



**Two Day International Conference**  
on  
**RURAL LIVELIHOODS AND SUSTAINABILITY:  
A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

09 & 10 February, 2026 | Venue: Indraprastha Auditorium

*Jointly organised by:*

Departments of Economics & Rural Development,  
Commerce & Business Administration

*In association with*  
IQAC





## About the College

Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College (Autonomous), Ujire was established by Sri D. Rathnavarma Heggade in the year 1966. The Institution has achieved a landmark in quality higher education in the rural and backward Belthangady Taluk of Dakshina Kannada District of Karnataka over the past five decades. Managed by Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Educational Society, the college attained all round development under the dynamic leadership of present President Padmavibhushana Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade. The College, being affiliated to Mangalore University has been accorded with Autonomous status in the year 2007. The College has received more than 200 ranks at UG & PG level in the University Examinations.

The College offers 5 UG, 3 vocational and 11 PG programmes. The college is a recognized Centre for research programmes of Mangalore University and Kannada University, Hampi. The performance of students in the field of sports and other extra-curricular activities has also been outstanding. The College offers more than 70 value added courses. The College has a spacious library with more than a lakh books and e-resource collections. The library subscribes more than 196 periodicals, magazines and journals. The College has been accredited at 'A++' grade by NAAC in the fourth cycle. The institution has the unique distinction of being recognized as a College with Potential for Excellence by UGC.

## About the Organising Departments

The College offers comprehensive programs under the Departments of Economics and Rural Development, Commerce, and Business Administration, each committed to providing quality, learner-centered education that blends theoretical knowledge with practical application. Established in 1966, the Departments of Economics and Commerce have been integral components of the institution since its inception, while the Department of Rural Development commenced in 1977 and Business Administration in 2007. All departments have highly qualified and experienced faculty members with Ph.D., NET, and KSET credentials, actively engaged in research, extension, and consultancy activities. The teaching methodologies emphasize experiential and participatory learning through projects, field visits, group discussions, presentations, seminars, interactive sessions, and on-the-job training. Academic

enrichment is further enhanced through international, national, and state-level seminars, career orientation programs, alumni interactions, and student research initiatives. The curriculum encompasses a wide range of subjects such as economics, financial and management accounting, taxation, business law, marketing, human resource management, and strategic management. With a focus on conceptual clarity, analytical reasoning, ethical values, and entrepreneurial skills, the departments aim to prepare students for professional excellence in commerce, economics, management, and entrepreneurship. Supported by a strong alumni network and recognized research centres, the institution continues to uphold its legacy of academic distinction and societal contribution.

## About the Conference

Due to the conjunction of the urgent global challenges, including climate change, persistent poverty, and growing socio-economic inequalities, working on rural livelihoods and sustainability has become highly crucial. Though, there are advancements in urban areas that continue to grow, a significant portion of the global population still resides in rural regions, making their well-being and environmental management central to achieving sustainable global development. Rural livelihoods and sustainability focus on how rural communities can earn a living in a way that is both environmentally viable and resilient to shocks, ensuring long-term well-being. In common parlance, sustainability is an implicit ideology of long-term self-restraint and self-reliance.

Sustainable livelihoods go beyond financial security. They provide individuals with dignity, social identity, and a sense of belonging. However, disparities in access to decent work, job opportunities, and fair employment conditions persist globally, often leading to forced migration and exploitation. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic approach that integrates social equity, economic viability, and environmental sustainability.

The conference, "Rural Livelihoods and Sustainability: A Global Perspective," is conceived as an essential platform for academicians, policymakers, development practitioners, and community leaders to critically examine the complex, inter-connected challenges and to co-create viable, scalable solutions. The premise is that a livelihood is only truly sustainable if it can cope with and recover from shocks, enhance its asset base, and do so without undermining the natural resource base for future generations. To conclude, this proposed theme outlines the intellectual architecture and key thematic areas that will guide the conference discussions, ensuring a comprehensive global perspective on rural transformation.

## Objectives

- To explore emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in rural livelihoods across the globe.
- To facilitate knowledge exchange and best practice sharing among researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and entrepreneurs.
- To identify innovative models and strategies for promoting sustainable rural livelihoods.
- To advocate for supportive policies and infrastructure development for rural enterprises.
- To provide a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue on integrating economics, commerce, and rural development in achieving SDG 8.

## **Sub Themes**

- Rural entrepreneurship and job creation
- SKDRDP models for Rural Development
- Skill development and vocational training for rural youth
- Migration, labor mobility, and decent work challenges
- Agripreneurship and sustainable livelihoods
- Effectiveness of government schemes (MGNREGA, pensions, health insurance, etc.)
- Financial inclusion and social security in the informal sector
- Universal basic income and rural welfare
- Women, marginalized groups, and social protection
- MSMEs and cooperatives as engines of employment
- CSR and sustainable business practices in rural development
- E-commerce and digital platforms for rural employment
- Social entrepreneurship and inclusive business models
- Public-private partnerships for rural development
- Digital innovation, AI, and the future of rural work
- Global best practices in employment and social protection
- Measurement and monitoring of SDG 8 progress

## **Call for Papers**

Theoretical, conceptual and empirical research papers which are of original and not published elsewhere are invited from academic researchers and practitioners on various themes and sub-themes mentioned above or any issues related to the main theme of the conference.

## **Guidelines for Submission of Abstract (apprx. 250 Words) and Full Papers (apprx. 2500 Words)**

- Research papers should follow a standard academic structure comprising an Abstract with Key words, Need for the Study, Hypothesis (if applicable), Methodology, Data Analysis, Findings/Results, Conclusion, and References (APA style). This format ensures logical flow, methodological clarity, and consistency in presentation across all submissions.
- The papers to be sent to [icrlsujire@gmail.com](mailto:icrlsujire@gmail.com)

## **Important Dates**

Last date for Submission of Abstract with full papers	5 January 2026
Acceptance to be communicated	15 January 2026
Last Date for Registration	20 January 2026
Conference Date	9 & 10 February 2026

## Publication Details

- All accepted papers for presentation will be published in a compiled volume in a book form with an ISBN and released during the Inaugural ceremony.
- Publication charges apply
- Selected articles will be published in a peer-reviewed journal with an ISSN, following a double-blind review process

## Registration Details

Delegate Type	Fee
International Delegates	\$ 100
International Student Participants	\$ 50
Corporates	₹ 3,000
Academia/Faculty	₹ 1,000
Research Scholars	₹ 750
Students	₹ 600

(Note: All fees are non-refundable. Registration is mandatory for all participants.)

- Co-authors should register separately.

Registration Link



The registration fee shall be paid by DD drawn in favour of "Principal SDM College Ujire", payable at Ujire Or NEFT/Phone Pay/Google Pay.

Bank Name	Bank of Baroda
Account Number	71370200000238
IFSC	BARB0VJUJIR (Fifth letter is zero)
Branch	Ujire



## Accommodation

- One day moderate accommodation and local hospitality will be provided to the outstation participants, those who register before 20 January, 2026.
- For more details, please contact - Mr. Abhinandan, 9611410262

## Route Guideline to SDM College (Autonomous), Ujire – 574 240, Karnataka (Near Dharmasthala)



Mode of Transport	Nearest/Most Convenient Access Point	Distance (Approx.)	Towards College
By Air	Mangaluru International Airport (IXE)	60-70 km	Hire a pre-paid taxi/cab directly to Ujire (1.5 - 2 hrs).
By Rail	Mangaluru Central (MAQ) / Junction (MAJN)	70-75 km	Take a local taxi or bus from the station to Mangaluru Bus Stand, then board a direct bus to Ujire.
By Road	From Bengaluru (Bangalore)	300-320 km	Direct overnight sleeper/seater buses (KSRTC/Private) are available to Ujire Bus Stand.
By Road	From Mangaluru	70 km	Frequent express/ordinary buses are available to Ujire or Dharmasthala (2 hrs).
Campus Transit	Ujire Bus Stand	< 2 km	Short auto-rickshaw ride to SDM College entrance.

Note: Ujire is located 9 km from the famous temple town of Dharmasthala. Direct buses to Dharmasthala often pass through or terminate near Ujire.

### Places to visit at Shri Kshethra Dharmasthala



**Shri Manjunatha Swamy Temple**  
Most renowned religious landmark with the history as old as 800 years



**Lord Bahubali Statue**  
The majestic shrine of 39-feet positioned atop the Ratnagiri Hill



**Shri Chandranatha Swamy Basadi**  
Centuries old basadi in pristine condition



**Manjusha Museum**  
A collection of 21,000+ antiques



**Vintage Car Museum**  
A collection of vintage cars

## INVITED SPEAKERS



**Prof. Mariano Rojas**  
Professor of Economics  
Tecnologico Nacional de Mexico,  
**Mexico**



**Dr. Mukesh Kumar**  
Senior Researcher  
Institute of Asian and  
Oriental Studies  
University of Zurich  
**Switzerland**



**Ms. Nalini Rathnarajah**  
Human Rights Defender and  
Gender Justice Advocate  
**Srilanka**



**Dr. Azizuddin Sultani**  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
**Afghanistan**



**Mr. Kiran Ronad**  
Managing Director  
KSR Tours & Travels  
**Malaysia**



**Prof. Ramesh Salian**  
Professor of Economics  
Centre for Economic Studies  
& Planning, School of Social  
Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru  
University (JNU), New Delhi, **India**



**Dr. Kishore Kumar Das**  
Professor of Commerce and  
Business Management  
Ravenshaw University  
Cuttack, Odisha, **India**



**Dr. Audrama K. A. S**  
(Senior Scale)  
Registrar (Administration)  
Bagalkot University  
Jamkhandi – 587301  
**Karnataka**



**Mr. Sheik Latheef K.A.S.**  
Managing Director  
Karnataka Minorities  
Development Corporation Ltd.  
Bengaluru, **Karnataka**



**Prof. M. G. Chandrakanth**  
Director (Retired)  
Institute for Social and  
Economic Change  
Bangalore, **Karnataka**



### Chief Patron

#### **Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade**

Dharmadhikari, Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala  
President, SDME Society (R.), Ujire

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Vice President, SDME Society (R.), Ujire

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#### **Sri Nischal D.**

Finance Director, SDME Society (R.), Ujire

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Principal

#### **Ms. Nanda Kumari K. P.**

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Registrar (Administration)

#### **Mr. B. Ganesh Nayak**

Registrar (Evaluation)

#### **Mr. G. R. Bhat**

IQAC Coordinator

### Conference Advisors

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Retd. Principal

SDM College (Autonomous), Ujire

#### **Dr. Udayachandra P. N.**

Retd. Principal

SDM College (Autonomous), Ujire

#### **Prof. Ramesh Salian**

Centre for Economic Studies and Planning

School of Social Sciences

JNU, New Delhi

### Conference Conveners

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