



Call for Papers

AHEAD'26

Annual International Conference

on

Health, Technology, and Development in Uncertain Times: Building Agency, Resilience, and Equitable Futures

Dec 14-16, 2026

IIT Roorkee, Uttarakhand, India

Overview

The Applied Health Economics and Development (AHEAD) Lab at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee invites submissions for the AHEAD'26 annual international conference from 14-16 December 2026 at IIT Roorkee, India. The international conference is on 'Health, Technology, and Development in Uncertain Times: Building Agency, Resilience, and Equitable Futures'. Health systems worldwide confront unprecedented challenges such as climate-induced health crises and threats to digital transformation and persistent inequities, etc. This conference provides a critical platform for interdisciplinary dialogue on how technology, evidence, and development practice can converge to build more resilient, responsive, and equitable health futures. We welcome contributions that examine the intersection of health innovation, economic sustainability, and development impact while interrogating questions of power, agency, and whose interests technological advancement serves. Submissions may include empirical research, systematic reviews, health technology assessments, economic evaluations, program evaluations, policy analyses, and novel methodological approaches that advance both theoretical understanding and practical solutions for transforming healthcare delivery and outcomes across diverse contexts.

We particularly encourage submissions from low- and middle-income countries, interdisciplinary research teams, early-career researchers, and studies that center on community agency, local innovation, and contextually appropriate solutions. Priority will be given to research that addresses power dynamics in health technology governance, evidence-based approaches to building resilient health systems, innovative financing mechanisms for equitable access, climate-responsive healthcare strategies, and digital health solutions. The two best papers will be awarded at the conference. Outstanding contributions may be invited for publication in partner journals. Join us at IIT Roorkee in shaping health futures that are technologically advanced, economically sustainable, and developmentally just.

Tracks

(These tracks are indicative only and not strictly limited.)

Track 1: Health Technology Innovation and Assessment for Development

Health Technology Assessment (HTA) is becoming pivotal to evidence-informed healthcare decision-making, particularly in resource-constrained situations where efficient allocation of limited resources is crucial. As India expands its institutional HTA framework, there is a growing need for rigorous economic evaluation that integrates cost-effectiveness, affordability, equity, and health system responsiveness. This track provides a platform to discuss methodological advances, policy applications, and real-world experiences that support sustainable and equitable healthcare system.



- Economic Evaluation of Health Technologies (Cost-effectiveness, cost-utility, and budget impact analysis)
- HTA for Policy, Pricing, and Resource Allocation (HTA framework, pharmaceutical pricing, reimbursement, and priority setting)
- Health System Responsiveness, Equity, and Innovation in HTA (Distributional cost-effectiveness analysis, equity considerations, patient-centred care, methodological innovations, and industry perspectives)

Track 2: Artificial Intelligence, Data Systems, and Digital Transformation in Health

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are reshaping healthcare through predictive analytics, clinical decision support, digital innovation, and more efficient use of health resources. This track invites interdisciplinary research on the development, implementation, and evaluation of data-driven solutions that improve healthcare delivery, strengthen public health systems, and contribute to sustainable development.

- Public Health Analytics, Epidemiology, Disease Surveillance and prediction
- Digital Health, Health Informatics, and Remote Care
- Maternal, Child, and Population Health Applications
- Industry Innovation, Technology Adoption, and Healthcare Transformation

Track 3: Financing in Healthcare

Healthcare financing is central to achieving equitable, accessible, and sustainable healthcare systems, particularly in emerging economies facing rising healthcare costs and expanding insurance coverage. Amid rising healthcare costs, demographic transitions, and evolving insurance systems, this track provides a platform for research on innovative and coping strategies on healthcare financing mechanisms, health insurance, economic evaluation, and sustainable policy interventions. It encourages interdisciplinary contributions that inform evidence-based healthcare financing and strengthen resilient health systems.

- Healthcare Financing Systems and Universal Health Coverage
- Health Insurance and Financial Risk Protection
- Digital Innovation, Sustainable Financing and Public Policy

Track 4: Climate Change, Global Health, and Environmental Resilience

Environmental change is reshaping health risks across the globe, especially air pollution and heat stress, to water insecurity and food system disruptions. These hazards impose rising economic costs on households, labor productivity, and healthcare systems, with informal and vulnerable groups bearing the heaviest burden. This track brings together evidence on the health-economy linkages of climate and environment, and evaluates adaptation strategies, financing models, and policy tools. We invite work that quantifies risks, values co-benefits, and designs scalable, equitable interventions at the intersection of environment and health.

- Air Quality, Energy, and Health
- Urbanization, Heat, Water Crises, and Occupational Risks
- Food Systems and Planetary Health
- Financing Resilience and Adaptation

Track 5: Health Policy, Governance, and Community Agency

The track addresses health policy formulation, implementation, and reform through critical lenses. This interrogates whose voices are heard, whose knowledge is valued, and how governance structures can be reimagined to promote accountability, transparency, and participatory democracy in health systems. This also examines the political, institutional, and social dimensions of health system governance, emphasizing how power relations shape policy processes and health outcomes in uncertain times. It explores mechanisms through which communities, civil society, and marginalized populations can exercise agency in health decision-making, challenging top-down governance models that exclude affected populations from shaping their health futures.

- Participatory Governance, Community Accountability, and Health Democracy
- Causal Inference and Impact Evaluation in Health Policy
- Economic Evaluation of Public Health Programs and Incentive Schemes
- Health Systems Research: Evidence Synthesis and Policy Translation



Track 6: Pharmaceutical Innovation, Access, and Market Dynamics

This track examines pharmaceutical pricing, regulation, market competition, and the affordability of medicines. It highlights generics, biosimilars, supply-chain efficiency, traditional medicine, healthcare trade, and policy initiatives aimed at improving access to essential drugs.

- Pharmacoeconomics - Pharmaceutical Pricing, Affordability, and Access Strategies
- Generic and Biosimilar Market Development
- Medicine Supply Chain Innovation and Quality Assurance
- Pharmaceutical R&D for Neglected Diseases

Track 7: Healthcare Efficiency, Performance, and Quality Measurement

This track explores innovative approaches to improve efficiency, productivity, quality, and value of healthcare delivery given technological advancements. It focuses on performance measurement, evidence-based financing, and practical solutions for hospitals and primary healthcare systems.

- Hospital and Primary Care Performance Indicators
- Quality of Care Measurement and Improvement Science
- Health-System Efficiency, Healthcare Access, and Resource Optimization

Track 8: Technology, Health Behaviour, & Mental Health

The modern world is under stress from emerging and persistent behavioral health issues. In spite of modern technologies' progress, there has been a failure to transform the mental health system. This year, AHEAD'26 conference aims to bring together a session and a dialogue on the efficacy of 'technology, health behaviour and mental health'. In detail, this session invited articles on innovation, challenges, opportunities, evidence, review, and traditional and novel assessment to improve mental well-being.

- Behavioural Health Economics and Service Delivery Models
- Digital Behavioural Health Interventions and Evidence-Based Research
- Technology-Enabled Behavioral Health and Psychosocial Support
- Cognitive Health

Track 9: Health Equity, Gender, and Inclusive Development

This track examines how social, economic, and structural determinants shape health outcomes in an era of global uncertainty, emphasizing pathways toward equitable and inclusive health development. It explores how technology and health interventions can address or exacerbate existing inequities, questioning whose needs are prioritized in development agendas. The track centers community agency, diverse knowledge systems, and the voices of marginalized populations in building resilient health futures that leave no one behind.

- Health Disparities, Inequality Measurement, and Distributional Impact Analysis
- Urban-Rural Health Divides and Geographic Equity in Service Delivery
- Indigenous Health Systems, Traditional Medicine
- Universal Design, Accessibility, and Inclusive Health Technology Innovation
- Women and Child Health

Track 10: *Exclusive Track* - Alumnae Discourses on Technology and Development

This track showcases research by our IITR alumni working at the intersection of technology and development economics. It provides a platform for interdisciplinary perspectives examining how technological innovation shapes economic development, inequality, labor markets, education, NCDs, nutrition, and structural transformation in diverse contexts. The track fosters intellectual exchange among alumni researchers contributing to evidence-based development policy and practice globally.

Important Dates (IST)

- April 25, 2026 – Open for call for papers (using the conference website of AHEAD Lab)
- **31 August 2026- Deadline to submit abstract with extended abstract/abstract with full paper** (preference will be given to full papers)
- 15 Sept. 2026 - Notification of Acceptance



- 18 Sept. 2026 - Submission of registration fee waiver for Students from India and LMICs
- 20 Sept. 2026 - Decision on fee waiver
- 15 September - 11 October 2026 - Early Bird / Attendees Registration (Fees non-refundable)
- 12 October - 30 November 2026 - Late Registration (Fees non-refundable)
- December 14-16, 2026 - Conference Duration (Pre-conference workshop on 14th Dec) **

*Limited number of scholarships for registration fee waiver to be provided to PhD students having no fellowships/scholarships (proof letter from HoD/Dean/Registrar/ Director is required).

**Final duration may change if unavoidable.

Registration Charges

Participation Category	Early Bird Charges*	With Accommodation** (For Early Bird only)	Late Charges* (without accommodation)
Foreign Nationals	\$200	\$300	\$300
LMIC Nationals	\$100	\$200	\$150
Foreign Students	\$100	\$200	\$150
LMIC Students	\$50	\$150	\$100
Indian Nationals	INR4000	INR7500	INR5500
Indian Students	INR2500	INR5500	INR3500

\$ = USD

* Includes conference kit and food during sessions.

** Also includes food (breakfast, lunch, evening snacks/tea/coffee, and dinner). Accommodation in the campus guest houses.

Social excursion/ Networking / Gala Dinner (\$15)

Note 1: GST will be charged extra, wherever applicable.

Note 2: Registration is valid for one presenter only. Co-presenters must register separately.

Note 3: Participants attending the conference without presenting a paper will be charged the same registration fee as Indian Nationals/Indian Students. Registration opens on 15 September 2026.

Instructions for Submission

- Only one submission as presenting author will be allowed in the Call for Papers for AHEAD'26 conference.
- Authors should submit a short abstract (200 words) and an extended abstract (1500 words, including tables), or a full paper (5000 – 8000 words) describing the topic,



theoretical focus, data, research methods, and expected findings. Preference will be given to full paper submissions.

- The submitting author should provide authors' details in the registration form but not in the manuscript as we follow blind review process.
- Abstracts should be submitted to either a theme topic or a session topic. These are specified on the AHEAD'26 conference tracks.
- Poster sessions: Authors who only want to present a poster should submit to the specific track and select 'poster' under 'presentation type'. Papers submitted to a track which are not selected for a regular oral session may be considered for a poster session of AHEAD'26 conference.

Submission Link: <https://ahead.iitr.ac.in/ahead2026/index.html>

Organizing Committee:

- **Dr. Pratap C. Mohanty, Professor, IIT Roorkee (Convenor)**
- **Dr. Manish K. Asthana, Associate Professor, IIT Roorkee (Co-Convenor)**

Scientific Committee:

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| → Prof. Sukumar Vellakkal, IIT Kanpur | → Prof. Souvik Banerjee, IIT Bombay |
| → Prof. Zakaria Siddiqui, Jamia Milia Islamia | → Prof. Pavel Chakraborty, Lancaster University, UK |
| → Prof. Arun Kumar Giri, BITS Pilani | → Prof. Narayan Sethi, NIT Rourkela |
| → Prof. Bhagirathi Panda, Director ICSSR-NE, NEHU | → Prof. Sarbeswar Sahoo, IIT Delhi |
| → Prof. Alok Ranjan, IIT Jodhpur | → Prof. Tapas Mishra, University of Southampton, UK |
| → Prof. Subhashis Bera, International School of Business and Media | → Prof. S.P. Singh, IIT Roorkee |
| → Prof. Minaketan Behera, JNU | → Prof. Smita Jha, IIT Roorkee |
| → Prof. Kalandi Charan Pradhan, IIT Indore | → Prof. J.K. Nayak, IIT Roorkee |
| → Prof. M. K. Rao, IIT Kharagpur | → Prof. Tanika Chakraborty, IIM Calcutta |
| → Prof. Shailendra Hooda, ISID | → Prof. Shabana Mitra, Shiv Nadar University |

Advisory Committee:

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| → Prof. Umakant Dash, Director, GIPE & Professor, IIT Madras | → Prof. Suman Seth, University of Leeds, UK |
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| | → |



- Prof. Arup Mitra, Professor & Dean, South Asia University
- Prof. Prasant K Panda, Former Economic Adviser, 16th Finance Commission, GoI
- Dr. Soumen Ray, UNICEF
- Dr. Bhanu Duggal, AIIMS Rishikesh
- Prof. Sabu Padmadas, University of Southampton, UK
- Prof. Jan Priebe, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Germany
- Dr. Maggie Triayana, Senior Economist World Bank
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Collaborators / Advisers / Industry Partners*:

- MARG, IITR
- University of Bath, UK
- JNU, New Delhi
- University of Leeds, UK
- IIT Bombay
- Johannesburg University, South Africa
- IIPS, Mumbai
- CMP (conference manager)
- University of Notre Dame, USA
- Delhi School of Economics (DSE)
- University of Southampton, UK
- IIT Kharagpur
- University of Birmingham, UK
- JMI, New Delhi

* To be updated soon

Distinguished Speakers (Confirmed):

- Prof. Sudipta Sarangi, Virginia Tech. USA
- Prof. Sukumar Vellakkal, IIT Kanpur
- Prof. Suman Seth, University of Leeds, UK
- Prof. Zakaria Siddiqui, Jamia Milia Islamia
- Prof. Santosh Kumar, University of Notre Dame, USA
- Prof. Tapas Mishra, University of Southampton, UK
- Prof. Subhashis Bera, International School of Business and Media
- Prof. Zakaria Siddiqui, Jamia Milia Islamia

Highlights

- Best Paper Awards
- Pre-Conference Workshop
- Selected Papers for Partner Journals
- EEA 2026 Corporate Award
- Alumni Discourse
- Digital Health & AI Showcase
- Networking Dinner & Cultural Evening
- International Research Collaboration



Contacts:



Hosted by: **Applied Health Economics and Development (AHEAD) Lab**, IIT Roorkee.

AHEAD Lab: <https://ahead.iitr.ac.in/>

Details of the conference: <https://ahead.iitr.ac.in/ahead2026/>

Dr. Pratap C. Mohanty, Professor, IIT Roorkee

Email: ahead@iitr.ac.in

Landline: +91-0133228-4884 (11AM – 6PM, IST)

Short & Quick reach out: Chatbot on the AHEAD'26 registration page after login)

➤ Weather Condition and Tourist Hotspots

The temperature in Roorkee in December ranges around a high of 25°C to a low of 12°C.

<http://uttarakhandtourism.gov.in/>; <https://www.euttaranchal.com/tourism/roorkee-excursions.php>