

IAWS

Indian Association for Women's Studies
announces its

XVIII NATIONAL CONFERENCE

In collaboration with
CHRIST (Deemed to be University),
Bengaluru



28th to 30th January 2027
CHRIST (Deemed to be University),
Hosur Road Campus, Bengaluru

Pre-conference on
27th January 2027

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E** **Women and Gendered
Life Worlds: Negotiations,
Solidarities and Transformations**



The IAWS will be organising its 18th National Conference in times of war and global upheaval. We are witnessing how women's lives and those on the margins of dominant structures are continually disrupted even in the regions that are not the direct conflict zones. In India, the shortage of cooking gas and the blow to small businesses/eateries that feed the working poor of our cities has worsened the crisis of social reproduction, with disproportionately heavy consequences for women. The growing despair among working class and lower middle-class households on account of the rising costs of living has intensified.

Entrenched patterns of marginalisation of impoverished communities continue apace in regions that are endowed with rich natural resources and home to historically marginalised communities. States such as Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and North-Eastern region have long witnessed conflicts between Adivasis/ ethnic communities and modern state formations, colonial and post-colonial. Women of these states have been key protagonists of historic struggles of resistance revolving around jal, jungle, zameen. Issues of agrarian crisis, climate and ecological change are increasingly becoming focal points in the resistance of subaltern people to neoliberal policies. Documenting women's daily strategies and negotiations around survival and livelihood sustenance reveals a landscape of intense resilience amidst accelerating structural precarity.

The resurgence of caste patriarchies and fundamentalism across the country aim to curb the choices, mobilities, bodies and freedoms of women, sexual and gender minorities. Criminalising and punishing consensual relationships between adults of different castes and religions has been sanctioned and endorsed by laws as well as vigilante action on the streets. The violence reminds us to constantly interrogate and sharpen the critique of the modalities by which castes and communities exercise control over women's bodies and sexualities, even while educational

opportunities and (in some sectors) economic opportunities expand horizons, mobility and avenues of self-expression for young people. The limited nature of opportunities, in turn, has propelled young people, who are imagining and aspiring for their futures, to assert their voice in numerous ways.

While misogynist notions of beauty oppress women, the multidimensional issues raised by trans and disability rights campaigners and movements have further complicated our understanding of abled and gendered bodies. More recently, national legislation has stripped away the legal gains and social recognition won by sexual and gender minorities through years of campaigns, painstaking advocacy and street level protests.

All marginalisations and oppressions have been met with palpable resistance of diverse forms, wherein women have played a definitive role. Ironically, this conjuncture has also seen women being recognised as a political constituency. In recent state assembly elections in India, women have emerged as an electoral force whose voting behaviour and decisions can influence results. Cash transfer schemes targeting women implicitly acknowledge women's central position in the sustenance and reproduction of the household economies of the rural and urban poor. It becomes imperative to explore how women are responding to political strategies that identify and foreground them as a clearly-defined constituency of voters, even while they reinscribe deeply gendered household roles and responsibilities.

While policy makers have deliberated the vexed issue of women's low labour force participation in India, the question of decent work, fair wages and statutory protection of women workers (both self and wage employed) at the lower rungs of the labour market continues to remain an elusive goal. We see the continued feminisation of several work processes that are labour intensive and characterised by little use of technological inputs.

Concurrently, an evolving landscape of technology that involves artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, cloud computing, data analytics, platform work, etc. has penetrated different segments of the employment and everyday life. Overall, patterns show that women's relationship to the proliferation of digital technologies and innovations, as workers, content creators and end-users, is tenuous and ambivalent.

In the current scenario, fissures and contradictions within the category of women in terms of class, caste, community, region, disability, sexuality and so on have clearly shaped trends of solidarity and have a long-term influence on the trajectories of the women's movements. It has become compelling for the wider academia and women's studies scholars to discuss and deliberate on the evolving conjuncture and how it enables the possibilities of transformation of concrete structures and our lifeworld.

The 18th National Conference of IAWS invites a wide spectrum of participants – scholars, students, activists, journalists, writers and artists – to engage with the issues highlighted above by drawing on the following sub-themes:

Sub-Theme I

Agrarian Crisis and Gendered Responses

(Click here - <https://iaaws.co.in/uploads/Subtheme%201%20.pdf>)

Sub theme Coordinators:

Satyaki Dasgupta,

CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore

Seema Kulkarni,

Society for Promoting Participatory Eco-System Management (SOPPECOM), Pune

Email Address:- subtheme01iaaws2027@outlook.com

Sub-Theme II

Cities of Hope, Cities of Exclusion

(Click here - <https://iaws.co.in/uploads/Subtheme%202%20.pdf>)

Subtheme Coordinators:

Shilpa Phadke,

Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai

Janaki Abraham,

University of Delhi (DU), Delhi

Email Address: subtheme02iaws2027@outlook.com

Sub-Theme III

Educational Ecosystems and Aspirations

(Click here - <https://iaws.co.in/uploads/Subtheme%203.pdf>)

Subtheme Coordinators:

Divya Kannan, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR

Shivali Tukdeo, Mahindra University, Hyderabad

Email Address: subtheme03iaws2027@outlook.com

Sub-Theme IV

Gendered labour, Precarious Livelihoods & Effects of Climate Change

(Click here - <https://iaws.co.in/uploads/Subtheme%204.pdf>)

Subtheme Coordinators:

Ellina Samantroy, V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNI), Noida

Sophy K.J., National Law University Delhi (NLUD), Delhi

Email Address: subtheme04iaws2027@outlook.com

Sub-Theme V

Interrogating Digital selves and Subjectivities

(Click here - <https://iaws.co.in/uploads/Subtheme%205.pdf>)

Subtheme Coordinators:

Chinar Mehta, IIIT, Bangalore

Isha Bhallamudi, Independent Researcher

Ikroop Kaur Chamba,

CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore

Email Address: subtheme05iaws2027@outlook.com

Sub-Theme VI

Land, Livelihood & Community: Life Worlds of Adivasi Women

(Click here - <https://iaws.co.in/uploads/Subtheme%206.pdf>)

Subtheme Coordinators:

Devmaid Lakra, Indira Kala Sangit Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh
Mamta Kumari, Bujurgon ka Apna Adda, Patna

Email Address: subtheme06iaws2027@outlook.com

Sub-Theme VII

Law, State and Society: Feminist Reflections

(Click here - <https://iaws.co.in/uploads/Subtheme%207.pdf>)

Subtheme Coordinators:

Amrita Pritam Gogoi, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh
Anu Singh, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore

Email Address: subtheme07iaws2027@outlook.com

Sub-Theme VIII

Minority Lives, Democracy and Citizenship

(Click here - <https://iaws.co.in/uploads/Subtheme%208.pdf>)

Subtheme Coordinators:

Ghazala Jamil, JNU, New Delhi
Mary Ann Chacko, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad

Email Address: subtheme08iaws2027@outlook.com

Sub-Theme IX

Practices of the Body: Gender, Disability, and Physical Cultures

(Click here - <https://iaws.co.in/uploads/Subtheme%209.pdf>)

Subtheme Coordinators:

Navaneetha Mokkil, JNU, New Delhi
Priyasha Choudhary, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Email Address: subtheme09iaws2027@outlook.com

Sub-Theme X

Trans and Queer Life Worlds

(Click here - <https://iaws.co.in/uploads/Subtheme%2010%20.pdf>)

Subtheme Coordinators:

Ditilekha Sharma, Independent researcher
Poushali Basak, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat

Email Address: subtheme10iaws2027@outlook.com

REGISTRATION DETAILS FOR THE XVIII NATIONAL CONFERENCE

LIFE MEMBER OF IAWS		
1	Registration with accommodation : INR 4000/-	Registration without accommodation : INR 2500/-
NON-MEMBER		
2	Registration with accommodation : INR 5500/-	Registration without accommodation : INR 3000/-
STUDENT MEMBER OF IAWS*		
<i>*Student membership that falls between 27.01.2024 to 27.01.2027 is valid for consideration. Please renew your membership if you availed membership before 27.01.2024</i>		
3	Registration with accommodation : INR 2000/-	Registration without accommodation : INR 1000/-
NON-MEMBER STUDENT		
4	Registration with accommodation : INR 2200/-	Registration without accommodation : INR 1100/-

REGISTRATION FEE DETAILS

- Modest lodging and boarding is covered within the registration charges for those opting for accommodation.
- The registration charges also include meals during the conference and a conference kit.
- None of the registration charges include membership charges of the IAWS. The additional charges are INR 1500/- for life membership and INR 250/- for student membership of three years.
- Delegates with any special needs are to inform the Secretariat in advance so that appropriate logistics are in place. Contact the Secretariat at iawsnationalconf2027@gmail.com and iaws.secretariat@gmail.com.
- Accommodation will not be guaranteed for registration after 1st November 2026.
- Participants can register online at <https://forms.gle/CM5U8V77pYybErK96>
- A copy of the online receipt / bank receipt should be uploaded in the online registration form.
- Participants can seek IAWS life/student/institutional membership at <https://iaws.co.in/membership.php>
- The conference's book of abstracts will be available on the payment of an additional amount at the conference venue.

For Electronic Bank Transfer / UPI

- Name of beneficiary:
Indian Association for Women's Studies
- Bank name: Indian Overseas Bank
- Branch of bank: Gole market
- Bank address: 94, Bangla Sahib Road,
New Delhi – 110001
- Type of account: Savings
- Account number: 084001000017542
- IFS code: IOBA0000840
- Swift code: IOBAINBBA997



Indian Association for Women's Study

UPI ID: 084001000017542@IOB

Scan to Pay here

For Payment by Cheque

- Cheque to be cut in favour of: INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
- Kindly email a scan copy of the cheque deposited, the deposit receipt, your name and contact number to iawsnationalconf2027@gmail.com. The subject of the email must mention "Payment of Registration Fee for National Conference"

IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR THE CONFERENCE

Last date to submit an abstract for a paper: 10th September 2026

Intimation of selection of abstracts: 30th September 2026

Last date to submit a draft of the paper (5000 words): 1st December 2026

(*Full papers as drafts are encouraged to enable constructive feedback on presentations.)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR REGISTERING PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND FILM SCREENINGS

**Last date to submit a proposal for a
panel discussion/ round-table/ film screening:
10th September 2026**

**Google Form for registering a proposal for a panel
discussion / round-table:**

<https://forms.gle/CavArsx4fyMQ27sM8ding>



Google Form for registering a proposal for a film screening:

<https://forms.gle/ifvp6G111YMCP88w5>



IAWS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2024-27)

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Navsharan Singh (Northern Region Coordinator)	Shadab Bano (Editor, IAWS Newsletter)
Soibam Haripriya (North-East Region Coordinator)	

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR GENERAL QUERIES ON THE CONFERENCE

Conference Email Address:

iawsnationalconf2027@gmail.com

Address and Contact Number:

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