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!! Tamso Maa Jyotir Gamay !!

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Editorial

It is our privilege and pride to present the proceedings of the 102nd Annual Conference of the Indian Economic Association (IEA) being organised during 27-29 December, 2019 at the prestigious Auro University, Surat, Gujarat.

India's economy is currently passing through economic transformation brought about by the dynamic reforms that have benefitted almost all sections of the society. But growth is a complex process, and the economy continues to face diverse challenges. Whereas the IEA has been intensely debating these issues, the themes to be delved into during this conference are:

- I. Universal Basic Income Scheme for India;
- II. Banking Sector Reforms;
- III. Paradigm Shift and New Policy Initiatives;
- IV. Indian Economic Thought: Major Works and Contributions; and
- V. Challenges before Gujarat Economy: A Way Ahead.

Response of the scholars from all across the country to our call for well-researched papers has been quite encouraging. Encouraging wide and quality participation will be the hallmark of the Conference. Conferring awards on distinguished persons in recognition of their significant contribution in the subject of Economics and economic policy is the age long tradition of the IEA. Inspired by the tradition, Atal Bihari Bajpai Award will be presented to distinguished person who has contributed in the field of Economic Development in India. (Mrs) Ashok Sablok Memorial Gold Medal will be given for Best Conference Paper. An innovative initiative from this year is the Best Academic Participation Award— two in each of the four thematic sessions— which will be awarded after adjudication. Four Awards will be given for Best Paper Presentation in each thematic area to the Young Economists up to 40 years of age.

We look forward to quality interactions particularly by young economists and scholars in the Conference which will provide them an opportunity to sharpen their abilities and knowledge in the mentioned thematic areas.

On behalf of the office bearers of the IEA, the Executive Committee members and the members of the organising committee, we extend a warm welcome to the contributors and the scholars, and exhort them to participate wholeheartedly in the Conference. Finally, we understand that organising a conference of this stature and size is a real challenge, but our task has been greatly simplified by the unstinted support and cooperation extended by the Auro University, Surat (Gujarat), especially Prof. Rohit Singh and the entire faculty, which is thankfully acknowledged here. We hope that the Conference will be a grand success.

V.K. Malhotra

D.K. Madaan