INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS

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I A S S I

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS

23rd IASSI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

25–27 OCTOBER 2024 | Mesra, Ranchi, India

बिरला प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Birla Institute of Technology
Mesra, Ranchi (India)

INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
Since 1998 Eastern Regional Centre

The Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI), established in 1979, is a federal formation of academic bodies (universities and research institutes) that aims to promote and strengthen teaching and research in social sciences. IASSI also publishes a peer-reviewed quarterly journal titled IASSI Quarterly: Contributions to Indian Social Science. For details, please visit: www.iassi.org.

The 23rd Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI) will be held during 25-27 October 2024 at the Birla Institute of Technology (BIT), Mesra, Ranchi, India. The Conference is being organised by Department of Management and Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, BIT, Mesra, Ranchi jointly with Institute for Human Development-Eastern Regional Centre (IHD-ERC), Ranchi. Dr. K. Seeta Prabhu, Visiting Professor, Institute for Human Development (IHD); Senior Advisor SDGs, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and Former Head, Human Development Resource Centre, UNDP is the Conference President. Dr. Utpal Baul, Head, Dept of Management and Dept of Humanities and Social Sciences BIT, Mesra, Ranchi, Dr. Manju Bhagat, Professor, Department of Management, BIT Mesra, Ranchi and Dr. Ramesh Sharan, Director, IHD-ERC, Ranchi, Jharkhand are the Organising Secretaries of the Conference.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Challenges of Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Technological Transformation and Inclusive Development

Governance, Institutions and Public Policy

Researchers, professionals, and other social scientists are invited to contribute conceptual and/or empirical papers on various topics/sub-topics related to the Conference themes.

Apart from paper presentations in the technical sessions like earlier, there will be Tarlok Singh Memorial lecture by an eminent scholar and public personality. A Plenary Panel discussion on "Inclusive India at 100: People – Policies – Economy" will be organised with about four to five well known scholars and experts as panelists.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last Date for Submission
25 August 2024

Communication from IASSI about Acceptance of Papers
7 September 2024

Last Date for Registration
25 September 2024

Conference Dates
25-27 October 2024

CONFERENCE TIMINGS

The Conference will start at 9.30 a.m. on 25 October 2024 and conclude by lunch on 27 October 2024. Delegates are advised to reach Ranchi by 24 October 2024 and schedule their departure after 3:00 p.m. on 27 October 2024.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

❖ The papers should be submitted online on the conference portal at http://conference.iassi.org/

❖ The Conference President will invite the authors of the selected papers to present their papers under the Thematic Technical Sessions.

❖ Papers submitted should not exceed 7,000 words (including tables and appendices) and should adhere to the current writing style of the IASSI Quarterly: Contributions to Indian Social Science. For details, please visit www.iassi.org

❖ All papers should include an extended abstract of about 500 words. The abstracts of all accepted papers will be compiled into a booklet and distributed among the Conference participants. After peer-reviewing and revision, selected papers will be published in subsequent issues of the IASSI Quarterly: Contributions to Indian Social Science. Those who would like their papers to be published in the Journal should email their revised papers to the Editor of the IASSI Quarterly, post the Conference at the following email ids stiassi79@gmail.com / iassi79@yahoo.com.

Please note: Authors must ensure that their submissions are original work and their papers are free from plagiarism. The Journal holds no responsibility for plagiarism and authors are solely responsible for their papers getting rejected due to plagiarism.

PANEL PROPOSALS

During the Conference, a number of Thematic Panels will be organized. Proposals for organising panels are invited from scholars and institutions.

Each panel proposal should contain the following:

1. Title of the panel and a description of the Panel's theme.
2. Titles, authors and abstracts (about 700 words) of the papers to be presented.
3. Names, affiliations and brief biographies of about 100 words along with a digital high-resolution picture to be submitted for each proposed panelists/speakers.
4. Name, contact and high-resolution logo of the Panel Organiser/s
5. Social media handles (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) of participants and institutions.

Note: A Thematic Panel Session will comprise of 4-5 paper presentations. The organisers/coordinators of each Thematic Panel Session are expected to be in charge of the Panel Discussion, including raising resources for speakers' travel and other expenditure. Panel Registration fee of ₹ 50,000 for institutions within India or US $ 1000 in case of institutions outside India will cover overhead costs including printing, photography, videography, documentation, booklets containing details of the panels, brand visibility, promotions etc.

The proposals may be emailed to iassi.conference@gmail.com latest by 25 September 2024.

LOGISTICAL AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

❖ The Conference registration fee for participants within India is ₹ 7000 for delegates and ₹ 4000 for spouse/ accompanying person. For participants from developing countries, the fee is US$ 150 for delegates and US$ 100 for accompanying person. For participants from countries other than developing countries, the delegate fee is US$ 200, and the accompanying person fee is US$ 120.

❖ Registration will entitle the participants to modest boarding and lodging facilities and the conference kit.

❖ Boarding and lodging will be provided to the delegates for a maximum of 4 nights from 24-27 October 2024, beyond which the participants need to make their own arrangements.

❖ The prospective participants should adhere to the timeline of the registration. On-spot registration will be done only for local participants. Those registering after 25 September 2024 deadline must take care of their accommodation and transport arrangements.

❖ Delegates are requested to send complete information along with the registration fee by Demand Draft or local cheques in favour of the **Indian Association of Social Science Institutions**, New Delhi, well within time so that arrangements can be made for their accommodation.

REGISTRATION FOR PARTICIPATION

Conference Participation Registration Charges

Participation Categories	Charges with Accommodation*			Charges without Accommodation**	
	Delegate	Accompanying Person	Ph.D Student	Delegate	Ph.D Student
India (INR)	7000	4000	4000	4000	2500
Developing Countries (US $)	150	100	75	75	40
Other Countries (US $)	200	120	100	100	50

* Charges cover accommodation, meals and transportation from/to the Conference venue during the Conference days and conference kit. The Conference registration fee includes the mandatory IASSI Annual Membership fee of ₹ 1000.

** Charges cover meals during Conference days and conference kit

* For registrations made after the deadline of 25 September 2024, accommodation will not be provided. On-site registration will only be allowed for those seeking participation without accommodation.

* IASSI Annual Membership is mandatory for participation in the Conference. The Conference registration fee includes the IASSI Annual Membership fee of ₹ 1000.

* Participants can register online through http://conference.iassi.org/

* Application form for IASSI membership can be accessed at http://iassi.org/pdf/Membership-Form.pdf

CONTACT DETAILS

PATRONS

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi
Director General, RIS, New Delhi
Chairman, IASSI

Dr. Indranil Manna
Vice Chancellor
Birla Institute of Technology (BIT), Mesra, Ranchi

Dr. Alakh N. Sharma
Professor and Director
Institute for Human Development (IHD), Delhi

CONFERENCE ORGANISING SECRETARIES

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Head, Dept of Management and Dept of Humanities and Social Sciences
BIT, Mesra, Ranchi

Dr. Manju Bhagat
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Conference related queries (accommodation, local arrangements)
should be addressed to iassiconference.ranchi@gmail.com | 9153946155, 9430753968

IASSI SECRETARIAT AT NEW DELHI

Dr. Aditi Madan
Hon. Joint Secretary
Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI)
C/o Institute for Human Development
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9599665167 | iassi.conference@gmail.com

All queries relating to paper submissions, programme and registrations should be emailed only to:
iassi.conference@gmail.com

MODE OF PAYMENT

❖ Registration fee may be paid by way of NEFT/RTGS/UPI Transfer or Demand Draft or local cheques.

Details of the NEFT/RTGS Transfers

Account Name	:	**Indian Association of Social Science Institutions**
Account No	:	**1 1 0 8 4 2 4 1 6 0 7**
Bank & Branch	:	State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch
		11, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110 001
IFSC code	:	**S B I N 0 0 0 0 6 9 1**

Details for Payment through Bank Draft or Local Cheques

❖ Demand Draft/Local Cheque in favour of the "Indian Association of Social Science Institutions", payable at New Delhi.

❖ Scanned copy of the transaction statement or the Demand Draft/Local Cheque number of the payment should be mailed to iassi.conference@gmail.com

Note: Mention the transaction statement/Demand Draft or Local Cheque Number in the email body. The subject line should be 23rd IASSI Conference Registration.

Details for payment through UPI Transfer

Copy of online receipt should be uploaded in the registration form

UPI ID: IASSI@SBI

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

❖ All paper presenters, resource persons and other participants are requested to fund their own travel costs since the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions does not have a regular source of funding.

❖ For select keynote/invited paper writers and resource persons, who are either superannuated or cannot manage their travel costs, the Association will make efforts to meet the same.

CONFERENCE THEME GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The Guidelines on the conference themes are suggestive only. The prospective paper writers may contribute on other relevant sub-themes as well. Apart from contributions on India, papers relating to other regions and countries are also welcome.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Challenges of Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Technological Transformation and Inclusive Development

Governance, Institutions and Public Policy

Theme 1

Challenges of Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Climate change and sustainable development represent two of the most formidable challenges facing humanity today as the world experiences global warming with an unprecedented rise in average temperature of 1.1 degrees Celsius is an indication that the age of the Anthropocene has been ushered in. The complex interplay between human activities and the Earth's climate system are likely to lead to melting ice caps, rising sea levels, more frequent and severe weather events, and disruptions to agricultural systems that threaten the stability of ecosystems and the very foundations of human prosperity. These physical changes have wide-ranging implications for human societies, economies, and natural ecosystems.

The differential responsibility for the greenhouse gas emissions in the past and the unequal adverse impact of climate change on poorer regions and people highlights the embedded inequity which translates into unequal and higher impact on poorer regions and people who are least prepared to face such consequences.

Sustainable development, as outlined by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), provides a framework for addressing these multifaceted challenges. The goals advocate for an integrative approach that balances economic growth with the imperatives of social equity and environmental stewardship. However, translating these objectives into action has been fraught with difficulties, as it requires unprecedented collaboration across borders, sectors, and disciplines.In 2023, the stagnation or reversal in SDGs relating to hunger, quality education, sanitation, decent work, life below water and life on land highlights the challenges in achieving sustainable development.

Economic considerations are central to the discourse on sustainable development. The transition to a green economy necessitates a radical restructuring of existing industries, energy systems, and infrastructure. This presents both challenges, in terms of displacement and the need for new skills, and opportunities, particularly in the renewable energy sector, green technologies, and sustainable practices across various fields.

Social dimensions are equally critical. Climate change disproportionately affects the most vulnerable populations, exacerbating existing inequalities and posing severe risks to those least capable of adapting. Addressing these issues requires a focus on environmental justice, ensuring that climate policies are equitable and do not place undue burdens on the poor and marginalized.

In terms of policy responses, the Paris Agreement represents a landmark consensus on the need for global action on climate change. Yet, implementation has been patchy, with some nations falling behind on their commitments. Moreover, there is an urgent need for more ambitious targets if we are to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. importance. Innovation is

key to addressing the challenges of climate change and achieving sustainable development. This includes technological advancements, such as carbon capture and storage, as well as innovations in policy, finance, and business models that can facilitate the widespread adoption of sustainable practices for climate change mitigation but more importantly for adaptation.

In India, climate change and sustainable development are not just policy challenges but existential ones. India is affected adversely by climate change on account of its unique topography and diversity of climatic conditions. The issue of transition from coal to cleaner fuels is also a challenge given that millions of workers depend on coal either directly or indirectly for their livelihoods. The Government of India has announced the intention to achieve net zero by 2070 and has launched several initiatives such as the solar and hydrogen missions and is ranked highest on the climate change performance index among G20 countries in 2022. The idea of Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) focusing on changing individual and collective behaviour towards sustainable consumption and production, introduced during India's G20 presidency in 2022 and unanimously adopted by the G20 countries, opens up a newer dimension towards achieving sustainable development.

Tackling climate change and sustainable development requires an integrated approach that combines scientific understanding, technological innovation, economic restructuring, social inclusiveness, and strong governance. Only through such a holistic approach can we hope to build a resilient, sustainable future for all.

Some of the key issues that can be considered for prospective paper writers on this theme are:

❖ Impact of climate change on poverty and employment

❖ Impact of climate change on food security and strategies to meet the challenge

❖ Strategies for achieving energy security while transitioning to sustainable sources.

❖ Innovative approaches to water resource management that address scarcity and support conservation efforts.

❖ Role of biodiversity in maintaining ecosystem services and strategies for its conservation amid changing climate

❖ Climate change, disaster risk management and community led initiatives

❖ Circular economy practices that improve waste management and resource efficiency.

❖ Integrating indigenous knowledge and traditional practices to enhance sustainability efforts

❖ Recognizing the contribution of India's indigenous populations in combating climate change and managing resources sustainably.

❖ Eco feminism and climate adaptation

❖ Policies for promoting sustainable consumption and production to reduce environmental footprints.

❖ Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) and its implications

❖ Challenges and opportunities in the implementation and governance of climate and sustainability initiatives.

- ❖ Financing mechanisms that effectively channel resources towards achieving sustainable development goals.
- ❖ Financial inclusion as a means to empower communities and stimulate sustainable economic growth.
- ❖ Partnerships between civil society, private sector, and government for sustainable development.
- ❖ Shifts in India's monsoon patterns attributable to climate change and their consequent effects on agricultural productivity.
- ❖ Strategies that enable India to pursue economic growth while also addressing the critical need to minimize carbon emissions.
- ❖ Policy frameworks for climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness and response.
- ❖ Waste management practices that are conducive to the advancement of a circular economy in India.
- ❖ India's challenges in fulfilling the objectives of the Paris Agreement and solutions for successful adherence.
- ❖ Reforming India's financial systems to enhance funding avenues for sustainable development initiatives.

Technological Transformation and Inclusive Development

The rapid pace of technological transformation has the potential to drive economic growth and reshape societies. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, automation, and the Internet of Things are at the heart of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which has immense potential for contributing to economic growth and social progress.

One of the most pressing concerns is the impact on the labour market in general and women in particular. Automation threatens to displace many traditional jobs while simultaneously creating new ones that require advanced skills. This shift raises critical questions about the future of work, nature of employment and equitable participation of all segments of the labour force in the coming decades. For development to be inclusive, it must provide benefits across all levels of society. The digital divide—a technological access gap—poses a significant barrier to achieving this goal. Ensuring everyone has the skills and access needed to participate in the digital economy is crucial.

Education systems must adapt to prepare individuals for this rapidly changing technological landscape. This includes imparting technical skills and fostering adaptability, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. Technology also has the potential to revolutionize education itself, providing personalized learning experiences and opening up new opportunities for remote and underserved populations.

India's technological landscape is burgeoning, with its digital economy growing at an unprecedented rate. However, disparities in access to technology and digital literacy are significant. As a leader in software and services, India faces the challenge of leveraging its technological prowess for inclusive growth and bridging the digital divide. The country's demographic dividend could either be an asset or a liability, depending on how effectively it manages technological disruption and skilling its workforce.

The governance of policies for technology advancement is a critical issue. Regulators strike a balance between encouraging innovation and protecting public interests. This includes developing frameworks for ethical AI, data governance, and cybersecurity. As technology advances, the need for effective governance structures that can adapt to new challenges will only grow more acute.

Thus, technological transformation offers tremendous opportunities for growth and development. However, harnessing these opportunities benefits to benefits everyone requires careful management, foresight, and a commitment to inclusivity. As we stand on the brink of a technological revolution, our choices will shape tomorrow's society.

Some of the key issues that can be considered for prospective paper writers on this theme are:

❖ Technological transformation, employment and strategies for mitigating the risks of job displacement.
❖ Green technology innovations that support sustainable growth while ensuring environmental protection.
❖ Governance of technological progress and their implications for society and the environment.
❖ Innovative financing models that leverage technology to allocate funds effectively toward sustainable development goals.
❖ The role of digital platforms in fostering financial inclusion and sustainable economic participation.
❖ Collaboration between technology firms, civil society, and government to drive inclusive technological growth.
❖ Strategies to alleviate the impact of AI and automation on employment in India, with a focus on transitioning the workforce to new opportunities.
❖ Ensuring that technological progress in India is equitable, fostering an environment where advancements benefit all segments of society, thereby narrowing socio-economic divides.
❖ Ethical application of AI and safeguarding data privacy within India's burgeoning digital landscape.
❖ Capitalizing on technological innovation to advance financial inclusivity and

enable broader economic engagement across diverse population groups in India.

❖ Evaluating the adoption of robots, digital tools, and technologies across various sectors in developing countries and their consequences on employment, with an emphasis on strategies to mitigate job displacement risks.

❖ Implications of new technologies on occupational profiles, tasks, and skills, and assessing how they reorganize work and contribute to job polarization.

❖ Gendered impacts of new technologies on labour productivity, wage dispersion, and working conditions, particularly assessing whether these technologies perpetuate traditional gender roles through increased home-based work.

❖ Evaluating how digital labour platforms influence or perpetuate inequities and discrimination along gender, race, citizenship, and age, as well as the rise in precarity and informality associated with these platforms.

Theme 3

Governance, Institutions, and Public Policy

Governance, institutions, and public policy form the bedrock of functioning societies and effective management of collective resources and interests. Good governance is characterised by processes that are transparent, inclusive, accountable, and aligned with the rule of law. Strong institutions underpin these processes, serving as the mechanisms for formulating and implementing policies. Yet, the challenges facing governance structures worldwide are profound and multifaceted.

The erosion of trust in public institutions, often exacerbated by corruption, inefficiency, and a perceived lack of responsiveness to citizens' needs is an enormous challenge. Public policy must be rooted in ethical values of equity, integrity, evidence-based decision-making, and open dialogue with stakeholders to address these concerns. This requires a renewed focus on public sector reform, emphasizing transparency and citizen engagement to rebuild trust and enhance the efficacy of governance.

One of the greatest challenges in public policy is adapting to an increasingly globalized and interconnected world. Policies once confined to national borders now have far-reaching implications, necessitating international cooperation and coordination. The transnational nature of issues such as climate change, economic instability, and cybersecurity requires governance structures that can operate effectively at global, national and local levels.

In public administration, the imperative to deliver high-quality public services is paramount. Service delivery efficiency and effectiveness have direct implications for societal well-being and trust in government. Innovations in technology offer promising avenues to improve service delivery, from e-government initiatives that streamline processes to data analytics that enhance policy outcomes.

India's governance structures are as diverse as its society. With a robust democratic framework, the country grapples with issues of inclusion, policy

implementation, leakages, and the need for public sector reform. The federal structure poses its own set of challenges with center-state relations, particularly in differing priorities, resource management and policy harmonization. Public trust in institutions is a vital concern, and India's burgeoning civil society plays a crucial role in holding these institutions accountable.

The dynamic interplay between governance and technology is shaping the future of public policy. The digital revolution has the potential to transform governance through increased transparency, improved service delivery, and enhanced civic participation. However, it also poses new challenges, including the need for regulation of digital platforms, protection of digital rights, and the ethical use of data.

In sum, governance, institutions, and public policy sit at the crossroads of continuity and change. The path forward requires a reimagining these foundational elements to meet the needs of a rapidly evolving world that is also more equitable and just. It calls for visionary leadership, innovative policy solutions, and robust institutions that can navigate the complexities of the 21st century to benefit the disadvantaged and marginalised sections of the population. Through these means, governance can be a powerful force for good, enabling societies to thrive amidst change and uncertainty.

Some of the key issues that can be considered for prospective paper writers on this theme are:

- ❖ Addressing poverty and unemployment through effective governance and policy-making.
- ❖ Incorporating circular economy principles into public policy to promote sustainable waste management.
- ❖ Safeguarding indigenous knowledge within the legal and policy frameworks to enhance sustainability practices.
- ❖ Overcoming the challenges of implementing and governing sustainability initiatives at various scales.
- ❖ Establishing responsible governance frameworks for emerging technologies.
- ❖ Mobilizing public and private finance for achieving sustainable development goals in a constrained fiscal environment.

- ❖ Strategies for advancing financial inclusion through policy interventions and institutional support.
- ❖ Enhancing the effectiveness of partnerships between civil society, the private sector, and government in public policy formulation and implementation.
- ❖ Reforming India's governance structures to address poverty and unemployment with enhanced efficacy through innovative policy designs.
- ❖ Crafting robust policy frameworks in India to fortify climate change adaptation and bolster disaster response capabilities.
- ❖ Establishing responsible governance frameworks in India that are responsive to the rapid evolution of digital technologies.
- ❖ Pioneering strategies to amplify the impact of public-private partnerships in India for more collaborative policy development and execution.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Birla Institute of Technology (BIT), Mesra, Ranchi a deemed University, is an autonomous engineering and technology-oriented institute of higher education located in Ranchi, India. Established in 1955, it is today one of the most renowned engineering destinations in India. The Institute has been catering to the manpower needs of almost all the major sectors of the economy for the last five decades. The alumni of BIT are amongst the leaders of the industry, both in India and abroad. The Institute's main campus at Mesra has a large number of registered students enrolled. Along with Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes, the Institute has a rich Doctoral Programme.

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT

The Department of Management at BIT Mesra was established in 1979 with a focus on the creation of exceptional manpower to meet the dynamic needs of the corporate world in the ever-changing economic environment. The department offers various programmes and courses Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) programme (through its extension centres), spread over 3 years; a two-year full-time programme in Master of Business Administration; and a Doctoral programme in management. The department has maintained its academic leadership in Eastern India through its commitment to meet the qualitative requirements of the professional world.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), established in 2023, is a hub of literary, linguistic, cultural, and social exploration. The department provides robust programs in English and Culture Studies, French, German, Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy, Creative and Performing Arts. At HSS, we believe in "सा विद्या या विमुक्तये", fostering intellectual growth, encouraging critical thinking, promoting empathy, and augmenting cultural understanding.

IHD EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE (IHD-ERC)

In order to bolster its activities in the underdeveloped eastern states, particularly Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha and Chhattisgarh the Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi, established its Eastern Regional Centre in Ranchi (IHD-ERC) in 2007. The mandate of IHD-ERC is to conduct studies and research aimed at addressing the region backwardness, focusing on livelihoods, employment, vulnerable groups such as tribals, Dalits and other marginalized sections of society in the region.

ABOUT RANCHI

Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, is an important industrial city. Nestled at an altitude of about 600 meters, Ranchi once served as the summer capital of Bihar and a hill station retreat. The city hosts the regional administrative headquarters and research/planning centers of the steel and coal sectors. Within a radius of approximately 200 kilometers from Ranchi lie industrial hubs like Jamshedpur, Dhanbad, Muri, Asansol, and Sindri. The Chotanagpur Plateau, in this vicinity, emerges as a vital source of minerals such as iron ore, coal, bauxite, uranium, and mica, among others.

Furthermore, Ranchi assumes significance as an educational hub for the region, boasting several esteemed institutions including the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, the Central University of Jharkhand, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), the Central Institute for Psychiatry, the Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi University, the National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology, and the National University of Study and Research in Law (NIFFT), among others.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Mesra, Ranchi offers a mix of natural beauty, religious significance, and leisure activities.

Patratu Valley: A beautiful valley with winding roads, scenic views, and lush greenery. It's a great place for a drive and to enjoy nature.

Dassam Falls: A stunning waterfall located on the Kanchi River, about 40 km from Ranchi. It is a popular picnic spot and offers a great view of the cascading water.

Jonha Falls: Another picturesque waterfall near Ranchi, known for its scenic beauty and serene environment. It's also called Gautamdhara as it is believed to be a place visited by Lord Buddha.

Sun Temple: Located in Bundu, this temple is built in the shape of a chariot with 18 wheels and seven horses. It's a magnificent structure and a popular spot for tourists and devotees.

Rock Garden: Situated on a small hillock near Kanke Dam, it offers a beautiful view of the city. The garden is known for its sculptures made from rocks and is a great place for a leisurely stroll.

Birsa Zoological Park: A large zoo located in Ormanjhi, it is home to a variety of animals and birds. It's an ideal place for a family outing.

Tagore Hill: Named after Rabindranath Tagore, this hill offers a panoramic view of Ranchi and is a great place for trekking and nature walks.

Ranchi Lake: A man-made lake in the heart of Ranchi, it's a peaceful spot for boating and relaxation.

Jagannath Temple: An ancient temple dedicated to Lord Jagannath, it is a smaller replica of the famous temple in Puri. It is situated on a hill and offers a beautiful view of the surrounding area.

Kanke Dam: A popular spot for picnics and boating, offering a serene environment and beautiful views, especially during sunset.

OTHER NEARBY PLACES

Hazaribagh National Park: Known for its wildlife and scenic beauty, this park is home to various animals like tigers, leopards, sambar, and nilgai. It's a great spot for wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers.

Netarhat: Often referred to as the 'Queen of Chotanagpur,' Netarhat is famous for its stunning sunrise and sunset views, beautiful landscapes, and cool climate. It's a perfect hill station retreat.

McCluskieganj: Known for its Anglo-Indian heritage, this quaint town offers a peaceful atmosphere with colonial-era bungalows and scenic surroundings. It's an interesting place for history buffs and those seeking tranquility.

Hundru Falls: About 45 km from Ranchi, this is one of the highest waterfalls in the region. The falls are a great spot for picnics and offer breathtaking views.

Jonha Falls: As mentioned earlier, this waterfall is a serene spot located near Ranchi and is also known for its Buddhist connections.

Baidyanath Temple (Deoghar): Although slightly more than 100 km from Mesra, this temple is a major pilgrimage site dedicated to Lord Shiva. It's one of the twelve Jyotirlingas and attracts devotees from all over the country.

Topchanchi Lake: Located near Dhanbad, about 100 km from Ranchi, this lake is a popular picnic spot surrounded by hills and forests, providing a tranquil environment for visitors.

HOW TO REACH RANCHI

Arrival by Air

Ranchi is well connected to major airports across India, including those in Patna, Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Kolkata. The Ranchi airport is situated at Hinoo, approximately 7 km from the city center. The nearest international airport is in Kolkata.

Arrival by Train

The railway network provides extensive connectivity to Ranchi from key cities nationwide and falls under the South Eastern Railway network. All trains to Ranchi stop at either Ranchi Junction or Hatia Railway Station.
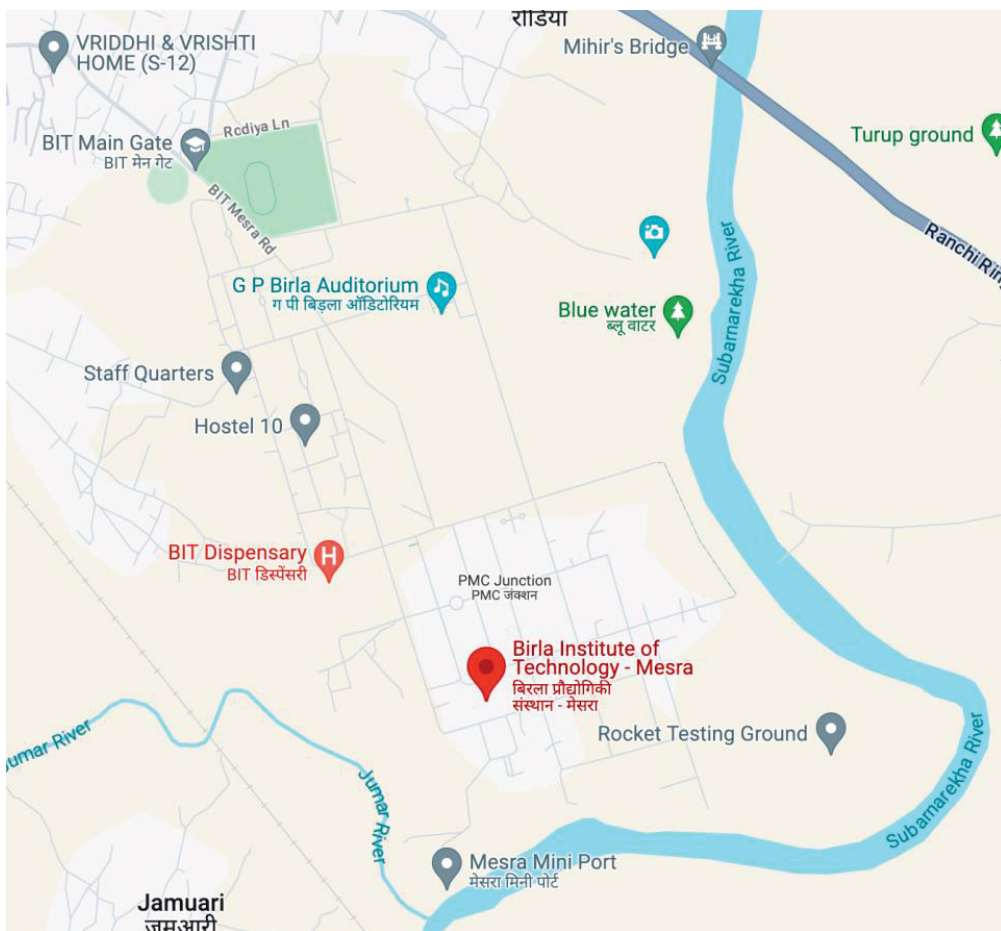
Arrival by Bus

Ranchi enjoys excellent connectivity via roadways, making it easily accessible from various parts of the country. Positioned along National Highways 23 and 33, the city is well serviced by the Jharkhand State Road Transport Corporation buses for intra-state travel, while private and tourist buses also operate on these routes.

HOW TO REACH BIT, MESRA

The Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, is situated about 15 km from Ranchi on NH 33, on the way to Ramgarh and Hazaribagh. Taxi services are easily available at the airport and railway station, which are located at distances of about 30 and 17 km from the Institute, respectively.

A Route Map to BIT MESRA

(Not to Scale)

IASSI OFFICE BEARERS

IASSI CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi
Vice Chairman, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis

IASSI VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

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Dr. Parmod Kumar
Professor & Director
Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow

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Dr. K. Seeta Prabhu

Visiting Professor, Institute for Human Development
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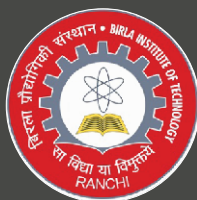
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