



KERALA ECONOMIC CONFERENCE 2025

14-16 FEB. 2025
GIFT, Thiruvananthapuram

ORGANISERS



COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS

Centre for
Socio Economic and
Environmental Studies



Department of Economics
& IUCAE
University of Kerala



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BACKGROUND

The Kerala Economic Association (KEA), started in 2013, endeavours to provide a common platform for students, researchers, teachers, administrators, industrialists and others who are interested in the disciplinary domain of economics in general and the dynamics of the regional economy of Kerala in particular. The Kerala Economic Conference is an annual conference organised by the KEA.

Kerala's unique path to economic development has received international acclaim. The development experience of Kerala is widely praised as a pinnacle of social progress and welfare-centric policies. While most Indian states struggle with social indicators, Kerala has notably elevated living standards for its people. Over the decades, the state has consistently invested in building social infrastructure, especially education, health, and social protection. Nevertheless, the state's development experience has not been free of blemishes. It attracted criticism on account of the exclusion of several outlier groups such as women, people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, fisher folk, etc. Critics have also pointed out the question of the model's sustainability on account of fiscal and environmental limits. Recent global, national and regional developments necessitate a revisit of both the strengths and weaknesses of the state's economy. Centralisation of the fiscal system and the consequent shrinking of the fiscal space, increasing incidents of extreme weather events and other problems related to climate change, growth in inequality on account of globalisation, high rates of unemployment of the educated youth, especially women, ageing of the population and related issues of geriatric care, growing incidents of man-animal conflicts, rehabilitation of return migrants, infrastructure deficit, etc., are important contemporary concerns. However, the history of making the Kerala model is a great source of strength because it was built to overcome similar or more severe adversities. The willingness of the people to come together for the common good or 'public action' has been and would be the best bulwark of the state against the worst of adversities.

The Kerala Economic Conference 2025 takes place at a crucial juncture. The pandemic that exposed vulnerabilities in healthcare and social infrastructure worldwide along with ageing, is underscoring the essential role of the care economy—one of the major issues to be discussed in this annual conference. However, the KEA conference will provide a platform for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to critically review the knowledge accumulated on the regional economy of Kerala. It is designed as an interdisciplinary gathering of social science scholars concerned about the economic development in the region. The conference will be inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala. It will bring together a galaxy of eminent scholars from within and outside Kerala.

Plenary session will be organised in honor of K.N. Raj, K.K. Subramniam, and M. Kunjaman.

CONFERENCE TRACKS

While we encourage papers on the conference's central theme, submissions on Kerala Economy on issues around the following themes are also welcome.

Care Economy &
Demographic
Challenges

Democracy &
Decentralisation

Sector-
specific
issues

Media &
Development
Narratives

Labour,
Employment
& Migration

Knowledge
Economy

Environment,
Climate change
& Ecology

Fiscal
Federalism
& State
finances

Infrastructure
for Development

Social exclusion,
Gender &
Development



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PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP

The KEA is also organising a pre-conference workshop to develop the next generation of researchers in the realm of the care economy. Early-career researchers and PhD scholars are encouraged to apply by sending a write-up of around 300 words, which will be organised on the **13th of February 2025**. Preferences will be given to participants of Kerala Care study by KEA.

CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

The conference is organised by the Kerala Economic Association (KEA) in collaboration with the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT) and the Centre for Development Studies (CDS). Our partnering institutions are the Dept of Economics, University of Kerala, IUCAE, University of Kerala and Centre for Socio-Economic and Environmental Studies (CSES). The Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India, will host the conference.

PAPER SUBMISSION NOT LATER THAN **10th JAN. 2025**

Submission of full paper (in PDF) along with an abstract not exceeding 8,000 words (including abstract, notes, tables, appendices, list of references, etc.) should be mailed to conference@keaonline.org by 10th January 2025.



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The selection of the papers is based on a peer review process that focuses on relevance, academic quality and originality. Selected papers will be published in reputed peer reviewed journals.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

10 JAN. 2025

ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION

20 JAN. 2025

REGISTRATION OPEN

20 JAN. 2025

REGISTRATION CLOSE

5 FEB. 2025

DEADLINE FOR UPLOADING THE FINAL VERSION OF PAPERS

05 FEB. 2025

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

13 FEB. 2025

TRAVEL SUPPORT & HOSPITALITY

All the presenting authors, invited speakers and student participants will be offered local hospitality for two nights. All those submitting papers are encouraged to mobilise travel support by themselves. Limited number of travel support are available for young scholars upon request.

REGISTRATION FEE

MEMBER GROUP	STUDENTS	OTHERS
KEA Members (with accommodation)	INR 1000	INR 2000
KEA Members (without accommodation)	INR 250	INR 1000
Non-KEA Members (with accommodation)	INR 1500	INR 2500
Non-KEA Members (without accommodation)	INR 500	INR 1500

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Prof. M.A. Oommen, Patron, KEA

Prof. K.N. Harilal, President KEA

Prof. Harikumar S., Vice President & Chairperson of the Programme Committee

Dr. Rejuna C.A., Vice President KEA

Prof. K.J. Joseph, Director, GIFT

Prof. C. Veeramani, Director, CDS

Shri. Santhosh T. Varghese, General Secretary KEA

Prof. Godwin S.K., Treasurer KEA

Prof. Vinoj Abraham, Chair of Academic Committee KEA

Dr. Hemant Kumar, Convener, Academic Committee KEA

Smt. Anithakumary L., Joint Secretary & Convenor, Programme Committee

Dr. Nirmal Roy V.P., Joint Secretary KEA & Co Convenor Finance Committee

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