

The 4th International Conference on Indian Business & Economic History

Venue: Shanti Sadan, Ahmedabad

Dates: Sep 4 (Thu), Sep 5 (Fri), Sep 6 (Sat), 2025

Conference Website: <https://conference.iima.ac.in/history/>

The first International Conference on Indian Business & Economic History was held in memory of Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi (1930-2018), doyen of business history, at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) on August 29-31, 2019, the second was held online on Aug 24-27, 2021 and the third was held at IIMA on Aug 31-Sep 2, 2023.

The 4th International Conference on Indian Business & Economic History will be hosted at [Shanti Sadan](#), Ahmedabad, on Sep 4-6, 2025. Shanti Sadan is also the venue of the 'Motaben Gallery', a permanent exhibit on the life of Anasuyaben Sarabhai (1885-1972), founder of Ahmedabad's Textile Labour Association (TLA), and a pioneer in both the labour and women's movement of India. Keeping with the ethos of Shanti Sadan, this edition of the conference invites participants working on labour history, women's history and Ahmedabad's history from the lens of business and economic history, in addition to other themes.

As with the previous editions, it will be a forum to host research papers, provide a workshop for PhD students, and spark conversations on this subject. The conference will draw in leading scholars working in the field within and outside India.

Conference Organizing Committee

Chinmay Tumbe (IIM-Ahmedabad, India)

Tirthankar Roy (London School of Economics & Political Science)

Medha Kudaisya (National University of Singapore)

Dinyar Patel (SPJIMR, Mumbai)

Conference Timeline

Submission Deadline: June 10, 2025

Notification to selected students and speakers by July 1, 2025

Conference Dates in 2025: Sep 4-Thursday (PhD Student Workshop), Sep 5-Friday and Sep 6-Saturday (Research papers and other sessions)

Conference Mode

Conference will be held in-person only and there are no registration fees.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The conference invites researchers to submit research papers and ideas to two separate tracks of the conference – PhD Student Workshop and Conference Research Papers.

PhD Student Workshop

The conference will commence on Thursday, Sep 4, 2025, with a 1-day workshop for PhD students working on Indian business or economic history or keen to explore this research interest in the near future. Students may belong to any disciplinary background. The workshop will provide feedback on the student's research topics and ideas and have sessions conducted by leading scholars of the field.

Students working on labour and women's movements linked with business and economic history, and aspects of Ahmedabad's business and economic history are particularly encouraged to apply.

To apply, students have to submit their CV, one-page synopsis of their ongoing research and a one-page statement of interest, as a zipped file, via email to **bizhistory2025@gmail.com**, **before June 10, 2025. Please indicate PhD Workshop in the title of your email.**

Students from within and outside India are encouraged to apply for the workshop. Women and students from historically marginalized communities are particularly encouraged to apply for the workshop. MPhil and Masters' level students can also apply if they are able to demonstrate their keenness to work in the field, and the application would require an additional reference letter from their research supervisor.

Selected students will be notified about their applications by July 1, 2025, and are expected to participate in all the days of the conference proceedings. Participants must bear their own expenses for all aspects of the programme, including meals.

Conference Research Papers

The conference particularly welcomes themes linked with

- Labour Histories
- Women in Business and Economic History
- The Business and Economic History of Ahmedabad

In addition, it also invites papers covering various aspects of the business and economic history of the Indian subcontinent such as

- Merchants and Trade
- The legacy of colonial and princely states on economic development
- Regional variations in development in historical perspective
- Urban histories
- Sector wise histories: eg. Aviation, Media, Advertising, Finance, Real Estate, Coal, etc.
- Firm level histories and individual biographies
- Management histories

A 500-1,000 word abstract with title and participant's affiliation, should be submitted via email to **bizhistory2025@gmail.com** , **before June 10, 2025**. Selected speakers will be notified by July 1, 2025, and full research papers are expected to be submitted by August 10, 2025. PhD students close to submitting their final theses can also submit their work in this track for consideration.

Participants must bear their own expenses for all aspects of the programme, including meals.

Programme

Thursday, September 4, 2025:

Workshop for PhD Students with sessions taken by leading scholars of the field

Fri-Sat, Sep 5-6, 2025:

Conference Research Papers

Session on archives and other interactive sessions

Contact Us

Please send all conference related queries to **bizhistory2025@gmail.com**.

Conference related details will be regularly updated on the conference website:

<https://conference.iima.ac.in/history/>