

Special Talk by Dr. Shamika Ravi (28th October 2026)

Dr. Shamika Ravi, Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and Secretary to the Government of India, visited the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, on 28th October 2026 and delivered a special talk on theme “Growth and Development Trajectories in India.”

Dr. Shamika Ravi visited the new building of IIPS and interacted with faculty members and administrative staff. The interaction provided an opportunity to exchange views on the Institute’s achievements, ongoing challenges, future priorities, and opportunities for institutional growth and development. Discussions also focused on strengthening the Institute’s academic and administrative functions and enhancing its contribution to research and policy formulation.

The special talk commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Sanjay K. Mohanty, Director and Sr. Professor, IIPS, followed by an introduction of the speaker by Prof. Nandita Saikia. During her talk, titled “New Data & New Evidence,” Dr. Shamika Ravi discussed India's development trajectory, focusing on poverty reduction, changes in consumption patterns, labour market challenges, the spatial distribution of economic growth, and the emerging role of new data sources in understanding development.

The presentation highlighted the reported decline in poverty between 2011–12 and 2023–24, alongside improvements in food consumption and dietary diversity, particularly among the poorest population groups. Further, the speaker emphasised the potential of high-resolution satellite imagery and other new data sources to analyse the spatial distribution of economic growth, as well as the influence of economic narratives and geopolitics on development discourse.

The talk was engaging and stimulating, followed by an interactive question-and-answer session with students and faculty members, which facilitated meaningful discussions and the exchange of ideas with the speaker. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Reshmi R. S. Overall, the event provided valuable insights into India’s changing development landscape and underscored the importance of evidence-based analysis in understanding economic and social transformation.









