



**ITEC- TISS International Faculty Development
Programme**
On
“Building Bridges in Social Sciences”

In Collaboration with
Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, ITEC
Ministry Of External Affairs, Government of India

Hosted by
Office for International Affairs
Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Background

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, is the leading capacity building platform of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Instituted in 1964, ITEC is one of the oldest institutionalised arrangements for international capacity building, having trained more than 200,000 officials from 160+ countries in both the civilian and defence sectors.

Building on India's vast and rich network of governance- and development-related expertise available in higher educational institutions and training facilities, ITEC offers nearly 10,000 fully-funded in-person training opportunities through nearly 400 courses offered at 100+ eminent institutes in India each year. As a result of different activities under this programme, there is now a visible and growing awareness among other countries about the competence of India as a provider of technical know-how and expertise as well as training opportunities, consultancy services and feasibility studies. These programmes have generated immense goodwill and substantive cooperation among the developing countries.

Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) is a community-engaged Social Science University, established in 1936. TISS was started as Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work, and in 1964, it was granted the Deemed University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. Since its inception, the institute's vision has been to be an institution of excellence in higher education that continually responds to changing social realities through the development and application of knowledge, towards creating a people-centred, ecologically sustainable and just society that promotes and protects dignity, equality, social justice and human rights for all.

TISS has evolved as an educational ecosystem where students learn to ideate, innovate and translate what they learn to bring about change in society. It is a space where classroom learning is blended with exposure to the field, communities, institutions, and corporate houses. It is also the space where courses and programmes are developed to address societal and national level challenges, and where faculty and students co-create model field action projects for bringing people

Programme Introduction

Building Bridges in Social Sciences is a Faculty Development Programme designed for academicians working in the Social Sciences. It aims to highlight India's dynamic growth story and vibrant democracy as a unique perspective for tackling a range of global issues. It emphasises incorporating grassroots perspectives, ideas, and methods—especially those from the Global South and the Indian subcontinent—to enrich conversations on how India's strategies in governance, sustainability, social change, and innovation are shaping both domestic life and international development. By taking examples of India's rapid economic

progress, lively social movements, innovative policies, and democratic spirit provide valuable models and lessons for other regions.

The programme aims to strengthen teaching, research, and scholarly engagement by fostering international academic exchange and creating a platform for dialogue across countries, disciplines, and methodological traditions. It seeks to deepen participants' engagement with global and comparative social science debates, promote innovative and interdisciplinary pedagogical and research approaches, and facilitate the sharing of diverse regional perspectives. Through interactive sessions, collaborative learning, and scholarly exchange, the programme aspires to build sustained international research networks while enhancing faculty capacities for knowledge production that addresses pressing global social challenges.

Programme Objective

The programme aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To critically engage faculty with India's digital transformation and development experiences as frameworks for understanding governance, participation, and inclusion in shaping globally relevant social science knowledge.
2. To strengthen capacities to integrate local contexts, cultural perspectives, and community knowledge into research and teaching, linking them to global sustainability discourses and the SDGs.
3. To foster interdisciplinary approaches to global social science by examining diverse narratives, methods, and evidence, enabling faculty to move beyond case-study models toward knowledge co-production.
4. To support the internationalisation of higher education through pedagogical innovation, collaborative research, and practice-based learning that connects Indian experiences with global academic debates.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, it is hoped that the participants will be able to

1. Critically engage with global and comparative social science debates across multiple disciplinary and regional contexts.
2. Apply innovative and interdisciplinary research methodologies to their own social science research.
3. Develop and sustain international academic networks that facilitate collaborative research, publications, and scholarly exchange.
4. Translate social science research into socially relevant outputs, including policy-oriented, public-facing, or interdisciplinary initiatives.

Dates and Duration

Date: 11 to 16 May 2026

Duration: 1 week

Programme Structure

The Faculty development programme retains a blended structure **combining 30 hours of classroom-based learning and 15 hours of experiential learning**. It balances theoretical understanding with field immersion, emphasising practical applications and peer exchange.

1. Classroom Component (30 hours)

- Lectures and interactive discussions led by international faculty, senior academicians, and invited experts
- Thematic sessions covering:
 - India Beyond the Case study: Producing Global Social Science
 - Global Discourse in Social Sciences: Narratives, Methods, and Evidence of Transformation
 - India's Digital Transformation as a Global Model: Governance, Participation, and Inclusion
 - Local complexities and contexts in shaping global research agendas

2. Experiential Learning Component (15 hours)

- Hands-on methodology workshops and practical demonstrations
- Peer-review sessions for developing and refining research ideas
- Panel discussions and roundtables with international scholars
- Collaborative group work focused on developing joint research concepts or proposals
- Structured networking and academic exchange activities

Eligibility:

The programme is open to faculty members, researchers, and academicians working in the social sciences disciplines.