



HINDUSTAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)



SCHOOL OF LIBERAL AND CREATIVE ARTS ***DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS***

Organizes



A TWO-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR ON

**DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT AND RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN INDIA:
PATHWAYS TO INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION**

March 12-13, 2026



Sponsored by

**INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE (ICSSR-SRC)
(MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
HYDERABAD**



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About the Seminar

India's rural economy has historically remained the backbone of the nation, supporting nearly 65% of the population while contributing approximately 46% to the national income, as per recent estimates from NITI Aayog (2023). However, persistent structural challenges such as disguised unemployment, limited non-farm opportunities, low agricultural productivity, lack of market integration, and an underdeveloped service sector continue to impede sustainable livelihood development in rural areas. The advent of digital technology, under the overarching policy umbrella of the Digital India Mission launched in 2015, has initiated a gradual yet significant transformation in rural livelihoods. The push for digital empowerment, especially in rural and remote areas, is not merely about expanding internet access or device availability but fundamentally about re-engineering traditional rural occupational structures and providing pathways for inclusive and sustainable growth.

The National Sample Survey (NSS 2017-18) shows that only 15% of rural households had internet access and less than 10% had access to a computer, with severe disparities across states, gender, caste, and income levels. While smartphone penetration has grown rapidly, access to reliable data, devices with adequate functionality, and continuous electricity remains uneven. This seminar aims to bring together scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and technology innovators to assess, critique, and co-create solutions. The seminar explores how digital technologies can be made more inclusive, how rural youth can be empowered as digital entrepreneurs, how farmers can benefit from precision agriculture, and how rural population can leverage digital platforms for collective empowerment. With India envisioning a \$5 trillion economy and a Viksit Bharat @2047, digital rural transformation must be central to achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

Sub- Themes

- Digital Solutions for Diversifying and Securing Rural Livelihoods
- ICT-Enabled Livelihood Development and Employment for Sustainable Rural Development
- Technology-Driven Rural Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Diversification
- Green and Climate-Resilient Digital Livelihood Opportunities
- Digital Technologies for Gram Panchayat Governance and Smart Villages
- Strengthening Rural Connectivity through BharatNet, PM-WANI, and CSCs
- Precision Farming and AgriTech: Drones, IoT, and Soil Advisory Platforms
- Geospatial Tools and MIS for Village-Level Planning and Infrastructure
- Digital Integration in Allied Activities: Fisheries, Dairy, and Livestock
- Digital Market Access and Value Chain Integration through eNAM and FPOs
- UPI, AePS, and FinTech for Rural Financial Inclusion
- Digital Literacy and Financial Awareness for Farmers, Women, and Youth
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation through SHGs and Rural Microenterprises
- Community Institutions for Localised Digital Empowerment
- Harnessing the Gig Economy and Remote Work in Rural India
- Institutional Convergence and Stakeholder Coordination in Digital Programs
- Impact Evaluation Tools and Frameworks for Digital Livelihood Programs
- Strategic Planning for Inclusive Digital Rural Development
- Aligning Rural Digital Transformation with SDGs and Vision Viksit Bharat @2047
- Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Digital Rural Transformation
- Other Areas Consistent with the Broad Theme of Digital Empowerment and Rural Development

Call for Papers

The academicians, scholars, and professionals working in areas related to the theme of the seminar are invited to submit the abstract of the paper not exceeding 300 words, with 5-6 keywords (excluding the title of paper and authors name and address, etc.). All papers must be typed 1.5-spaced and in 12pt Times New Roman. Margins of at least 2.54 cm must be left on all sides. Manuscripts should be written in clear and concise English, and the responsibility for all aspects of paper preparation rests solely with the authors. The first page must contain the title of the paper and name of the author, Designation, Affiliation, Contact number and E-mail ID. All submissions will undergo a blind review process, and the authors of selected abstracts will be informed for full paper submission and registration.

Full papers should be between 6000-7000 words, including references, tables, and figures. The full paper should include the following sections: Title, Abstract, Introduction, Objectives, Methodology, Results and Discussion, Conclusion, and References (APA 7th Edition). Papers must be original, unpublished, and not under consideration elsewhere.

Plagiarism will be strictly monitored. Submissions generated or substantially written by AI will not be accepted.

Registration Fee

Students (UG & PG): Rs. 500

Research Scholars: Rs. 700

Academicians: Rs. 1000

Industry Professionals: Rs. 1500

Travel and Accommodation

Participants are required to make their own arrangements for travel and accommodation. The organizers will not provide travel allowances or lodging facilities. However, local hospitality will be extended to participants during the seminar sessions.

Publication Opportunity

Research papers presented at the seminar will undergo a peer-review process and will be evaluated based on their originality, academic rigor, and relevance to the seminar theme. Selected papers will be published in the Seminar Proceedings with ISBN.

Important Dates

Last Date of Submission of Abstract: 10th January 2026

Intimation of Selected Abstracts: 15th January 2026

Submission of Full Paper and Registration: 20th February 2026

Date of the Seminar: 12th & 13th March 2026

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/mvcRir17eYc2aPFY7>



Scan to Register

Separate registration is mandatory for co-authors requesting individual certificates.

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**Submit your abstract and full paper, adhering to the submission guidelines, to
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