



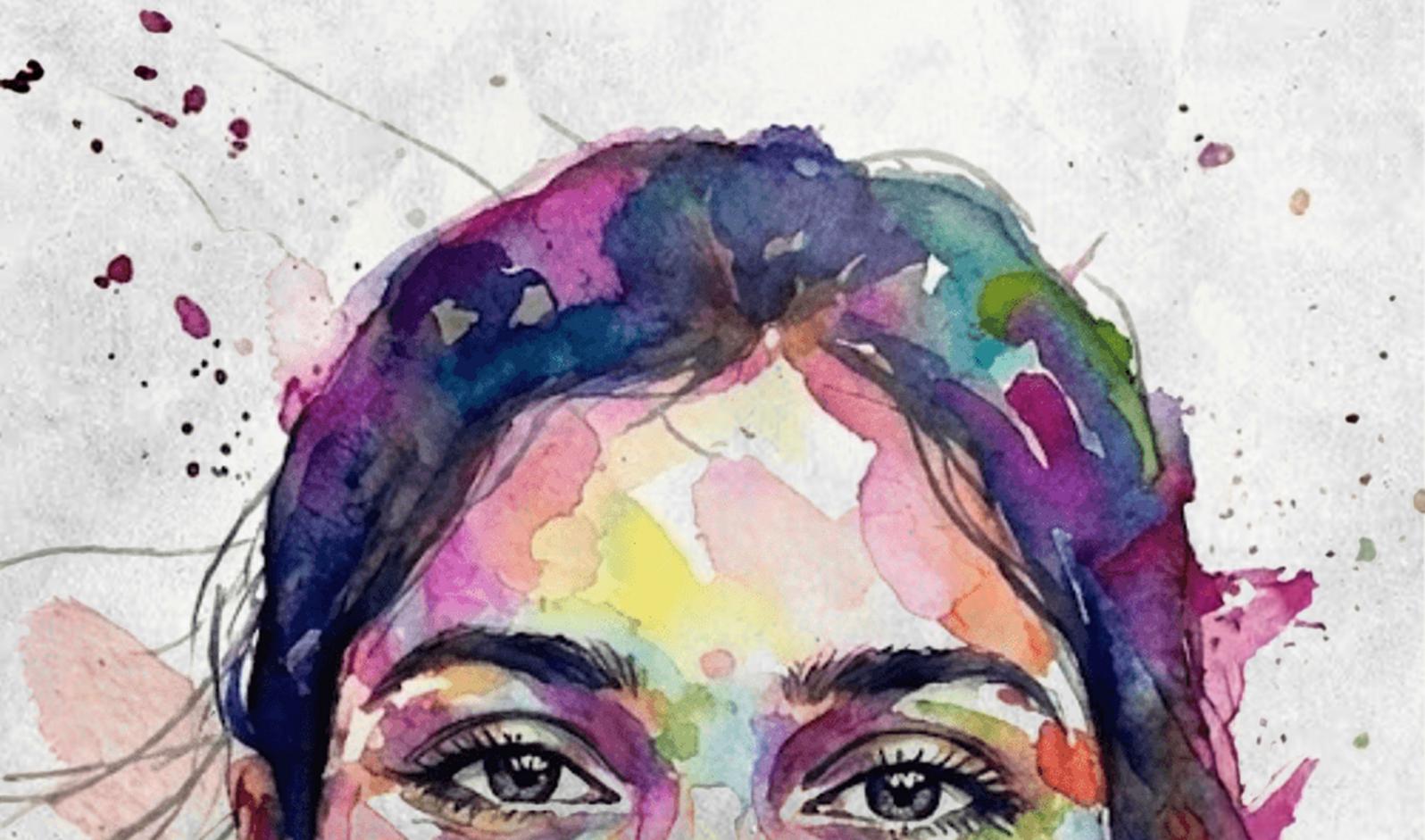
**Women Studies & Research Centre
&
Department of Economics
Rajiv Gandhi University**

National Seminar

on

**‘Women and the Future of Work in
the Age of Digital and Climate Transitions’**

5th & 6th March, 2026



Background

The nature of work in India is undergoing unprecedented transformation under the dual forces of digital and climate transitions. Rapid digitalisation, automation, artificial intelligence, and the rise of the gig and platform economy are reshaping employment opportunities across sectors. At the same time, climate change is exerting increasing pressure on agriculture, natural resources, and livelihoods, particularly in rural areas. Women, who form a significant proportion of the workforce in agriculture and the informal sector, are both at the forefront of these transformations and disproportionately vulnerable to their adverse impacts.

Recent trends indicate encouraging progress in women's workforce participation, yet substantial challenges remain. The Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) in India has risen from 23.3 percent in 2017–18 to 41.7 percent in 2023–24, largely driven by rural participation, which stands at nearly 48 percent. However, this engagement is concentrated in self-employment and agriculture, sectors characterized by low wages, minimal social protection, and limited job security. Informal work continues to dominate women's employment, while programmes like MGNREGA provide critical livelihood support. Women accounted for nearly 60 percent of person-days in 2023–24, reflecting both their contribution and dependence on public employment schemes.

The digital economy presents new opportunities for women in technology, services, and knowledge-based sectors. Women's representation in India's technology workforce, currently around 10 percent, is projected to grow to 15 percent by 2027, with increasing engagement in digital roles across non-tech industries as well. Nevertheless, barriers such as low digital literacy, limited access to devices and the internet, and underrepresentation in leadership positions remain significant challenges. Also, automation and artificial intelligence threaten clerical and routine jobs, where women are disproportionately employed, heightening the risk of displacement and economic insecurity.

Climate change compounds these vulnerabilities. Women farmers and labourers, often lacking land ownership, access to credit, modern inputs, and technology, face heightened risks from erratic rainfall, heat stress, and declining soil and water productivity. These pressures exacerbate unpaid care burdens, including water and fuel collection, and often force women into low-return, precarious employment. Without targeted, gender-responsive climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, these vulnerabilities risk deepening existing inequalities and undermining women's economic security. Given this context, there is an urgent need to explore policy interventions, skills development, and innovative employment strategies that enable women to navigate and thrive in the rapidly changing world of work. Addressing these challenges is critical not only for gender equality but also for fostering inclusive, sustainable, and resilient economic growth in India.

The two-day national seminar on “Women and the Future of Work in the Age of Digital and Climate Transitions” is expected to address the emerging challenges and opportunities in this evolving landscape and generate actionable policy recommendations that promote inclusive, gender-responsive strategies for enabling women’s full and equitable participation in the future of work.

Themes of the Seminar

The themes of the seminars are as follows:

- Economic value of unpaid care work and time poverty among women in labour markets
- Gender wage gap and income inequality in formal and informal sectors
- Female labour force participation trends and implications for GDP growth
- Women’s entrepreneurship and contribution to MSME growth
- Economic impact of digital skills and employability of women
- Gendered access to finance and credit markets for business and employment
- Role of women in the green economy and green jobs labour markets
- Economic barriers to women’s participation in high productivity sectors
- Effects of automation and AI on women’s employment and wages
- Policy economics of labour protections for women in digital and platform work
- Economic costs of gender discrimination and social norms on women’s work
- Macroeconomic effects of gender inclusive labour market policies
- Economic inclusion through formalisation of women’s work in gig and informal sectors
- Regional economic disparities in women’s employment opportunities
- Climate and Women’s Work
- Any other related topics

The above themes are suggestive in nature and not exhaustive. Scholars may present papers on any theme that is relevant in the context of Women and the Future of Work in the Age of Digital and Climate Transitions.



About Rajiv Gandhi University

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University) is the premier institution of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh. Established in 1984 as a State University, it was upgraded to a Central University on 9 April 2007 by the Government of India. The University has been accredited with Grade 'A' by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in recognition of its academic standards and institutional performance.



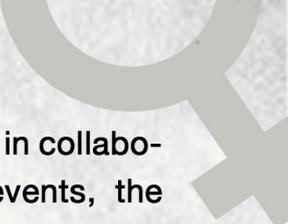
The University campus is located at Rono Hills, Doimukh, a scenic tableland approximately 25 km from Itanagar, the state capital. Spread across a vast area, the campus accommodates academic departments, hostels, research centres, administrative offices, and other essential facilities. Rajiv Gandhi University offers a diverse range of undergraduate, post-graduate, diploma, and doctoral programmes across multiple disciplines and exercises academic jurisdiction over 45 affiliated colleges.

How to Reach

Itanagar is well connected by road, rail, and air. Regular bus and taxi services operate between Itanagar and major cities such as Guwahati. The nearest airport is Donyi Polo Airport, Hollongi, located about 44-45 km from the campus, with flight connectivity to cities including Kolkata, Delhi, and Mumbai. Gumto and Naharlagun railway stations provide rail access to the region, ensuring convenient connectivity to the University from different parts of the country.

About the Women Studies & Research Centre, Rajiv Gandhi University

The Women Studies & Research Centre at Rajiv Gandhi University was established on 5 September 2009 under the University Grants Commission (UGC) Eleventh Five Year Plan as an independent multi-disciplinary academic and research Centre. The Centre is headed by a Director and supported by staff sanctioned by the UGC under the XI Plan. It is dedicated to the study of women's experiences, contributions, challenges and inequalities through research, teaching, training and community engagement. The Centre conducts regular research projects, seminars, workshops and training programmes on gender and development issues. It has organised outreach activities such as workshops



on promoting gender equality and engaging men in gender equity programmes in collaboration with academic departments and local institutions. Through these events, the Centre promotes discourse on gender norms, women's empowerment and social justice in the North-East region. The core objectives of the Women's Studies & Research Centre include advancing gender equity and social justice, promoting interdisciplinary research on gender and related social categories, and generating knowledge that reflects women's lived realities. The Centre seeks to support curriculum development, integrate gender-sensitive perspectives in academic programmes, and foster a more inclusive learning environment. It also emphasises community engagement by working with grassroots organisations, policymakers and stakeholders to address gender barriers and promote positive social change.

In addition, the Centre undertakes empirical research on education, work, health, violence, representation and cultural practices, and disseminates findings through publications, conferences, policy briefs and outreach activities. It also offers training programmes, seminars and workshops on feminist theory, gender studies and related areas for students, faculty, professionals and community members. Through its activities, the Centre aims to contribute to academic and public discourse on gender issues and strengthen advocacy for women's rights and empowerment in the region.

About the Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University

The Department of Economics at Rajiv Gandhi University began in July 1991. Its main goal is to provide socially relevant postgraduate education through a balanced mix of theory and empirical analysis. The Department has the distinction of serving as the nodal department for the First Human Development Report (HDR) of Arunachal Pradesh and for preparing the First State Development Report of Arunachal Pradesh. It has organised major academic events, including the 7th, 17th and 22nd annual Conferences of the North Eastern Economic Association (NEEA). The Department regularly hosts national seminars and academic programmes, contributing to research and policy dialogue on development issues relevant to the North-East region.

Submission of Abstract

Abstracts (within 250 words) should be submitted via email to womenstudiesrgu@gmail.com.



Submission of Full Paper

Full papers (within 4000 words) must be prepared in MS Word with the following specifications Font: Times Roman, 12 size, 1.5 line spacing, APA style of referencing. The full paper must be submitted through email to **womenstudiesrgu@gmail.com**.

Only authors who submit the full paper will be invited to present at the seminar.

Important Dates

Seminar Date	: 5 th - 6 th March, 2026
Last date for submission of abstract (about 250 words)	: 30 th January, 2026
Last date for submission of full paper (About 4000 words)	: 15 th February, 2026

Accommodation

Accommodation and travel allowances (bus fare or AC 3-tier railway fare by shortest route) will be provided only to participants whose papers are accepted for presentation.

Registration

The registration fee is Rs. 2000/- for academicians and Rs. 500/- for research scholars.

Organising Committee

Advisors

PROF. S. K. NAYAK
Vice-Chancellor (Acting)
Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar

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