

100 Years of Department of Economics, BHU

International Seminar on “Developmental Challenges of India after Twenty Five Years of Economic Reforms”

16 – 18 March, 2018
Department of Economics
Banaras Hindu University
Varanasi – 221 005, (U. P.)

Invitation

The process of economic reforms started in India in early 1990s, no one knows by default or by design. Somehow, a whole new class of literature was emerging which had categorised state as rent seeker and inefficient and had propounded efficiency of market. An optimal solution was sought to be possible in market system. This was also an outcome of low growth rate achieved by Indian economy and with new doctrine of celebration of growth; a renewed focus on growth was discernible. However, an alternative line of reasoning was focussing on issues like deprivation and human development. India did manage to come out of crisis situation and there were signs of growth revival in late 1990s. But, the decade of 1990s is known as lost decade. The first decade of 21st century did witness acceleration in growth. There is again a renewed focus on growth from year 2014 when the new government came into power. In general, public debate is centred on growth rate and issue like deprivation, poverty, nutrition, unemployment, social protection and labour is relegated to background. This suits interest of global capital also where low value production is being shifted to countries like India and global production networks have ensured shifting of production from central production site to home of labour.

Twenty five years of economic reforms has definitely catapulted Indian economy to a dominant position in world economy. But, some of challenges, which were present 25 years ago, are still unaddressed. Poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, dispossession, exclusion, discrimination and gendered distribution of fruits of development are still prevalent. Further, this journey had its pain also and while old issues are further aggravated, newer challenges like possible forms of social protection, rising economic inequality, rising cost of health and education, unequal access

to resources, growing informal sector and declining share of labour in value added are emerging. Women are withdrawing from labour force and gender differentials in wages are widening. Investment in human capital has taken a back seat. One needs to learn from experience of China and South East Asia. Uttar Pradesh has been a major challenge to national development efforts. It continues to remain the most laggard state in development outcomes. Any national initiative is bound to become a failure, if U.P does not come out of development deficit.

The Department of Economics has specific focus on U.P. It intends to conduct studies relating to different aspects of development of U.P, and emerge as a major resource centre on information about this region and a think tank to suggest policy prescription to the planners. Hence, a special session on developmental challenge of U.P shall be organised in the present seminar. The present Seminar will focus on the following issues:

- A. **Dissecting last 25 years of economic reform through prism of development outcomes:**
 - A.1 Theoretical Debates on relationship between growth and development
 - A.2.Measurement of Development Challenges
 - A.3. International experience
- B. **Explaining continuation of old development challenge of India and its congruence with growth euphoria:**
 - B.1. Political economy of current growth euphoria and questioning current development paradigm
 - B.2. Explaining observed development deficit
 - B.3.Causes of growing regional disparities: A Disaggregated Analysis
 - B.4. What explains falling growth elasticity of poverty and declining employment elasticity of output.
 - B.5. Newer forms of informality and conditions of work.
 - B.6. Development and dispossession
 - B.7. Economic Inequality – sources and determinants
 - B.8. Changes in labour market in post reforms period
 - B.9. Investment in human capital

C. **Challenges of Development of Uttar Pradesh:**

- C.1.Rural Transformation, Income & Employment Diversification and Structural Change
- C.2.Status & Strains in Rural Economy- Agriculture & Rural Non-Farm Sector
- C.3.Challenge of Poverty & Exclusion.
- C.4.Rural Industrialization, Including MSMEs
- C.5.Rural-Urban Linkages- Rural Towns as Growth Poles
- C.6.Identifying Drivers & Stumbling Blocks of Development.

Paper Submission Details:

Papers on the aforesaid themes are invited from interested scholars and professionals. Abstracts (500 words) should reflect a judicious blend of theoretical rigour and compelling empirical evidence and must clearly mention the theme, methodology and results and should be sent electronically to jbkomaraiah@rediffmail.com.

The last date for submission of Abstract along with full paper (typed in Times New Roman, maximum 5000 words, 1.5 space, with reference as end note as followed by EPW).will be 27-02-2018. The selected papers for presentation will be communicated on or before 05-03-2018.

Presentation: Selected papers will be presented in different technical sessions followed by discussion.

Publication: Accepted papers would be published in form of a Seminar Proceedings to be released along with Souvenir at the time of Seminar. The Department is in touch with some leading publishing house for the publication of some *selected papers* of the seminar in form of a book.

Registration Fee: Registration fee for the Seminar is Rs.1500/- per head. For Research Scholars and students is Rs. 1200/-. Local hospitality would be provided on request to the out station participants.

VARANASI: Varanasi, loved by God is situated on the banks of the north-ward flowing (Uttar-Wahini) Ganga. This is the oldest living city of the world. The antiquity of

the city is found in different Puranas and other scriptures like Atharv Ved, Satpath Brahman, the Birhadaryan Upnishad etc .It is believed that the city sits atop Shiva's trident and therefore, is transcendental and remains unmoved when rest of the world suffers the flux.

Varanasi is well connected with all major cities of India by air, rail and road. Varanasi Airport (Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport) is 28 Kms from BHU and regular pre-paid taxi service is available from the airport. Varanasi is a major rail head in the North Eastern Railway segment, well connected by rail to major Indian cities. The main station of the city is Varanasi Junction (also known as Varanasi Cantt.) which is 7 Kms from BHU. Shared Auto-rickshaws ply round the clock between station and Lanka (the main gate of BHU).

Banaras Hindu University:

Banaras Hindu University, established by the great nationalist leader Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya is celebrating 100th year of its establishment in 2016.. The University ranks among the first few in the country and one of the greatest centres of learning in India. The BHU has produced many great freedom fighters and Nation builders. It has immensely contributed to the progress of the nation through a large number of renowned scholars, artists and scientists. The university has two Campuses, 5 Institutes, 14 Faculties, 132 Departments, 4 Advanced Centres and 4 Inter-disciplinary Schools and one College exclusively for Women. The University has four affiliated Colleges namely DAV PG College, Arya Mahila PG College, Vasanta College For Women and Vasanta Kanya Mahavidyalaya imparting Post Graduate teaching and research in different subject including Economics. These institutions have been able to carve a distinct place for themselves.

Department of Economics:

The Department of Economics that came into existence in 1918 offers at presents B.A. (Hons.), M.A., Ph.D and D.Litt degrees. The Department boasts of having as its faculty stalwarts like Prof. Gyan Chand, Prof. N.J.Shah, Dr. Hans Raj Soni, Prof. B.P.Adarkar, Prof. A.K.Dasgupta, Prof. R.N.Bhrgava, Prof. D. K. Srivastava among others. At present the Department is headed by Prof. A K Gaur. The Department has a separate research unit entitled to undertake research work of contemporary importance.

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**Seminar Convener:
Prof. J. B. Komaraiah
&
Seminar Director:
Prof. N. K. Mishra
Department of Economics**