

**Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
Southern Regional Centre (SRC) - sponsored
Two - Day National Conference**

on

“VISION VIKSIT BHARAT @ 2047”

under the sub-theme

**“Accelerating Women’s Economic Footprint:
Addressing a Vital Missing Link in India’s Growth Story”**

21st & 22nd January, 2025

(Tuesday & Wednesday)

organized by

**The Department of Economics
Madras Christian College (Autonomous) Tambaram (East)
Chennai 600 059.**

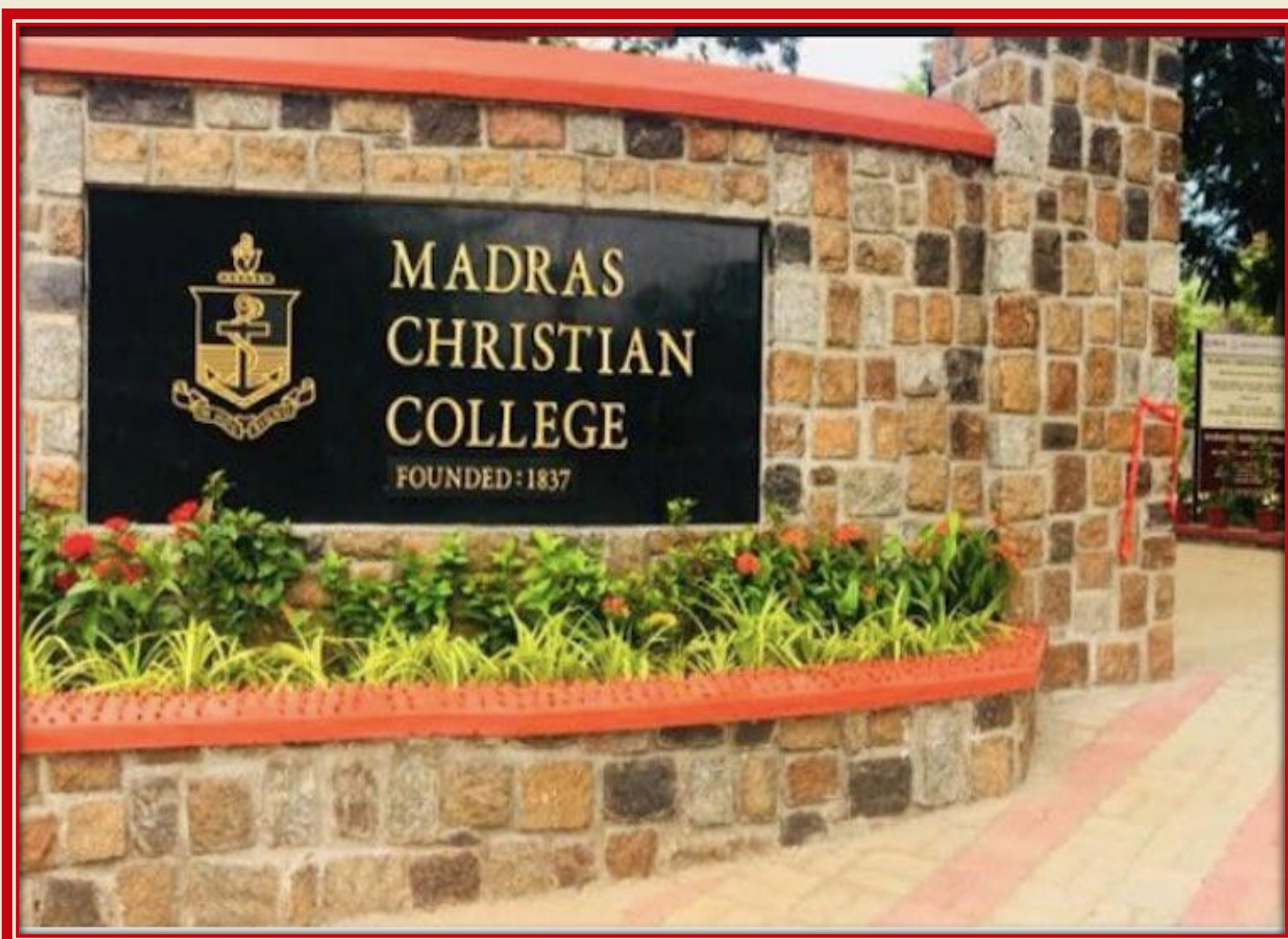


ABOUT MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Madras Christian College traces its origin to the General Assembly School founded by the Rev. John Anderson, a Missionary from the Church of Scotland, on 3rd April 1837. The rapid expansion of the College and the crowded physical space necessitated the shifting of the college from George Town to the 400-acre sylvan Selaiyur forest in Tambaram. Dr Alexander Boyd, who was the Principal for 18 long years (1938-'56), further shaped the character and ethos of the College. A new era dawned in 1962 (125th Year of MCC) when Dr Chandran Devanesen took over as the first Indian Principal. He further enriched the college's academic stature and broadened the scope of the educational process by taking it to the neighbourhood.

The year 1978 was path-breaking as MCC became one of the earliest colleges to be granted the status of Autonomy. This status enabled the college to introduce new courses and innovative curricular changes that are in tune with changing times and examination reforms, focusing on learner-centred continuous assessments. Autonomy also helped the College introduce diploma and certificate courses through the School of Continuing Education. The Self-Financed Stream was introduced in 1999. Degree programmes of contemporary relevance and employability are offered in the Self-Financed Stream. The College now has thirty-four departments under both the Aided and Self-Financed Streams offering Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Research programmes (M.Phil.& PhD).

In addition to the numerous milestones, Madras Christian College established the 'MCC Boyd-Tandon School of Business' in 2016, which aims to offer world-class business education. The MCC-MRF Innovation Park was inaugurated on 17th March 2021 providing contemporary laboratories and collaborative spaces for students, enabling them to develop and incubate innovative ideas. Academic excellence, spiritual vitality and social relevance remain the Institution's guiding principles down the decades.



ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

The Department of Economics is one of the oldest departments of the Madras Christian College. The Department has contributed greatly to the nation in terms of shaping the thinking of three finance ministers of the country. In the past, the Department of Economics was headed by stalwarts like Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah, Dr. C. T. Kurien, Prof. Joseph James and in the recent times, by Dr. C. Selvaraj, who brought about pedagogical advancements in the syllabus and in the delivery of Economics as a subject. During the period of the stalwarts and thereafter, the focus of the Department has been to offer a healthy set of electives/options to the students so that the learning outcomes can be maximized. The Postgraduate and Research Department of Economics offers a healthy mix of the core courses in Economics, interspersed in right measure, with the mathematically rigorous papers for an overall robust understanding of the discipline. It has been the hallmark of the Department to deliver a judicious mix of education coupled with the fun-aspects of learning. Upon graduation, our students pursue their higher education in the best schools/universities both in India and abroad. The students and alumni of the Department of Economics have done themselves and the institution proud by obtaining the best of internship and job opportunities.

CONTEXT AND CONTENT OF THE CONFERENCE

India is one of the fastest-growing economies of the world. Being one of the most dynamically growing economies housing its largest-ever young population and exhibiting unwavering determination to scale great heights, the present times are a very exciting period in India's growth story. Today India is re-looking and reinvigorating its manufacturing sector, providing a boost to the services sector and strengthening its primary sector with a firm eye on rapid infrastructure development. It would be befitting to say that India is definitely giving itself a big-push towards becoming a developed economy by 2047. Also, India has with it, the demographic advantage, also known as the demographic dividend, where the percentage of people in the working population is greater than the percentage of dependent population. This is a golden window of opportunity, which, if utilized effectively, has the potential to propel the economy to becoming one of the greatest economies in the world.

The impending golden period however does not imply that the sail is going to be smooth. There are many challenges of poverty, environmental sustainability, lack of physical and social infrastructure and the many types of inequalities that need to be addressed with an iron hand and on a war footing. Of the challenges mentioned above, one that is directly linked to the aspirations and achievement of Viksit Bharat is the challenge of gender inequality. Gender inequality (Sustainable Development Goal – SDG # 5), across the world and particularly in patriarchal societies such as India manifests in many levels in the economy. It manifests much before the girl child is actually born. Prolonged such preferences for the male progeny, practices such as female foeticide and infanticide – practices still rampant across the country leads to a very unhealthy sex ratio, leading to an improper skewing of the natural sex ratio of the country. Added to this is the problem of unequal gender roles and relations which excludes women from gaining access to basic services such as healthcare, education, skilling and access to resources such as land, credit and business services. The lack of exposure to education and any other empowerment tools snowballs into negative economic outcomes such as low labour market participation, job segregation, wage inequality, besides others. The Global Gender Gap Index (2024) places India in 7th out of 8 countries in South Asia. India has firmly remained at the bottom of this chart for over 20 years. This year, India is at 18th position from the bottom, placing it at 129 out of 146 countries that were surveyed.

The statistics are not very encouraging. However, it is time to unearth answers to these uncomfortable yet significant questions about gender inequality in India. If India aspires to become a developed nation by 2047 it definitely needs the working hands of the 50% of the population that have hitherto been relegated to their kitchens or precincts of their homes or have been playing a part primarily only in the unorganized sector. In short, if India ought to achieve the growth story it is aspiring to achieve, gender equality or unleashing the female potential or *Naari Shakti* is a *sine qua non* – a non-negotiable essential that has to be attained. Most importantly, at this juncture, it is imperative that India has to focus its energies on enlarging the economic footprint of Indian women, that too at an accelerated pace.

Research papers, both theoretical and empirical, are invited from students, scholars, academicians, researchers and policymakers on themes including, but not limited to the following areas:

- Patriarchy, gender socialization, gendered norms and economic participation of women
- The intersections of gender with race, class, sexuality, disability, etc and its impact on economic participation of women.
- New directions in feminist thought, activism, and their application in contemporary contexts
- Economic empowerment, health challenges, access to care, and holistic well-being of women
- Women's role in sustainable development
- Poverty, gender and economic opportunity
- Discrimination in the attainment of education and health and the resultant lag in economic contribution of women
- Lifelong learning of women and skill development opportunities
- The STEM Gap: Women and Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Violence against women and girls (VAWG), ramifications and economic costs
- Safety and security concerns for women at work
- Prevention of sexual harassment of women in the workplace
- Work life balance of women – myth or reality?
- Bottlenecks in women's careers: The motherhood penalty, the glass ceiling, etc.
- The role of technology in shaping economic opportunities for women
- Financial literacy and women
- Women and the digital divide
- Time-use issues and unpaid care work of women
- Importance of Gender empowerment to the National Income (via women employment and women entrepreneurship)
- Gender policies, movements, and progress across different regions
- Policy and advocacy issues and strategies for promoting gender-equitable policies and legal frameworks
- Gender budgeting and its importance in India
- Social legislation, government policies and enactments to achieve women empowerment or *Naari sashaktikaran*
- Women in the unorganized sector
- Self-help Groups (SHGs) and their role in women empowerment
- Multidimensional issues and challenges of Women Empowerment
- Role of civic societies and NGOs in achieving women empowerment in India
- Women in leadership roles and political participation of women
- Women entrepreneurship and the impetus of the Government
- Ways to eradicate gender discrimination
- Institutional mechanisms, gender policies and schemes of the Governments (Centre and States) that help in advancing gender equality such as Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao, Mudra Loans, Mahila Shakti Kendra, Mission Shakti, One-stop centres, etc
- Legislations that help women in the workforce such as The Contract Labour Act, 1976, The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, besides others
- Any other topic related to the core theme of the Conference

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT

Interested participants are invited to submit an abstract of approximately 250-300 words to mccicssrconference2025@gmail.com by 5th January, 2025. Each submission must include a title, names of the author(s), designation, affiliation, email ID and contact number accompanied by 3-4 key words. The abstracts will be shortlisted on the basis of content, quality and relevance to the core theme of the Conference. Decision regarding selection will be intimated to the corresponding authors for payment of registration fees. A maximum of three authors are allowed per paper, and each author has to pay and register individually for the Conference using the Google Form. The abstracts of all accepted papers will be compiled into an e-Book of Abstracts, which will be shared to all Conference participants.

MODE OF PAPER PRESENTATIONS

The participants are encouraged to physically participate in the Conference, be a part of the deliberations and make regular physical (offline) presentations. However, requests for online presentations may also be considered.

SUBMISSION OF FULL PAPER AND PUBLICATION

All participants are encouraged to submit their full papers to mccicssrconference2025@gmail.com on or before 19th January, 2025. The papers should be written in Times New Roman, font size 12, with 1.5 line spacing, and should be approximately 3000-4000 words in length. References must follow the APA format. All papers should include an abstract of approximately 250-300 words. Authors must ensure that their submissions are original. Please note that all the papers will be screened for plagiarism and accordingly accepted, requested to be revised or rejected. Further, authors are solely responsible for plagiarism violations. Papers thus selected will be published in a book with an ISBN.

REGISTRATION FEES

Participation only (Non-Presenters)	:	Rs 250/- per delegate
<u>Paper Presenters</u>		
Students/scholars	:	Rs.350/- per delegate
Academicians/Govt. officials/Industry Professionals	:	Rs.650/- per delegate

BANK DETAILS FOR PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES

Delegates must complete the online payment either by scanning the QR Code, using the provided link, or by entering the bank details manually. Once this is done, delegates are required to register for the Conference by filling the online registration form through the following Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/ehW8JUuRGx5hqRa7A>



(or) [Link for Payment](https://forms.gle/ehW8JUuRGx5hqRa7A) (or)

Name of the Beneficiary	Madras Christian College
Address	MCC East Tambaram, Chennai – 600059
Bank Account Number	19101000061000
Nature of Bank Account	Savings Account
MICR No	600020052
Name of the Bank	Indian Overseas Bank
Name and Address of the Bank Branch	IOB, MCC Campus Branch, Tambaram Chennai 600 059
Bank Branch Code	191
IFS Code	IOBA0000191
Swift Code	IOBAINBB001
BSR Code	270113

BEST PAPER AWARDS

Three awards (one award per category) will be presented for the best presentation in each technical session, across three categories:

Category A: Students

Category B: Research scholars, and

Category C: Academicians/ professionals from the industry.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Abstract Submission (250-300 words approximately)	:	5 th January, 2025
Notification of Acceptance	:	10 th January, 2025
Last date for online registration	:	15 th January, 2025
Full paper submission	:	19 th January, 2025
Conference dates	:	21 st & 22 nd January, 2025

NOTE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

Registration fee includes Seminar kit, certificate and e-Book of Conference Abstracts.

No TA/DA will be provided to the delegates.

Lunch and basic refreshments will be provided to all participants on both days.

No accommodation will be provided.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

CHIEF PATRON

Dr. P. Wilson
Principal and Secretary
Madras Christian College (Autonomous)

CONFERENCE CONVENOR

Dr. Shobana Karthikeyan
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Madras Christian College

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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Prof. Arun Koshy, Assistant Professor
Dr. S. Ramakrishnan, Assistant Professor
Dr. S. Sagathevan, Assistant Professor
Prof. D. Joshua Solomon, Assistant Professor
Prof. Sanjana D., Assistant Professor

A BRIEF CAMPUS TOUR FOR DELEGATES

The Conference offers a remarkable opportunity for delegates to immerse themselves in the breathtaking beauty of Madras Christian College's campus. Steeped in natural charm, the campus was originally part of the Selaiyur Reserve Forest, showcasing the rich vegetation of a true scrub jungle within the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest. This lush environment is home to an incredible diversity of flora and fauna, with approximately 500 plant species across 95 families. The college campus serves as a stunning example of nature's harmony, featuring a variety of mini-ecosystems, including open grasslands, serene wetlands, dense forest patches, and areas of scrub jungle. Among its botanical treasures are 118 species of trees, 73 species of shrubs, 181 species of herbs, 47 species of climbers, and 5 species of orchids, among many others. The campus also hosts a variety of herbivores such as spotted deers, rabbits, monkeys, and wild boars and other animals such as foxes, porcupines, besides others. Delegates might be lucky enough to encounter a peaceful herd of spotted deer wandering along the paths, a pair of peacocks strutting through the grounds, or playful monkeys in the trees. To fully appreciate the campus's natural beauty, a group of enthusiastic student volunteers will guide delegates on a campus tour at 8:45 am on 22nd January 2025 (Day II of the Conference). Delegates are encouraged to bring their cameras to capture the picturesque landscapes and wildlife that make Madras Christian College a truly unique and serene environment.

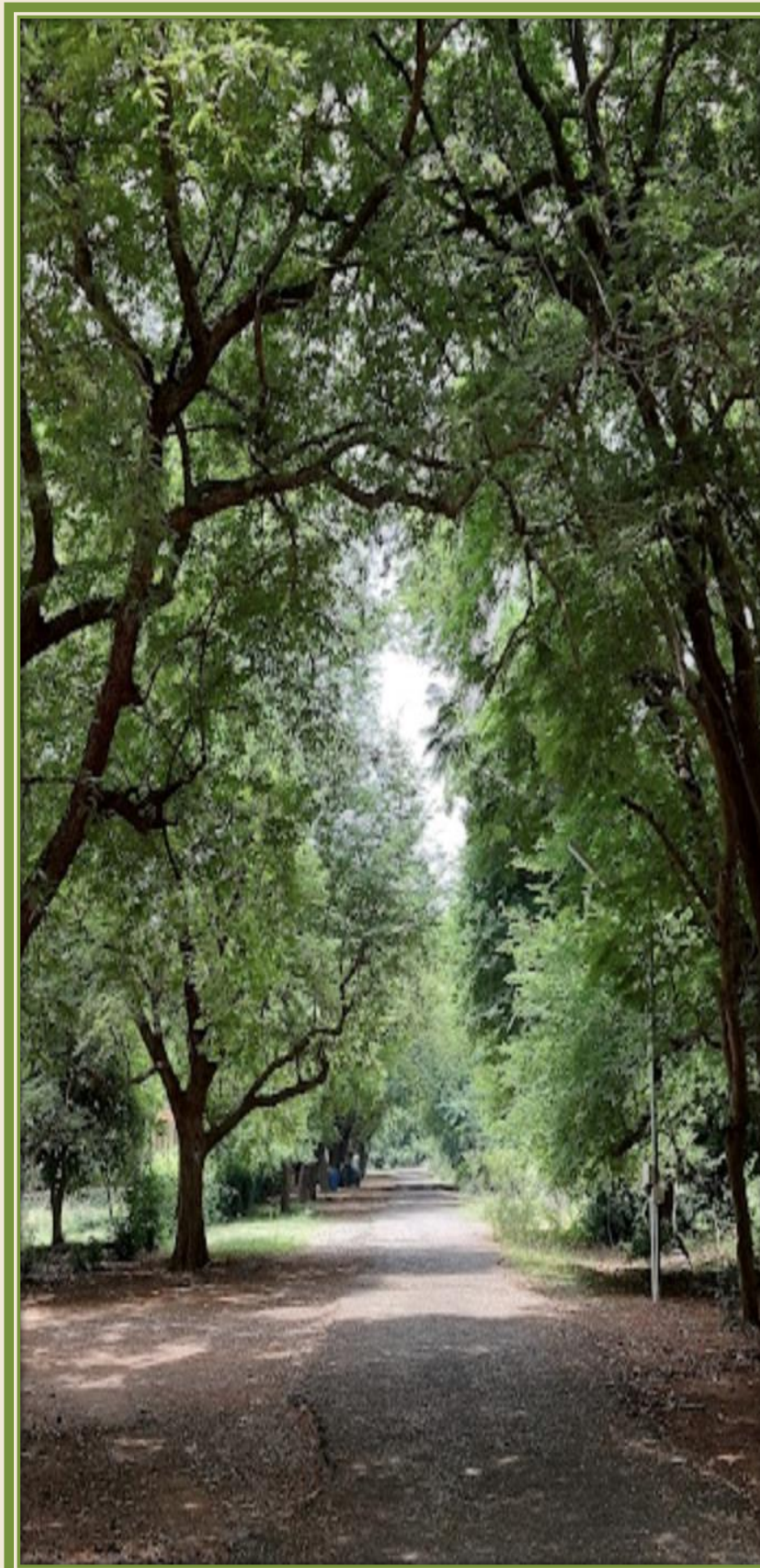
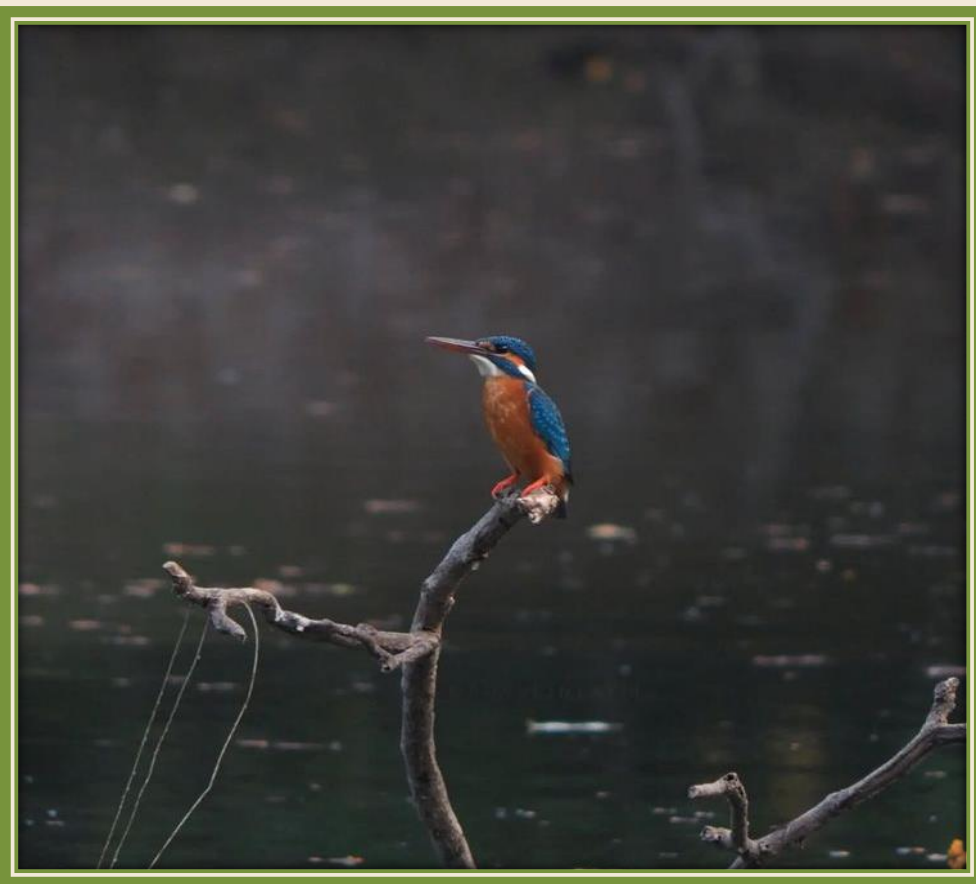


Image Courtesy: Wildlife Conservation Club, MCC

For further details, please contact
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Email mccicssrconference2025@gmail.com