i HED Conference 2026

Transnational Education – Building Sustainable International Partnerships

23 - 25 November 2026

PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, Coimbatore

23 Nov 2026	Day 1 – Monday	*Overall Moderation: Shikha Sinha, DAAD New Delhi*

08:30 – 09:30 **Registration & Welcome Refreshments**

09:30 – 10:15 **Inaugural Session – Centenary Auditorium**

09:30 – 09:40
- Welcome Note – Mr. L. Gopalakrishnan, Managing Trustee, PSG Institutions

09:40 – 09:50
- Presidential Address: Mr. Stefan Bienefeld, Head of Division Transnational Education and Cooperation Programme, DAAD Germany

09:50 – 10:00
- Chief guest Address: Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi

10:00 – 10:10
- Guest of Honor: Mr. Michael Hasper, German Consulate General, Chennai

10:10 – 10:20
- Remarks by HE May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives

10:20 – 10:30
- Vote of Thanks: Dr. J. Kanchana, Director PSG IAS

10:30 – 11:00 **Group Photograph & Coffee Break**

11:00 – 11:15 **Keynote Address**

The Future of Transnational Education: New Pathways for Global Higher Education Cooperation

Mr. Stefan Bienefeld, Head of Division Transnational Education and Cooperation Programme, DAAD Bonn

11:15 – 12:30 **Panel Discussion - Centenary Auditorium**

Transnational Education as a Driver for Sustainable Partnerships

Discussion themes:

- TNE within NEP 2020
- Institutional readiness for TNE
- European perspectives
- Quality assurance and recognition
- Sustainable partnership models

Panelists:

- Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Association of Indian Universities (AIU) New Delhi
- Elisabeth Strand Vigtel, Royal Norwegian Embassy New Delhi
- Mr. Stefan Bienefeld, DAAD Bonn
- Dr. Rahul Choudaha, Managing Director, DrEducation Research
- Dr. B. Vinod, Head. PSG IAS German School of Technology

Chair: Mr. Arthur Rapp, Director DAAD Regional Office, New-Delhi

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12:30 – 13:00 **Q&A and Open Discussion**

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 – 15:45 **Plenary Session - Centenary Auditorium**

Policy Frameworks and Strategic Perspectives on Transnational Education

- National policy frameworks and strategic priorities for TNE
- Regulatory frameworks, accreditation and quality assurance
- Models of transnational education and institutional approaches
- Opportunities and challenges in establishing sustainable cross-border partnerships
- Funding opportunities and institutional support for TNE initiatives

Panelists:

- Prof. Ravikumar N V, Advisor - Office of Global Engagement & Professor, Dept Of Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, IIT Madras
- Prof. Dhayalan Velauthapillai, Faculty of Technology, Environment and Social Sciences, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences
- Prof. Srikant Mutnuri, BITS Pilani
- Mr. Dennison Joseph, Christ University

Chair: Dr. Rahul Choudaha, Global Higher Education Leader

15:45 – 16:15 **Coffee Break**

16:15 - 17:45 **World café: Centenary Auditorium**

Tentative topics: Future Skills • Brain Drain vs. Brain Circulation • Equitable and Inclusive Partnerships • Quality Assurance and Recognition • Digital and Hybrid Learning • Industry–Academia Collaboration • Sustainable Funding Models Alumni work - how to keep contact • Impact of AI on Higher Education

18:30 – 19:00 **Culturals**

19:00 **Networking Dinner**

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24 Nov 2026	Day 2 - Tuesday

09:00 – 09:15 **Recap of Day One - Centenary Auditorium**

09:15 – 10:45 **Parallel Interactive Workshops (I201, ISR, F201, 202 & F203)**

Participants choose one of the following:

- Workshop A: Designing Sustainable Transnational Education Partnerships under current geopolitical situation
  - Prof. Srikant Mutnuri, BITS Pilani
  - Dr. Naresh Sharma, IISER Pune
- Workshop B: Bilingual Degree Programmes – From Concept to Implementation
  - Prof. Kavitha, PSGIAS – GST & Dr. Dirk Fröhling, IGCHE Germany
- Workshop C: Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Recognition in TNE
  - Mr. Soumyo Dattagupta, Ashoka University
- Workshop D: Learning Beyond Borders, focusing on pedagogy and learners' experiences- Global Centre for participatory research and training
  - Ms. Nikita Rakhyani, Associate Director, PRIA
  - Ms. Saanya Sodhi, Programme Officer, PRIA
- Workshop E: Beyond Borders, Powered by AI: Rethinking Transnational Higher Education
  - Prof. Kiran Raja, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

10:45 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15 – 12:30 **Workshop Reports - Centenary Auditorium**

Presentation of key recommendations from each workshop

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch**

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13:30 – 14:45 **Roundtable Discussions - Centenary Auditorium**
Building Future Indo-European Partnerships

Topics include:

- Identifying suitable institutional partners
- Developing collaborative project ideas
- Funding opportunities through DAAD and European programmes
- Capacity building for international offices

Moderator: Dr. Geetha Priyadarshini, PSG IAS

Speakers: Prof. J. Kanchana, PSG IAS | Prof. Gaurav Raheja, IIT Roorkee
Dr. Priya Venkat, IIT Madras | Dr. Kuldeep Dagar, AIU | Ms. Shikha Sinha, DAAD New Delhi
nn. Norway

14:45 – 15:30 **Special Session**
The Role of International Offices in Advancing Transnational Education
Experiences and practical recommendations from Indian and European universities

- Dr. Priya Venkat, Office of Global Engagement, IIT Madras
- Mr. Nitij Singh, South Asia Representative, Hertie School, University of Governance
- Ms. Katrine Moe Norway, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

15:30 – 15:45 **Coffee Break**

15:45 - 16:45 **Visual Conference Reflections**

- Prof. Gaurav Raheja, Department of Architecture & Planning, IIT Roorkee
- Mr. Divyang Purkayastha, PhD Scholar, Department of Design, IIT Roorkee

16:45 – 17:00 **Closing Remarks**

- Mr. Arthur Rapp, Director, DAAD New Delhi
- Dr. Dirk Fröhling, Chairman, IGCHE

25 Nov 2026 Day 3 – Wednesday (Optional)

10:00 **Industry Visits** (Craftsman, ZF India / Suzlon, Roots, GRD Science Museum)