



Digitalising Welfare: Policy Architecture Governance Patterns and Social Transformation in India

RESEARCH TRAINING WORKSHOP



16-22 March 2026



Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi Campus Delhi

Organised by
Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
In collaboration with
Institute for Human Development, New Delhi

ABOUT THE TRAINING WORKSHOP

India is witnessing a historically significant transformation in welfare governance through digital platforms, Aadhaar-linked authentication, ration portability, health insurance claims processing, labour databases, and real-time monitoring systems. These mechanisms now constitute an emerging institutional architecture reshaping how the state determines eligibility, delivers benefits, and monitors welfare access.

This intensive research training workshop examines platform-based welfare governance as an analytical object in its own right. The workshop equips participants with integrated frameworks to understand how digital platforms produce **documented governance improvements in transparency and coordination, alongside persistent access barriers**, examining how institutional design features correlate with observed outcomes across welfare domains.

The workshop examines a striking pattern: Platform workers, whose employment operates entirely through digital infrastructure, remain largely invisible in national labour statistics, while welfare beneficiaries undergo mandatory biometric authentication for every transaction. This contrast raises fundamental questions about measurement politics, administrative visibility, and how platform governance determines whose economic activity and vulnerability become legible to the state.

THE WORKSHOP MOVES THROUGH THREE ANALYTICAL MOVEMENTS:

- Days 1-2: Domain-specific analysis of food security (ONORC, IM-PDS) and health insurance (PM-JAY, NHA)—examining governance gains and exclusion patterns
- Day 3: Re-centring through labour/employment/markets lens—platform effects on work, welfare access, and market structure
- Days 4-5.5: Fiscal federalism, welfare governance dynamics, and citizenship in the platform era

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- PhD students at any stage across relevant disciplines
- Early-career faculty
- Research professionals in think tanks, civil society organisations, or government research units

[AGE LIMIT BELOW 35 YEARS ON 25.02.2026]



RELEVANT DISCIPLINES INCLUDE:

Relevant disciplines include: sociology, economics, political science, law, public health, public policy, development studies, labour studies, urban studies, anthropology, science and technology studies

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Fit with workshop themes (statement of interest)
- Demonstrated analytical curiosity rather than pre-existing expertise
- Commitment to building a diverse cohort across disciplines, regions, and institutional locations

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:

30 (18 from Delhi/NCR, 12 from outside Delhi)

PLEASE NOTE:

- No participation fees.
- Accommodation and partial travel support available for outstation participants.
- Lunch and refreshments provided daily for all participants.

SUPPORT PROVIDED

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please submit:

- Current CV (maximum 2 pages)
- Statement of Interest (500-750 words) addressing: Your research/professional interests and how they relate to workshop themes. What analytical questions or challenges bring you to this workshop. What do you hope to gain from intensive engagement with platform welfare governance
- Brief institutional affiliation (current position, institution, location)

Application deadline: 25 February 2026

Notification of selection: 5 March 2026

WORKSHOP OUTPUTS

Participants will produce:

- Policy Brief (2,000 words, due April 4, 2026)
- Research Abstract (500-750 words, due April 11, 2026)

Completion certificates will be provided after submission of outputs.

COMPETITIVE MENTORSHIP TRACK:

Two participants with the strongest research abstracts will receive a six-month mentorship from the workshop faculty to develop publication-worthy papers.

FORMAT

The workshop combines:

- Anchor lectures and panel discussions
- Close reading of policy documents and legal texts
- Comparative state analysis exercises
- Small-group research design sessions
- Guided navigation of dashboards and administrative data portals
- Collective synthesis discussions

Daily sessions between 09:30-17:30 hrs with breaks.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Queries and applications should be sent to:
workshopdigitalwelfare@gmail.com

Workshop Coordinators:

Dr. Veena Naregal

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Institute websites:

Institute of Economic Growth: <https://iegindia.org>

Institute for Human Development: <https://ihdindia.org>

Please circulate widely among potential applicants.

