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Special Issue

Sustainable Futures:

The Role of Management Practices in Advancing SDGs

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Forward

It gives us great pleasure to present this special issue emerging from the 3rd International Conference on Emerging Trends in Management Practices (ICETMP–2026), organised around the theme “Sustainable Futures: The Role of Management Practices in Advancing SDGs.” The volume brings together a collection of research papers that engage with one of the most pressing challenges of our times: how organisations, businesses, institutions, and policymakers can translate the aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into meaningful and actionable practices.

The conference, organised by the LJ Institute of Management Studies (LJIMS), LJ University, in association with IFERP Academy, was held on 30–31 January 2026 at the LJ University Campus, Ahmedabad, with financial support from GUJCOST (Gujarat Council on Science and Technology). The conference provided a platform for academicians, researchers, industry professionals, policymakers, and scholars to deliberate on the changing role of management in building more sustainable, responsible, and inclusive futures. The conference received contributions from the United States, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and the UAE, alongside participation from more than 15 Indian states.

The conference recognised that achieving the SDGs is not the responsibility of governments alone. Businesses and organisations have an important role in addressing environmental challenges, promoting social inclusion, ensuring responsible production, creating decent work, and strengthening accountable governance. Management practices provide the crucial link between sustainability goals and their implementation. Reflecting this broad perspective, the papers in this volume explore a diverse range of contemporary issues—from energy-sector mergers and acquisitions, HR analytics, employee engagement and job satisfaction, and risk management in Indian banks, to social media-driven consumer segmentation and Generation Z’s perspectives on social responsibility. The

volume also examines broader dimensions of sustainable development through India's progress towards SDG and sustainable well-being practices at the workplace. Together, these contributions demonstrate that sustainability encompasses economic and strategic decisions, technological transformation, organisational effectiveness, employee well-being, consumer behaviour, social responsibility, and public health. The diversity of subjects underscores the multidimensional nature of sustainable futures and the need for management practices that integrate economic, social, technological, and environmental considerations.

Taken together, the papers in this volume contribute to the growing academic and managerial conversation on how sustainability can move from aspiration to action. They offer perspectives that are relevant not only to researchers and academicians but also to managers, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and other stakeholders concerned with creating organisations and economies that are resilient, responsible, and inclusive. While the contexts and approaches may differ, the underlying message is clear: sustainable futures require a fundamental rethinking of the way organisations create value, make decisions, use resources, and engage with society.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the authors for their valuable contributions, and to the reviewers for their meticulous evaluations and constructive suggestions. We also acknowledge the efforts of the editorial team and everyone who contributed to bringing this special issue to fruition.

We express our sincere thanks to Professor Dinesh Awasthi, Vice Chancellor, LJ University, and Dr. Manish Shah, President, Lok Jagruti Kendra Trust, for their constant support and encouragement. We thank Empirical Economic Letters, for providing a platform to disseminate the scholarly contributions emerging from ICETMP-2026 through this special issue.

The rigorous review and editorial process has sought to ensure that the papers included in this volume demonstrate academic quality and make meaningful contributions to the discourse on sustainable development and management. We hope that it will stimulate further inquiry, encourage informed managerial practice, and contribute to the continuing dialogue on how organisations can play a more purposeful role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.