

In collaboration with
Indian Council of
Social Science
Research (ICSSR)

Rashtriya Ekta
(National Unity)
Seminar

23 August 2025

Language
English/ Hindi/ Kannada

Bengaluru

One-Day National Seminar on
Revisiting Sardar Patel's
Legacy:
Agrarian Reform and
Social Justice in
Contemporary India

Organised By
School of Social Sciences & School of Law
MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences
MSR Nagar, Bangalore - 560054
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Event Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/nationalunityseminar>
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About MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences



M. S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (MSRUAS) is a premier private university in Bangalore, Karnataka, recognized for its commitment to excellence in education, research, and innovation. It was established in December 2013 under the Karnataka University Act. The university was founded with the vision of creating a multidisciplinary institution that blends academic learning with practical industry applications. MSRUAS is an initiative of the Gokula Education Foundation, an esteemed educational trust that has played a significant role in shaping higher education in India.

The university emerged through the integration of several well-established institutions founded by Dr. M. S. Ramaiah, a visionary educationist and philanthropist. These institutions include the M. S. Ramaiah Medical College, M. S. Ramaiah Dental College, M. S. Ramaiah College of Pharmacy, M. S. Ramaiah Institute of Nursing Education & Research, M. S. Ramaiah College of Hotel Management, and the M. S. Ramaiah Advanced Learning Centre, among others. By bringing these institutions under one unified system, MSRUAS has created a robust academic ecosystem that fosters interdisciplinary learning, research, and industry-oriented education.

One of the university's major strengths is its strong emphasis on research and development. Faculty members and students actively engage in cutting-edge research projects funded by both government and private organizations. MSRUAS also encourages its students to explore entrepreneurial opportunities, offering incubation support for startups and fostering an innovation-driven culture. With its student-centric approach, MSRUAS also provides global exchange programs and industry collaborations, allowing students to gain international exposure and expand their professional networks. The university's focus on critical thinking, ethical values, and interdisciplinary learning ensures that its graduates are well-equipped to excel in their respective fields and contribute meaningfully to society.

About School of Social Sciences



The **School of Social Sciences (SSS)** offers courses on Computational Social Sciences, Data Sciences, Economics, Psychology, and Public Policy. The curriculum proactively aligns to the changes in society, governance, and industry to ensure that students are market-ready at the end of the course. The School of Social Sciences strives to offer application-oriented programmes with innovative curricula and pedagogy. The courses offered in the School will provide learner centric education which is driven by smart research, smart education, and well-designed extension activities.

About School of Law



The **School of Law (SoL)** at MSRUAS offers a unique multidisciplinary learning environment that integrates law, science, and technology to meet the evolving demands of the legal profession. With innovative programs like the five-year B.Sc. LL.B. (Hons.) in Cybersecurity and B.A. LL.B. (Hons.), as well as a three-year LL.B. and one-year LL.M. in Artificial Intelligence, Cybercrime & Law, and Alternative Dispute Resolution, the School emphasizes experiential learning through its “3D Aspects of Law” approach—Law in Text, Law in Context, and Law in Practice. Students gain practical skills through lab work, case studies, moot courts, and client interviews. Guided by a vision to be a global leader in legal education and research, the School is committed to producing ethical, skilled, and socially responsible legal professionals capable of addressing complex legal and technological challenges.

Concept Note of the Seminar

With its vast and diverse landscape, India has always faced a complex array of challenges and opportunities. As the nation progresses into its eighth decade of independence, the quest for development across various sectors continues to shape its journey. Despite significant progress in addressing food scarcity and hunger, the nation's achievements remain unevenly distributed, with many areas still grappling with profound agricultural concerns. Today, the majority of Indian agriculture still relies on subsistence farming, instead of transitioning to market-driven or commercial farming methods commonly observed in developed countries. This adherence to traditional methods is one of the potential reasons the agricultural sector lags behind. Moreover, agriculture is often seen as the least preferred profession, despite the majority of the population depending on it for their livelihood. This dissonance highlights a major societal fault line: while rural India is vital for the nation's sustainability, it is not the preferred place of residence or work for many.

Amid these challenges, the Government of India has intensified efforts to integrate rural India into the broader narrative of national development and to revolutionise the sector with the latest technology, tools, and machinery. This focus underscores a crucial period of transition and transformation within the agricultural sector, reminiscent of the visionary efforts of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose work in this domain was pioneering.

Sardar Patel's emphasis on agriculture, farmer rights, and rural India was a cornerstone of his political and social strategy. His leadership during the Bardoli Satyagraha exemplifies his commitment to farmers' rights, as he opposed oppressive taxation to lay the groundwork for future agrarian movements in independent India. Additionally, Sardar Patel's pivotal role in fostering the cooperative movement marked a significant milestone in agricultural reform. His efforts led to the establishment of the Amul Cooperative, which secured fair prices and better market access for local farmers and milk producers and triggered the White Revolution. This revolution significantly enhanced milk production and established a model for cooperative endeavours in other agricultural sectors.

Furthermore, Sardar Patel's strategies extended beyond economic impacts, intertwining with a robust political voice for rural communities, demonstrating his commitment to inclusivity. He engaged large segments of the population in movements catalysing significant social and economic change. For instance, his tactics in mobilising women during the Bardoli and Kheda movements underscored his dedication to gender equality, aligning with contemporary efforts in women empowerment. In rural communities, the integration of economic and political identities not only empowered individuals but also fostered a collective consciousness that aligned with broader social justice movements. By actively involving women in these movements, Patel challenged traditional gender roles and emphasised women's crucial role in societal transformation. His commitment to inclusivity advanced their rights and laid the foundation for future generations to advocate for equality and justice. Such efforts underscore a fundamental understanding that social justice is multifaceted, requiring the intersection of economic empowerment, political representation, and gender equality to create sustainable change. In doing so, these movements serve as a blueprint for contemporary activists striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating that true societal progress hinges on the active participation of all marginalised groups.

Against the backdrop of these issues, this seminar aims to delve into Sardar Patel's significant legacy within the specific realms of agriculture, farming, and rural development. The present seminar is being organised **in collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)** as part of the **Rastriya Ekta (National Unity) Seminar** scheme.

By examining Patel's philosophies and their alignment with the Viksit Bharat vision and Sustainable Development Goals—particularly SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 15: Life on Land—we will focus on addressing the modern challenges that impact these sectors. Furthermore, in contemporary India, climate change has become a major factor exacerbating the rural–urban divide, with its first and most severe impacts felt in the agricultural sector. Considering these issues, the seminar will foster a platform for multidisciplinary debate among historians, sociologists, policymakers, and legal experts, focusing on crafting strategies that reflect Patel's approaches to inclusivity and empowerment. A special emphasis will be placed on how these strategies can also advance gender equality within rural communities as part of a broader pursuit of social justice. Ultimately, the insights and strategies developed during this seminar aim to reduce socio–economic disparities and foster sustainable growth, advancing India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Suggested Themes

- 1. Sardar Patel and Agrarian Reform: Foundations for Modern Agriculture**
 - Exploring Patel's role in historical agrarian reforms and their implications for contemporary agricultural practices.
- 2. Cooperative Movements and Rural Empowerment**
 - Examining the impact of cooperative farming initiatives on rural economies and their role in empowering small-scale farmers.
- 3. Gender Equality in Rural Development: Patel's Legacy and Contemporary Relevance**
 - Exploring ongoing challenges and opportunities for women in agriculture, linking these discussions to broader objectives for gender equality and social justice.
- 4. Challenges and Opportunities in Modern Agrarian India**
 - How Patel's philosophy can inform modern approaches to these challenges, particularly in securing farmers' rights and promoting resilient agricultural practices.
- 5. Farmer Protests and Rights: Historical Contexts and Modern Movements**
 - Exploring the socio–economic and political factors driving current farmer protests and the implications for policy reforms aimed at achieving equitable growth and sustainable agriculture.
- 6. Policy Frameworks for Agricultural Development: Lessons from Patel's Leadership**
 - Reviewing the policy impacts of Patel's agricultural initiatives and their relevance to current policymaking.
- 7. Integrating Rural Development with National Progress: A Path to Viksit Bharat**
 - Discussing strategies to integrate rural development more effectively into the national development agenda.

The above themes are indicative only, encouraging participants to explore diverse perspectives that align with the seminar's focus.

Selected papers will contribute to scholarly discussions on inclusive development, social equity, and the realization of India's vision for 2047 as a just, sustainable, and progressive society.

Call for Papers / Posters

Guidelines for Submission of Abstract

- The abstract (500 words max) and Poster Intent should be submitted to the Google form through the following link: [\[Submit Abstract\]](#).
- Abstracts should include references in APA format.
- All accepted abstracts will be published in the Book of Abstracts.
- Upon acceptance, authors are required to submit a full-length original paper of 4500–6000 words.
- Submissions are accepted in **English, Hindi, or Kannada**.
- All submissions must be original and unpublished work by the author(s).
- Submissions with plagiarism exceeding 10% will be disqualified.
- The use of generative AI tools is discouraged and may lead to rejection of the paper.
- Posters must be prepared on **A2 size chart paper** (16.5 x 23.5 inches) only.
- UG/PG students are eligible to submit posters for presentation.

Scope for Publication

- Selected papers will be published by ICSSR, subject to a peer review process conducted by an expert review committee.
- Additional selected papers may be included in an edited volume or thematic journal issue curated by the seminar organizers.

Format for Full Paper

- The full paper must include an abstract of not more than 200 words and 4–5 keywords.
- A title page should be attached, containing the paper title, name(s) of the author(s), institutional affiliation, and contact details (email ID and mobile number) of the corresponding author.
- The main manuscript should be typed in Times New Roman (or Mangal for Hindi/Kannada), 12-point font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides. Pages should be numbered consecutively.
- The full-length paper should be between 4500–6000 words, excluding references.
- Submissions must be in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format.
- All references should follow the APA (American Psychological Association) 7th Edition citation style.

Important Dates

- Last Date for Abstract Submission / Poster Intent: 20 June 2025
[\[Submit Abstract\]](#).
- Intimation of Abstract Acceptance: 25 June 2025
- Last Date for Registration: 31 July 2025
[\[Registration Link\]](#). *Registration will begin on 25 June 2025.*
- Last Date for Full Paper Submission: 31 July 2025
[\[Submit Full Paper\]](#).
- Seminar Date: 23 August 2025 (From 8.30 AM to 5.30 PM)
- Publication Process: To commence after the seminar.

Registration and Participation

- Faculty Members: ₹1000
- Research Scholars: ₹800
- UG/PG Students: ₹500
- **Note:**
 - The registration fee includes a registration kit, Book of Abstracts, participation certificate, tea/coffee, lunch, and high tea.
 - Participation without presentation is allowed, but registration is mandatory.
 - All authors listed on a paper must register individually.
 - Virtual presentations may be permitted on genuine grounds with prior approval.
 - **Best Paper Award** and **Best Poster Award** will be presented in the Student Category.

Honorarium and Travel

- No TA will be provided. Participants are encouraged to seek travel support from their home institutions.
- An **honorarium/reward** may be considered for a **few selected high-quality paper presenters**, based on the acceptance of the full paper and recommendation of the review committee.

Queries and Clarifications

All queries must be directed to the following:

- Email ID: nationalunityseminar@gmail.com
- Dr. Akhil Kumar Singh (8302083024, akhilkumarsingh.ss@msruas.ac.in)
- Ms. Ramya Prakash (9886255445, ramyaprakash.sl@msruas.ac.in)

Event Website

<https://sites.google.com/view/nationalunityseminar>



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