

Documentation

18th International Conference on Business & Finance (ICBF-2026)

ICFAI Business School (IBS), Hyderabad | April 10–11, 2026

1. Conference Overview

The 18th International Conference on Business and Finance (ICBF-2026), the flagship academic event of the Department of Finance and Accounting at ICFAI Business School (IBS), Hyderabad, was held on April 10–11, 2026, at the IBS Hyderabad campus. The conference, titled “Changing Landscapes in Business & Finance,” was organized in collaboration with the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) to promote the dissemination of research and dialogue among academicians, industry practitioners, and policymakers.

The conference witnessed strong participation from reputed institutions across India, including IIT Kharagpur, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Roorkee, BITS Pilani (Pilani Campus), Banaras Hindu University, Symbiosis Pune, Osmania University, Institute of Public Enterprises, Pondicherry University, Central University of Kerala, IIIT Allahabad, NALSAR University of Law, SRM University (Hyderabad), Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjab, GITAM University, IILM University (Greater Noida), and D.Y. Patil Business School, among others.

At the international level, participation was received from institutions and researchers based in Sri Lanka, Ghana, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Canada, and the United States, reflecting the conference’s growing global outreach and recognition as a credible platform for academic exchange in business and finance.

2. Inaugural Session & Keynote Addresses

The inaugural session of ICBF-2026 set the intellectual tone for the conference, featuring distinguished speakers from academia and industry. The session was graced by **Shri Sashikrishnan, Director of the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM), an experienced industry leader with over 4 decades of expertise in financial services.** In his address, he distinguished between *complex* and *complicated* systems, emphasizing that modern financial markets are characterized by uncertainty and non-linear dynamics. He highlighted the importance of **behavioral finance**, particularly the role of cognitive biases in investment decisions, and introduced the concept of “*behavioral alpha*” as a source of sustained outperformance. He also underscored the need to balance technological advancements with human judgment and reaffirmed the continued relevance of traditional financial models such as DCF and mean reversion.

The keynote address was delivered by **Dr. Tirthankar Patnaik, Chief Economist, NSE**, who provided insights into **market volatility, macro-financial stability, and regulatory frameworks.** He discussed changing investment patterns, approaches to measuring volatility, and key stylized facts of financial markets, while emphasizing the role of regulatory

mechanisms such as margins and circuit breakers in ensuring orderly market functioning. He highlighted the importance of balancing market efficiency with stability in increasingly technology-driven financial systems.

The **Dean (Academics), IBS Hyderabad**, in his remarks, emphasized the conference's role as a platform for **rigorous research, interdisciplinary dialogue, and academic collaboration**, highlighting the diversity and quality of contributions and their relevance for publication and policy discourse.





3. Workshop on NSE Research Initiatives and High Frequency Trading

A key highlight of ICBF-2026 was the specialized workshop conducted in collaboration with the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), delivered by NSE resource persons, **Ms. Prerna Singhvi and Ms. Ashiana Salian**. The **90-minute session** witnessed active participation from delegates across academia and industry, reinforcing the conference's academia–industry interface.

The workshop provided insights into the **NSE research ecosystem**, with a focus on access to high-quality financial market data and its use in empirical research and policy analysis. It also covered **high-frequency trading (HFT)** and **market microstructure**, explaining price discovery in ultra-fast trading environments and the role of **real-time data analytics** in understanding trading behavior, liquidity, and volatility.

The session was **interactive and practice-oriented**, enabling participants to explore research applications and collaboration opportunities, and significantly enhancing exposure to contemporary developments in financial markets.





4. Technical Sessions & Paper Presentations

The technical sessions formed the core academic component of ICBF-2026, reflecting both the scale and depth of the conference. Conducted over two days, the sessions were organized in parallel tracks to facilitate structured academic exchange. On **Day 1** (April 10, 2026), post-lunch sessions were held across **11 tracks, with 57 papers presented**. On **Day 2** (April 11, 2026), full-day sessions were conducted across **15 tracks** (pre- and post-lunch), with **78 papers** presented. In total, **134 research papers** were presented, reflecting the strong response and rigorous selection process.

The presentations covered 16 thematic areas spanning both core and emerging domains in business and finance, including asset pricing, corporate finance, capital structure, banking stability, corporate governance, and financial markets, along with ESG and sustainability, financial inclusion, behavioral finance, derivatives and market microstructure, restructuring, and technology-driven areas such as AI/ML, financial analytics, fintech, digital finance, and crypto assets. This breadth ensured strong interdisciplinary engagement aligned with current industry and policy priorities.

The sessions were chaired by academicians from reputed institutions, including the IITs, IMT Hyderabad and Nagpur, BITS Pilani (Hyderabad Campus), Symbiosis Pune, the University of Hyderabad, and IIRM, as well as by senior IBS faculty, ensuring academic rigor and constructive evaluation. Overall, the technical sessions enabled meaningful research exchange, facilitated feedback on publications, and advanced interdisciplinary scholarship in business and finance.

A total of **four Best Paper Awards** were presented at ICBF-2026 in recognition of high-quality research contributions. Three Best Paper Awards, instituted by IBS Hyderabad, carried cash prizes of **₹30,000, ₹20,000, and ₹10,000**, respectively. In addition, the **NSE Best Paper Award** for excellence in capital markets research, carrying a cash prize of **₹30,000**, was presented, further strengthening the conference's emphasis on impactful, practice-oriented research.







5. Valedictory Session

The valedictory session of ICBF-2026 featured **Dr. Partha Ray, Director, National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), Pune**, who delivered an address on “*AI in Indian Banking.*” He highlighted the transformative role of artificial intelligence in banking, particularly in fraud

detection, credit assessment, and risk management, while also enhancing financial inclusion. He also noted key challenges, including data quality, algorithmic bias, cybersecurity risks, and legacy system constraints, and emphasized the need for robust governance and regulatory frameworks. He concluded that the future of Indian banking will depend on balancing technological innovation with transparency, oversight, and prudent governance to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.







6. Administrative Support & Acknowledgments

The organizing committee expresses its sincere gratitude to the institutional leadership—**Prof. Dr. T. Koti Reddy**, Vice-Chancellor (In-Charge), IFHE; **Prof. Dr. S. Vijayalakshmi**, Registrar, IFHE; **Prof. Dr. K. S. Venu Gopal Rao**, Director, IBS Hyderabad; **Prof. Dr. D. Satish**, Dean (Academics); and **Dr. C. A. Rajyalakshmi K**, Area Head – Finance & Accounting—for their continuous support and guidance. Appreciation is also extended to the **National Stock Exchange of India (NSE)** for its collaboration, and to the session chairs, keynote speakers, presenters, and delegates for their valuable contributions to the conference's success.

The successful organization of ICBF-2026 was supported by effective administrative planning and coordinated logistical execution by the Department of Finance and Accounting. The conference provided on-campus accommodation from April 9 to April 12, facilitating participation, particularly for outstation delegates. The conduct of multiple parallel sessions over two days was managed efficiently, ensuring adherence to schedules and smooth functioning across all tracks.

Faculty-led functional committees played a key role in managing operations, including registration, conference kit distribution, certificate preparation, auditorium arrangements, session coordination, discipline management, refreshments, guest hospitality, participant support, and travel coordination. Their coordinated efforts ensured a professional and well-organized conference environment. Special acknowledgment to the more than 20 student volunteers, whose dedicated support in coordination and logistics was instrumental in the

smooth conduct of the conference. We also thank the mess team, led by Mr. Piyush, for efficiently managing breakfast, lunch, and refreshments.

The organizing committee also places on record its sincere appreciation to the **Branding Team of IFHE** for their valuable support in photography, videography, media coverage, and the design and development of conference materials, including the brochure, which significantly enhanced the overall visibility and professional presentation of the conference.

7. Conference Outcomes and Impact

The successful conduct of ICBF-2026 has strengthened the institutional positioning of ICFAI Business School (IBS), Hyderabad, and IFHE as leading centers for research and dialogue in business and finance. The conference reinforced academia–industry collaboration, particularly through its partnership with the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), which enabled meaningful engagement among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. With strong participation from leading national and international institutions, it enhanced the research visibility and academic reputation of IBS and IFHE, while providing a platform for policy-relevant and interdisciplinary discussions across traditional and emerging areas of finance.

ICBF-2026 facilitated the exchange of ideas directly relevant to corporate practice and regulatory frameworks, advancing financial research and policy discourse. The conference received media coverage in prominent outlets, including Business Connect, The Hindu, and B-School Careers 360, as well as several other news platforms. Overall, the conference reaffirmed its role as a high-impact academic platform, reflecting the institutional commitment of IBS Hyderabad and IFHE to research excellence, and further strengthened its stature as a leading forum for business and finance research in India.

BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

CM UNVEILS IGBC GREEN PROPERTY SHOW 2026

The CII Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), in partnership with the Government of Telangana, unveiled the third edition of the IGBC Green Property Show 2026. Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy, launched the event brochure, reaffirming the state's commitment to achieving a net-zero future and promoting sustainable urban development. Scheduled from May 22 to 24 at the HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad, the show will feature IGBC-certified and pre-certified green residential and commercial projects. Held under the theme "Better Homes for You!", the event aims to encourage sustainable living and boost investments in eco-friendly developments.

MSN LAUNCHES AFFORDABLE SEMAGLUTIDE 'SEMABEST' IN INDIA

MSN Laboratories has launched SEMABEST, its semaglutide formulation, in India following approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). Positioned as a cost-effective alternative, the therapy is priced nearly 50% lower than the innovator drug, significantly improving access for patients with type 2 diabetes. It is available as a pre-filled pen for subcutaneous administration. SEMABEST stands out with strong backward integration, including in-house USDMF-grade API and formulation, along with a Made-in-India pen device that meets global regulatory standards. Clinical studies have demonstrated bioequivalence to the reference drug, with comparable reductions in HbA1c, fasting and postprandial glucose levels, and weight, alongside a similar safety profile. With India home to nearly 90 million people living with diabetes, the launch underscores MSN's commitment to delivering affordable, high-quality therapies and expanding access to advanced metabolic care solutions.

NAREDCO TELANGANA NAMES NEW LEADERSHIP FOR 2026-28

The National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) Telangana announced its new Executive Committee and leadership team for the 2026-2028 term at its 30th Annual General Meeting held in Hyderabad. The newly appointed team will guide the

association's activities over the next two years, focusing on sustainable growth and professional excellence in the real estate sector. The leadership team comprises Sreedhar Reddy Koppula as President, Kali Prasad Damera and Gopala Krishna Koripalli as Executive Vice Presidents, Venkateswara Rao Ravula as Secretary General, and Sudhakar Reddy Kondala as Treasurer.

NARAYANA STUDENTS SHINE IN TELANGANA IPE 2026

Narayana Junior Colleges delivered an exceptional performance in the Telangana State Intermediate Public Examinations (IPE) 2026, securing top ranks and high scores across MPC and BiPC streams at both Junior and Senior Intermediate levels. In the Junior Intermediate MPC stream, K. Sai Gautham (Khammam) and G. Varenya (Nizamabad) emerged as state toppers with 469 out of 470 marks. Additionally, 183 students scored 468 and above. In the BiPC stream, 14 students achieved 438 out of 440 marks, underscoring the institution's academic excellence. At the Senior Intermediate level, five MPC students scored 996 out of 1000 marks, while 236 secured 992 and above. In BiPC, three students scored 994 marks.

ICFAI BUSINESS SCHOOL LEADS DIALOGUE ON EVOLVING FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

ICFAI Business School (IBS), Hyderabad, reinforced its leadership in management education by successfully hosting the 18th International Conference on Business and Finance (ICBF-2026) on April 10-11 in collaboration with the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE). The conference brought together leading academicians, researchers, industry experts, and policymakers, with around 140 research presentations across diverse domains. Through keynote sessions, expert talks, and an NSE-led workshop, IBS provided participants with valuable insights into behavioural finance, market dynamics, and emerging trends such as high-frequency trading and AI in banking. The sessions enabled meaningful engagement between academia and industry, reflecting IBS's strong focus on research-driven learning and practical exposure.

MARUTI SUZUKI HANDS OVER 108 E VITARA EVS IN HYDERABAD

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd marked a significant milestone in its electric mobility journey by delivering 108 units of the e VITARA in a single day at a large-scale ceremony held at JRC Convention Centre, Hyderabad. The initiative reflects growing consumer confidence in electric vehicles and the company's push toward cleaner mobility. Speaking on the occasion, Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing and Sales, highlighted Hyderabad's importance, citing its 14.5% EV penetration—the highest among Indian cities. He noted that the company is focused not only on building electric vehicles but also on strengthening the supporting ecosystem, including an expanding charging network.

IBS Hosts ICBF - 2026 Conference

ICFAI Business School hosted the 18th International Conference on Business and Finance (ICBF-2026) on April 10-11 in collaboration with the National Stock Exchange of India. The event featured around 140 research paper presentations by academicians, industry experts, and policymakers.



Speakers highlighted evolving market dynamics, behavioural finance, and the role of disciplined decision-making. Sessions covered volatility, regulatory mechanisms, and the growing influence of artificial intelligence in banking and finance.

An NSE-led workshop provided insights into financial data, high-frequency trading, and research collaboration opportunities. The conference served as a key platform for knowledge exchange between academia and industry on emerging trends in business and finance.

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