

## **Press Release**

### **International Research Conference on Securities Markets 2026 & Ideathon 2026**

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The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) in collaboration with IIM Mumbai, Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai and NSE, successfully organized the two-day ‘International Research Conference on Securities Markets’ (IRCSM) on a theme “Navigating the Future of Indian Securities Markets: Innovation, Inclusion and Resilience in a Dynamic Global Landscape”, from February 12–13, 2026 at the NISM Campus, Patalganga, near Navi Mumbai.

The Conference was organized against the backdrop of significant and rapid developments in India’s securities markets, including changes in market microstructure, corporate governance norms, regulations governing market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) and intermediaries, interoperability frameworks and the growing role of technology and data-driven decision-making. In this context, the conference provided a timely platform for informed academic and policy-oriented discussions.

During the inauguration of the Conference on February 12, 2026, the Chief Guest, Shri Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Chairman, SEBI, underscored the importance of high-quality, policy-oriented and actionable research in advancing India’s securities markets from scale to greater sophistication, while strengthening digital oversight to address emerging risks in a rapidly evolving market environment. The inaugural session also featured addresses by Shri Sashi Krishnan, Director, National Institute of Securities Markets, and Dr. N. R. Bhanumurthy, Director, Madras School of Economics, who highlighted the role of youth-driven innovation, micro-level financial access, and domestic savings in strengthening the foundations of a Viksit Bharat. The inaugural ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Yogita Jadhav, Registrar, NISM.

NISM had invited research papers from academicians, research scholars, and industry practitioners through a widely circulated call for papers on leading research platforms. The Conference received an overwhelming response, with over 168 research papers submitted by scholars and professionals from premier Indian institutions including IIMs, IITs, leading universities, postgraduate colleges, and experienced practitioners from the securities industry. All submissions underwent a rigorous peer review by independent reviewers based on relevance, originality, and robustness of research methodology. Eighteen papers were ultimately selected for presentation across technical sessions.

Deliberations were structured around broad themes including democratizing capital for MSMEs and start-ups, empowering investors through technology, legal innovation and digital governance, alternative investment ecosystems, global financial resilience, and systemic risk management, with parallel technical and industry sessions enabling in-depth discussion. A four-member jury comprising eminent academicians, regulators, and industry practitioners evaluated the quality of papers and presentations. Cash awards were conferred on the best three research papers, recognizing outstanding academic contribution and practical relevance. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to all paper presenters.

The conference featured a distinguished panel of speakers, including Dr. Nilay Yajnik (Director of Executive Education, Reliance Foundation Jio Institute), Shri Anuj Kumar (Whole-time Director, Computer Age Management Services Limited), Shri Shravan Koti (Chief Information Security Officer, Zerodha), Shri Srini Srinivasan (Managing Director, Kotak Alternate Asset Managers Limited), Shri Nilesh Kothari (Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Trifecta Capital), Shri Suresh Goyal (Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research), and Shri Rajesh Anand Gujjar (Chief General Manager, Securities and Exchange Board of India). The academic and technical deliberations were guided by eminent session chairs, namely Shri Tirthankar Patnaik (Chief Economist, National Stock Exchange of India), Prof. (Dr.) Poonam Singh (Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Management Mumbai), Prof. (Dr.) Prakash Chaudhary (Registrar, Maharashtra National Law University Mumbai), Shri Partha Ray (Director, National Institute of Bank Management), Ms. Surabhi Gupta (Chief General Manager, SEBI), and Dr. Rachana Baid (Dean, National Institute of Securities Markets). The jury panel comprised Prof. (Dr.) Pankaj Sinha (Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi), Dr. Deepali Dixit (General Manager, SEBI), Dr. Jinesh Panchali (NISM), and Shri Ravi Varanasi (Founding Partner, SPRV Consultants).

The conference concluded with the valedictory address by Shri Ajit Balakrishnan, Chairman Emeritus, Rediff.com, who emphasized the continued importance of collaborative research in strengthening India's securities markets. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Professor, NISM, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to all participants, reviewers, and stakeholders for their valuable contributions.

Alongside the conference, NISM organized an event for 'Ideathon on Cybersecurity and Investor Awareness' which is a creative crowdsourcing initiative engaging the student fraternity. The Ideathon formed part of NISM's advocacy efforts aimed at strengthening financial literacy and investor education. The competition received an overwhelming response, with participation from approximately 900 students. Following a multi-stage evaluation process, the top ten teams were

shortlisted. These shortlisted teams presented their ideas at this in-person event held at the NISM campus on 12 February 2026.

Overall, the Conference reaffirmed its position as a premier forum for meaningful engagement between regulators, academia, and industry, contributing to the evolving discourse on the future of Indian and global capital markets.

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