

Scope for Publication:

Selected full-length papers will be published in the CMDR- Journal of Social Research, subject to evaluation by an expert review committee.

The seminar organizers will also publish selected papers in an edited book volume with a reputed publisher.

Important dates:

- Last date of submission of abstract 15-12-2025
- Intimation of acceptance of abstract 18-12-2025
- Last date of submission of full paper 10-01-2026

Travel and Accommodation:

As limited funds are available, all selected paper contributors will be provided with round trip II AC train fair/ Bus Fare subject to acceptance of full length of the original paper and receipt. Needless to mention that local hospitality would also be provided to the participants

About CMDR Dharwad:

The Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research (CMDR), established in 1976 and recognized by ICSSR in 1990 as a national-level institute, is a leading social science research organization. It focuses on socio-economic development and decentralized planning through a multi-disciplinary approach. CMDR conducts research, capacity-building programmes, methodology workshops, and Ph.D. training, emerging as a Think Tank for North Karnataka. The Government of Karnataka instituted Dr. D. M. Nanjundappa Chair on regional imbalances and Shri Abdul Nazir Sab Panchayat Raj (ANSR) Chair at the centre.

Registration Fee:

Rs 200 per person for students

Rs 300 per person for faculty and Research Staffs

Organising Committee Members:

Prof. Basavaprabhu Jirli
Mr. V.T. Hungund
Dr. S. V. Hanagodimath
Prof. Nayantara Nayak
Prof. T. Brahmanandam
Dr. A. R. Kulkarni
Dr. Jai Prabhakar S.C.
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A TWO DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

**BALANCED DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA:
ADDRESSING INTRA-STATE REGIONAL
IMBALANCES**

22 – 23 January 2026



**Centre for Multi-Disciplinary
Development Research**

(An ICSSR Institute)

Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Near Yalakki Shettar Colony,
Dharwad-580 004, Karnataka

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1. Context:

Regional imbalances are a common phenomenon faced by almost every country and state—no nation is entirely free from them. Achieving balanced regional development is crucial for the overall socio-political and economic health of any nation. Recognising this, both central and state governments in India have been implementing various policies and programmes aimed at achieving equitable and inclusive growth.

In recent years, intra-state disparities have increasingly drawn the attention of researchers, academicians, planners, policymakers, and the general public. While balanced regional development has been a core objective of India's planning process since Independence, significant disparities—both across and within states—continue to persist. These imbalances are evident in income levels, infrastructure availability, employment opportunities, and access to quality education and healthcare.

Across several states, intra-state disparities have widened between urban and rural areas, advanced and backward districts, and developed and underdeveloped regions. States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh, for instance, exhibit rapid industrial and urban growth in certain pockets, while other regions within them continue to lag behind. Such uneven development often leads to economic and social inequalities, political discontent, and regional tensions.

If left unaddressed, these imbalances can fuel demands for separate statehood, weaken social cohesion, and undermine the process of national integration. Recognising the gravity of the problem, both the Central and State Governments have established various committees, commissions, and expert groups, and launched targeted initiatives to promote regional equity. Programmes such as the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), the Aspirational Districts Programme, and various state-specific regional development boards have yielded mixed outcomes—some showing promise, while others faced implementation challenges.

Against this backdrop, it becomes imperative to critically examine the extent, causes, and consequences of intra-state regional disparities, to document successful interventions, and to identify policy and institutional gaps. Such an inquiry is essential for evolving an effective framework that ensures

equitable sharing of the fruits of development across all regions.

With this objective, the Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research (CMDR), Dharwad, proposes to organize a Two-Day National Seminar on “Balanced Development in India: Addressing Intra-State Regional Imbalances”, which aims to provide a platform for dialogue among scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to deliberate on strategies for achieving balanced and inclusive regional development.

2. Objectives of the Seminar

- To examine the trends and patterns of intra-state regional imbalances in India.
- To analyse the causes and consequences of persistent regional disparities.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of state and central government policies, programmes, and institutional mechanisms in addressing imbalances.
- To share best practices and success stories that can serve as models for replication across states.
- To provide policy recommendations for promoting balanced and inclusive regional development.

3. Themes of the Seminar

The seminar will be organised around the following broad themes:

- Conceptual and Theoretical Perspectives on Regional Imbalances and Balanced Development.
- Historical and Contemporary Dimensions of Regional Disparities in India.
- Sectoral Perspectives: Agriculture, Industry, Services, Infrastructure, and Social Sectors.
- Intra-State Regional Disparities: Case Studies from Indian States.
- Policy and Institutional Interventions: Successes, Limitations, and Challenges.
- Innovative Approaches and Best Practices: Lessons from Aspirational Districts, Regional Boards, and Special Programmes.
- Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Development: Policy Roadmap for the Future.
- Other relevant themes

4. Participants

- The seminar will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, including:
- Academics and researchers from universities and research institutions.
- Policy makers and government officials from central and state governments.
- Representatives from planning boards, commissions, and regional development authorities.
- Civil society organisations and practitioners working on regional development.
- Postgraduate and doctoral research scholars working in related fields.

5. Expected Outcomes

- A deeper understanding of the nature and extent of intra-state regional imbalances in India.
- Critical assessment of past and present policy interventions.
- A compendium of success stories and best practices for wider dissemination.
- A set of actionable policy recommendations for state and central governments.
- Publication of selected seminar papers in an edited volume or journal special issue.

6. National Seminar Guidelines:

Submission of Abstracts and Papers:

- The abstract of the National Seminar should be submitted by 15th December, 2025 along with the following details:
 - Title of the seminar paper
 - The text should be about 500 words in MS Word format, the abstract should have research issues, objectives, methodology, findings, and conclusions.
- The committee will have a look at the abstracts and inform the authors of the selected abstracts by 18th December 2025.
- All papers should be in a single word document (the total size should be of maximum 12 pages in A-4 size in Times New Roman with font size 12).
- The final and full-length papers should be submitted by 10th January 2026. Abstract and paper should be sent to email to brdseminar26@cmdr.ac.in