

KERALA ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

13th ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

13th and 14th March 2026

@ Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation



Programme Schedule

DAY 1: 13.03.2026

Registration 1.30 PM – 2.30 PM

Inaugural Session: 2.30 PM–4.00 PM

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

Presidential Address: Prof. K.N. Harilal, *President, KEA*

Inaugural Address: Prof. K.P. Kannan, *Eminent Development Economist*

Patron's Address: Prof. M. A. Oommen, *Patron, KEA*

KEA Citations honouring of Prof. K.P. Kannan: Dr. M. Kabir, *Professor (Rtd), Govt of Kerala*

Honouring Prof. K. P. Kannan, *Eminent Development Economist*

Felicitations : Prof K.J. Joseph, *Director, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation*

Shri. D Suresh Kumar, *Executive Director, KILE*

Dr. E M Thomas, *Former Secretary, KEA*

Dr. Priyesh Nair, *Former Secretary, KEA*

Vote of Thanks: Smt. Anitha Kumary L, *Conference Organising Secretary*

GIFT

GULATI INSTITUTE OF
FINANCE AND TAXATION





13th March 2026

High Tea: 4.00 PM- 4.30 PM

Plenary Session on Labour and Labour Regulations : Time 4.30 PM- 5.30 PM

Welcome: Dr. Kiran Kumar Karkalapudi, *Assistant Professor, GIFT*

Chairperson: Prof. Christabel P J, *Dept of Economics, University of Kerala*

Special Address: Prof. Sumangala Damodaran, *Institute for Human Development, New Delhi*
“*Industrial Organisation, Employment and the Landscape of Labour Regulations–Understanding Recent Changes in India*”

Speaker 1: Dr. S. Mohanakumar, *Director, Public Policy Research Institute*

Speaker 2: Dr. Sasikumar, *Kerala Institute of Labour and Employment*

Vote of Thanks: Dr Arun Symanath, *Joint Director, Kerala State Planning Board*

Round Table on Teaching Economics: Time: 5.30 PM—7:00 PM

Welcome: Dr. Rejuna C.A. *Associate Professor, Govt of Kerala*

Chair: Prof. S. Harikumar, *CUSAT*

Introductory Remarks: Shri, Hemant Kumar, *Principal, Ettumanrappan College*

Discussants: Prof. Bino Paul (*Tata Institute of Social Sstudies, Mumbai*) &

Prof. Hari Kurup *K K (7th State Finance Commission of Kerala) and*

Presentations from KEA Regional Chapters – Prof. Philip M P

Dr. Y C Ibbrahim,

Shri. Siddik R

Shri. Bennet Thomas

Vote of Thanks: *Dr Sruthi, Assisatnt Professor, Mahatma Gandhi College, Thiruvananthapuram*

Book Talk: Time: 7:00 PM—7.30 PM

Welcome: Dr Anil Kumar B M, *Joint Director, State Planning Board*

Chair: Prof. M Parameshwaran, *Centre for Development Studies*

Introducing the Book: Editors – Prof. P.L. Beena & Prof. Thiagu Ranganathan

Kerala Transforming: Labour and Trade Mobility in Times of Pandemic, Routledge

Vote of Thanks: Dr Veena Renjini, *University College, Thiruvananthapuram*

Cultural Programme- Time: 7.30 PM- 8.15 PM

Conference Dinner- 8.30 PM



DAY 2 - 14th March 2026

Parallel Sessions: Time: 9: 30 AM—11:15 AM - 4 Venues

Tea Break : 11:15 AM—11:30 AM

Plenary Session on Labour in the Informal Sector: Time: 11: 30 AM—12:45 PM

Welcome: Prof. Philip MP, *Christ University Bengaluru*

Chair: Prof, K J Joseph, *Director, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation*

Special Address: Prof. Arun Kumar, *Emiretus Professor Jawaharlal Nehru University*

Speaker 1: Dr. Mythree Prasad, *Independent Researcher*

Speaker 2: Dr. Silpa Satheesh, *IIM Calicut*

Speaker 3: Dr. Sumeetha M, *VIT Vellore*

Vote of Thanks: Dr. Shaharban V, *Dept of Economics, Kannur University*

Conference Lunch - 12:45 PM—01:15 PM

Annual General Body Meeting: Time - 1: 15 PM—2:00 PM

Round table on Labour and Development in Kerala

Time: 2: 00 PM—4:00 PM

Welcome: Dr. Godwin S K, *Treasurer, KEA*

Chair: Prof. A V Jose, *Former Director, GIFT*

Speaker 1: Shri. K. N. Gopinath, *Kerala Institute of Labour and Employment*

Speaker 2: Shri. R. Chandrasekharan, *Indian National Trade Union Congress*

Speaker 3: Prof. C Veeramani, *Director, Centre for Development Studies*

Speaker 4: Prof. Mridul Eapen, *Former Member, Kerala State Planning Board*

Speaker 5: Prof S Muraleedharan, *Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam*

Speaker 6: Dr. Priyesh Nair, *Professor, Dept of Collegiate Education, Govt of Kerala*

Vote of Thanks: Dr. Anitha V, *Dept of Economics, University of Kerala*



Kerala Economic Association (KEA)

A professional organisation that 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 Association (KEA) has been organising various academic activities such as public lectures, seminars, workshops, panel discussions, colloquiums on various topics related to economics with a view to enhancing the quality of teaching and research in economics in the State. This is the 13th Annual Conference of KEA.



Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT)

Envisaged as a centre of excellence, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT) specializes in research, training and consultancy, and provides fiscal and social policy inputs to the Government of Kerala in particular and the South Indian states in general. The GIFT was formed in 2009 by upgrading the Centre for Taxation Studies (CTS), an autonomous institution formed by the Government of Kerala in 1992 for undertaking research, training, consultancy, and publication in the area of public economics. It is conceived as a premier national institute to promote theoretically grounded empirical research with an interdisciplinary perspective to aid policy-making at the national and sub-national levels.

Kerala Institute of Labour and Employment (KILE)

Established in 1978 for fostering a positive industrial relations climate for government, workers and management, KILE aims to equip Kerala's workforce for the changing economic landscape through research, training programs and workshops.