

## CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

It is heartening to offer yet another issue of the flagship journal of Mewar University, *Journal of Indian Research*. The current issue focuses on bridging disciplines for sustainable and equitable development.

The research papers presented here offer a compelling interdisciplinary lens on critical issues shaping India's socio-economic and health landscapes. From agrarian history and cinematic representation of rural distress to green finance and the smoking-stress nexus, these studies underscore the interconnectedness of policy, culture, and individual well-being.

Krishna K. Mandal's exploration of the peasant mode of production in early India (600–300 BCE) reveals how iron technology and land ownership catalyzed agrarian expansion, yet also entrenched social stratification. This historical perspective resonates with Jyotsna Pathak's analysis of Bollywood's portrayal of farmers, which critiques the romanticization of rural life post-liberalization, masking persistent agrarian crises. Both papers highlight a recurring theme: the marginalization of farmers despite their foundational role in India's economy. Sandeep Bhattacharjee's study on green lending further amplifies this, showing how weak regulatory enforcement and sectoral imbalances hinder sustainable finance, echoing the systemic neglect depicted in films like *Do Bigha Zamin*.

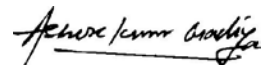
Zaidu Sulaiman's research on smoking and stress shifts focus to public health, revealing a bidirectional relationship where stress perpetuates nicotine dependence. This mirrors the cyclical vulnerabilities seen in agrarian and financial systems—whether farmers trapped in debt or banks lagging in green investments—where short-term coping mechanisms exacerbate long-term crises.

Together, these papers advocate for integrated solutions focusing on policy reforms, cultural accountability, and public health. It is imperative to now strengthen green finance frameworks as the future belongs to green economy. There will be paradigmatic shift towards solar energy, lithium batteries, green hydrogen, wind energy, geothermal energy and so forth. Only by introducing ease of doing business in this emerging sector, one can expect smooth investment flow. Transparency is vital for green lending. Innovative finance framework has been deliberated upon in the current issue.

Agrarian policies too should take into account how to address historical inequities. Media must balance nostalgia with honest narratives about rural distress. These days media have gone completely silent on rural distress and indulge excessively with the new economy and the service sector. Stress management should be central to smoking cessation programs.

For sustainable development and to build happy communities, the path forward demands interdisciplinary collaboration—historians, economists, filmmakers, and health experts. They ought to collaborate to reduce systemic inequities and foster sustainable development. Only then can India bridge the gap between its progressive aspirations and the lived realities of its most vulnerable populations.

I take this opportunity to invite scholars to send their papers in prescribed format. We assure you that the journal will keep its standards of high quality and regular periodicity.



**Dr. Ashok Kumar Gadiya**  
Chairperson, Mewar University