



**ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, SULTHAN BATHERY
IN COLLABORATION WITH
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL INCLUSION,
NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY,
BENGALURU**



IDEAS OF SELF DETERMINATION IN ADIVASI WORLD

**Interconnectedness and self-sufficiency in
Livelihood Contexts**

THREE DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR

11th, 12th and 13th February, 2026

St. Mary's College, Sulthan Bathery, Wayanad

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Prof. Virginius Xaxa
Tata Institute of Social Science & Chairman,
Report of the High-Level Committee on
Socio-Economic, Health & Education Status
of Tribal Communities of India, 2014



Dr. Bratindi Jena
Formerly Associate Director, Action AID



Dr. George Jacob
Fellow of Royal Canadian Geographical
Society



Prof. Babu Mathew
National Law School of India University,
Bangalore



About St. Mary's College, Sulthan Bathery

The first higher education aided institution in Wayanad, St. Mary's College, Sulthan Bathery was established in 1965. Founded by Rev. Fr. Mathai Nooranal to throw light of education to the back ward district of Wayanad, it has 11 undergraduate and 9 post-graduate programmes. The College also has four Research Centres. SMC is also a study-centre for two open universities namely IGNOU and Sree Narayana Guru Open University. The research facilities include DST-FIST Instrumentation Facility, dedicated research scholar's hub and state-of-the-art Library. The college renders invaluable service to the holistic transformation of Wayanad and its people. The college was reaccredited with "A+" grade by NAAC in 2023.

About National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru

NLSIU was the first National Law University established in India in 1986. The premier law school was set up with a mission to pioneer legal education reforms, and to anchor the transformation of the Indian legal system through research and policy interventions. Consequently, NLSIU was one of the first institutions in the country to introduce the five-year integrated law degree at the undergraduate level from 1988 onwards. Since then, the University has irrefutably remained a leader in the field of legal education in the country. This long-standing record has been possible due to the strong collaborations between legal academics, the Bar, the Bench and the State Government of Karnataka.

About the Seminar

Research, literature and discourses have presented Adivasi communities as passive victims to contemporary changes in the market society. Very few post-colonial literature has focused on the resistance by Adivasi groups on the development models imposed on them. Apart from constitutionally mandated reservation provisions for jobs and political representation, predicaments of Adivasi communities are determined by several contemporary changes in society and market. Often research has focused on traditional institutions and governance system. Question on welfare research has been limited to how adivasi communities access government programmes. However, an inquiry into market and technological changes would be able to show how the ideas of self-determination has changed through emerging aspirations.

This seminar would like to take note and document positive elements of resilience and adaptation towards technology and market from Adivasi communities across country. These changes are marked by the nature of interaction between settlers and Adivasi communities. Some of these changes are monetization of natural resources (primarily land but also other natural resources of jal-jungle), penetration of English medium schools, modern health care facilities, tourism, availability of fast-moving consumer goods, exposure to media that shapes the demands internally, new modes of entertainments through alcohol and drug, and changes to transcendental institutions such as religion. How are Adivasi communities responding to these contemporary changes? How is technological adoption, and changes to traditional livelihoods taking place in the context of market penetration? This is the key question that a three day national seminar to be held at St. Mary's College, Sultan Bathery will be addressing



Programme Schedule

Day 01 11-02-2026

- 2.00 pm : Registration
3.30 pm : **Inaugural Session**
: Prayer
Welcome and Presidential Address : **Dr. Vijaykumar A. R.**, Principal, St. Mary's College, Sulthan Bathery
About the Seminar : **Dr. Sony Pellissery**, Director, Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion, NLSIU, Bengaluru
Inauguration & release of book of Abstracts : **Shri I. C. Balakrishnan**, MLA, Sulthan Bathery &
Smt. Shreeroopa, IAS, Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate Chamarajanagar District, Karnataka
Message from the Manager of the College : **H.G. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Barnabas**, Manager, St. Mary's College, Sulthan Bathery
Key Note Address : **Prof. Virginius Xaxa, Professor Emeritus**, Tata Institute of Social Science & Chairman, Report of the High-Level Committee on Socio-Economic, Health & Education Status of Tribal Communities of India, 2014
Felicitations : **Smt. Raseena Abdul Khader**, Chairperson, Sulthan Bathery Municipality
Rev. Fr. Baby John, Resident Manager, St. Mary's College
Shri. Mohandas K. K., Tribal Development Officer, Sulthan Bathery;
Dr. Balakrishnan P., IQAC Coordinator, St. Mary's College
Vote of Thanks : **Dr. Gisha P. Mathai**, Seminar Coordinator
5.45 pm: Inauguration of Cultural Evening : **Dr. George Jacob**, Fellow of Royal Canadian Geographical Society
"Chollum Chuvadam" - Cultural Evening : **Nanka Padhanatta**, Students from Institute of Tribal Studies and Research, University of Calicut, Chethalayam, Wayanad
07:00 pm : Dinner

Day 02 12-02-2026

- 9.45 am Keynote Address : **Dr. Bratindi Jena**, Formerly Associate Director, Action AID
Chair : **Dr. Anita Elizabeth Mathew**
10:45 am : Tea Break
Academic Session 1
11:00 am : **Panel Discussion on Legal Services in Adivasi Areas**
Chair : **Prof. Babu Mathew**, National Law School of India University, Bangalore
Panelists : **Adv. Fr. Stephen Mathew, Mr. Biju Kakkathode, Adv. Maria, Adv. Sr. Jomol Joicy**
01:00 pm : Lunch
02:00 pm : **Academic Session 2 (Parallel)**
Theme : **Man-Animal Conflict and Security Issues in Adivasi Areas**
Chair : **Dr. Aju K. Narayanan**, Professor, School of Letters, MG University
Navigating the Human-Wildlife Interface: A Critical Review of Adivasi Resilience, Traditional Mitigation, and State Policy in Kerala
: **Anosh Spary**, MG University
Man-Animal Conflict and Human Security among Adivasi Communities in Wayand
: **Devapriya M, Surya M S, Angel Baby**, St. Mary's College, Bathery
Conflict or Coexistence: Human-Wildlife Interactions and Security Issues among Tribal Communities in India
: **Sreekutty Santhosh & Dhanya R.**, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, Tirur
Who Counts as "Human" in Human-Wildlife Conflict? Adivasi Lives, Conservation, and Structural Injustice in South India
: **Prasanna K. V.**, University of Calicut
Academic Session 3 (Parallel)
02:00 pm: Theme : Integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems with Modern Science
Chair : **Dr. Manjusha K. A.**, MG University
Socio-Economic and Cultural Mobility Among Koraga Tribe of Karnataka State
: **Sabita Koraga**, Mangalore University
Higher educational challenges of Koraga community : **Prabhijith K.**, People's Cooperative College, Munnad &
Pranoy Vijayan, Research Scholar, Central University of Kerala

Intergenerational Transmission of Knowledge in Adivasi Communities: A Study based on the Koraga Adivasi Community in Kerala

: **Muhammed Junaid**, Malayalam University, Tirur

Indigenous Governance in Higher Education: The Experience of India's First Tribal-Led College

: **Blessiya Benny**, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, Kochi

: Tea Break

Academic Session 4

: Panel Discussion on Transformative Practices on Livelihood Promotion

: **Dr. Madegowda C.** (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment)

: **Ashok Shetty** (former director of Samagra),

K. G. Ramachandran (Coordinator of Keystone Foundation, Mananthavadi),

Stan Thekkekara, Founder, ACCORD, Gudalur

: Visit to Thoda Museum

: Dinner

Day 03 13-02-2026

09:30 am

Theme

Chair

Disability Studies (IUCDS), MG University, Kottayam

: **Academic Session 5 (Parallel)**

: **Health, Tourism and Cultural Commodification in Adivasi Regions**

: **Dr. Shynu V. C.**, Assistant Professor, Inter-University Centre for

Abdul Basith U., Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak

Dwelling as Pedagogy: Homestays as Sites of Intergenerational Indigenous Knowledge Transmission in Tribal Regions of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

: **Shreoshee Mukherjee**, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Tele-Health for Self-Determination: Rethinking Care Access in Soliga Tribe Forest Settlements

: **Shabu A. S.**, Department of Folkloristics and Tribal Studies, Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi

Preserving Culture through Tourism : Indigenous Communities and Policy Frameworks in Nelliampathy, Palakkad (2025)

: **Shahla T. A., Farhana M.**, St. Mary's college, Sulthan Bathery

Adivasi Resilience and adaptation to market and technological Progress

: **Academic Session 6 (Parallel)**

: Adivasi Autonomy and Governance

: **Dr. Lawwellman P.**, Associate Professor, Governement Law College, Kozhikode

: **Dr. N. Babavali, Ch. Prabhakar**, Centre for Study of Social Inclusion, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam.

Education and Social Mobility among Adivasi Youth in Central and Eastern India: A Study of Aspirations and Barriers

: **Muhammed Shanif K.**, IGNTU, Amarkantak

Safeguarding Cultural Identity in a Globalized World: An Examination of the Gond and Baiga Societies in Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh

: **KT Arasu**, Alternative for India Development/Vikalp Multimedia, Chennai

Indigenocracy/Tribalocracy: Reflections of an empirical study of Munda tribal self-governance system for sustainable forest-based livelihoods in Jharkhand

: **Jeswika Soumyashri A. V. & Sinchana H.V.** Christ University, Bangalore

Legal Self-Determination vs Administrative Control: The Failure of PESA and FRA in Adivasi Regions

: Tea Break

: **Academic Session 7**

Panel Discussion on Mobility Aspirations of Adivasi Youth

: **Dr. Pradeep Kumar K. S.**, Deputy Director (Training) KIRTADS (Kerala Institute for Research Development Studies of Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste)

Dr. Narayanan M. S., Assistant Professor in English, Institute of Tribal Studies and Research, University of Calicut

Dr. Anil Gopi, MG University, Kottayam

Jaincy John, Research Scholar, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod,

Ms. Asha, Community Leader, Yarava Community, Mysuru

12:00 noon – 12:45 pm

Valedictory Address

Vote of Thanks

01:00 pm

: **Babu Mathew**, National Law School of India University, Bangalore

: **Dr. Anita Elizabeth Mathew**, Seminar Co-Convenor

: Lunch