



Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bengaluru
is organizing



3rd National Conference of Association of Psychiatric Social Work Professionals

THEME

**Embracing diversity in health and well-being
for Viksit Bharat 2047**



19th to 21st November 2026



NIMHANS, Bengaluru



Conference Registration

Link: <https://forms.gle/xjSGuf4xz6SEjGCz9>

Abstract Submission

Link: <https://forms.gle/gtPzfGfy7K2JHF2z9>



WELCOME FROM THE ORGANIZERS

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you to the 3rd National Conference of the Association of Psychiatric Social Work Professionals (APSWP), organized by the Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, and APSWP. The conference aims to bring together researchers, healthcare professionals, academics and students to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and explore diverse and innovative approaches in mental health and psychiatric social work. The conference provides a vibrant platform for dialogues, collaborations and innovations. Together, let us inspire change, share knowledge, and advance mental health and wellbeing innovations. We look forward to an enriching and memorable conference experience.

ABOUT NIMHANS

National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), designated as an Institute of National Importance (INI) under India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is a global leader in mental healthcare, research, and education. Renowned for setting clinical benchmarks, pioneering translational research, and shaping national mental health policies, NIMHANS adopts a multidisciplinary approach to advancing neuroscience and psychiatry. As India's largest training hub for mental health professionals, it equips medical, paramedical, nursing personnel and allied health professionals with cutting-edge skills to address the nation's growing healthcare needs.

Nestled across 135 lush acres in Bengaluru, NIMHANS combines state-of-the-art facilities with compassionate care, fostering healing and wellbeing. Its innovative technologies and expert workforce dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, and research, solidify its status as a centre of specialized expertise.

(www.nimhans.ac.in)

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Psychiatric Social Work at NIMHANS marks 60 years of pioneering contributions to clinical practice, education, and research in the field of mental health. As a leader in psychosocial care, the department enhances quality of life for individuals, families, and communities through innovative interventions at both the micro and macro levels. It conducts specialized training and capacity-building programs for professionals and allied health professionals, strengthening clinical and community-based mental health services across India. Collaborating with government agencies, NGOs, and international partners, the department drives initiatives in stigma reduction, rehabilitation, and human rights advocacy, focusing on vulnerable groups including children, women, and the elderly. Committed to indigenous research, the department designs culturally relevant assessment tools and psychosocial programs, while advancing academic excellence through its Master's (previously MPhil) and PhD programs in Psychiatric social work.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The Association of Psychiatric Social Work Professionals (APSWP) was born out of the collective need expressed by professionals across India for a body that takes up the cause for the profession and for the professionals. The APSWP came into existence in November 2019. APSWP makes a concerted effort to protect professional interests, facilitate set standards for professional practice and propagate the ethical values intrinsic to the profession. The Association strives to promote solidarity, standards and ethics within the Psychiatric social work profession and to take the profession forward to newer heights.



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Patron

Dr. Y.C. Janardhan Reddy
(Director, NIMHANS)

Organising Secretary

Dr. N. Janardhana
(Professor & Head, Dept of PSW, NIMHANS)

Joint Organising Secretary

Dr. E. Aravind Raj
(President, APSWP)

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Dr. Supraja. T. A**

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Dr. Dhansekara Pandian, Dr. Muthuraju. A

Accommodation & Transport Committee

Dr. L. Ponnuchamy

Venue, Stage, Technical, Cultural Committee

**Dr. Aarti Jagannathan, Dr. Priya Treasa Thomas
Dr. Birudu Raju**

APSWP Officer Bearers

President: Dr. E. Aravind Raj
Vice-President: Dr. Aarti Jagannathan
Secretary: Dr. Renjith R. Pillai
Treasurer: Dr. G. Ragesh
Joint Secretary: Dr. Supraja T.A

Executive Committee Members

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Dr. Chetan Sauba Diwan
Dr. Arif Ali
Dr. Shreedevi A.U.
Dr. Sreekanth Thekkumkara
Mr. Putta Maregowda

CONFERENCE ADVISORS

- Dr. Ramesh B, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dr. Kalpana Sarathy, Professor & Dean, School of Social Work, TISS, Guwahati, Assam.
- Dr. Channaveera R. M, Head & Dean, Department of Graduate Studies in Social Work, Central University of Karnataka, Kalburgi, Karnataka.
- Dr. Sonia Pereira Deuri, Professor & Head, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, LGBRIMH, Tezpur, Assam.
- Dr. Jagadisha Thirthalli, Professor & Head, Department of Psychiatry, and Dean of Behavioural Sciences, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dr. Rajaram Subbian, Executive Director, Basic Needs India, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dr. Sanjai Bhatt, President, National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI).
- Dr. B. P. Nirmala, Retired Professor & Head, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dr. Ashok A D'Souza, Professor & Chairman, Department of Social Work, Kitturu Rani Channamma University, Belagavi, Karnataka.
- Dr. K. John Vijay Sagar, Professor & Head, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dr. Jahanara M Gajendragad, Professor & Head, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS), Delhi.
- Dr. Paulomi Sudhir, Professor & Head, Department of Clinical Psychology, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dr. Rameela Shekhar, Mental Health Professional & Trainer, Manashanthi Counselling Research and Training Centre, Mangalore, Karnataka.
- Dr. Mariamma Philip, Professor & Head, Department of Biostatistics, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dr. Subhasis Bhadra, Professor & Head, Department of Psychosocial Support in Disaster Management, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dr. Manisha Kiran, Professor & Head, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, Ranchi Institute of Neuro Psychiatry and Allied Sciences (RINPAS), Kanke, Ranchi, Jharkhand.

- Dr. Anita V. Rego, Founder Director of PEARLSS 4 Development Pvt. Ltd., Mangalore, Karnataka.
- Dr. Srilatha Juvva, Professor, Centre for Equity and Justice for Children and Families, School of Social Work -TISS, Mumbai Campus, Maharashtra.
- Dr. Mamatha Swain, Assistant Professor, Mental Health Institute (COE), SEB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, Odisha.
- Dr. Nand Kumar Singh, Head of the Department of Psychiatric Social Work, Gwalior, Mansik, Arogyashala, Jail Road, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- Dr. Praful Kapse, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, Maharashtra Institute of Mental Health (MIMH), Pune, Maharashtra.
- Dr. Bhupendra Singh, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, Institute of Mental Health, UHS, Rohtak, Haryana.
- Dr. Bornali Das, Senior Lecturer of PSW, Department of Psychiatry, Gauhati Medical College & Hospital, Guwahati, Assam.
- Dr. Sophia Fernandes, Principal, Roshini Nilaya (Autonomous), Mangalore, Karnataka.
- Dr. Seema P. Uthaman, Vice Principal & Head, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, IMHANS, Kozhikode, Kerala.
- Dr. Sobhana H, Associate Professor of Psychiatric Social Work, LGB Regional Institute of Mental Health (LGBRIMH), Tezpur, Assam.
- Dr. Ketki Ranade, Assistant Professor, Centre for Health and Mental Health, School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai Campus, Maharashtra.
- Dr. Prashant Srivastava, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- Dr. Sangeetha R. Mane, Professor & Chairman, Department of Social Work, Karnataka University, Dharwad, Karnataka.
- Dr. Apurba Saha, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Social Work, Karnataka University, Dharwad, Karnataka.
- Dr. Bharathi, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Social Work, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dr. Mayank Kumar, Assistant Professor & Head, IOP - COE, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Dr. R Prakash Rajaram, Retired Professor, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dr. Vasundara S Nair, Assistant Professor and Associate Dean- Academic Affairs, Institute of Behavioural Sciences, O.P Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana.
- Dr. Shalini K Sharma, Counsellor and Freelance trainer, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dr. Tara Chacko, Partner & PSW Consultant, Zeitgeist, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Dr. Shikha Tyagi, Assistant Professor, Psychiatric Social Work, GMCH, Chandigarh.
- Dr. Soyuz John, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, Karnataka.
- Dr. Sunita Kumari, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, Centre for Excellence in Mental Health, ABVIMS & Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi.
- Dr. Sateesh Koujalagi, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, Dharwad Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience, Dharwad, Karnataka.
- Dr. Dipanjan Bhattacharjee, Assistant Professor, School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- Dr. Pradeep Kumar P.C, Assistant Professor, JSS Medical College, Mysuru, Karnataka.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submit abstracts for papers, posters, symposia, and workshops. Abstracts should include an Introduction, Methodology, Results, Conclusion, and 3-5 keywords. Format submissions in Times New Roman or Arial, 12-point font, with 1.5-line spacing, in a 250-word MS Word document. For poster presentations, a space of 100 cm (height) by 50 cm (width) will be allocated. Charts and drawings must have self-explanatory titles. Authors are responsible for printing and bringing their posters. Include Title, Author details (names, designations, affiliations and email) of the author(s). The Presenting author(s) is/are required to register for the conference. Provide a declaration of conflict of interest and funding details, if any.

Theme: Embracing diversity in health and well-being for Viksit Bharat 2047.

Subthemes:

- Health, mental health and well-being across generations and the life span
- Family-centred interventions for holistic health and wellbeing
- The triad of progress in health and mental health: innovations in social work training, research, and practice
- Social work interventions in clinical settings (mental health, neurology, neurosurgery, and general health)
- Health and well-being in diverse communities
- Digital health and wellbeing
- Novel approaches and innovations in health and wellbeing research
- The Invisible Crisis: Climate Change and Mental Health
- Innovations in translational healthcare
- Enhancing mental health and wellbeing across diverse communities: agenda for Viksit Bharat 2047
- Nature – based Social Work Interventions
- Forensic Social Work

AWARDS AND NORMS

- Best paper award for post-graduates in Social Work/Psychiatric Social Work
- Best paper award for PhD Scholars in Social Work/Psychiatric Social Work
- Best paper award for Social Work/PSW Practitioners
- Best paper award for Social Work Faculty
- Best poster award

General Norms for Award Submission

- Only registered participants are eligible to contest for awards and receive a certificate.
- A participant can apply only for one award category.

- The presenting author must be the first author and will be the recipient of the award.
- A soft copy of the full paper must be submitted along with a covering letter to the conference organizing committee via email at apswpconference2026@gmail.com. The email should clearly mention the award category. The deadline for submission is 15 October 2026.
- Only original research articles and case reports (including psychosocial intervention and discussion) that have not been published in any journal will be considered for the award category.

SPECIAL AWARDS AND GUIDELINES

1. Dr R. S. Bhatti Memorial Award

The Dr R. S. Bhatti Memorial Award has been established in honour of Dr R. S. Bhatti, former Professor & Head of the Department of Psychiatric Social Work, and Consultant at the Family Psychiatry Centre, NIMHANS, Bengaluru. This award will be presented to the best research paper submitted in the field of Family Mental Health.

2. Dr R. Parthasarathy Memorial Award

The Dr R. Parthasarathy Memorial Award is instituted in memory of Dr R. Parthasarathy, former Professor & Head of the Department of Psychiatric Social Work, and Consultant at the Community Psychiatry Unit and Family Psychiatry Centre, NIMHANS, Bengaluru. This award will be given to the best research paper in the field of Student and Community Mental Health.

Guidelines for Dr R. S. Bhatti and Dr R. Parthasarathy Memorial Awards

- The first author, who will also be the presenting and corresponding author, must be a life member of the Association of Psychiatric Social Work Professionals (APSWP).
- The first author must present the paper at the National Conference of APSWP and submit the full manuscript.
- Submissions must be original research (qualitative or quantitative). Meta-analyses, systematic reviews, case studies, and case series are also eligible. The paper must adhere to the Instructions for Manuscript Preparation.
- A panel of at least three judges from the field of Psychiatric Social Work, appointed by the conference organising committee, will evaluate the submissions and presentation.

- The submitted paper must not have been previously presented, published, accepted for publication, or submitted elsewhere.
- Only one paper is allowed for submission for one award.
- A soft copy of the full paper must be submitted to the Organising Secretary (or a designated person as per the APSWP website, Organising Institute, or Conference Brochure) before by 15th October at apswpconference2026@gmail.com
- The paper will be evaluated based on the written manuscript (75%) and paper presentation (25%).
- Judging panel members cannot be contestants for this award or co-authors in any submission for this award. However, they may compete in other award categories.
- Certificates will be issued to all authors of the winning paper.
- Prize winners are free to publish the award-winning paper in any reputed journals of their choice, with proper acknowledgement of the award.
- Award winners will be announced during the valedictory function of the conference.
- The decision of the Judging Panel and Executive Council shall be final and binding.

REGISTRATION ENTITLEMENTS

- Access to the Opening Ceremony.
- Participation in Plenary/Technical Sessions.
- Conference Kit.
- Food and refreshments.
- Entry to Cultural Activities.
- Attendance at the Closing Ceremony.
- Certificate of Participation.
- Conference kit for spot registrants is subject to availability.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Systematic Reviews & Meta-Analysis:

- Follow PRISMA guidelines.

Case Studies / Case Series:

- Case Presentation
- Management & Outcome
- Discussion
- References (Vancouver Style)

Original Research (Quantitative):

- Title
- Abstract
- Background
- Methodology
- Results, Discussion, and Conclusion
- References (Vancouver Style)

Original Research (Qualitative):

- Title
- Abstract
- Problem Formulation and Research Question
- Research Design and Methods of Data Collection & Analysis
- Results, Interpretation, Discussion, and Integration
- References (Vancouver Style)

POSTER PRESENTATION TEMPLATE

should include:

- Abstract (100 words)
- Aim/Objectives
- Materials and Methodology
- Results
- Conclusions
- References (4-5)

Participant Category	Early Bird Member On or Before 20 th September	Early Bird Non Member On or Before 20 th September	Regular Member	Regular Non Member	Spot Registration
MSW	-	₹1,500	-	₹2,000	₹2,500
M.Phil. PSW / PhD	₹1,500	₹2,000	₹2,000	₹2,500	₹3,000
Faculty / Professional	₹3,000	₹3,500	₹3,500	₹4,000	₹4,500
International Delegates	US\$100	US\$125	US\$125	US\$150	US\$150

Note: Registration fee is not refundable.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last date for Early Bird Registration :
On or before 20th September 2026

Last date for submission of Workshop Proposal:
On or before 30th September 2026

Last date for Submission of Abstracts and Workshop Proposals :
On or before 30th September 2026

Last date for Full Paper Submission:
On or before 15th October 2026

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL

Accommodation: Participants who require accommodation inside the campus are requested to send an email after completing the conference registration to the Accommodation & Transport Committee chairperson, Dr. L. Ponnuchamy, at

accommodationapswp@gmail.com

*Accommodation is limited, please book early.

Travel: Participants are required to make their own travel arrangements. The organisers will not provide transportation or reimburse travel expenses.

Registration Fee Payment

Account name: APSWP Conference 2026

Account no: 45477554010

Bank name: State Bank of India (SBI)

Branch Name: NIMHANS

IFSC: SBIN0040675

MICR Code: 560002480

Conference Registration

Link: <https://forms.gle/xjSGuf4xz6SEjGCz9>



Abstract Submission

Link: <https://forms.gle/gtPzfGfy7K2JHF2z9>

Contact Us: apswpconference2026@gmail.com

HOW TO REACH THE CONFERENCE VENUE

The conference venue is **National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)**, Hosur Road/Marigowda Road, Lakkasandra, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru, Karnataka – **560029**.

Distance from major transport points:

- Kempegowda International Airport: 40 km
- KSR Bengaluru City Railway Station: 8 km
- Kempegowda Bus Station (Majestic): 7 km

From Kempegowda International Airport: Participants can reach NIMHANS by airport taxi or BMTC Vayu Vajra airport shuttle services. The journey generally takes participants through central Bengaluru towards Hosur Road and NIMHANS Junction.

From Bengaluru City Railway Station / Majestic: NIMHANS can be reached via Corporation, Hudson Circle and Double Road/ KH Road towards Lal Bagh, followed by the route to NIMHANS Junction. BMTC buses, taxis and auto-rickshaws are readily available.

NIMHANS Address:

National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)

Hosur Road / Marigowda Road

Lakkasandra, Wilson Garden

Bengaluru – 560029, Karnataka, India

<http://www.nimhans.ac.in/>

Hotels nearby	Contacts	Approx. distance
The Porch Inn Hotel/Service Apartments.	8550800800	0.8 km
Hotel Pai Viceroy, Jayanagar	8722804022	2-3 km
Grand Empark	9342525457	1-2 km
Temple Tree Hotel	080 - 46622000	2 km
Hotel Ur Comforts Jayanagar	080 - 42161111	2-3 km
Treebo Zion	9322800100	1-2 km
Hotel Empark	080 - 26562255	1-2 km
SAHARA inn	9986126776	1 km
SAPPHIRE Inn	080 - 48903232	1 km
Hotel New Dreams Inn	9980966632	1 km