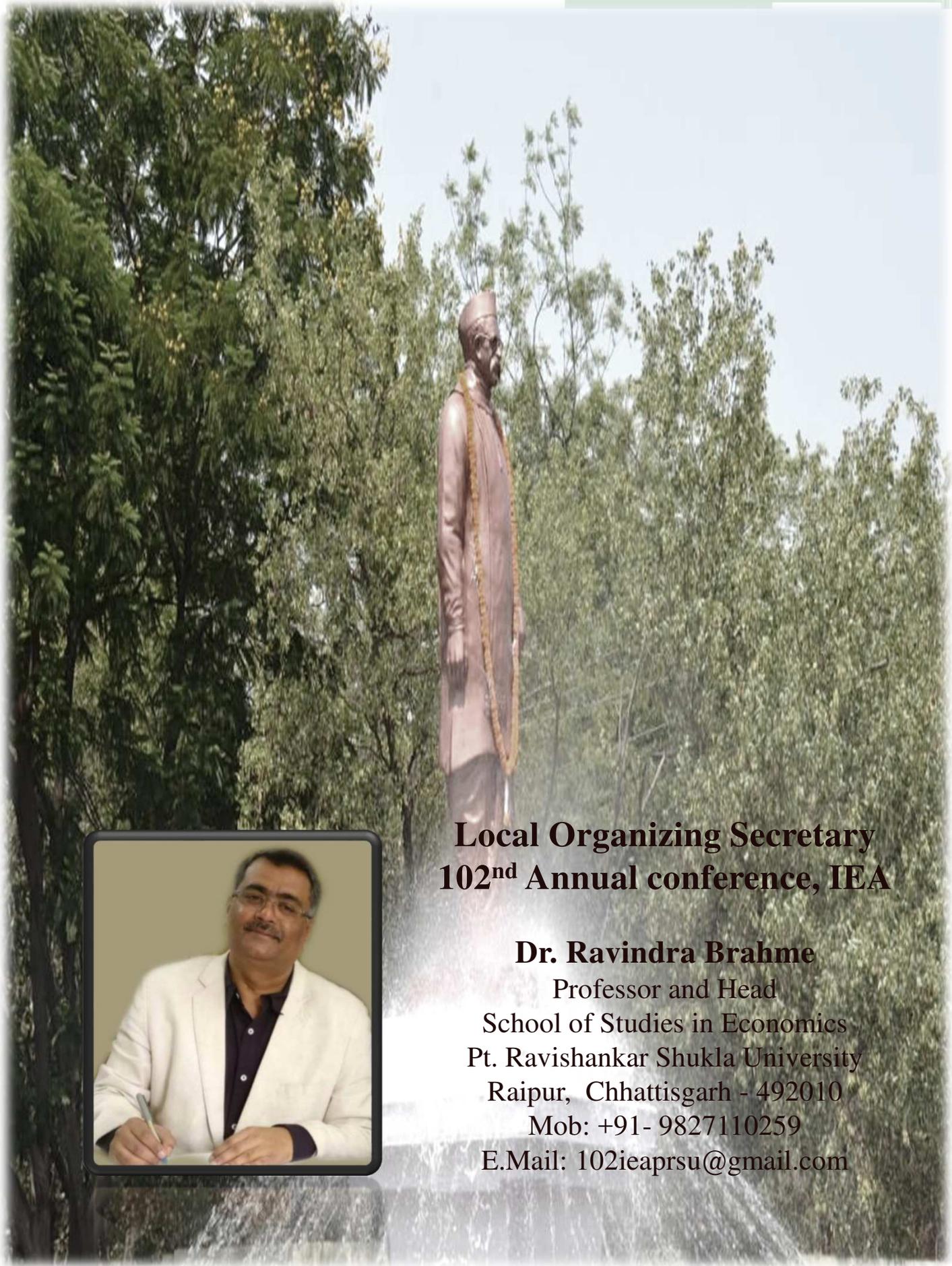
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