



KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
Deemed to be University U/S 3 of the UGC Act, 1956
SCHOOL OF RURAL MANAGEMENT



7th National **RURAL** MANAGEMENT Konclave

Reimagining Rural India: Innovations,
Sustainability and Inclusive Growth



22nd August 2026



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Context

Rural India stands at a critical moment in its development journey. As the nation advances towards becoming a leading global economy, rural populations continue to play an essential role in ensuring food security, ecological balance, cultural diversity, and inclusive economic growth. However, challenges such as climate change, resource degradation, rural-urban migration, mass scale of displacement and rehabilitation, livelihood insecurity, digital divides, and social inequalities demand innovative and sustainable solutions.

The theme, "Reimagining Rural India: Innovations, Sustainability and Inclusive Growth," of this conclave seeks to explore transformative approaches that can empower rural populations and create resilient, prosperous, and equitable rural societies. Technological advancements, social entrepreneurship, community-led institutions, digital inclusion, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, circular economy practices, and innovative governance mechanisms are reshaping the rural landscape and opening new prospects for development. As India envisages a developed nation by 2047, the future of the country will be essentially linked to the progress of its villages.

Objectives

The overall objectives of the conclave to bring together academicians, policymakers, development practitioners, corporate leaders, social entrepreneurs, researchers and students, to deliberate on emerging trends, share best practices and bottlenecks, and co-create strategies for sustainable rural transformation. The discussions will focus on fostering innovation-driven rural livelihoods, strengthening climate resilience, promoting social inclusion, enhancing access to quality services, and leveraging partnerships for holistic development. This conclave provides a platform to critically examine contemporary challenges and opportunities while envisioning a rural India that is innovative, sustainable, inclusive, and capable of delivering prosperity for all.



Conclave Structure

A Keynote Address Will be delivered by a top leader in the area of development sector on the central theme. The keynote sets the context and stage for the panel discussion that follows.

One Panel Discussion with Six Eminent Speakers

One panel of six senior professionals from development sectors sector will deliberate upon on the theme touching across the four sub-themes with a single connected dialogue. It will be followed by a question and answer session with audiences. The panel discussion will be moderated by one of the speakers in the panel itself.



Key Themes for Discussion: The Four Pillars

The panel will engage across four interlinked Themes.

Pillar-1

Transforming Rural India: Innovation, Inclusion, and Sustainability

Rural India is undergoing a profound transformation driven by technological advancements, changing aspirations and evolving development policies. As the nation moves towards becoming a developed economy, rural areas must emerge as centers of innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable growth. The challenge lies in ensuring that this transformation is inclusive, equitable, and environmentally responsible. In this context, the following questions need special attention:

- How are technology and digitalization reshaping rural societies?
- What role do local institutions /CBOs and governance systems play in managing rural transformation?
- What are the opportunities and challenges arising from changing aspirations and lifestyles in villages?
- How can rural livelihoods be diversified beyond agriculture?
- How can producer collectives, cooperatives, and social enterprises strengthen local economies?
- What role can skill development and digital platforms play in creating sustainable employment opportunities?

Pillar-2

Migration, Displacement, and Rehabilitation: Challenges and Pathways for Inclusive Development

Migration and displacement have become defining features of contemporary development. While migration often serves as a strategy for seeking better livelihoods, education, and opportunities, displacement resulting from development projects, natural disasters, and conflicts can disrupt lives, livelihoods, and social networks. The challenge lies in ensuring that affected communities are not only compensated but also rehabilitated in a manner that restores dignity, social cohesion, and economic security. In this context, the following questions needs distinctive consideration:

- What are the major drivers of migration in rural India today, and how are they changing?
- How can migration be transformed from a distress-driven necessity into a pathway for economic empowerment?
- What lessons can be learned from past experiences of displacement caused by dams, mining projects, and urban expansion?
- How can rehabilitation programs ensure long-term livelihood restoration and social integration?

Pillar-3

Climate Change and Rural Resilience

Climate change has emerged as one of the most pressing challenges of the 21st century, with rural communities bearing a disproportionate share of its impacts. Increasing temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, recurrent floods, cyclones, and land degradation are threatening agricultural productivity, water security, livelihoods, and the overall well-being of rural populations. These challenges are particularly acute for smallholder farmers, landless laborers, women, indigenous communities, and other vulnerable groups whose lives are closely intertwined with natural resources. Building resilient rural communities requires innovative, inclusive, and sustainable approaches. The following questions can guide meaningful discussions:

- How is climate change reshaping rural livelihoods and agricultural systems in India?
- Which rural communities are most vulnerable to climate risks, and why?
- What are the long-term implications of climate change for food security, water security, and rural employment?
- How can digital technologies, AI, remote sensing, and climate information services support rural resilience?
- How does climate change disproportionately affect women, tribal communities, landless laborers, and small farmers?

Pillar-4

The Future of Rural Development: Partnerships for Impact

The complexity of contemporary rural development challenges—including poverty, climate vulnerability, livelihood insecurity, migration, resource degradation, and social inequality—demands collaborative approaches that transcend institutional boundaries. No single actor can independently address the multifaceted needs of rural communities. The future of rural development lies in building effective partnerships among governments, civil society organizations, corporations, academic institutions, financial institutions, and local communities. As India advances toward the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, there is a growing need to leverage the strengths of diverse stakeholders through innovative partnership models. However, the following questions, in this context, need special attention:

- What are the key ingredients of successful multi-stakeholder partnerships in rural development?
- How can governments, NGOs, and corporations align their objectives to maximize development impact?
- How can CSR investments move beyond philanthropy toward sustainable rural transformation?
- What are the opportunities and challenges of PPP models in rural infrastructure, healthcare, education, and agriculture?
- What should be the defining characteristics of a developed rural India by 2047?

Speakers at Previous Rural Management Konclave



Mr. Indrajit Chaudhuri
CEO and Country Director
Project Concern International (PCI) India



Mr. Saroj Mohapatra
Executive Director
PRADAN



Dr. Sujeet Ranjan
Associate Director
TATA Trusts



Ms. Sarita Pradhan
Head (Swabhiman)
Smile Foundation



Mr. Ronak Saha
Chief Executive
Seva Mandir



Mr. Navin Patidar
Chief Executive Officer
AKRSP (India)



Ms. Kusum Mohapatra
Regional Director & CEO
Miracle Foundation



Dr. Bharat Kakade
President and Managing Trustee
BAIF

About KIIT

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) has established itself as one of India's leading universities, known for its academic excellence, international outlook and rapid growth. Founded in 1992-93 by Dr. Achyuta Samanta. KIIT has transformed in just 25 years into a globally recognised institution. Today, it offers a wide range of professional education in engineering, management, law, medicine, biotechnology and more, catering to nearly 40,000 students, including 2000 international students from 65 countries.

Over the years, KIIT has earned prestigious national and international accreditations. It holds an A++ Grade from NAAC and is accredited by leading international bodies such as ABET (USA) and IET (UK). Its strong emphasis on quality teaching, research and innovation has consistently placed it among India's top private universities.

KIIT has also received widespread recognition in global and national rankings. In the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025, it was placed 17th among all universities in India. In international evaluations, KIIT is placed at 169th in Asia in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026 and 294th in Asia by the QS World University Rankings 2026.

In the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2026, it stands at 168th globally. In addition, KIIT has also achieved a strong performance in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025, where it features in the 101–200 bracket globally for its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It ranked 20th globally and 3rd in India in Quality Education (SDG 4), 15th globally and No. 1 in India in Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), ranked 29th globally and No. 1 in India in Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions (SDG 16).



About KSRM



The **KIIT School of Rural Management (KSRM)**, a constituent school of KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, was established in 2006 with the foundation stone laid jointly by Dr. Verghese Kurien, the Father of India's White Revolution, and Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS. Since its inception, KSRM has been committed to developing socially responsible management professionals capable of addressing the complex challenges of rural transformation through innovation, sustainability, and inclusive development.

KSRM's vision is to become a globally recognized centre of excellence in Rural Management and Agribusiness Management through a knowledge-driven approach. Its mission is to nurture competent professionals with strong ethical values, leadership qualities, and a commitment to catalysing sustainable rural development while bridging the rural-urban divide.

The School offers **MBA in Rural Management (MBA-RM)**, **MBA in Agribusiness Management (MBA-ABM)**, and a **Ph.D. in Rural and Agribusiness Management**. The curriculum integrates rigorous classroom learning with extensive field immersion through village studies, internships, management traineeships, live projects, and action research, enabling students to bridge theory and practice effectively.

KSRM has established collaborations with more than 350 partner organizations across India, including government departments, national and international development agencies, NGOs, cooperatives, CSR foundations, agribusiness firms, and multilateral organizations. These partnerships provide students with rich experiential learning opportunities, internships, research engagements, and career pathways in the development and agribusiness sectors.

The School is actively engaged in research, policy advocacy, consultancy, and executive education in areas such as rural livelihoods, agriculture and value chains, climate resilience, natural resource management, governance, WASH, social protection, nutrition, community institutions, and sustainable development. With a distinguished faculty, strong industry and development-sector linkages, and an emphasis on experiential learning, KSRM has emerged as one of India's leading institutions dedicated to Rural Management and Agribusiness Management. Its graduates contribute significantly to government programmes, development organizations, social enterprises, agribusiness companies, financial institutions, and international agencies, driving inclusive and sustainable rural transformation.



Contact Us

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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