



Report on the India Global Education Summit (IGES)

Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai | 28–29 January 2026

India is emerging as a pivotal global partner in education transformation, boasting one of the world's largest student populations and an expanding role in international education mobility as both a source and destination for global talent. Tamil Nadu, with its strong concentration of universities and research institutions, progressive policies, and proven track record in skills development and innovation, served as the ideal host location for this landmark global summit.

The India Global Education Summit (IGES) 2026 was held on 28th and 29th January 2026 in Chennai as the inaugural edition of India's premier platform for advancing education, skills, talent, and innovation through international collaboration. Co-organized by the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK and the Government of Tamil Nadu, with strategic support from TIDCO, the event brought together government leaders, universities, industry executives, and EdTech innovators.

The IGES was designed to move beyond ambitious discussion and further towards practical action. Over the two days, the programme featured speakers with ministerial leadership- the honourable Chief Minister of the state, **Thiru. M. K. Stalin**, Deputy Chief Minister, **Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin**, the Minister for industries **Dr. T.R.B. Rajaa**, the Minister for higher education **Dr. Govi Chezhizaan** including many others and speakers like **Sanam Arora**, founder and chairperson of NISAU, **Charlie Jeffery CBE**, Vice Chancellor and President of University of York, **Prof. Amanda J. Broderick** Vice Chancellor and President of University of East London, **Prof. Helmut Kern** from University of Vienna, **Dr. Adam Fenech** from Canadian University Dubai, **Halima Holland** British Deputy High Commissioner Chennai, **Prof. Julie Hall** Vice Chancellor of London Metropolitan University, **Prof. Dr. Dinesh Singh**, Vice Chair Jammu& Kashmir Higher Education Board, **Dr Vikas Misra** Vice Chancellor of Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science who provided their academic perspectives and industry insights. This structured engagement of these experts from diverse fields was aimed at building partnerships that address emerging global challenges and opportunities in education and workforce development.

Bharathidasan University being a state university and a targeted beneficiary of IGES, which is co-organised by the state government of Tamil Nadu, took hold of this opportunity and actively participated in the summit through the representation of Department of Biomedical Science. With the directions from Vice Chancellors's committee members and Registrar, the Head of the Department of Biomedical Science, **Dr.G.Mathan**, teamed up a group which included faculties - **Dr.K.Premkumar** and **Dr.S.D.Saraswathy** and students- **Vigneshwari.S**, **Dency Eva.A** (4thyear), **Sweatha.M.P** (3rdYear), **Raghav.V.S**, **Akkshaya.S** (2ndYear), were fortunate to attend the meeting

The first day (28th January 2026) began with a visit to the exhibition stalls set up by several leading international and Indian institutions, including the University of East London, University of York, University of Melbourne, Anna University, VIT, and others. These stalls showcased on-going and recently completed research projects, academic initiatives, and institutional strengths. Representatives at the stalls provided valuable information regarding opportunities for higher studies, research pathways, and international collaborations.

Then a discussion session titled "**Strengthening In-Country Representation: Standards, Student Experience, and Responsibility**", delivered by **Ms. Sandy Bhangal**, Co-Founder, English Language Standards Advisory Authority (ELSAA), UK. The session highlighted the importance of ethical representation, quality assurance, and institutional responsibility in international education, with a strong focus on student welfare and academic integrity.

The main plenary session was held in the auditorium and featured eminent speakers including **Ms. Sanam Arora**, **Mr. N. Ram** (Director, THG Publishing Private Limited), **Prof. Helmut Kern**. The event was graced by the **Guest of Honour, Tmt. Thamizhachi Thangapandian**, Honourable Member of Parliament, whose address emphasized the role of education in national development and global engagement. The session focused on strengthening international academic partnerships and positioning Tamil Nadu as a global education hub.

Consequent discussion sessions including panels titled “**Universities as Nation Builders: Innovation, Impact, and Inclusion**” chaired by **Prof. Amanda J. Broderick**, and other Vice-Chancellors and senior academic leaders from Indian and international universities. This session highlighted the role of universities in driving innovation, inclusivity, and societal progress which shed light on several futuristic opportunities for growth of universities in general. Another parallel session titled “**Strengthening the Healthcare Continuum: From Medical Colleges to Public Health Outcome**” in which the ideas deliberated were more relevant and specific to our department. The topics covered were the disconnection between the curriculum design of medical education and the provision of health care to the public with the out-dated curriculum as the root cause, the need for a decentralized approach in policy making, the application of Artificial Intelligence as an enhancing element for the efficient delivery of medical services. The final parallel panel discussions were on the themes of Climate justice and women in leadership. Day 1 was concluded with a few more panels on diverse topics.

The second day (29 January 2026) commenced at **10:00 AM** with a plenary session addressed by **Prof. Amanda J. Broderick**, **Prof. (Dr.) Dinesh Singh**, **Thiru. T. R. B. Rajaa**, Minister for Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu, and **Dr. Govi Chezhiaan**, Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu. The speakers spoke on the growth potential of Tamil Nadu through international academic collaboration and innovation. During this session, the **IGNITE Magazine – India Global Network for Innovation, Talent and Education** was officially launched.

At noon the summit was privileged by the presence of the **Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. M. K. Stalin**, who laid the foundation stone for the **Tamil Nadu Knowledge City**. His presence reflected the state’s long-term vision for becoming a global centre for knowledge, research, and innovation. We express our sincere gratitude to the Hon’ble Chief Minister for his presence amidst his busy schedule. This session was followed by **MoU exchanges and Letters of Intent (LoI) announcements**, marking significant international academic collaborations.

Later, a panel discussion titled “**From Degree to Career: Designing Employability That Actually Works for Indian Students**”, based on a case study from the **University of East London**. The session discussed employability-focused curriculum design and industry-linked education. Post-lunch, a panel on “**Student Mobility: Ethics, Equity, and Excellence**” addressed responsible and inclusive international student mobility.

Simultaneously, a **Knowledge City Workshop** was conducted, which explained the objectives, structure, and future prospects of the Tamil Nadu Knowledge City initiative, highlighting its role in higher education and innovation-driven development. Day 2 was completed with a keynote session titled “What does young India want”, TNE round table, and a panel on “Blueprint for impact: building high performing branch campuses” conducted by Oxford International education group, University of York, TIDCO and others. Closing remarks and a roundup were led in the auditorium.

Key Outcomes of IGES 2026:

The India Global Education Summit (IGES) 2026 served as a dynamic platform for the co-creation of the future of global knowledge and talent. The summit addressed major global shifts, including rapid technological advancements, evolving demographic patterns, geopolitical developments. These factors collectively acted as a catalyst for universities and higher education institutions to reimagine their role and take a decisive leap toward advanced models of international collaboration, sustainable innovation, and workforce-aligned skills development.

The summit translated vision into action through tangible and forward-looking initiatives, including the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and the inauguration of the Knowledge City. These milestones stand as transformative steps for academic institutions, reinforcing long-term academic cooperation, research excellence, and global engagement. The summit's outcomes reflect a shared commitment to building a resilient higher education ecosystem. We record our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Tamil Nadu for its visionary leadership and steadfast support in making these initiatives a reality.

Acknowledgement:

The effective utilization and impact of a high-quality platform such as IGES 2026 would not have been possible without the support of a progressive administration and the active participation of dedicated stakeholders. We gratefully acknowledge the unwavering support and consent extended by the University Administration, the Registrar, and the Head of the Department, whose guidance and encouragement were instrumental in ensuring meaningful engagement and successful participation in the summit. Their collective support has significantly contributed to aligning institutional aspirations with the broader objectives of national and global educational advancement.

IGES 2026




