

TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Tuljapur Off-Campus

Presents

GRAMODAYA

II ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

5th and 6th March 2026

THEME

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
RURAL INDIA: POLICY ROADMAP
FOR VIKSIT BHARAT 2047**

Organized by

School of Rural Development
Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Tuljapur Campus
Tuljapur, Dist. Dharashiv

ABOUT TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (TISS)

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) was founded in 1936 as the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work and later renamed as the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in 1944. Over the years, TISS has emerged as a beacon of excellence in higher education. In 1964, the institute achieved the prestigious status of a deemed to be university under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act (UGC), 1956.

In 1986, TISS expanded its reach by establishing a rural campus at Tuljapur in Dharashiv district of Maharashtra. With a dedication to exploring alternative development strategies, TISS Tuljapur campus plays a pivotal role in fostering sustainable and equitable socio-economic development among rural communities. Nestled in the heart of rural India, the campus stands out as an ideal location for grounded rural fieldwork. Its strategic location ensures proximity to diverse rural communities, offering unparalleled opportunities for hands-on learning and research. The campus provides an immersive environment for students and researchers to engage directly with various dimensions of rural life.





ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Rural India is home to over 65% of its population and it plays a critical role in the country's socio-economic development. While urbanization continues to grow, rural India remains the backbone of agricultural productivity, biodiversity, and cultural heritage. Though rural India faces persistent challenges such as poverty, lack of infrastructure, unemployment, inequitable access to quality healthcare and education, sustainability is often ignored in the development discourses for rural India. A strong approach towards sustainable rural development is not only important for national progress, but it also aligns with a country's global commitments such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030. These commitments necessitate an integrated approach which combines economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability, with active participation from local communities, policymakers, civil society, and international stakeholders.

With this aim, we at TISS Tuljapur started our Annual National Conference named, 'Gramodaya' to create a platform to discuss various facets of rural development. The theme of our 1st annual conference, Gramodaya 2025 was 'Reimagining Rural Development: Contemporary Challenges and New Pathways'. and some of the sub-themes were State, Market, and Agricultural Crises, Environmental Sustainability, Agriculture, and Livelihood, Water Crises Management in Rural Areas, Migration and Rural Society, Governance, Policy, and Strengthening Rural Institutions, Rural Entrepreneurship, Rural Technology and Innovation, Microfinance and Rural Economy etc. The conference offered a platform for academicians, researchers, practitioners, industry professionals and young scholars to discuss various recent issues in the field of rural development. More than 30 papers/posters were presented on various themes along with a number of participants from different parts of the country.



This time our aim is to extend the discussions towards sustainable rural development, considering the challenges we are facing today due to a shift in climatic conditions, and explore the opportunities for a sustainable future. Some of the objectives of the proposed conference are:

- To bring together experts, practitioners, policymakers, and community leaders to exchange knowledge and best sustainable development practices for rural India.
- To develop a policy roadmap that supports rural transformation.
- To explore innovative models and pilot projects promoting sustainable rural development.
- To foster collaboration between academic institutions, governments and civil society organizations.
- To chart out actionable recommendations for sustainable rural development.

THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

Sustainable Development in Rural India: Policy Roadmap for Viksit Bharat 2047

SUB-THEMES FOR PRESENTATIONS:

We welcome original research papers, posters and case studies on but not limited to the following sub-themes.

1. Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Economy

- Agroecology and organic farming
- Water-efficient irrigation methods
- Agri-value chains and market access for farmers

2. Renewable Energy and Clean Technologies

- Solar and biomass energy solutions for rural areas
- Decentralized energy grids
- Clean cooking technologies

3. Education, Skills, and Youth Empowerment

- Rural digital education models
- Vocational training and entrepreneurship for rural youth
- Gender inclusion in education and livelihoods

4. Rural Healthcare and Sanitation

- Rural primary healthcare infrastructure
- Telemedicine and health-tech for underserved areas
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) initiatives in India

5. Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management

- Community-led forest and watershed management
- Climate-resilient crops and livelihoods
- Disaster preparedness and early warning systems

6. Social Inclusion and Participatory Governance

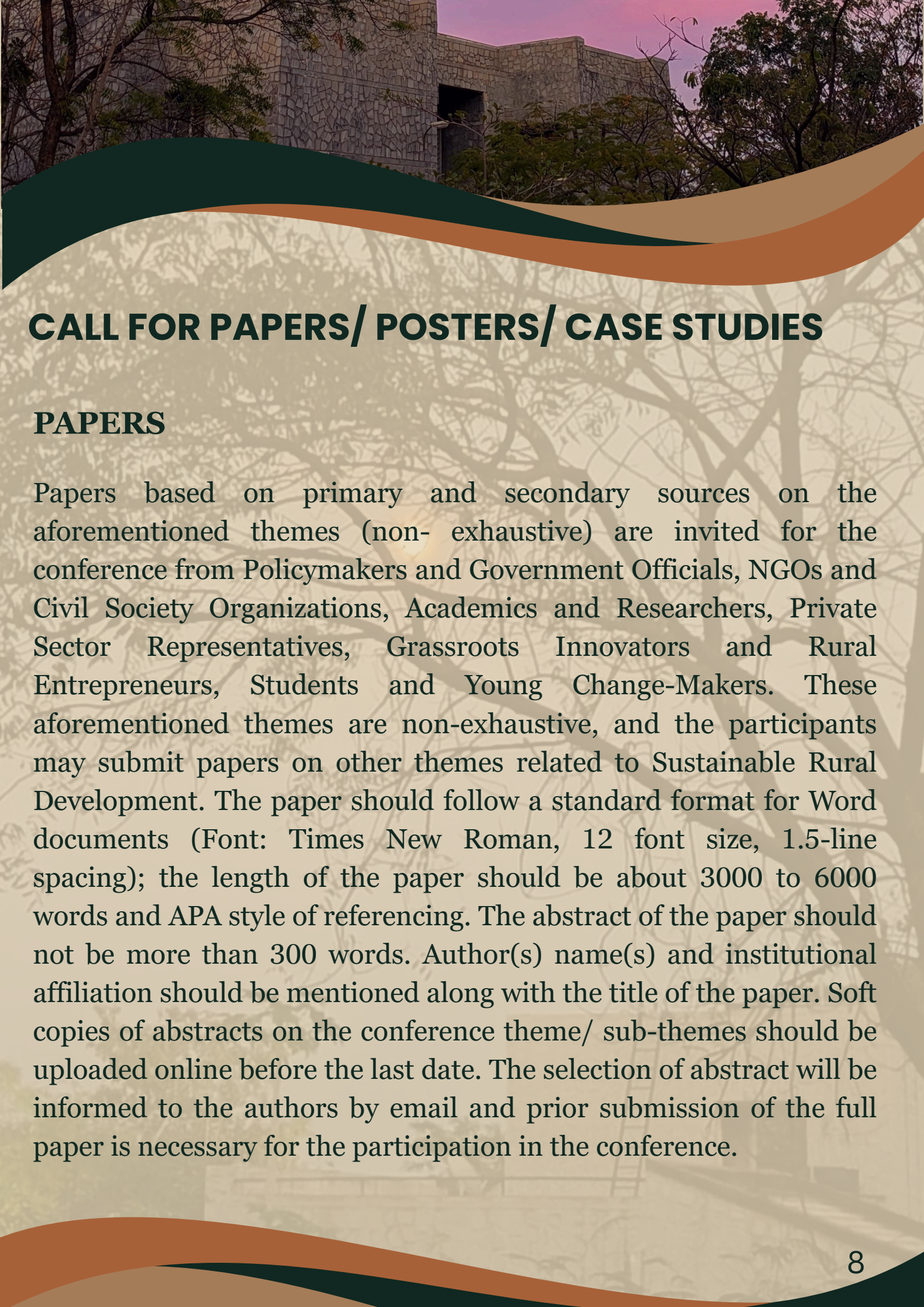
- Empowering women and inclusive governance
- Panchayati Raj Institutions in sustainable rural development
- Transparency, accountability, and citizen participation

7. Technology and Digital Transformation in Rural Development

- Role of ICT in rural planning and service delivery
- E-Governance and digital financial inclusion
- Data-driven decision-making, digital democracy

EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE:

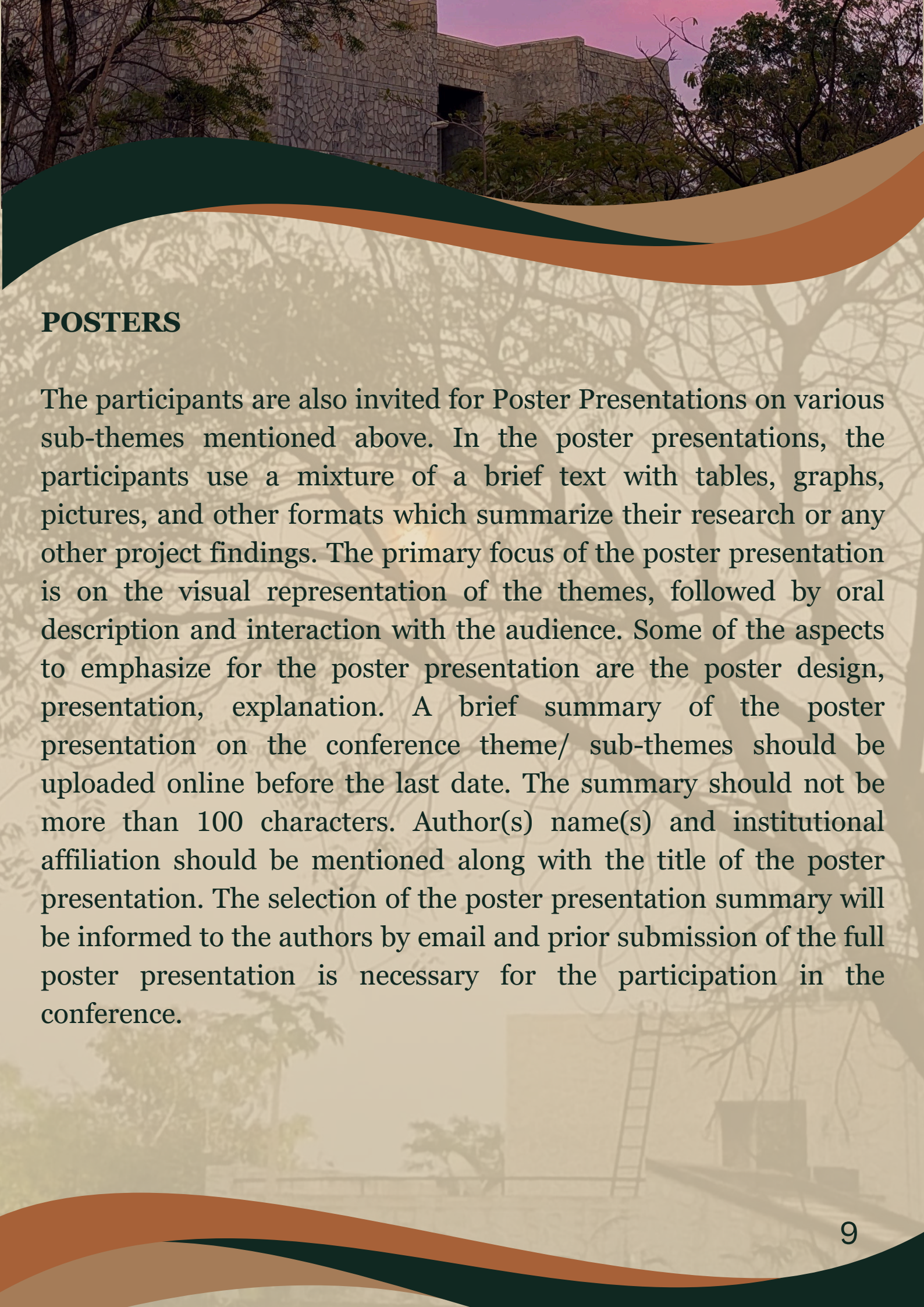
- The conference will bring together a wide range of stakeholders- academicians, researchers, policymakers, government agencies, civil society organizations, and grassroots innovators to deliberate on pathways toward a self-reliant and inclusive rural economy.
- The conference aims to produce comprehensive policy roadmap for sustainable rural development aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 through participatory dialogue and thematic discussions. The roadmap will serve as a reference document for policymakers, development practitioners, and institutions working on rural transformation
- The sessions on renewable energy, climate resilience, and digital transformation will focus on scalable solutions that address local needs. This will help strengthen local governance and entrepreneurship ecosystem, empowering rural youth and communities to adopt sustainable livelihood practices.
- The conference is designed as a platform that bridges the gap between academic research, grassroots experiences, and policy formulation. Its multidimensional approach—bringing together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers ensures that the deliberations lead to actionable insights that can influence rural development policies at both state and national levels.
- The Visioning Workshop for Viksit Bharat 2047 and Innovation Labs for Rural Pilot Projects will serve as incubators for new policy ideas. The discussions will culminate in a policy brief and recommendations document which will be disseminated to relevant ministries, state departments, and policy think tanks to inform ongoing programs such as the National Rural Livelihood Mission, Digital India, and Sustainable Agriculture Mission.
- Moreover, the conference proceedings publication will provide a credible academic reference for policymakers and researchers alike. By documenting case studies, field innovations, and thematic papers, the conference will create a knowledge repository that can support long-term policy formulation and evaluation processes.



CALL FOR PAPERS/ POSTERS/ CASE STUDIES

PAPERS

Papers based on primary and secondary sources on the aforementioned themes (non- exhaustive) are invited for the conference from Policymakers and Government Officials, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, Academics and Researchers, Private Sector Representatives, Grassroots Innovators and Rural Entrepreneurs, Students and Young Change-Makers. These aforementioned themes are non-exhaustive, and the participants may submit papers on other themes related to Sustainable Rural Development. The paper should follow a standard format for Word documents (Font: Times New Roman, 12 font size, 1.5-line spacing); the length of the paper should be about 3000 to 6000 words and APA style of referencing. The abstract of the paper should not be more than 300 words. Author(s) name(s) and institutional affiliation should be mentioned along with the title of the paper. Soft copies of abstracts on the conference theme/ sub-themes should be uploaded online before the last date. The selection of abstract will be informed to the authors by email and prior submission of the full paper is necessary for the participation in the conference.



POSTERS

The participants are also invited for Poster Presentations on various sub-themes mentioned above. In the poster presentations, the participants use a mixture of a brief text with tables, graphs, pictures, and other formats which summarize their research or any other project findings. The primary focus of the poster presentation is on the visual representation of the themes, followed by oral description and interaction with the audience. Some of the aspects to emphasize for the poster presentation are the poster design, presentation, explanation. A brief summary of the poster presentation on the conference theme/ sub-themes should be uploaded online before the last date. The summary should not be more than 100 characters. Author(s) name(s) and institutional affiliation should be mentioned along with the title of the poster presentation. The selection of the poster presentation summary will be informed to the authors by email and prior submission of the full poster presentation is necessary for the participation in the conference.

CASE STUDY PRESENTATION

The participants are also invited for Case Study Presentation on a relevant theme mentioned above. A Case Study is a detailed analysis of a situation, highlighting a problem, providing solutions, and demonstrating decision-making and problem-solving skills. It is commonly used in academic, business, and professional settings to showcase critical thinking, research, and communication abilities. The abstract of the case study should not be more than 300 words.

Some of the important elements of a Case Study Presentation are:

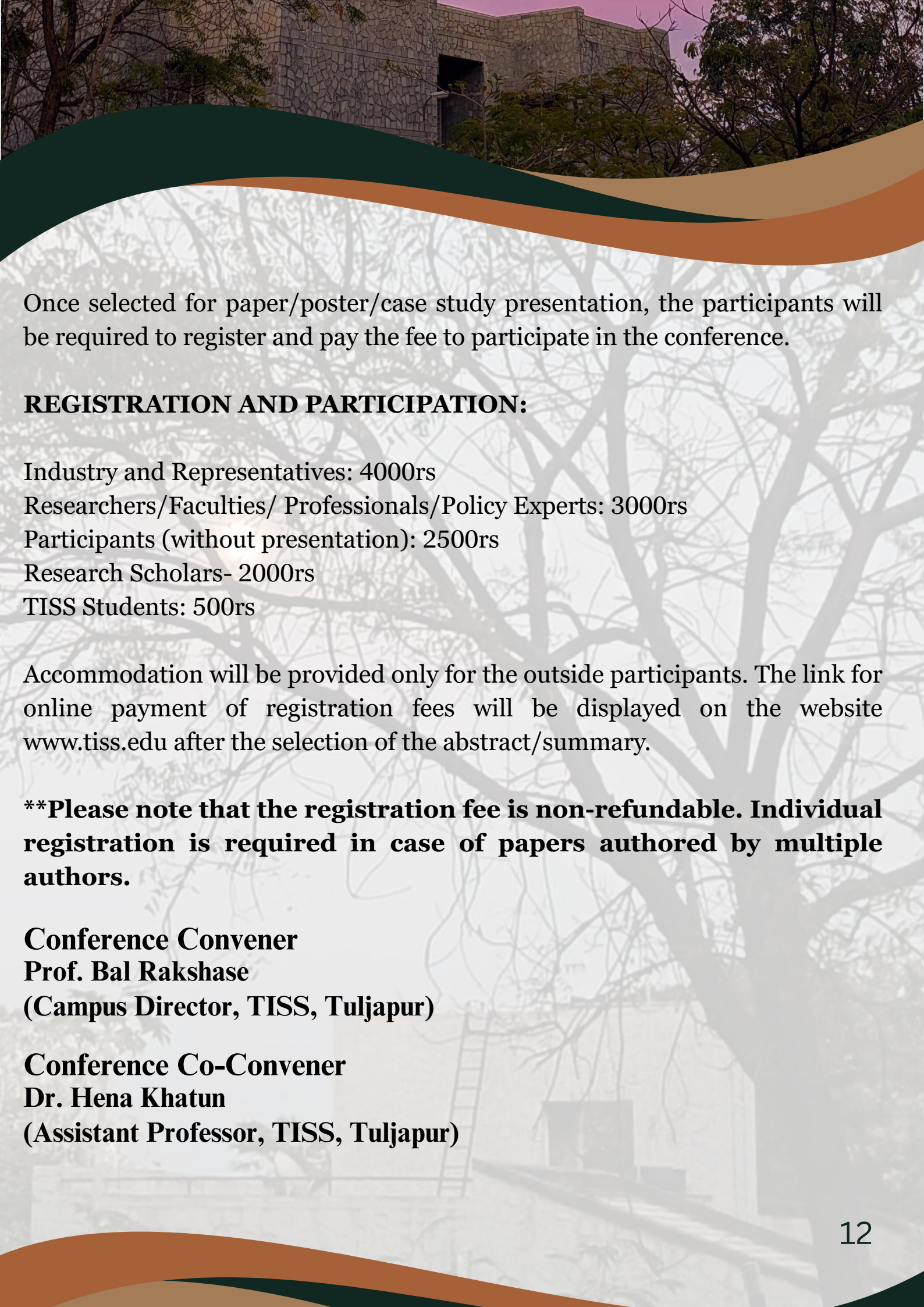
- Introduction: Brief overview of the case and its relevance.
- Background: Context, key stakeholders involved, and main issues.
- Problem Statement: Clear articulation of the central problem.
- Analysis: Examining the causes, data, and implications.
- Recommendations: Proposed solutions supported by evidence or reasoning.

Conclusion: Summary of findings.

Please submit the abstract of research papers/poster summary/abstract of case study presentation using the Google form available below on/before 20th January 2026. The abstract must contain the author's name, institutional affiliation, mobile number, email address, and address for correspondence. Please refer to the important dates below.

TIMELINE:

1. Submission of abstracts	20th January 2026
2. Notification of acceptance of abstract	25th January 2026
3. Submission of full paper	10th February
4. Conference registration for paper presenters	15-20 February
5. Conference registration of other delegates	20-25 February 2026
6. Submission of PPT for presentation	1st March 2026
7. Conference dates	5th & 6th March 2026
8. Conference email ID	gramodaya@tiss.ac.in



Once selected for paper/poster/case study presentation, the participants will be required to register and pay the fee to participate in the conference.

REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION:

Industry and Representatives: 4000rs

Researchers/Faculties/ Professionals/Policy Experts: 3000rs

Participants (without presentation): 2500rs

Research Scholars- 2000rs

TISS Students: 500rs

Accommodation will be provided only for the outside participants. The link for online payment of registration fees will be displayed on the website www.tiss.edu after the selection of the abstract/summary.

****Please note that the registration fee is non-refundable. Individual registration is required in case of papers authored by multiple authors.**

Conference Convener

Prof. Bal Rakshase

(Campus Director, TISS, Tuljapur)

Conference Co-Convener

Dr. Hena Khatun

(Assistant Professor, TISS, Tuljapur)