

4th International Conference on Indian Business and Economic History

Sep 4-6, 2025

Venue: Shanti Sadan, Ahmedabad



About the conference

The first International Conference on Indian Business & Economic History was held in memory of Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) on August 29-31, 2019. This was followed by an online edition (Aug 24-27, 2021) and a third edition (Aug 31-Sep 2, 2023). Previous conference programmes are available on this [link](#).

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.

As with the previous editions, the conference 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 Programme

Venue: Shanti Sadan, Mirzapur Road, Ahmedabad.

Sep 4, Thursday, 2025: PhD Workshop

Sep 5, Friday, 2025: Day 1

9.00-9.15	Inauguration
9.15-10.15	Session 1
10.15-10.30	Tea Break
10.30-12.00	Session 2A and 2B
12.00-1.00	Session 3A and 3B
1.00-2.00 pm	Lunch Break
2.00-4.00 pm	Session 4A and 4B
4.00-4.30 pm	Tea Break
4.30-5.30 pm	Invitational Lecture
6.30-7.30 pm	IIMA Archives Tour

Sep 6, Saturday, 2025: Day 2

09.30-10.30	Session 5A and 5B
10.30-11.30	Session 6A and 6B
11.30-12.00 pm	Tea Break
12.00-01.00 pm	Archives @ Ahmedabad

Conference Organizing Committee:

Chinmay Tumbe (IIMA, India)
Tirthankar Roy (LSE, UK)
Medha Kudaisya (NUS, Singapore)
Dinyar Patel (SPJIMR, Mumbai, India)

Contact:

bizhistory2025 @gmail.com

1st Conference in August 2019, IIMA



Research Papers- Sep 5, Friday, 2025 – Day 1

Time and Venue	Theme	Name	Topic
9.00-9.15 am	Inauguration		
Session 1: 9.15-10.15 SS1	Fabrics of Time	Manuela Martini Université Lumière Lyon	Expanding Mechanical Lace: Silk Industrial Clusters, Women's Work and Technological Transfer in Mediterranean Europe in the 19th century
		Nishat Manzar Jamia Millia Islamia	Adding Beauty to Fabric: Import of Dyestuffs and Mordants in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century with Special Reference to Gujarat and Coromandel
		TEA BREAK (10.15-10.30)	
Session 2A: 10.30-12 SS1	Economic Development	Arupjyoti Saikia IIT Guwahati	Between Empire and Peasantry: Anandaram Dhekial Phookan and His Defence of Raiyatwari Settlement in Assam
		Karthik Rao Cavale Krea University	The Agrarian Origins of Regional Development: Explaining Regional Variation in Tamil Nadu from a Historical Perspective
		Meeta Kumar and Rohini Somanathan Miranda House, Delhi University; DSE	Compulsory Education and Caste Mobility in Western India, 1881-1931
Session 3A: 12-1pm SS1	Entrepreneurship	Jayati Bhattacharya NUS Singapore	PC Ray, The Scientist Entrepreneur: Rethinking Bengali Apathy Towards Entrepreneurship
		Chinmay Tumble IIM Ahmedabad	Technocratic Entrepreneurship, Patent Laws and Big Business in the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry, 1920-2025
Session 2B: 10.30-12 SS2	Finance	Abha Singh Indira Gandhi National Open University	Hundies (Bills of Exchange): Reading through the late eighteenth century Sarrafi texts
		Medha Kudaisya NUS Singapore	Foreshadowing the 'Cult of Equity': The Rise of the 'Small Investor' in the Indian Economy, 1947-1980
		Baishakh Chakrabarti Max Weber Stiftung, New Delhi	From Gambler to Investor: Astrology and the Options Markets
Session 3B: 12-1pm SS2	Women	Amrita Mondal University of North Bengal, Darjeeling	Commodifying Women's Health: Mapping Women and Maternity Products in Colonial Bengal (1880s-1930s)
		Babasaheb Kambale Satish Pradhan Dnyanasadhana College, Thane	The Life of Dalit Women: Khanaval Business Women in Mumbai - The Intersection of Caste and Gender
		LUNCH BREAK (1-2pm)	
Session 4A: 2-4pm SS1	Labour	Sahil Kureshi Ahmedabad University	Controlling Labour: The Textile Labour Association in the 1930s
		Robert Raman SRM University, AP	Challenging Inflation: The Second World War, Question of Dearness Allowance and Bombay Mill Workers' General Strike of 1940
		S Subramanian IIM Kozhikode	History of Labour Management Practices in the Madras Automobile Cluster until Economic Liberalization
		Harini Alladi University of California Santa Barbara	'Family' Business: Corporate Welfare, Advertising, and an Alternate Template of the Family in Post-Independence India (1955-1985)
Session 4B: 2-4pm SS2	Intellectual & Institutional History	Xinge Zhai [Online] Freie Universität Berlin, Germany	Anglo-Indian Relations and Native Community Networks: A Sociocultural Explanation for Bombay's Business Bind
		Dinyar Patel SPJIMR, Mumbai	Three Indians in the Age of Global Liberalism: Rammohan Roy, Dwarkanath Tagore, and Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy
		Kumar K And Manjunath A N Independent (Formerly with IIM Bangalore)	Reinventing Relevance: How IIM Bangalore Negotiated Place, Purpose, and Public Mission
		TEA BREAK (4-4.30pm)	
4.30-5.30pm SS1	Invitational Lecture	Douglas Haynes Dartmouth College, USA	Business Education, Conflict within Indian Business Firms, and the Making of Managerial Capitalism, 1965-90: The Evidence from Oral History
6.30-7.30pm	IIMA Archives Tour		

Research Papers- Sep 6, Saturday, 2025 – Day 2

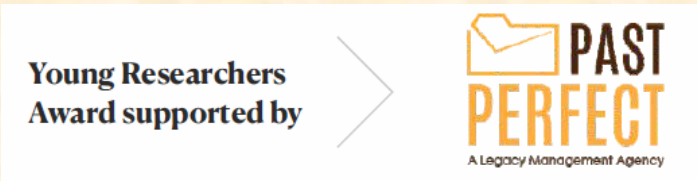
Time and Venue	Theme	Name	Topic
Session 5A: 9.30-10.30 SS1	India and the World	Sandeep Bhardwaj NUS Singapore	“Our Natural Markets”: India’s Post-War Export Ambitions in Asia
		Aashique Iqbal Krea University	Indian Tourism in the Jet Age, 1960-2000
Session 6A: 10.30-11.30 SS1	Archives and Business History	Gopinath Sricandane French Institute of Pondicherry	Unearthing Untold Stories: Chettiar Family Archives as a tool to understand South Indian Business History
		Soni Wadhwa SRM University, AP	Archive Building for Business Histories in India: The Case of the Sindhi Halchal Archive
Session 5B: 9.30-10.30 SS2	Colonial Encounters	Nabanita Sharma Gurucharan College	Colonialism and the Economy: "Industrialisation" of Forests, Fisheries and Textiles in Assam
		Aki Toyoyama Faculty of International Studies, Kindai University	Consumer Culture under New Imperialism: Japanese Commercial Museum in Colonial Calcutta
Session 6B: 10.30-11.30 SS2	Islands and Hills	Stuti Mishra Independent Researcher	Planting Labour: The Migration of Ranchi Adivasis to the Andaman Islands and the Making of a Colonial Workforce
		Hari Sreekumar IIM Tiruchirappalli	Colonialism and India’s geography: A Thematic History of Indian Hill Stations
TEA BREAK (11.30am-12pm)			
12-1pm SS1	History & Archives @ Ahmedabad	Distinguished writers, translators, historians and archivists- Varsha Das and Tridip Suhrud	

SS1: Shanti Sadan Main Hall
SS2: Shanti Sadan Room

Historian Makrand Mehta (1931-2024) speaking at the 1st edition of the conference in August 2019, held in memory of Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi (1930-2018).



**PhD Student Workshop,
Sep 4, Thursday, 2025**



Name	Institution	Research Topic
Neellohit Roy	IIT Guwahati	An Empire of Contracts: A Legal, Economic and Environmental History of the Colonization of Assam
Kalayath Mohamed Shemil	CDS, Thiruvananthapuram	Identities and Institutions Mediating Exchange: A study of Indian Small Cardamom Markets
Kiran Ravindra Gadagkar	University of Hyderabad	Dynamic Capabilities and Global Competitiveness in a State-owned Enterprise: The case of the Mysore Sandalwood Oil Factory, 1910-1950
Rohit Joseph	Ashoka University	Raj of the Royals: Princes, Political Power, and Economic Development in India
Kumari Sushma	Delhi University	Woven Shifts: Handloom and the Dynamics of Knowledge, Market and Politics in Post-colonial India
Kiran Kumar	IIT Madras	Reframing Social Capital in the Neoliberal Economy: Gauda Saraswat Brahmin Business in Kerala, South India
Siddharth Kashyap	IIT Guwahati	Evolution of Indo-Japanese relations at the intersections of scientific, economic and cultural exchanges between 1940 and 1990
Arka Ghatak	IIT Guwahati	Interplay of social, political, and economic power dynamics that shaped the development and planning practices in the Indian state of West Bengal between 1947 and 1967
Deeksha Ingle	Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	The Social History of the Marwari Community in the Vidarbha Region
Shaurya Saxena	IIM Ahmedabad	Ancestral reliance on pastoralism and its effects on intimate partner violence

Venues

Shanti Sadan

Mirzapur Road

Uber/Cab Location pin:
Imperial Bakery or Hotel
Ashish on Mirzapur Road

Entry gate to Shanti Sadan is
opposite Hotel Ashish



IIMA Archives

Dorm-15

IIMA Old Campus

Vastrapur

Ph: (079) 7152-7528

Uber/Cab Location pin:
Vikram Sarabhai Library, IIMA



Conference Contact:

bizhistory2025@gmail.com

Glimpses from the 2023 conference

