FORUM FOR GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING
Knowledge Forum
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President: Dr N. S. Siddharthan, Hon. Professor of Economics, Madras School of Economics, Gandhi Mandapam Road, Kottur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Hon. Secretary: Dr K. Narayanan, Professor and Head, Department of Economics, IIT Bombay, Powai, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Report on the 18th Annual Conference held during December 5 to 7, 2025 at School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Indore

About 60 persons from 28 institutions joined and participated in the Conference.

Professor N. S. Siddharthan, President, Knowledge Forum, Chaired the Seminar. Professor Suhas Joshi, Director IIT Indore welcomed the participants and delivered the Inaugural address. Professor K. Narayanan, IIT Bombay and Honorary Secretary Knowledge Forum gave an overview of the Conference. Professor N. S. Siddharthan spoke about the activities and membership of the forum. Professor Ruchi Sharma Head, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Indore proposed the vote of thanks.

Participation

Scholars from the following institutions/organisations participated:

International

1. UNU MERIT, Maastricht, The Netherlands

Delhi

2. Delhi University
3. JNU
4. CSIR-NISTADS
5. Society for Development Studies
6. ICRIER
7. Institute of Economic Growth
8. Institute for Human Development
9. Institute for Studies in Industrial Development
10. Shiv Nadar University
11. Amity University
12. Jamia Milia Islamia

13. IIT Bombay
14. Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)
15. IIM Mumbai

Chennai

16. IIT Madras
17. Madras School of Economics

Bangalore/Karnataka

18. National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal

Other Cities

19. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
20. National Institute of Technology Goa
21. BITS Pilani, Goa Campus
22. IIT Indore
23. IIT Hyderabad
24. IIT Kharagpur
25. IIT Ropar
26. IIM Shillong
27. MANIT Bhopal
28. Birla Institute of Management Technology, Greater Noida

Technical Sessions:

20 research papers were presented in Six technical sessions.

Professors Bino Paul, Biswanath Goldar, S. Subash, Ashok Jain, Kaushalelsh Lal and Uday Bhanu Sinha Chaired these sessions.

Issues Discussed:

- **Firm-Level Innovation, Competition & Employment**
- **Sustainability, Energy & Green Transition**
- **Knowledge, IP & Universities**
- **Econophysics & Complex Dynamics**
- **Technology Adoption & MSMEs**
- **Innovation, ICT and Competition**

The first Panel Discussion focussed on the theme of the Conference "Innovation and Economy: Opening Perspectives". This was Chaired Prof. S. R. Hashim (former Chairman, UPSC, former President, Knowledge Forum); Panellists included **Prof. Bishwanath Goldar** (IEG, Delhi); **Prof. Ashok Jain** (Former Director, NISTADS); and **Prof. Bino Paul** (TISS)

The theme of the panel was to explore the idea of linking innovation and economy in the Indian context. A wide range of issues were covered in the discussion and the participants were also happy to join the discussion actively.

The second Panel Discussion on the theme "Advancing Innovation: The Institutional Perspective" It was Chaired and Moderated by **Prof. K. Narayanan** (IIT Bombay). The Panellists included Prof. Ruchi Sharma (IIT Indore); Mr. Debojyoti Dey, Vice President & Head - Research Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd, Mr. Pradyot Porwal, CEO, Medius Earth, and Mr. Sachin Agarwal, Executive VP & Head R & D, Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicle Pithampur.

The discussion exposed the participants to both the role of institutions as well as micro level responses by industries and organisations to stay in competition in an innovating economy. The points highlighted were extremely useful for researchers as well as policy makers.

The Conference also had a Poster Presentation by the students and researchers of IIT Indore. Participants of the Conference were explained about all the posters by these students.

PhD Scholars Workshop on 7th December 2025:

An important feature of this year's conference was a PhD scholars workshop that we organised on the third day of the Conference for about two and half hours at the same venue in IIT Indore. About 30 PhD scholars from IIT Indore, MANIT Bhopal and a few other institutions participated and interacted with the three resource persons, Professors Bino Paul, Uday Bhanu Sinha and K. Narayanan. All the scholars were given an opportunity to present their research work briefly and received feedback on the same from the senior scholars and resource persons. The young scholars expressed their gratitude for this session.

Concluding Session

In the concluding session the participants expressed their appreciation and thanked the hosts, IIT Indore for efficiently organizing an excellent conference. Prof. K. Narayanan of IIT Bombay proposed a vote of thanks.

One important feature of this Conference was the active participation of the young researchers, including the Undergraduate and PhD students of IIT Indore. The School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Indore made all the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Conference. There were lots of challenges thrown at us by cancellation of flights. However, we could convert into Hybrid mode at very short notice and most of the people who joined online also participated in the discussions very actively.



K. Narayanan
Hon. Secretary