

Summary of Proceedings of the 16th IPEA Conference held at IIT Roorkee

The 16th Annual Conference of the Indian Political Economy Association (IPEA) was hosted by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, on 26th and 27th October, 2012, in which **twelve keynote papers** were presented in the plenary session I and II and in addition, **forty eight well researched papers** were presented by some seasoned presenters who were profoundly aware of the complexity of the political economy and the pragmatic and critical response of the world with regard to liberalization, privatization, and globalization.

The journey of the conference commenced with the inaugural session which began with the *Kulgeet* of the institute, followed by the welcome address, delivered by Prof. Rashmi Gaur, the Head of the Dept. HSS, IIT Roorkee, who not only welcomed all delegates and participants but she also highlighted upon the major themes of the conference. She elaborately enumerated all issues which the conference had aimed at. The inaugural session could proceed further with a brief introduction about IPEA by Prof. V. Upadhyay (Authorized signatory of IPEA) of IIT Delhi. He shared some basic facts about IPEA, its objectives, nature and function. He expressed the facts that IPEA aims at discussing, debating and critiquing the present state of governmentality and which had allowed the people to find an alternative way to look at the contemporary reality. He further expressed that the research papers which could be discussed and presented in the conference would create a new consciousness in society. Prof. D. K. Nauriyal from the Dept. of HSS, IIT Roorkee introduced the keynote speaker, Prof. Arun Kumar of JNU, New Delhi and Prof. S. P. Gupta, Deputy Director, IIT Roorkee. Prof S. P. Singh from the Dept. of HSS, IIT Roorkee introduced Prof. K.N. Kabra after which **Prof. Arun Kumar** presented his **keynote address** with a title 'Inequality and Black Economy in India'. Prof. Kumar talked extensively about the nature, form and function of black economy. He emphasized that there is a complex relationship between capitalism and black economy. After the keynote address, Prof S.P. Gupta, Deputy Director, IIT Roorkee delivered his chair address and welcomed the august gathering. Finally the session was capped up by Prof. S.P. Singh with a vote of thanks.

To continue with the journey of the conference, **four keynote papers** were presented in the first plenary session which was chaired by Prof. Surender Kumar and Co-Chaired by Prof. D.K.Nauriyal respectively. The first keynote speaker was Dr. A. N. Roy, Director, ISS New Delhi who focused on the issue of inequality in Latin America. In the paper he extensively

elaborated upon the impact of globalization on the socio-economic and political realities of the country. He equated globalisation with the second phase of colonialism. In the sequence, the second paper was proffered by Dr. Prasenjit Bose, who lighted upon the issue of contemporary imperialism and the socialist alternative. He delineated deeply upon the nature and function of globalisation and neo-liberalism in the contemporary reality. His paper professed for the involvement of people in governmentality and emphasized upon the movement from the bottom. Consequently, the third paper was presented by Prof. Dolly Arora, IIPA, New Delhi, on the broader area of ecologically sustainable development in which she focused upon the extracted model of development which has resulted into the degradation of natural resources. Further, she stated that it has also encouraged the market economy and aggressive consumerism which has resulted into a blind reaction towards the ecology. Finally, towards the end Dr. Reetika Khera, Dept. of HSS, IIT Delhi, elaborated upon the issues related to the food security and legal rights. She was of the view that major part of the Indian population is devoid of the bare minimum food security.

The **first** parallel technical session began post lunch in which **seven well researched** papers were presented. The session began with the presentation of Dr. Sunita Reddy, JNU, New Delhi, in which she with all her acumen presented a sharp criticism of government policies with regard of Public Health. She averred the fact that the priorities of the government are misplaced and the health sector is hugely neglected. The technical session continued with the presentation of Dr. Mujibur Rahman, JMI, New Delhi, in which he lighted upon the close nexus between the politics and the capitalist agency. The third paper was presented by Dr. Rajlakshmi Datta in which she focused upon the political dimension of social development in India in the context of child labour. She underlined the fact that both the child and the phenomena of childhood are lost into the dusky air of development. Further, Dr. Ranjan Kumar Nayak, presented his paper with some focus on consumption inequality in India. To continue further, Jagrup Singh Sekhon mapped peasants' movement in Punjab. He underlined the miserable condition of the peasants in the border area of Punjab. In addition, Dr, Sunil Kumar explicated the negative impacts of the entire process of Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization in India. He focused upon the inextricate relationship between power politics and political economy. Finally, Dr. Surender Kumar presented his views on the growth of micro-finance in Uttarkhand.

In the **second** parallel technical session, **three research papers** were presented. The session opened its chapter with Dr. Sanatan Nayak's stimulating deliberation on environmental

degradation. It was followed by an enlightening paper by Dr. K. Gopal Iyer in which he discussed and elaborated upon the study of tribal land, forest and identity issues in Jharkhand and Odissa. The next presentation was made by Dr. Pratima Kumari in which she discussed the issue of environment and sustainable development.

The **third** parallel technical session was chaired by Prof. Rajender Kumar in which **ten papers** were presented. The session opened with a remarkable paper by Prof. Nilabja Ghosh in which she focused upon the miserable plight of the poor and the ignorant farmers. The next presenter Dr. Balwinder Singh presented his thought provoking paper in which he focused upon employment pattern and economic growth in India. To continue, Veerendra Kumar Mishra explored the dialectics of Liberalisation, Privatization, and Globalization through power politics and Marxist ideology. Similarly, Balram Rao also examined the phenomena of exclusion working poor in the contemporary reality of globalization which was further espoused by Niyathi. R. Krishna and Smita Jha through their study of the socio-economic aspects of migration and marginalisation with regard to the female domestic labourers in gulf countries. It was further reinstated by Dr. Shashi Bala with her paper in which she focused upon the miserable predicament of the women work force in the labour market in post - modern era. Further, Saumya Chakraborty and Aparajita Mukherjee underlined the theoretical issues with regard to MNREGS. Similarly, Vinita Arora expressed her views of the condition of distressed migration and the incapability of MNREGS program in holding the country's population back in the village.

The **fourth** parallel technical session was chaired by Prof. A. N. Roy in which **three research** papers were presented. The session inchoated with the paper of Vijay Kumar and Prof D. K. Nauriyal in which they analysed some possibilities of the trade agreement between India and the ASEAN countries. In the next paper, Amit Giri and Dr Babita Sinha expounded the condition of euro area debt crisis and its impact on the economy of India. Finally, Sojin Shin explicitly explained the intricate relationship between FDI and the capitalist agency.

The **fifth** parallel technical session was chaired by Prof. A. S. Sidhu, in which **six research papers** were presented. The session was inaugurated by a well-researched paper by Prof. D. C. Das and Dr. B. Sridhar Reddy in which they, with great illustrations, expounded the condition of economic development and the watershed management. They have also focused upon the social, economic, political and postmodernist issues which are deeply embedded into the realities of the phenomena of watershed management. Similarly, Prof. S. P. Singh

and Prof. D. K. Nauriyal, with great perspicacity, presented the economic appraisal of watershed project. It was indeed an out and out informative paper because it divulged the synchronic and diachronic realities which are ubiquitously present in the Indian context as far as the economics of the watershed projects in India is concerned. To continue with the uncanny and intellectual array of watershed management, Dr. Rajiv Pandey reflected upon managing water resource through watershed development programmes in India. However, Dr. Surender Singh and Dr. Suparn Sharma presented their paper which underlined the condition of water scarcity and food production. Finally, the session came to its close with a remarkable presentation by Dr. A. S. Sidhu and Dr. Vikram Sidhu in which they expressed their ideas on environment protection and WTO.

The intellectual odyssey of the conference continued with the plenary session that emanated on 27th October, 2012, at 9.30am with fresh intellectual warmth and a highly motivated academic conviviality. The session was chaired by Prof. Surender Kumar and was co-chaired by Prof. A. S. Sidhu. The entire session welcomed **eight presenters** who expressed their intellectually complex and philosophically erudite papers. The intellectual odyssey of the session ensued with the remarkable paper of Prof. K. N. Kabra, in which he defined some key elements of appropriate development. Similarly, V. Upadhyay articulated the significance in power balance in equality and growth paradigm. Similarly, Prof. R. V. Rama Murthy, recounted the condition of agrarian crisis in some neo-liberal states, further, he made some heuristic propositions about the production of some petty commodities. Further Prof. Deepak Khare addressed the issues and challenges related to planning of watershed management. To continue with the tale of watershed management Prof. S. P. Singh and Prof. D. K. Nauriyal articulated extensively on watershed development in Buldelkhand and its impact, issues and interventions. Finally, Arun K. Saraf spoke on remote sensing and GIS technologies.

The parallel session of the second day was followed by three parallel technical sessions in which approximately **nineteen papers** were presented. The presenters focused primarily on the basic themes of the dialectics of development in the complex era of globalization, privatization and neo-liberalization. Thus the **sixth** parallel technical session was chaired by Prof. Ghanshyam N. Singh and in which **eight** papers were presented. The session opened its chapter of intellectual presentations with Dr. Anupama who presented the issue of neo-liberal policies in India and their impact upon the quality of employment. The next presenter Dr. B. M. Baen examined the phenomena of dialectics which are present in the entire phenomena of capitalism and the synchronic economic realities which are inextricably intertwined into

the complex nexus of politics and penury. Anju Arora focused upon the issue of corporate governance for sustainable business model. The next presenter, Rajeev Rana, presented on a shift towards new paradigm to create a sound business environment for inclusive growth. Prof. M. Mallikarjun presented his ideas on trends in household consumption expenditure which may represent the realities of economic growth vis-à-vis poverty and unemployment. The journey of presentation continued with the paper of Ishwar Kumar and SreshaYadav in which they examined the conflict between India and Pakistan as far as the business conditions are concerned. Further, Dr. Pooja Sharma presented her paper on foreign sector and higher education services in India. And finally, the session came to its close with a paper on the impact of neo-liberalism as far as the case of Chhattisgarh is concerned.

The **seventh** parallel technical session was chaired by Prof. Abhey Godara, in which **seven** papers were presented. The session began with the paper of Dr. Surender Kumar in which he examined the crisis of political economy in the power sector reforms in India. The second presenter, Dr. Anil Gupta and Dr. K. G. Arora, articulated elaborately upon the growth of human development factors in India. The third presenter Mini Kundi and Dr. Seema Sharma analyzed the technical and scale efficiency of paper firms in India, whereas, Manoj Kumar Mishra presented his views on a test of investment function in India during liberalization. Further, Vandita Sahay discussed about the wages of casual workers in India. With the presentations of Krishna Satapathy and Dr. Pradip Parida, the session finally came to its close.

The **eighth** parallel technical session was chaired, by Prof. Nilabja Ghosh in which **four** papers were presented. The session began with the remarkable presentation of Prof. S. S. Dhillon and Kuldeep Singh in which they explored the relationship between the economic growth and the environmental quality. The session proceeded further with a presentation by Varun Mahajan where he expressed his views about the importance of organic farming for a sustainable development as far as the case of India is concerned, but on the contrary Dr. Asmita Bhardwaj discussed about the possibility of upbringing a new kind of economic realities with the emergence of genetically modified crops. And finally, the session came to its end with a scholarly paper by Mrinal Chadha where he discussed upon Bio-ethanol- The way forward in India to reduce the emission of Greenhouse gases.

In sum, the whole conference not only enriched the theoretical, conceptual and empirical understanding of contemporary synchronic economic realities but it also provided a new

horizon to re-examine the uncanny, unfathomable, and intricate, realities of the unsurmounting capitalistic economy, from bewildering array of angles. The conference has indeed offered some pragmatic solutions to the various economic challenges, which are quite pertinent in the current economic discourse.

Finally, the conference came to its close with an implicit message which can be deciphered in the following stanza:

I cannot rest from travel: I will drink
Life to the lees: all times I have enjoyed
Greatly, have suffered greatly, both with those
That loved me, and alone;
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

(Summary prepared by Mr. Veerendra Kumar Mishra, Humanities & Social Sciences Department, IIT Roorkee)