

4th Annual Conference on Public Finance and Policy

23-24 March 2026
Madras School of Economics, Chennai

Jointly organized by

Centre for Public Finance, Madras School of Economics (MSE)
&
Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT)



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Concept Note

Over the past decades, perspectives on the role of the State and the architecture of public finance have undergone profound transformations worldwide. Evolving views on taxation, redistribution, and stabilization measures have substantially shaped this trajectory. These shifts have catalysed new policy paradigms and fiscal reforms, placing greater emphasis on prudent macroeconomic management to foster sustainable and stable growth. Unlike advanced nations, fiscal authorities in developing countries face a complex set of challenges such as addressing poverty and inequality, mobilising adequate resources, enhancing human development, and maintaining fiscal discipline, while navigating political, institutional, and administrative limitations. Elevated deficits, rising public debt, and new developmental demands have reshaped fiscal priorities.

India's experience mirrors these global transitions. The enactment of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) legislation in the early 2000s aligned India with global trends toward rule-based fiscal frameworks. The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 stands as the most significant reform to India's tax system since independence. While these reforms remain works in progress, they have deeply influenced fiscal federalism and Centre–State financial relations. However, emerging concerns including widening vertical fiscal imbalances, shrinking fiscal space for states, and deepening inter-regional disparities, highlight the continued need for informed debate, robust evidence, and renewed thinking on public finance and policy.

Against this backdrop, the **Centre for Public Finance, Madras School of Economics (MSE)** in collaboration with the **Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT), Thiruvananthapuram**, is pleased to organise the **4th Annual Conference on Public Finance and Policy**.

The conference aims to bring together scholars, practitioners, and policy experts from leading institutions working on public finance. It seeks to create a platform for rigorous dialogue, and innovative perspectives on how public finance can respond effectively to new and evolving development challenges. Through these deliberations, the conference aspires to contribute meaningfully to the broader discourse on shaping responsive, equitable, and forward-looking public finance systems suited to the needs of emerging economies.

Conference Tracks

Submissions are welcome on, issues related to public finance that include, but not limited to, the following themes

- Fiscal-Monetary Policy Nexus, Growth, and Stability.
- Political Economy of Public Finance, Fiscal Federal Relations, and Intergovernmental Transfers
- Issues in Taxation: Special Focus on GST, Tax Innovations, Tax Evasion, Tax Mobility, Tax Incidence etc
- Public expenditure: Policies and Performance
- Deficit Financing: Sustainability, Solvency and Stability
- Budget Constraints, Fiscal Rules, and its Implications
- Fiscal Decentralization: Sub-national and Local Finances
- Financing Development: Education, Health, and Gender
- Public Policies for New Development Challenges, Social Protection, and Welfare
- Public-private Partnerships and Infrastructure Financing
- Climate Financing for Net Zero Energy transition
- Financing Sustainable Development Goals
- Digitalization and Innovation in Fiscal Administration, Governance, and State Capacity Building

Special Sessions

Those interested in organizing special sessions must submit their proposals by 15 February 2026.

Paper Submission

We encourage scholars from research institutions, universities, enterprises, and public sector institutions to take this opportunity to present their research papers on the conference themes or any of the conference tracks. We especially encourage young researchers to submit papers.

Please submit your full papers (in pdf) not exceeding 10,000 words (including notes, tables, appendices, list of references, etc.) via the online submission form <https://forms.gle/RBsGnn7TUYEDHugt6>.

The selection of the papers is based on a peer review process that focuses on relevance, academic quality, and originality.

Important Dates

Submission of full paper:	15 February 2026
Notification of acceptance:	20 February 2026
Conference dates:	23-24 March 2026

Travel Support and Hospitality

Travel support for Indian Delegates will be available based on the availability of funds and eligibility, wherein PhD scholars and those without any other source of financial support will be preferred. All the delegates will be provided with local hospitality (food and accommodation).

There is no registration fee for the conference

Conference Organising Committee

Coordinators

Prof N R Bhanumurthy, Director MSE

Prof K J Joseph, Director GIFT

Co-coordinators

Dr Blessy Augustine, Assistant Professor, MSE

Dr Sumalatha B S, Assistant Professor, GIFT

Dr Aswathy Rachael Varughese, Assistant Professor, GIFT

Contact us

Email: cpf@mse.ac.in