



Institute of Actuaries of India

Statutory body established under an Act of Parliament

Unit No. F-206, 2nd Floor, F Wing, Tower II, Seawoods Grand Central,
Plot no R-1, Sector 40, Nerul Road, Navi Mumbai - 400706
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Joint Conference on Pensions (JCP)

Theme: Sustainable Pension Systems - A Socio-Economic Imperative to Viksit Bharat

Date: TBD (Towards the End of June or first week of July 2026)

Venue: New Delhi

A: Introduction:

As India marches toward the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, the demographic transition toward an ageing society presents both a challenge and a strategic opportunity. With the elderly population projected to double by 2050 and a vast majority of the workforce remaining in the unorganised sector and the architectural integrity of our retirement framework has never been more critical. Building Sustainable Pension Systems is no longer just a social welfare goal but an economic imperative to ensure fiscal stability, intergenerational equity and a dignified life for every citizen.

According to the UN WPP 2024, India's median age is projected to rise from 28 today to 37 by 2047. . This shift suggests that the window to leverage a vast youthful workforce is closing. To sustain growth, India must transition from its initial demographic dividend to a "second dividend" by accumulating substantial pension assets. These assets would provide the long-term capital investment needed to drive development as the population ages. Ultimately, this transition is not guaranteed; it depends entirely on the implementation of strategic policy frameworks.

In this context, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and the Institute of Actuaries of India (IAI) are organizing the Joint Conference on Pension (JCP) at New Delhi tentatively towards the end of June or first week of July 2026. This conference provides a vital forum for discussing the penetration and growth of pension assets for Viksit Bharat in 2047, where elderly citizens live with dignity and accumulated capital fuels advanced national development. The agenda covers global perspectives on economic, environmental, and social hurdles, showcasing diverse international strategies. The discussions will span economic, environmental, and social challenges, reflecting the diverse experiences and strategies from around the world.

JCP 2026 aims to bring together scholars, practitioners, and industry experts from across the globe to engage in meaningful dialogue, share ground breaking research findings, and explore innovative solutions. The conference will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions, and research presentations that will provide insights into various aspects of pension management, investment strategies, regulatory frameworks, and social security systems.

About PFRDA

Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is a statutory body in India established to oversee and regulate the pension sector, with a mandate to promote old age income security by establishing, developing and regulating pension funds and to protect the interests of subscribers to schemes of pension funds.

PFRDA regulates the National Pension System (NPS), a defined contribution pension scheme for the citizens of India, which has been adopted by the Central Government, State Governments, many Corporates, Public



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Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of India for their employees. Any Indian, including non-resident Indians and Overseas Citizens of India, aged zero to eighty-five, can open a NPS Account for their retirement planning.

In addition to NPS, PFRDA is administering the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), a government guaranteed contributory pension scheme aimed at creating a universal social security system for all Indians especially the unorganized sector.

PFRDA has significantly contributed to old age income security and socio-economic development by ensuring orderly growth and development of the pension sector. PFRDA has recently introduced retirement schemes for children (NPS Vatsalya) and gig / platform workers (NPS e-Shramik).

About IAI

The Institute of Actuaries of India (IAI) is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament, viz. The Actuaries Act, 2006 for regulating the profession of Actuaries in India. The nodal ministry for the Institute is Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

The affairs of the IAI are managed by a Council in accordance with the provisions of the Actuaries Act, 2006. The Council consists of 12 elected fellow members and 3 persons nominated by Central Government. Currently, two government nominees are from Department of Financial Services and one from Insurance Regulatory Development Authority.

The erstwhile Actuarial Society of India (ASI) was established in September 1944. Since 1979, the ASI has been a Full Member of International Actuarial Association (an umbrella organization to all actuarial bodies across the world) and is actively involved in its affairs. In 1982, the ASI was registered under Registration of Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act XXI of 1860 and Bombay Public Charitable Trust Act, 1950. In 1989, the ASI started examinations upto Associate level, and in 1991, started conducting Fellowship level examination leading to professional qualification of an actuary. Till then, the accreditation was based on Institute of Actuaries, London examinations (now Institute and Faculty of Actuaries).

The Objectives of IAI are as under:

- To promote, uphold and develop the standards of professional education, training, knowledge, practice and conduct amongst Actuaries
- To promote the status of the Actuarial profession
- To regulate the practice by the Members of the profession of Actuary
- To promote, in the public interest, knowledge and research in all the matters relevant to Actuarial Science and its application; and
- To do all such things as may be incidental or conducive to the above objects or any of them.

B: Call for Papers and Presentations:

The Joint Conference on Pensions (JCP) invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) for papers and presentations from actuaries, academics, and industry professionals. Submissions should align with the conference theme with the aim to discuss various facets of establishing a scalable, sustainable, and equitable socio-economic framework to ensure sustainable, secure and adequate pensions for India's ageing population. Beyond retirement dignity, the conference serves as a global platform to share thought leadership, case studies, and practical insights on building successful, high-impact retirement systems.



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Conference Tracks

Track 1 - Leveraging product innovation to vitalize pension adoption and establish a fully pensioned society for Viksit Bharat 2047

This track invites innovative product designs for contributory pension systems aimed at increasing adoption across India, including corporates as well as the informal and unorganized sectors, gig and platform workers, MSMEs, the self-employed, farmers, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and populations in the North-East. Contributions may explore multi-model pension systems and approaches to socio-economic targeting to expand coverage.

The concept of a fully pensioned society under Viksit Bharat 2047 envisions a robust and inclusive retirement savings ecosystem that is contributory, sustainable, and independent of Government support. Such a system should provide adequate, fair, and equitable pensions that enable the elderly population to live with dignity in old age.

Submissions may focus on designing inclusive and cost-effective pension products that improve outreach and participation, along with innovative investment approaches that enhance long-term sustainability and adequacy of retirement income. Strategies for expanding pension coverage may include developing multi-model pension frameworks, improving access for informal and vulnerable populations, strengthening investment design, and proposing administrative or policy reforms. The submissions may also include leveraging technology like Artificial Intelligence, Machine learning (ML) and data analytics to achieve the outcomes outlined above.

Track 2 - Investment practices and asset mix for long-term horizons (30-60 years)

Innovative investment practices in the pension industry are increasingly driven by the need to identify and access new asset classes that can potentially deliver higher, stable, and sustainable returns over long-term, multi-decade horizons. Such horizons require investment strategies that not only enhance returns but also ensure resilience, predictability, and effective risk management across economic cycles. These extended timeframes are to be aligned with the nature of pension liabilities and future payout obligations.

Key innovative practices that merit deeper exploration include diversification into alternative asset classes such as private equity, infrastructure, and real assets. The integration of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) factors is also becoming central to aligning financial performance with long-term societal and environmental outcomes.

In addition, the adoption of advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) for data analytics, risk assessment, and portfolio optimization is transforming investment processes. Approaches such as Liability-Driven Investing (LDI), dynamic de-risking strategies, and life-cycling frameworks are gaining prominence in better matching assets with liabilities over time.

Increasingly, there is also a shift toward the customization of investment solutions and the development of hybrid models that combine multiple strategies to enhance flexibility, efficiency, and long-term portfolio robustness over both the accumulation and the decumulation phase.



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Track 3- Enhancing the contributory pension systems through flexible, predictable and assured deaccumulation options

This track invites research contributions and practitioner insights into the decumulation phase –balancing flexibility and predictability within Defined Contribution (DC) pension schemes. As individuals increasingly bear responsibility for managing retirement income, there is a growing need to design decumulation frameworks that move beyond static heuristics and one-size-fits-all approaches. We seek submissions that explore more adaptive, personalized strategies, including safe withdrawal approaches that are aligned with increasing longevity, evolving market conditions, and heterogeneous risk preferences.

Key themes for exploration include:

- **Personalized and adaptive withdrawal strategies**, such as age-appropriate safe withdrawal rates (SWR) that reflect modern longevity trends and economic volatility; dynamic “guardrail” strategies and spending rules; insights from behavioural economics, including the annuity puzzle and spending aversion; and the use of technology-enabled “smart drawdown” solutions to support better decision-making.
- **Portfolio construction during the decumulation phase**, focusing on optimal asset allocation frameworks that address sequence-of-returns risk; the application of liability-driven investment (LDI) principles at the individual level through safety and growth buckets; and the evolving role of alternative assets, including infrastructure, private credit, and other income-generating instruments.
- **Innovative product design** aimed at balancing income assurance with market-linked growth potential, including modern tontine structures, risk-sharing pools, Variable Longevity Income (VLI) solutions, and inflation-linked or real income products that enhance retirement income stability.

Overall, this track seeks to advance thinking on how contributory pension systems can better support sustainable, efficient, and user-centric decumulation pathways in an increasingly complex and uncertain retirement landscape.

Research Scholarship

From the accepted set of papers, selected papers would be invited to make a presentation at the conference and awarded with a research scholarship. Additionally, some more papers may be allowed Poster presentation during the conference.

C: Registration, Award & Copyright

Registration

The conference is open to actuaries, researchers, academicians, industry professionals, and students with an interest in pension-related topics. There is no registration fee for paper presenters.

Copyright

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and Institute of Actuaries of India (IAI) jointly and severally retains the copyright of all submitted work, with non-exclusive rights to publish and disseminate the papers. Presentations will become the property of PFRDA and IAI jointly and severally, though the author/presenter remains personally responsible for the content and views expressed. Presentations will be published on the PFRDA & IAI website later. By submitting slides, presenters are deemed to have granted permission for their presentations to be published.



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D: Submission Guidelines

Abstracts must be connected to the conference theme. EOI will be selected based on their merit, quality and appropriateness to the theme of conference.

- Presentations may be based on prior research but must not replicate content presented at other forums.
- EOI must be submitted in English via the official IAI submission portal ([Call for Papers](#)).
- Papers will undergo peer review by the JCP editorial committee / sub-group.

Based on the details provided in the EOI and acceptance of the Abstract after a selection process, the committee would be inviting detailed papers/ presentations on respective subject perceived to be of key importance for the event.

The presentations may be based on research work published or un-published but should not be exact repeat of any presentation/s already done in any other forum. Papers however should demonstrate original, unpublished research which will denote the original contribution of the author/s. This contribution will be a copyright assigned to PFRDA & IAI jointly and severally.

E: Paper/Presentation Submission process & timelines (Refer detailed appendices)

Appendix I: Timelines (Starting from Wednesday, 1 April 2026)

Submission of abstract and authors' bio	By 1200 Hours IST, 18 April 2026 (Saturday, 3 weeks from start)	Kindly submit the following online at Call for Papers
		Kindly submit online Abstract as per the guidelines.
		Word Limit: 250 Words for Abstract and 100 words for Bio
		Please specify the core Track (B Point).
Abstract Acceptance	By 1200 Hours IST, 25 April 2026 (Saturday, 1 week after abstract deadline)	Accepted abstracts will be notified, which indicates a go-ahead to write the paper.
Complete paper submission	By 1200 Hours IST, 28 May 2026 (Thursday, 4 weeks after abstract acceptance)	The IAI expects research papers with an indicative length 3,000 to 10,000 words in line with the guidance provided in Appendix IV and a declaration that the paper is the original work of the author(s).
Final Acceptance / Rejection of the paper after feedback and changes	By 1200 Hours IST, 15 June 2026 (Monday, 2.5 week after paper submission)	The JCP editorial committee / sub-group will provide a decision on the complete paper submitted. The final paper should be submitted after taking cognizance of feedback, if any.
Invitation for Presentation and submission of the Presentations	By 1200 Hours IST, 20 June 2026 (Saturday, 1 week after acceptance)	For papers accepted, selected papers would be invited to make a presentation during the conference.



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		<p>A slide format would also be shared to present the paper in a standard power point format.</p> <p>A deck of slides of the paper to be presented at the conference should also be provided in the standard power point format (ideally one, maximum two presenters for not over 25 minutes) along with speaker's photograph and updated profile.</p>
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Appendix II: Biography

Professional Details	Full Name:
	Position held in your organization:
	Professional Title
	Name of your Organization:
	Current Country of Residence:
	Nationality:
	Association (If member of any Institute/ Association):
	Membership Id (If Member of IAI):
Work Experience:	Outline of your background and relevant work experience (in maximum of 500 words).
Recent public presentation	Details of presentations made at conferences during the last three years.
Contact Details	Email:
	Mobile:

Appendix III: Summary outline of presentation

Area	Presentation information
Title of presentation	Add the title of presentation.
Track	Specify the Track (see Section B)
Abstract submission	Submit the Abstract (in 250 words)
Time span of presentation	20-30 minutes; max two presenters per session
Co-speaker (if any)	Max two presenters; provide details as per Appendix II

Appendix IV: Guidelines for Paper submission: [CLICK HERE](#)

Contact For queries, please contact: Binita@actuariesindia.org