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## Law, Economics, Policy Conference (LEPC)

**LEPC VII: Growth Strategy in the States**

**December 8-10, 2025**

**Bengaluru, Karnataka**

The *Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET)*, New York, in collaboration with the *Government of Karnataka*, *Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)*, Bengaluru, *XKDR Forum*, *Vanderbilt Law School*, *University of Cambridge*, and *AP & Partners* is organizing the seventh edition of the Law, Economics, and Policy Conference (LEPC) from 8th to 10th December 2025 at Bengaluru.

### About LEPC

The LEPC is a flagship initiative of the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET), New York, USA designed to bring together leading voices in Law, Economics, and Public Policy to engage with complex, real-world challenges in a comprehensive and interdisciplinary manner. The Conference, launched in 2016 in New Delhi, is into the seventh year and is guided by a Steering Committee composed of distinguished experts from various fields.

This conference is led by a Steering Committee:

[Ajay Shah](#), [K P Krishnan](#), [Ila Patnaik](#), [Akshay Jaitly](#), [Sunanda Nair-Bidkar](#), [Ajit Ranade](#), [Anand Prasad](#), [Krishna Raj](#), [Shailaja Fennell](#), [Arjun Sinha](#), and [Yesha Yadav](#)

### Concept Note

#### **LEPC VII: *Growth Strategy in the States***

### Introduction

India's Western and Southern regions stand at the forefront of the nation's economic transformation, anchoring India's image as a globally competitive, outward-looking growth engine. These regions have powered advances in software, IT-enabled services, and export-driven manufacturing, with their success pivotal to India's ambition to double or even quadruple its GDP. Yet, the real drivers of such transformation reside at the subnational level, shaped decisively by state and city policy.

### Highlights

- The Southern & Western regions have emerged as the growth engine of India.
- The great successes of a globally competitive, outwardly oriented India, are found in these regions, ranging across software to IT enabled services to a new rise of export-oriented manufacturing. The next doubling and quadrupling of India's GDP critically relies on success in these states.
- Given the federalism that is embedded into the Constitution of India, many of the important aspects of this trajectory lie in policy decisions at the state and city levels.
- The activities in Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala are now disproportionately important in shaping India's future.
- LEPC VII will explore this economic success, diagnose the sources of this success, and discuss pathways for superior policy outcomes.

Karnataka has been identified as a forerunner state in India. As such, LEPC VII will bring together leading thinkers, practitioners, and policymakers in Bengaluru to analyze the drivers behind this sub national success, and to chart actionable pathways for the future. Each session outlined below explores a foundational dimension of India's growth story, with attention to both policy diagnosis and on-the-ground innovation.

## **Themes of the Sessions**

### **1. Improving the Lower Judiciary**

This session will examine how a responsive and efficient lower judiciary is poised to underpin economic dynamism and societal trust in India. The discussion could focus on models that could reduce case backlogs, introduce technological innovations, and promote capacity building for judicial officers. Comparative perspectives from both domestic and international contexts will inform deliberations on scalable reforms. The session will aim to discuss steps for state and city level improvements that can strengthen the judiciary's foundational role in supporting India's growth trajectory.

#### **Tentative Speakers:**

- High Court Judges
- Delaware Chancery Justices, United States
- Law Justice And Human Rights Department, Government of Karnataka
- Lower Judiciary Officers,
- Vanderbilt Law School

### **2. Ease of Doing Business and Export-Oriented Manufacturing**

This session will address the future of export-oriented manufacturing as a critical engine for economic growth. Discussions will focus on the factors driving international competitiveness, including infrastructure quality, workforce skills, regulatory frameworks, and technological adoption. Experts will exchange insights on how Indian firms may further their integration into global supply chains and the kinds of state support or policy modifications required. The goal will be to identify actionable strategies for expanding India's export footprint and ensuring that manufacturing remains a powerful lever for national development in the years ahead.

#### **Tentative Speakers:**

- Foxconn Representative
- Arvind Ltd
- Dr. Reddy's
- Apple
- Skill Development Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department, Government of Karnataka
- Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI)
- Government of Tamil Nadu
- Government of Gujarat

### **3. Urban: Sustainable Cities**

As India's urbanization accelerates, this session will explore solutions for creating cities that are more livable, productive, and sustainable. The discussion is set to delve into successful models for urban planning, participatory governance, and innovative financing of urban services. Experts will discuss how public, private, and civil society collaborations may help to tackle persistent urban challenges such as congestion and infrastructure deficits.

#### **Tentative Speakers:**

- CEPT University
- Janaagraha
- Urban Development Department, Government of Karnataka
- University of Cambridge
- Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL)
- Revenue Department, Government of Karnataka
- Global Urban Planners

### **4. Economic Growth Strategy for Karnataka**

This session will be devoted to formulating state-level economic growth strategies that are both regionally relevant and climate consistent. The conversation will explore the integration of environmental sustainability within development plans, as well as approaches for leveraging state-specific strengths in human capital, innovation, and industrial policy. Policy makers will discuss frameworks that could shape future economic trajectories, seeking to ensure inclusive, resilient, and rapid progress across diverse Indian states.

#### **Tentative Speakers:**

- Finance Department, Government of Karnataka
- Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics Department, Government of Karnataka
- XKDR Forum
- Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)
- Department Of Tourism, Government of Karnataka
- Labour Department, Government of Karnataka

### **5. Public Finance**

The future of subnational public finance in India will be at the centre of this session. Discussions will shed light on ways to modernize revenue mobilization, enhance fiscal transparency, and utilize new mechanisms for financing public services and infrastructure. Policymakers and

experts will examine success stories and barriers to reform, aiming to outline actionable pathways for empowering cities and states to independently drive transformative investments and service delivery.

**Tentative Speakers:**

- Revenue Department, Government of Karnataka
- Finance Department, Government of Karnataka
- National Institute of Public Finance and Policy
- Fiscal Policy Institute, Government of Karnataka
- XKDR Forum
- Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)
- Vanderbilt Law School

## **6. Social Welfare and Development**

This session will focus on how states might enhance their capability to design and deliver effective social welfare programs, ensuring that the benefits of growth are equitably distributed. Discussions will explore how innovations in service delivery, digital governance, and targeted and direct benefit transfers may be leveraged to improve outcomes in reducing poverty, health, education, nutrition, and social protection. Panelists will consider programme such as 5 guarantee schemes for measuring impact, overcoming administrative challenges, and building adaptive systems that respond to diverse community needs. The goal will be to discuss a course for states to evolve as proficient agents of inclusive social transformation, moving from welfare intent to effective last-mile implementation.

**Tentative Speakers:**

- Social Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka
- Department of Labour, Government of Karnataka
- Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka
- Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)

## **7. The Chokepoint of the Energy (Electricity) Sector**

This session will highlight grassroot level work done in this sector with some new knowledge specifically in Karnataka and Maharashtra. The problems in the electricity sector in Tamil Nadu from the viewpoint of the economic growth strategy will be explored and discussed.

**Tentative Speakers:**

- Energy Department, Government of Karnataka
- Commissionerate of Health & Family Welfare Services, Government of Karnataka
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
- Trustbridge Rule of Law Foundation

## **8. The Journey to Change**

Sessions on policy reform will focus on the evolving nature of change within India's states highlighting how governments, officials, and experts may collaborate more effectively. The discussions will center around managing reform coalitions, translating evidence into practice, and

methods for overcoming resistance to change. By sharing practical lessons and case studies, the session will seek to discuss framework for initiating, sustaining, and institutionalizing impactful reform.

**Tentative Speakers:**

- Academics
- Policy Makers
- Nobel Laureate
- Global thinkers
- Civil Society Organization
- University of Cambridge

**9. New Kinds of Measurement**

This session will highlight emerging methodologies and technologies for measuring progress at city, district, and state levels. The conversation will focus on how new forms of measurement can inform better policy, increase accountability, and improve service delivery. Experts will review case studies on independent evaluation, public data, and the impact of measurement frameworks on program design. The intended outcome is to catalyze a wider adoption of evidence-driven governance practices that enhance learning and adaptive policymaking. There are big gains happening on the facts at a per-city or district or state level

**Tentative Speakers:**

- XKDR Forum
- ID Insight
- Policy Makers
- Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)
- University of Cambridge

**Venue**

LEPC will be a three-day conference

**First Day:** December 8, 2025.

Venue: **Dr B R Ambedkar Bhavan, Vasanth Nagar,**

**Bengaluru**| Inauguration

**Second Day:** December 9, 2025.

Venue: **The LaLit Ashok, Bengaluru**

**Third Day:** December 10, 2025.

Venue: **The LaLit Ashok, Bengaluru**

**Organizers & Partners**

[The Institute for New Economic Thinking \(INET\), New York, USA](#)

[Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, India](#)

[Government of Karnataka, India](#)

[XKDR Forum, Mumbai, India](#)

[AP & Partners, New Delhi, India](#)

[Vanderbilt Law School, USA](#)

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