UTKARSH 2026

The Annual Leadership Conference of SJIM

ST. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
28/1, Primrose Road, Off M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560025

in collaboration with

REGIS UNIVERSITY, COLORADO, USA
3333 Regis Blvd, Denver, CO 80221, United States

Eighth International Conference on
Charting the Future: AI, Ethics, and Leadership for Organizational Resilience and Change

13TH – 14TH FEBRUARY 2026

About SJIM

Founded in 1968, SJIM is one of India's premier B-schools. It is AICTE approved, NBA accredited, and a member of AACSB. Located in the heart of Bengaluru, it has been a beacon of learning, research, and teaching in contemporary management. As the oldest business school in Karnataka, SJIM carries a legacy of over fifty years. Its vision is to create responsible business leaders with integrity, ethics, and concern for society and the environment. SJIM offers ample opportunities to develop individual skills and capabilities. The content and pedagogy are designed to ensure students are industry-ready. Regular interactions with industry leaders, rural exposure, internships, and conferences support students' overall growth.

About Regis University

Regis University, Denver, US is a distinguished Jesuit institution known for its commitment to academic excellence, ethical leadership, and social responsibility. Established in 1877, with a strong emphasis on experiential learning and community engagement, Regis fosters a dynamic and inclusive environment for students and scholars worldwide. The university offers a diverse range of undergraduate and graduate programs designed to equip students with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Rooted in Jesuit values, Regis encourages critical thinking, compassionate service, and lifelong learning.

About the Conference

What began in 2019 as a platform to bring leadership thinkers, researchers, and industry voices together has evolved into the SJIM Leadership Network — a vibrant ecosystem that explores transformative themes shaping business and society. Over the years, the conference has addressed renewed leadership, sustainability, business agility during turbulent times, and the future of digital transformation.

In its eighth edition, the conference is dedicated to exploring how organizations can responsibly embrace the transformative power of Artificial Intelligence. As AI continues to redefine the way

businesses operate, the need for ethical and purposeful leadership has never been more pressing.

This year, the conversations will focus on how technology and values can coexist to drive meaningful, long-lasting change. We'll examine how leaders can integrate AI thoughtfully, develop ethical frameworks that guide innovation, and build organizational cultures that are both resilient and responsive. At a time when change is the only constant, the conference aims to inspire organizations to lead not just with intelligence, but with intention and integrity.

The eights in the series of leadership conferences, the 2026 Charting the Future Conference will focus on research papers that examine integration and adoption of AI in bringing holistic competitive advantage.

Suggested Tracks and Sub-Themes*

The conference invites researchers, doctoral students, academicians, industry practitioner and master's degree students to submit theoretical, empirical research work, case studies and industry notes in the domain of AI, ethics and resilience. The tracks and sub-themes listed below (but not limited to) would be covered in the conference are listed below:

Track 1 — Transforming Financial Paradigms

- Climate finance, green banking, and sustainable finance practices
- Financial inclusion through digital transformation and fintech innovations
- Ethical accounting and transparent financial reporting
- Emerging financial frauds and AI-driven risk management
- High-frequency trading and advanced algorithmic strategies
- Fintech innovations and the future of financial services.

Track 2 — HR Practices for Organizations of Tomorrow

- Ethical leadership and ESG integration
- AI & digital innovation in human resources
- Talent management & employee experience
- Organizational culture, change, and human-centric design
- Developing data-literate leadership for AI era

Track 3 — Automated Operations, Data Optimization, and Supply Chain

- Digital twins and simulation
- Sustainability and the circular economy
- Risk assessment & adaptive supply networks
- Supply chain redesign and the future of lean
- Intelligent automation and human–AI collaboration
- Data privacy, bias mitigation, surveillance, and transparent operations

Track 4 — Marketing Amid Technology and Consumer-Centricity

- Tech-driven marketplaces
- Cultural sensitivity in global marketing
- Marketing for social good & smart platforms
- Balancing personalization with consumer autonomy
- AI-based marketing & crisis management
- Sales, branding, distribution & automation for resilience

Track 5 — Data Analytics to Navigate Uncertainty and Change

- Expert systems and decision support systems
- Inclusion & accessibility in AI-driven systems
- Generative AI, real-time analytics, and future readiness
- Resistance and resilience to analytics-led decision making
- Reskilling, emotional resilience, and sustainable decision making
- AI regulations, compliance strategies, and cross-border data governance

Track 6 — Fusing AI Innovation with Environmental Stewardship

- Green AI, inclusive AI, and ethical KPIs
- Balancing innovation and ecological impact
- Rural development, civic resilience, and empowerment
- Ethical dilemmas in AI-driven environmental monitoring
- Aligning AI with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Life cycle assessment of AI technologies and business models

*Each track will feature a Best Paper Award (certificate only), provided there are at least eight papers presented in person. An Overall Best Paper Award will also be presented, subject to eligibility and physical presentation at SJIM.

Who Should Attend?

The conference will provide an opportunity to doctoral students, faculty members, research staff, post graduate students, and industry practitioners to interact with some of the leaders in the industry and deliberate on the approaches of AI implementation for resilience. Participants will get an opportunity to listen to some of the best minds in the industry and build a professional network. They can present their systematically conducted research work and working papers in front of a panel of experts, garner objective feedback and gain renewed knowledge.

Conference Attraction

- Listen thought-provoking sessions from eminent panellists with diverse industry backgrounds.
- Hone your working papers or disseminate the research findings with fellow researchers.
- Publish full-length paper with the Scopus indexed Book series from renowned publisher like Springer and an ISSN journal.
- Break from regular routine and interact with industry practitioners to broaden your professional network.

Publication Opportunities

The following book series and journal have agreed to consider high-quality papers submitted to the conference for publication. Selected papers from the conference will be forwarded to the editors for further review, whose decision will be final and binding for publication.
The publication* opportunity includes:
- Springer Book Series on CSR, Sustainability, Ethics & Governance from Springer (Scopus abstracted/indexed)
- Business Review- A peer reviewed journal of SJIM (All UGC guidelines are met | ISSN: 0973-9076)

Master's student papers co-authored with faculty will be eligible for publication

Authors Guidelines

Preparation of Abstract:

- Abstract should be in a given order: Title - Author (s) name and Affiliation - Abstract - Key words
- Abstract (not more than 300 words) must contain brief introduction, objective of the research, methodology, results and conclusion.
- Provide 3 to 5 Keywords which can be used for indexing purposes.

Preparation of Full Research Article:

- Research paper should include in a given order: Title - Author (s) name and Affiliation- Abstract - Keywords - Main Text (Introduction, Review of Literature, Research Methodology, Analysis and Findings, Conclusion, Limitations and future research direction, References) Acknowledgement (if any).
- Paper title, Author(s) name and Affiliation, Contact Number and E-mail address should be centrally aligned, bold, capital letters, font size - 12, Times New Roman on the first page of the Article.
- All photographs, charts and diagrams are to be referred as 'Figures' and should be numbered consecutively in the order to which they are referred in the text.
- Reference/Bibliography should be in APA format.
- Full paper length should not be more than 8000-9000 word.
- Line spacing: 1.5 and Margin: 1 inch on all sides, Font size 12, Times New Roman, Research paper should be submitted in Microsoft Word / PDF Format.
- Research papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF format.
- In case of article which are co-authored, at least one author needs to be registered for the conference to get their paper considered for presentation/publication.
- A copyright declaration should be given by the corresponding author stating that the work is original and does not violate the rule of copyright.
- All full papers submitted will be subject to a blind review process. Comments of the reviewers will be sent directly to the author/s.

Submission Guidelines

Abstract and Full-Paper, completed in all respects, should be submitted in MS Word/PDF format on the Microsoft CMT using the given weblink. Each author must have a Microsoft CMT account to be able to submit an abstract as well as a full research paper.

CMT Weblink: https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/Utkarsh2026/Submission/Manage

Important Dates

15 Oct, 2025
Abstract Submission
Deadline

30 Oct, 2025
Notification of abstract
acceptance/rejection

19 Dec, 2025
Full Paper Submission
Deadline
(for those interested in full
paper publication)

15 Jan, 2026
Conference Registration
Deadline

13-14 Feb, 2026
Conference Dates

Registration Process

Paper presenters and participants can register for Utkarsh 2026 by remitting the registration fees through weblink: http://forms.eduqfix.com/sjimbangloreform/add

Category	Early bird (Till December 19, 2025)	Regular (Till January 15, 2026)	On-spot (On Feb 13-14, 2026)
Student	Rs. 500	Rs. 1000	Rs. 1500
Research Scholar	Rs. 1000	Rs. 1500	Rs. 2000
Faculty	Rs. 1500	Rs. 2500	Rs. 3000
Industry	Rs. 2500	Rs. 5000	Rs. 5500

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Conference Convenors
Dr. Deepika Joshi, Associate Professor
Prof. Rajendra Desai, Director - Corporate Relations

Student Coordinators:
Mr. Ainesh Ray (+91 98808 59578)
Ms. Surekha J (+91 99164 79661)

Contact Us:

Email: utkarsh@sjim.edu.in | **Website:** www.sjim.edu.in