

The Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram, invites unpublished original research papers for the Keralam and the World Economy (KWE) Conference, to be held from 25–27 February, 2027. The conference seeks to foster rigorous scholarly engagement with contemporary issues shaping Keralam's development trajectory and its interactions with the global economy.

Call for Papers

Venue:

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

(Under the aegis of Govt. of Keralam & ICSSR, Govt. of India)

Thiruvananthapuram, Keralam.

Concept Note

Keralam's development trajectory has been shaped by a long history of interaction between local realities and global economic forces. From its historic role in international trade networks to its contemporary dependence on migration and remittance flows, Keralam's experience offers valuable insights into the benefits and trade-offs associated with globalisation. As these dynamics continue to evolve and resonate with experiences in other regions, there is a growing need for systematic, comparative, and interdisciplinary scholarship to understand their implications for regional development and economic transformation.

In a rapidly evolving global landscape, emerging challenges such as technological disruption, geopolitical fragmentation, shifting trade regimes, and changing migration patterns call for renewed scholarly engagement. Artificial intelligence is reshaping production systems, labour markets, and patterns of economic growth, presenting both opportunities and challenges at national and sub-national levels. At the same time, geopolitical developments in West Asia, evolving global trade relations, and India's strategic shifts in trade and diplomatic engagement are generating new risks and prospects for Keralam. These developments have important implications for migration, remittance flows, export competitiveness, labour markets, and the future of the state's economic development.

The conference invites researchers to critically examine Keralam's position within broader global currents and identify strategies to enhance the state's resilience, competitiveness, and inclusiveness. One such avenue is Keralam's growing focus on harnessing its maritime advantages through initiatives such as Mission Samudra, which seeks to promote a port-led economy and integrate the state's industrial ecosystem into global value chains. The conference welcomes research and policy insights that can inform Keralam's development strategy in an increasingly interconnected world.

The conference will also host discussions on pressing contemporary issues: Keralam's engagement with a shifting landscape of global economy; the implications of the geo-political issues including West Asia crisis for migration, remittances and trade; the prospects of port-led development; and the fiscal challenges of the state amid mounting global uncertainties. The conference invites original research papers on a range of key themes as listed below. Contributions that explore these themes through comparative perspective, both within India and internationally, are strongly encouraged.

Thematic Interests

- Migration, Remittances and Return: The West Asia Crisis and Beyond
- Port-led Growth: Industry, Logistics and the Maritime Economy
- Industrial Development, Digital Transformation, and Innovation
- Trade, Geopolitics and Global Value Chains
- Tourism-led Development
- Demographic Change, Ageing, and the Silver Economy
- Gender and Care Economy
- Labour Markets and Informal Economies
- Health and Education Systems
- Inequality, Livelihoods, and Social Protection
- Social Inclusion, Identity, and Development
- Agriculture, Plantation Economies, and Food Systems
- Environment, Climate Vulnerability, and Resilience
- Public Finance, Fiscal Sustainability, and Governance

Submission Guidelines

Call for Papers

Extended abstracts of 700-1,000 words (excluding references) should be submitted through the application form. Abstracts should include: title; author(s)' name and institutional affiliation(s); keywords; introduction and motivation; theoretical or conceptual framework; research question(s); data and methodology; findings and conclusions; and key references. Submissions may be theoretical or empirical, and work in progress with preliminary results is welcome. Papers should address the themes outlined above, with special consideration given to studies examining aspects of Keralam's economy.

Call for Posters

Abstracts of up to 500 words are invited from research scholars. Abstracts should include the author(s)' name(s) and institutional affiliation(s). Poster abstracts must be submitted through the application form. Contributions relevant to the conference themes are welcome.

Logistics and Support

Presenting authors of accepted papers and posters are eligible to apply for travel support, which covers AC 3-tier train fare upon submission of valid travel documents. Accommodation will be provided for one author per accepted submission from 25 to 27 February 2027, covering the duration of the conference. **There is no registration fee.**

For Submission

https://forms.gle/z4tHKiXJGUNVR7Mt7

Important Dates

Last Date for Abstract Submission	**: 05 December 2026**
Notification of Acceptance	**: 15 December 2026**
Full Paper / Poster Submission	**: 31 January 2027**
Conference Dates	**: 25–27 February 2027**

Organising Committee

- Prof. C. Veeramani, Director (CDS)
- Dr. Ritika Jain, Associate Professor
- Dr. Amartya Paul, Assistant Professor
- Dr. Jijin P, Postdoctoral Fellow

For further information related to the Conference, Please contact:
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