

International Conference on

Indian Business

Indian Institute of Management Ranchi

22 - 23 January
2027



201+ GLOBAL
33 ASIA PACIFIC



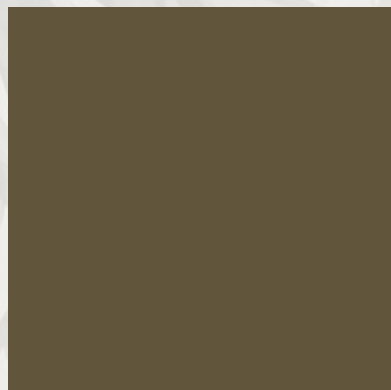
Theme

Indian Business as Multiple Capitalisms

India's economy is not a single system but a constellation of interconnected business worlds shaped by family enterprises, community networks, state institutions, entrepreneurial ventures, and informal economies. By exploring the institutions, values, practices, and relationships that connect these diverse forms of economic organization, the conference seeks to understand the distinctive character of Indian business in a changing world.

"I contain multitudes."

Walt Whitman



Concept Note

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Business systems around the world are shaped by distinctive historical experiences, institutional arrangements, cultural traditions, and social structures. The influential “Varieties of Capitalism” framework developed by Hall and Soskice challenged the assumption that capitalism is a uniform economic system by demonstrating that different societies organize markets, firms, labour, finance, and innovation in different ways. Liberal Market Economies such as the United States and the United Kingdom rely primarily on competitive markets and contractual relationships, while Coordinated Market Economies such as Germany and Japan are characterized by long-term relationships, institutional coordination, and collaborative forms of governance.

Yet many scholars have argued that several contemporary economies cannot be adequately understood through this binary distinction. India, in particular, presents a fascinating challenge to conventional theories of capitalism. Indian business operates at the intersection of markets, family ownership, community networks, state institutions, informal practices, and cultural traditions. Large family-owned conglomerates coexist with multinational corporations, state-owned enterprises, technology start-ups, informal enterprises, and community-based business networks. These diverse forms of economic organization suggest that Indian business may represent a distinctive variety of capitalism that requires deeper scholarly examination.

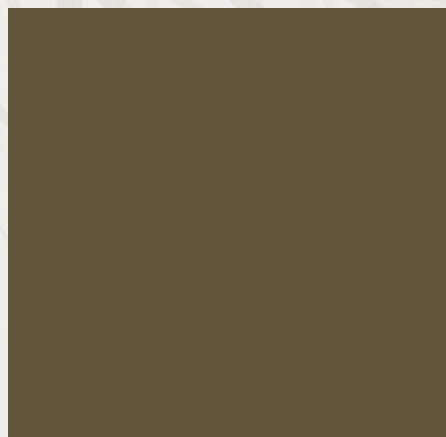
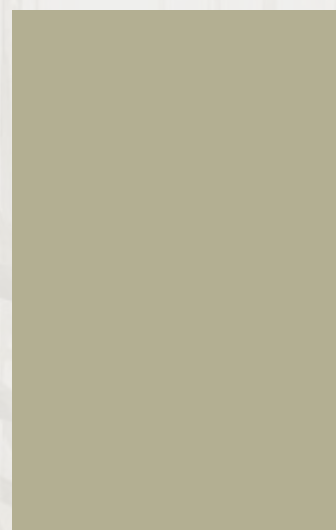
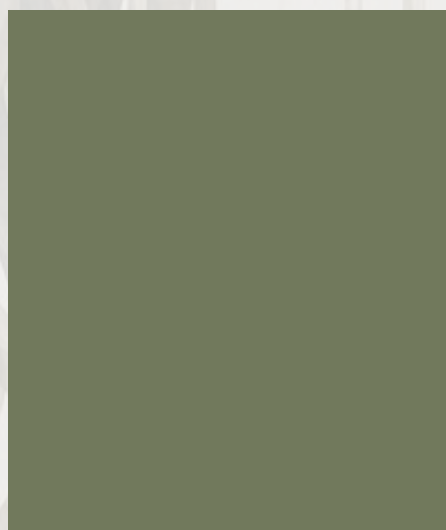
Recent contributions in critical political economy further complicate conventional classifications. Scholars such as David J. Bailey and Saori Shibata have argued that national economies should not be understood as coherent and homogeneous systems. Instead, they draw attention to informal practices, social relations, conflicts, and multiple overlapping forms of capitalism that coexist within a single economy. Their work invites scholars to move beyond the question of “Which variety of capitalism?” toward the more nuanced question of “How many capitalisms coexist within a society?” This perspective is particularly relevant for India, where economic life is shaped simultaneously by formal institutions and informal networks, by global market forces and local traditions, and by both cooperation and contestation among businesses, communities, workers, and the state.

The International Conference on Indian Business seeks to explore these questions by examining the distinctive character of Indian business as a social, economic, cultural, and institutional phenomenon. The conference aims to bring together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders to investigate the historical evolution, contemporary dynamics, and future trajectories of Indian business. A central theme of the conference is the proposition that Indian business may best be understood not as a single model but as a constellation of multiple capitalisms. These may include family-business capitalism, state-led capitalism, startup and venture capitalism, informal and small-enterprise capitalism, cooperative and social-enterprise models, and community-network capitalism associated with business communities such as the Marwaris, Chettiars, Gujaratis, Jains, and others. Understanding how these diverse forms interact, compete, and evolve is essential for developing a richer understanding of India's economic transformation.



The conference welcomes interdisciplinary contributions from management, economics, sociology, political economy, history, anthropology, public policy, and related fields. Particular attention will be given to the institutions, actors, networks, values, and practices that shape Indian business, as well as to emerging challenges associated with globalization, digital transformation, sustainability, inequality, governance, and social change.

By fostering dialogue across disciplines and between academia, industry, and public policy, the conference seeks to contribute to the development of a more grounded and contextually informed understanding of Indian business. Ultimately, it aims to advance the broader question of whether India represents a distinctive variety of capitalism - or perhaps a unique configuration of multiple and overlapping capitalisms that challenges existing theories of economic organization.

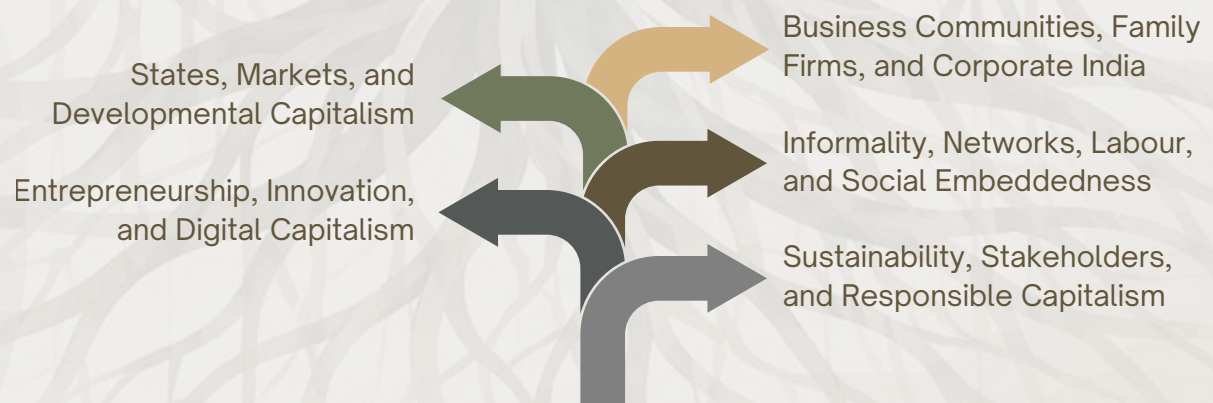


Call For Papers

The conference invites scholarly contributions that advance our understanding of Indian business as a complex and evolving field shaped by the interplay of markets, states, communities, technologies, and institutions. We particularly welcome interdisciplinary perspectives that explore the diverse organizational forms, social foundations, and developmental trajectories through which business activity is organized and governed in India.

Submissions may be theoretical, empirical, historical, methodological, or practice-oriented, and may draw from management, economics, sociology, political science, history, public policy, anthropology, law, and related disciplines. The conference seeks to foster dialogue on both established and emerging forms of enterprise, ranging from family firms and business groups to startups, digital platforms, informal economies, and sustainable business models.

Tracks



Types of Submissions

Category	Description
Full Papers	Completed research presenting substantial findings, a well-developed methodology, and rigorous analysis.
Working Papers	Research in progress that demonstrates preliminary findings and a clearly articulated research agenda.
Extended Abstracts	Conceptual work, research proposals, or exploratory studies at an early stage of development.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit an abstract of 800-1,200 words (excluding references).
- Include: research objective, theoretical perspective, methodology, key findings/expected contribution, and 3-5 keywords.
- Follow APA 7th Edition referencing style.
- Submissions must be original and unpublished.
- All abstracts will undergo double-blind peer review.

Final Paper Submission

- Accepted authors are encouraged to submit a full paper of 6,000-10,000 words.
- Manuscripts should follow APA 7th Edition style and be submitted in Word format.
- Papers must be original and not under review elsewhere.
- Final papers may be considered for conference awards and publication opportunities, subject to additional review.

General Information

- Authors should select the most appropriate conference track.
- At least one author of each accepted paper must register and present at the conference.
- Only presented papers will be included in the conference proceedings.

Submission Form

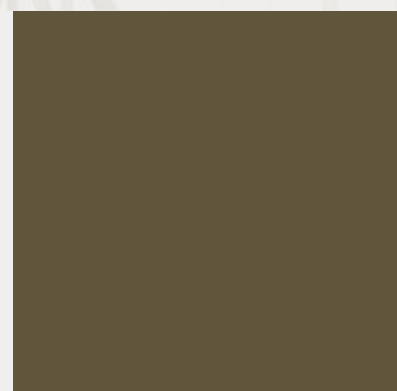
Scan the QR Code



or Click Here to Submit



Conference Timeline



Registration

Category	Fee
Faculty	₹4,000 + GST
Research Scholars	₹3,000 + GST
Industry Delegates	₹6,000 + GST
International Participants	USD 100

The registration fee includes conference materials, breakfast, lunch, tea and refreshments on both conference days, dinner on the first day, and a certificate of participation.

Accommodation

Limited on-campus accommodation will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to additional fee. Participants may also choose from a range of hotels and guest-houses in Ranchi, catering to diverse preferences and budgets.

Conference Portal

Scan the QR Code 

or Click Here





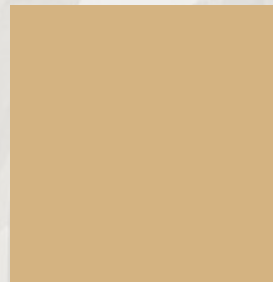
Conference Patron

Prof. Deepak Kumar Srivastava
Director, IIM Ranchi



Conference Chairperson

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