

Seminar on the 16th Finance Commission and Fiscal Federalism 18–19 March 2026

Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT)

Venue: GIFT Boardroom

Day 1: 18 March 2026	
09.30 – 10.00 AM	Registration
10.00 – 11.15 AM	INAUGURAL SESSION
	<p>Chairperson: Shri K M Chandrasekhar IAS (Rtd), Former Cabinet Secretary & Distinguished Professor, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT)</p> <p>Welcome Address: Prof. K. J. Joseph, Director, GIFT</p> <p>Inaugural Address: Shri K. N. Balagopal, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Government of Kerala</p> <p>Keynote Address: Dr Haseeb Drabu, Former Finance Minister, Jammu & Kashmir</p> <p>Vote of Thanks: Dr Kiran Kumar Kakarlapudi, Assistant Professor, GIFT</p>
11.15 – 11.30 AM	Tea Break
11.30 AM – 01.15 PM	TECHNICAL SESSION I 16th Finance Commission: Macro-Fiscal Framework
	<p>Chair and Opening Address: Prof. Sudipto Mundle, Chairman, Centre for Development Studies & Member 14 Finance Commission</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Prof. D. K. Srivatsava, Chief Policy Advisor, EY India, Member 12 Finance Commission</p> <p>Prof. N. R. Bhanumurthy, Director, Madras School of Economics (MSE), Chennai</p> <p>Prof. M Suresh Babu, Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai</p> <p>Dr Renjith P. S., Assistant Professor, GIFT</p>
01.15 – 02.00 PM	Lunch

02.00 – 03.45 PM	TECHNICAL SESSION II Vertical Devolution
	<p>Chair and Opening Address: Shri A. N. Jha, Member, 14th & 15th Finance Commission</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Prof. Ashok Lahiri, Member, 15th Finance Commission</p> <p>Prof. R Kavita Rao, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi</p> <p>Prof. Vinod Vyasulu, Former Director, Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Bangalore</p> <p>Shri R. Mohan IRS (Rtd), Former Income Tax Commissioner</p>
03.45 – 04.00 PM	Tea Break
04.00 – 05.45 PM	TECHNICAL SESSION III Horizontal Devolution
	<p>Chair and Opening Address: Prof. M. Govinda Rao, Member, 14th Finance Commission & Former Director NIPFP</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Prof. Pinaki Chakraborty, Former Director, NIPFP, New Delhi</p> <p>Prof. K. R. Shanmugam, Former Director, Madras School of Economics (MSE), Chennai</p> <p>Prof. M. Parameswaran, Professor, Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram</p>
Day 2: 19 March 2026	
10.00 – 11.30 AM	TECHNICAL SESSION IV Grants-in-Aid
	<p>Chair and Opening Address: Dr Shyjan Davis, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Calicut.</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Prof. K. Gayithri, Former Professor, ISEC</p> <p>Dr Sumalatha B S, Assistant Professor, GIFT</p> <p>Dr Aswathy Rachel Varughese, Assistant Professor, GIFT</p>
11.30 – 11.45 AM	Tea Break

11.45 AM – 01.15 PM	TECHNICAL SESSION V Local Finances
	<p>Chair and Opening Address: Prof. M. A. Oommen, Distinguished Professor, GIFT</p> <p>Panelists</p> <p>Prof. D. Narayana, Former Director, GIFT</p> <p>Prof. K. N. Harilal, Chairman, 7th State Finance Commission</p> <p>Prof. Jos Chathukulam, Director, Centre for Rural Management, Kottayam</p> <p>Dr Parma Chakravartti, Assistant Professor, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi</p>
01.15 – 02.00 PM	Lunch
02.00 – 03.45 PM	VALEDICTORY SESSION
	<p>Chair: Shri A. N. Jha, Member, 14th & 15th Finance Commission</p> <p>Valedictory Address: Prof. M. Govinda Rao, Member 14th Finance Commission & Former Director NIPFP</p> <p>Concluding Address and vote of thanks: Prof. K. J. Joseph, Director, GIFT</p>