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Current Position

Assistant Professor at Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT), Thiruvananthapuram (Economics and Public Finance)

Alumni 8th Lindau Nobel Meeting in Economic Sciences 2025

Study of US Institute (SUSI) Scholar 2024 (Visiting Scholar Program) sponsored by the United States, Department of State's Bureau, Education and Cultural Affairs

Education

- **Ph.D.** from Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore.
- Double Post Graduation in Mathematical Economics (Madurai Kamaraj University) and Actuarial Science (Amity University)

Professional Experience

- *Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Economics, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Cochin*
- *Economist (Scale II -Manager) at Canara Bank, Head Office, Bangalore*
- *Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Professional Studies, Christ University, Bangalore*

Professional and Research Skills

- Coordinates the GIFT's research pillar on public expenditure encompassing the political economy of fiscal policy, quality and efficiency of public expenditure, intergovernmental transfers, financing for development, social sector budgeting and disaster risk expenditure in the context of climate-induced fiscal vulnerabilities. The research domain also includes expenditure rationalisation strategies and alternatives emerging from evolving macro-fiscal conditions.
- Hands-on working experience in Stata, E-views, SPSS and MaxQDA
- Econometric Data Analysis, specialized research experience in the panel and cross-sectional data analysis

Research Publications

- *How do economic and systemic factors influence revenue from stamp duty and registration fees? an analysis of Kerala, India, Journal of Property Research, Routledge, August 2025*

- *Public and household financing of education in India: Are they substitutes or complements?* World Development Perspectives, **Elsevier**, July 2025
- Climate change, flooding woes and mass exodus of inhabitants: an analysis of Kuttanad wetland ecosystem in Kerala, India, **GeoJournal, Springer, October 2023**
- *Socio-economic inequalities in spending on various levels of education across Indian households: an update* published in **Indian Economic Review, Springer, July 2023**
- *Blended Learning in Indian Higher Education Are We Prepared to Set the Ball Rolling?* Published in **Economic and Political Weekly, April 2023.**
- *A Political and Economic enquiry into India's Fiscal Policy Response towards Covid-19 pandemic: Does it suffice Addressing the Growth Challenges? June 2022*, (Book Chapter), Scholars' Press (ISBN:978-620-3-2-31579-1)
- "Interstate Variation in Household Education Expenditure in India: Does it affect the Educational Status? published in **Structural Change and Economic Dynamics. Elsevier, October 2021 (Impact factor: 6.1)**
- "Uncertain Trajectory of Food Inflation: Fresh Triggers Amid Pandemic", **Economic and Political Weekly, July 2021.**
- "Group based educational inequalities in India: Have major education policy interventions been effective?", **International Journal of Educational Development, Elsevier, January 2020.**
- "Exchange rate volatility and its macroeconomic implications: Empirical evidence from India", *Bank Quest, Journal of Indian Institute for Banking and Finance (IIBF)*, October 2019.
- "Artificial Intelligence: An Economic and Sociological Blackhole?" for the Stephen Hawking Memorial issue of *Journal of Informatics Studies, Vol:52 April- June 2018.*
- South- South Cooperation and Spices trade: Indian Scramble for African - LAC markets' – *South Asian Journal of Diplomacy*, May 2016.
- "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and its Implications for Indian Spices Trade: A political Economy Approach" – *Journal of Polity and Society*, April 2016.

Fellowships

- Invitee to the 8th Lindau Nobel Meeting in Economic Sciences 2025, Germany
- Represented India as a Study of US Institute (SUSI) scholar in 2024, sponsored by the United States, Department of State's Bureau, Education and Cultural Affairs in Boston, Massachusetts, New York, and Washington DC.

Papers Presented

- Do electoral cycles and political competition influence fiscal marksmanship? Panel evidence from Indian states, Seminar at Madras School of Economics, March 2026.

- Does Formula Design Influence Equity in Disaster Risk Financing? A Comparative Analysis of the 15th and 16th Finance Commission Approach, Seminar at Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, March 2026.
- Ecological Federalism and Disaster Financing Criteria in India: A Call to Revisit, World Bank-16th Finance Commission of India, Seminar at New Delhi, December 2024
- Growing Vertical Fiscal Imbalance: A case for increasing divisible pool, Fiscal Federalism Seminar, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, October 2024
- Determinants of Capital Expenditure on Education: An Empirical Analysis Across States in India, Centre for Budget Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology, March 2023
- ‘Public versus Household Spending on Education: Are they Substitutes or Compliments Across States in India?’ at European Economics and Finance Society (EEFS), 25th June 2021.
- ‘Socio-economic Spending Decisions on Education by Indian Households: An Empirical Exploration’, PhD Colloquium, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, November 2019.
- ‘Public Expenditure and Gender Outcomes on Education: Evidence from India’s North East’, International Conference, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya, July 2018.
- Paper accepted on ‘Education Expansion and Income Inequality: An Evidence from India at National and Sub-national Levels’, World Sustainability Conference, *University of Michigan, U.S.A*, August 2018.

Opinion- Articles in National Dailies (Selected)

- Counting people is not counting disaster risk, 1st April 2026, The Hindu Newspaper, <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/counting-people-is-not-counting-disaster-risk/article70808197.ece>
- India’s disaster response, a slippery slope for federalism, 29th November 2025, The Hindu, <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/indias-disaster-response-a-slippery-slope-for-federalism/article70335627.ece>
- Don’t neglect higher education, The Hindu Business Line, 6th February 2026, <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/dont-neglect-higher-education/article70596744.ece>
- Kerala Budget 2026-27 is one that seeks fiscal stability amid demographic transition, 30th January 2026, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kerala-budget-2026-27-is-one-that-seeks-fiscal-stability-amid-demographic-transition/article70565719.ece>
- Employment guarantees to VB-G-RAM-G: A federal promise with State funding, The Hindu Business Line, 30th December 2025, <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/employment-guarantees-to-vb-g-ram-g-a-federal-promise-with-state-funding/article70452706.ece>

- Ecological Federalism: Time to revisit disaster fund allocation criteria, 14th October 2024, <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/ecological-federalism-time-to-revisit-disaster-fund-allocation-criteria-3231128>
- Finance Commission can create more fiscal space through grants, 3rd October 2024, <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/opinion/finance-commission-can-create-more-fiscal-space-for-states-through-grants-12834705.html>
- Growing Vertical Fiscal Imbalance: A case for increasing divisible pool, 7th July 2024, Mathrubhumi newspaper, editorial page
- Focused Policy Key to Higher Private Investment, Faster Growth, 31st March 2023, <https://www.policycircle.org/economy/higher-private-investment-vital/>
- ‘Agrarian Distress in Kuttanad, A Wake-Up Call for Urgent Climate Adaptation’, Science, the Wire, 23rd April 2022, <https://science.thewire.in/author/aswathy-rachel-varughese/>
- ‘Inflation vs growth: RBI set to end to monetary easing cycle, Policy Circle’, 5th April 2022, <https://www.policycircle.org/economy/rbi-monetary-easing-inflation/>
- ‘Courting Trouble: Inflation and Politics of Fuel Pricing’, 30th March 2022, Policy Circle, <https://www.policycircle.org/economy/inflation-fuel-pricing/>
- ‘Weak Demand Impulses Pinpoint Jerky Economic Recovery, FreePress Journal, 16th July 2020, <https://www.freepressjournal.in/analysis/weak-demand-impulses-pinpoint-jerky-economic-recovery>
- ‘Pandemic Woes and Behavioural Shift: Need to Boost Private Consumption’, Deccan Herald, 15th June 2020, <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/panorama/pandemic-woes-and-behavioural-shift-need-to-boost-private-consumption-849569.html>

Invited Lectures

- Union Budget FY 2026-27 and Centre State Relations, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode (Kochi Campus)
- Analysis of Union budget FY2026-27, Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) and Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Kerala (SICCI)
- **Fiscal Math, Union Budget 2023-24**, Department of Applied Economics, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin
- Delivered a lecture on ‘**Decoding Auction Theory- Contributions of Milgrom and Wilson, Nobel Laureates in Economics 2020**’ at K.G College Pambady, November 2020.
- Delivered a lecture on ‘*Demonetization and its impact on India Economy*’, Fatima College, Madurai, February 2018.
- Delivered a lecture on ‘*Relevance of Modern Cost Theory*’, K N Raj Centre, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, February 2016.

Membership in academic bodies

- Life-time member of Kerala Economic Association (KEA)
- Member of Board of Studies, School of Management, Christ University, Bangalore, 2017-18
- Lifetime member and Junior Associate of the Indian Institute for Banking and Finance (IIBF)
- Student Member of the Institute of Actuaries of India

Accolades and Achievements

- Recipient of the best thesis award at Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore (2022)
- Award from IIBF for the **best Micro Research Paper** among all Indian bankers, in June 2019.
- Attended the INTEL's **Asia Pacific Conference held at Bangkok, Thailand**, May 2012.
- Recipient of the **Elizabeth Adiseshiah Award**
- Recipient of **10th Econometric Conference Endowment Prize**, Madurai Kamaraj University.
- Represented the Kerala state in the **National Children's Science Congress** held at Kolkata, in December 2000.