



# KERALA ECONOMIC CONFERENCE 2025

14-16 FEB. 2025  
GIFT, Thiruvananthapuram

## ORGANISERS



Department of Economics  
& IUCAE  
University of Kerala

## COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS



Higher Education Department  
ഉന്നതവിദ്യാഭ്യാസ വകുപ്പ്



Government  
College for Women,  
Thiruvananthapuram



PPRI  
Public  
Policy  
Research  
Institute



Centre for  
Socio Economic and  
Environmental Studies



IIMAD  
THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT



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. 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. Centralization of the fiscal system and the consequent shrinking of the fiscal space, climate change, growth in inequality on account of globalization, high rates of educated unemployment of the youth, especially among women, population aging and related issues of geriatric care, growing incidents of human-animal conflicts, rehabilitation of return migrants, infrastructure deficit, etc. are significant in the current context. The Kerala Economic Conference 2025 seeks to address some of these issues.

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 honour of K.N. Raj, M. Kunhaman, K.K. Subramanian and K K George.

**We look forward to meet you there!**

**Prof. M. A. Oommen, Patron**

**Prof. K. N. Harilal, President**

**Sri. Santosh T. Varghese, General Secretary**

**Prof. Godwin S. K., Treasurer**

# Programme Schedule



## Day 1 - 14/2/2025 FRIDAY

- 02.30 PM** : **Registration**
- 03.00PM to 04.30PM** : **Inaugural Session**
- Welcome and conference plan** : **Sri Santhosh T. Varghese**  
General Secretary KEA
- Presidential address** : **Prof. K. N. Harilal**  
President KEA
- Patron's address** : **Prof. M. A. Oommen**  
Distinguished Professor,  
Gulati Institute of Finance & Taxation,  
Thiruvananthapuram
- Inaugural address** : **Sri. Pinarayi Vijayan**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala
- Book Release** : **"Kerala, 1956 to the Present India's  
Miracle state"**  
Authored by  
**Tirthankar Roy**, London School of  
Economics and Political Science &  
**K. Ravi Raman**, State Planning Board,  
Government of Kerala
- Felicitations** : **Sri S. M. Vijayanand IAS (Retd)**  
Former Chief Secretary,  
Government of Kerala
- : **Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan**  
Chair, IIMAD
- : **Prof. K. J. Joseph**  
Director, Gulati Institute of Finance & Taxation,  
Thiruvananthapuram
- : **Prof. C. Veeramani**  
Director, Centre for Development Studies,  
Thiruvananthapuram
- : **Prof. Sheeja S. R.**  
Head, Department of Economics,  
University of Kerala
- : **Smt. Anila J. S.**  
Principal, Government College for Women,  
Thiruvananthapuram
- Vote of Thanks** : **Dr. Godwin S. K.**  
Treasurer, KEA



**NEW AUDITORIUM,  
GOVERNMENT COLLEGE FOR  
WOMEN, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**



**4.30 PM: High Tea**



**Day 1 - 14/2/2025 FRIDAY**

**Plenary Session 1**  
**04.45 PM to 6.30 PM**

**Session in Honour of Prof. K. N. Raj**  
**“GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RESET”**

**Chair** : **Prof. K. J. Joseph**  
Director, Gulati Institute of Finance  
& Taxation,  
Thiruvananthapuram

**Co-Chair** : **Prof. Mridul Eapen**  
Former Member, Kerala State  
Planning Board

**Remembering  
Prof. K. N. Raj** : **Prof. A. V. Jose**  
(Former Director,  
Gulati Institute of Finance &  
Taxation,  
Thiruvananthapuram

**Panelists** : **Sri. M. K. Bhadra Kumar IFS (Rtd)**  
(Former Ambassador to Soviet Union)

: **Prof. C. P. Chandrasekhar**  
(Senior Scholar, Levy Economics  
Institute of Bard College, US &  
Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal  
Nehru University, New Delhi

: **Dr. Rajasree M. S.**  
(Former Vice-Chancellor, APJ Abdul  
Kalam Technological University)



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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**



# Day 2 - 15/2/2025 SATURDAY



**Plenary Session 2**  
**9:30 AM -11:15 AM**

## **Session in Honour of Prof. K.K. Subramanian** **“INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT”**

- Chair** : **Sri. C. Balagopal, IAS (Rtd)**  
(Chairperson, KSIDC)
- Co-Chair** : **Dr. Rejuna C.A.**  
(Govt. Arts & Science College, Calicut)
- Remembering Prof. K. K. Subramanian** : **Prof. K. J. Joseph**  
(Director, GIFT)
- Panelists** : **Dr. K. M. Abraham IAS (Retd)** (Former Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala)
- : **Prof. M. Suresh Babu**  
(Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai)
- : **Dr. Divya S. Iyer IAS**  
(Managing Director, Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd)

**Tea Break**  
**11:15 AM to 11:30 AM**

**Parallel Sessions**  
**11:30 AM to 12:45 PM**

**Lunch Break**  
**12:45 PM to 01:30 PM**

**Parallel Sessions**  
**01:30 PM to 02:30 PM**

**Annual General Body Meeting**  
**02:30 PM to 03:00 PM**



  
**GULATI INSTITUTE OF  
FINANCE AND TAXATION**

**Plenary Session 3**  
**03:00 PM to 04:30 PM**

## **Session in Honour of Prof. K.K. George** **“CARE ECONOMY”**

- Chair** : **Prof. P. Sivanandan**  
(Honorary Fellow, Centre for Development Studies)
- Co-Chair** : **Dr. Meena Chacko**  
(Independent Researcher)
- Remembering Prof. K. K. George** : **Dr. Rakhee Timothy**  
(CSES, Kochi)
- Panelists** : **Padmasree Dr. M. R. Rajagopal**  
(Founder, Pallium India)
- : **Prof. S. Irudaya Rajan**  
(Chair, IIMAD)
- : **Prof. Manju S. Nair**  
(Professor, University of Kerala)
- : **Prof. Hari Kurup K. K.**  
(Co-ordinator, Kerala Palliative Care Study by KEA)

**Tea break**  
**04:30 PM to 04:45 PM**

**Parallel Sessions**  
**04:45 PM to 06:30 PM**

**Cultural Programmes**  
**06:30 PM to 07:30 PM**

**Dinner**  
**07:30 PM**



**Day 3 - 16/2/2025 SUNDAY**



**Plenary Session 4**  
**9:30 AM to 11.15 AM**

**Session in honour of Prof. M. Kunhaman**  
**“ISSUES OF EXCLUSION & DEVELOPMENT”**

- Chair** : **Prof. Vinoj Abraham**  
(Centre for Development Studies)
- Co-Chair** : **Dr. Syam Prasad**  
(Central Uty. of Kerala, Kasaragod)
- Remembering Prof. M. Kunhaman** : **Dr. Christabell P. J.**  
(University of Kerala)
- Panelists** : **Sri. Sunny M. Kapicadu**  
(Writer, Activist & Orator)
- : **Dr. Sonia George (SEWA)**
- : **Dr. C. C. Babu**  
(University of Calicut)
- : **Dr. K. Jafar**  
(Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai)

**Tea break**

**11:15 AM to 11:30 AM**

**Parallel Sessions**

**11:30 AM to 01:00 PM**

**Lunch break**

**01:00 PM to 02:00 PM**



**Panel Session on Kerala Economy**  
**02:00 PM to 04:00 PM**

**“PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES AHEAD”**

**Panelists**

- Introductory Remarks** : **Sri. K. N. Balagopal**  
(Minister of Finance, Government of Kerala)
- : **Prof. K. P. Kannan**  
(Former Director, Centre for Development Studies)
- : **Sri. C. P. John**  
(Former Member, Kerala State Planning Board)
- : **Prof. Alwin Prakash**  
(Chairman 6th State Finance Commission)
- : **Smt. Anupama Ramachandran**  
(Founder, The White Paper Creative)
- Concluding Observations** : **Dr. T. M. Thomas Isaac**  
(Former Finance Minister, Government of Kerala)





# **PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP ON**

## **“CARE ECONOMY”**

### **for Doctoral Scholars & Early Career Researchers**

**DATE 13/2/2025 THURSDAY**

**Workshop Session 1**  
**9:30 AM to 11.15 AM**

**Tea break**  
**11.15 AM to 11.30 AM**

**Workshop Session 2**  
**11:30 AM to 12.30 PM**

**Lunch break**  
**12.30 PM to 01.30 PM**

**Workshop Session 3**  
**1:30 PM to 3.15 PM**

**Tea break**  
**3.15 PM - 3.30 PM**

**Workshop Session 4**  
**3:30 PM to 4.30 PM**



## **Experts Leading the Workshop**

**Dr. M. R. Rajagopal (Pallium India)**

**Prof. Praveena Kodoth (Centre for Development Studies)**

**Dr. Shyjan Davis (University of Calicut)**

**Prof. Vinoj Abraham (Centre for Development Studies)**

**Dr. Mallika M. G. (Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University)**

**Dr. Bipin Gopal (Directorate of Health Services, Govt. of Kerala)**

**Special Session**  
**4.30 PM to 5.30 PM**

## **“What Graduate School Don't Teach You: Tools for Transparent and Reproducible Research”**

**Sri. Nithin M. (Kerala State Planning Board)**

**A Joint Initiative of Economiga & KEA**

**Convenor: Dr. Nirmal Roy V. P.**





## CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

The conference is organised by Kerala Economic Association (KEA) in collaboration with Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT) and Centre for Development Studies (CDS) with financial assistance from Department of Higher education, Govt. of Kerala. Our partnering institutions are Department of Economics, University of Kerala, IUCAE, University of Kerala, Centre for Socio-Economic and Environmental Studies (CSES), The International Institute Of Migration And Development (IIMAD) & Public Policy Research Institute' (PPRI). Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram and Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India will host the conference.

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

**Prof. M.A. Oommen, Patron KEA**

**Prof. K.N. Harilal, President KEA**

**Prof. Harikumar S., Vice President KEA & Chairperson, Programme Committee**

**Dr. Rejuna C.A., Vice President KEA**

**Prof. K.J. Joseph, Director, GIFT**

**Prof. C. Veeramani, Director, CDS**

**Prof. Sheeja S.R., University of Kerala**

**Sri. Santhosh T. Varghese, General Secretary KEA**

**Prof. Godwin S.K., Treasurer KEA**

**Prof. Vinoj Abraham, Chairperson, Academic Committee KEA**

**Sri. Hemant Kumar, Convenor, Academic Committee KEA**


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


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

**Dr. Kiran Kumar Kakarlapudi, Co-Convenor, Academic Committee KEA**

**Sri. Siddik R, IUCEA, University of Kerala & Convenor, Finance Committee**

 <https://keaonline.org/>

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