



CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Moving Bharat (India) Again Towards Vishwa Guru

Host University



REPORT

2nd BHARAT HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT (BHES)

THEME

**BUILDING RESEARCH-DRIVEN
UNIVERSITIES**

23rd Dec 2025

VENUE

SGT University, Gurugram

cipuglobal.org

OVERVIEW

The 2nd Bharat Higher Education Summit (BHES) 2025 convened vice chancellors, policymakers, industry leaders, and senior academics to deliberate on the future of research-driven universities (RUs) in India. Organised under the aegis of the Confederation of Indian Private Universities (CIPU) and hosted by SGT University, the Summit focused on the institutional, cultural, and policy conditions required to build universities capable of addressing India's complex social, economic, and technological challenges.

The deliberations repeatedly underscored that universities must move beyond compliance-driven teaching models and reposition themselves as transformative knowledge institutions, where research, innovation, and societal engagement form the core mission.

2nd BHARAT HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT (BHES)



DATE
**23rd
December
2025**

cipuglobal.org



VENUE
**SGT
University
Gurugram**

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AGENDA

2nd BHARAT HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT (BHES)

TIME	DURATION	DESCRIPTION
0900 hrs	60 mins	Arrival of Guests and Registration
1000 hrs	90 mins	Inaugural Session
1000 hrs	05 mins	Welcome Address by Prof. (Dr.) Hemant Verma , Vice Chancellor, SGT University, Gurugram
1005 hrs	10 mins	Theme Address by Prof. (Dr.) Gopal Pathak , Honorary President, CIPU and Director General, Sarala Birla University, Ranchi
1015 hrs	10 mins	Guest of Honour address Dr. Vibha Dhawan , Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi
1025 hrs	10 mins	Special Address by Prof. (Dr.) V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai , Former Chairman, UGC and Advisor & Professor of Eminence, Jio Institute, Mumbai
1035 hrs	10 mins	Special Address by Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Kaushik , Vice Chancellor, Gurugram University
1045 hrs	10 mins	Keynote Address by Prof. (Dr.) Suresh Garimella , President, University of Arizona, USA
1055 hrs	10 mins	Inaugural Address by Dr. G. S. Chauhan , Joint Secretary, UGC, New Delhi
1105 hrs	20 mins	Chief Guest address by Prof. (Dr.) Anil Sahasrabudhe , Chairman, Executive Committee, NAAC and Chairman, NBA
1125 hrs	05 mins	Concluding Remarks & Vote of Thanks by Prof. (Dr.) G. K. Shirude , Hon. Vice President, CIPU and Vice Chancellor, Sri Balaji University, Pune (SBUP)

TIME | DURATION | DESCRIPTION

1200 hrs	90 mins	Panel Discussion 1 Global Collaborations and Industry Linkages Unlocking Research Impact
1200 hrs	10 mins	Welcome Remarks and Context Setting by Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Rai , Chancellor, UPES, Dehradun Panel
1210 hrs	60 mins	Panel Discussion Prof. (Dr.) N. R. Biswas Vice Chancellor, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Puducherry Mr. Amit Gossain Managing Director, KONE Elevators India Private Limited, Chennai Prof. (Dr.) Shiv Tripathi Dean of the Faculty, Berlin School of Business & Innovation, Germany Prof. (Dr.) Vishnu Nanda Magare Vice Chancellor, Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences (DU), Loni, Maharashtra Prof. (Dr.) Raghuvir Singh Vice Chancellor, K R Mangalam University, Haryana Mrs. Meenakshi Kachroo Chatta Senior Director, South & Central Asia, The College Board, Noida
1310 hrs	15 mins	Open House
1325 hrs	05 mins	Felicitation of Speakers and Group Photo
1330 hrs	60 mins	Networking Lunch 
1430 hrs	90 mins	Panel Discussion 2 From Lab to Society: Translating Research into Policy, Products and Practices
1430 hrs	10 mins	Welcome Remarks and Context Setting by Prof. (Dr.) Bhushan Patwardhan , National Research Professor, Ministry of Ayush, New Delhi
1440 hrs	60 mins	Panel Discussion Prof. (Dr.) Ram Karan Singh Vice Chancellor, ICFAI University, Dehradun Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Jain Vice Chancellor, Ajeenkya D. Y. Patil University, Pune

TIME | DURATION | DESCRIPTION

Prof. (Dr.) Raviraja N Seetharam
Vice Chancellor, Chandigarh University, Chandigarh

Prof. (Dr.) Prahlad Rai Sodani
President, IIHMR University, Jaipur

Prof.(Dr.) Ranjit Singh
Vice Chancellor, Shobhit University ,UP

1540 hrs | 15 mins | Open House

1555 hrs | 05 mins | Felicitation of Speakers and Group Photo

1600 hrs | 30 mins | High Tea



1630 hrs | 90 mins | Panel Discussion 3

Fostering of Culture of Curiosity: Institutional Strategies For Research Excellence

1630 hrs | 10 mins | Welcome Remarks and Context Setting by

Prof. (Dr.) Sandeep Sancheti
Chairperson, CIPU National Committee on R&D and Industry-Academia Collaboration and Vice President – Research Relations & Academic Affairs, Elsevier India

1645 hrs | 60 mins | Panel Discussion

Prof. (Dr.) Venkayya R. Desai
Director, IIT Dharwad

Prof. (Dr.) P. S. Jassal
Pro-President & Campus Director, Singhania University, Rajasthan

Prof. (Dr.) Parvinder Singh
Advisor, CIPU & Director, International Academic Affairs, Eco Paryavaran Engineers and Consultants Pvt. Ltd. Punjab

Prof. (Dr.) Yogesh Goswami
Vice Chancellor, Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya

Prof. (Dr.) Anup Gupta
Vice Chancellor, GLA University, Mathura, UP

1745 hrs | 10 mins | Open House

1755 hrs | 05 mins | Felicitation of Speakers and Group Photo

1800 hrs | 05 mins | Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks by

Mr. R. Karthik , Director General, CIPU



INAUGURAL SESSION



WELCOME ADDRESS



Prof. (Dr.) Hemant Verma
Vice Chancellor, SGT University

Prof. Verma stressed that universities must not limit themselves to instructional functions. He mentioned research universities are meant to solve social problems through intentional, mission-oriented research. He highlighted that vice chancellors, deans, and university leaders are not merely administrators but active practitioners of educational policy, responsible for translating policy into institutional practice. According to him, research universities are expected to transform society, not merely educate it.

Prof. (Dr.) Gopal Pathak

Honorary President, CIPU
Director General, Sarala Birla University, Ranchi

Prof. Pathak invoked India's historical university traditions, particularly Nalanda and Takshashila, to argue that the rise and decline of universities are intrinsically linked to the quality of research they produce. He asserted that university transformation begins and ends with high-quality research and that research-driven universities represent a critical response to contemporary social complexities. He emphasised that private universities must conceptualise and embrace their role in addressing these challenges rather than remaining peripheral actors.

THEME ADDRESS



GUEST OF HONOUR



Dr. Vibha Dhawan

Director General, TERI

Referring to insights from Innovation Nations, Dr. Dhawan observed that India's performance in attracting and retaining talented students and researchers remains unimpressive. She critiqued existing evaluation-centric academic systems, arguing that they function largely as elimination mechanisms rather than nurturing frameworks. She advocated mentoring and buddy programmes as alternatives to continuous evaluation, warning that excessive assessment is stifling innovative minds.

She further highlighted the systemic failure to embed interdisciplinary education from early schooling, which weakens higher education outcomes. TERI's transition from a research organisation to a university was presented as a potential model for research universities, demonstrating how innovation can overcome financial constraints. She emphasised that employability must be approached through innovation, not routine credentialism.

Prof. (Dr.) V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai

Advisor & Professor of Eminence, Jio Institute and
Former Chairman, UGC

Prof. Pillai outlined multiple structural constraints affecting Indian universities: chronic underfunding, bureaucratic interference, lack of autonomy, brain drain, and faculty shortages. He warned that excessive administrative compliance is increasingly replacing intellectual engagement. He strongly criticised the culture of "Publish or Perish," pointing to retractions, low-quality journals, and the emergence of PhD factories producing substandard research.

He also noted the persistent disconnect between industry and academia, and the overemphasis on individual excellence at the expense of institutional collaboration. He underscored the importance of housing multiple disciplines within research universities to foster intellectual cross-fertilisation.

SPECIAL ADDRESS





SPECIAL ADDRESS



Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Kaushik

Vice Chancellor, Gurugram University

Prof. Kaushik mentioned that the value of research must be visible in society, rather than being reduced to citation counts or promotion metrics. He discouraged research undertaken merely for CAS promotions and called for pragmatic approaches that translate research into real-world use. He emphasised that integration with industry is often initiated by universities, not industries, and that quality-driven research is the key to reversing the trend of universities chasing industry relevance.

Prof. (Dr.) Suresh Garimella

Chairperson, CIPU Global Advisory Council &
President, University of Arizona, USA

Prof. Garimella presented universities as engines of national development, citing examples from the University of Arizona's agricultural extension and public health outreach. He recommended that universities identify core research areas and align faculty and resources accordingly. He proposed joint PhD programmes, shared research infrastructure, and student mobility across CIPU member institutions.

He highlighted initiatives such as the Big Idea Challenge, which is interdisciplinary by design and encourages multiple collaborations, as mechanisms to reshape campus culture. He stressed the need to strengthen research support services, ensure intellectual freedom, and involve students at all levels of research. He further argued that CIPU must integrate into the global research ecosystem, enable shared access to advanced infrastructure, and amplify the unified voice of private universities.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



INAUGURAL ADDRESS



Dr. G. S. Chauhan

Joint Secretary, UGC

Dr. Chauhan observed that the declining emphasis on science has broader societal consequences. He argued that research remains the most viable pathway to addressing societal challenges, noting that India's limited success in securing Nobel-level recognition reflects deeper issues in research quality and culture.

Prof. (Dr.) Anil Sahastrabudde

Chairman, Executive Committee, NAAC
Chairman, National Board of Accreditation (NBA)

Prof. Sahastrabudde outlined major Government of India initiatives shaping the research ecosystem, including the National Research Foundation, Research Development Innovation Fund, GIAN, SPARK, MERUs, and the Bharat Shiksha Fund. He highlighted One Nation, One Subscription and noted that AISHE is evolving into a single national data source, increasing centralisation but also easing compliance. He argued that CIPU has a critical role in enabling private universities to navigate this landscape toward the broader vision of Viksit Bharat and Vishwa Guru.

CHIEF GUEST





PANEL DISCUSSION I

Global Collaborations and Industry Linkages – Unlocking Research Impact

SESSION CHAIRPERSON



Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Rai
Chancellor, UPES

Prof. Rai framed the discussion around global collaboration and industry linkage as essential pathways for enhancing research impact.

Prof. (Dr.) N. R. Biswas

Vice Chancellor, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Puducherry

Prof. Biswas mentioned that universities must not become mere centres of information. Innovation must be central, supported by both foundational science and applied research. He stressed cultivating scientific temper among students.





Prof. (Dr.) Raghuvir Singh

Vice Chancellor, K R Mangalam University, Haryana

Prof. Singh cautioned universities against prematurely chasing research funding. He emphasised building robust academic ecosystems first and warned that collaborations undertaken merely for optics produce negligible impact. He criticised publication-driven instrumentalism in research.

Ms. Meenakshi Kachroo Chatta

Senior Director
South & Central Asia, The College Board, Noida

She emphasised empowerment through enlightenment, highlighting the importance of meaningful outcome-based assessment rather than procedural metrics.





Prof. (Dr.) Vishnu Nanda Magare

Vice Chancellor
Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences (DU)
Loni, Maharashtra

Dr. Magare stressed that academics must understand curricula holistically rather than remaining constrained by narrow syllabus boundaries.

Prof. (Dr.) Shiv Tripathi

Dean of the Faculty
Berlin School of Business & Innovation, Germany

Prof. Tripathi emphasised alignment of institutional values over rankings and metrics, arguing that mature research ecosystems cannot be manufactured through performance indicators alone.



Mr. Amit Gossain

Managing Director, KONE Elevators

Mr. Gossain advocated industry participation in university advisory boards and stressed the importance of balancing application-oriented research with foundational inquiry. He highlighted collaborations aimed at both commercial innovation and social inclusion.





PANEL DISCUSSION II

From Lab to Society - Translating Research into Policy, Products & Practices

SESSION CHAIRPERSON



Prof. (Dr.) Bhushan Patwardhan

National Research Professor
Ministry of Ayush, New Delhi

Prof. Patwardhan noted that failures in translating research into policy are globally prevalent. He advocated an “in search of truth” culture and expressed concern over patents lacking commercial or social value. He urged dedicating time to Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and warned against compulsive publishing and incremental research.

Prof. (Dr.) Raviraja N. Seetharam

Vice Chancellor, Chandigarh University, Chandigarh

He highlighted multiple systemic distractions that push research to the margins and advocated industry co-creation within universities.





Prof. (Dr.) Ram Karan Singh

Vice Chancellor, ICFAI University, Dehradun

Prof. Singh opined that PhD research must align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national priorities. He cautioned against indiscriminate multidisciplinary expansion, noting that institutions like IITs were originally designed with focused mandates.

Prof. (Dr.) Prahlad Rai Sodani

President, IIHMR University, Jaipur

Dr. Sodani emphasised the importance of research promotion policies and faculty brainstorming sessions to identify institutional research priorities.





Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Jain

Vice Chancellor, Ajeenkya D. Y. Patil University, Pune

Prof. Jain highlighted innovative practices such as appointing defence professionals as Professors of Practice, the one-faculty-one-industry model, and legal fieldwork initiatives supporting the underprivileged.

Prof. (Dr.) Ranjit Singh

Vice Chancellor, Shobhit University, UP

He discussed initiatives such as University Heritage Centres and community service ecosystems as mechanisms for social engagement.





PANEL DISCUSSION III

Fostering a Culture of Curiosity – Institutional Strategies for Research Excellence

SESSION CHAIRPERSON



Prof. (Dr.) Sandeep Sancheti

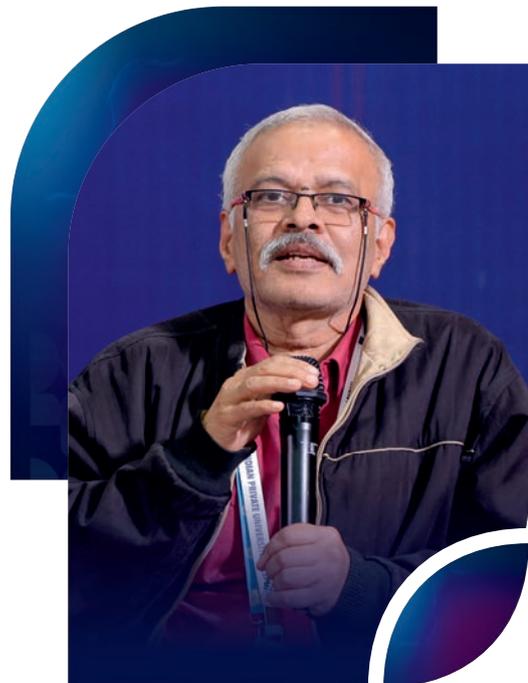
Chairperson, CIPU National Committee on R&D and Industry-Academia Collaboration and Vice President, Research Relations & Academic Affairs, Elsevier, India

Prof. Sancheti argued that failure must not be stigmatised and that curiosity should be nurtured through student-centric institutional systems. He stressed constant inquiry—why, when, how—as the foundation of innovation.

Prof. (Dr.) V. R. Desai

Director, IIT Dharwad

Prof. Desai linked curiosity with Indian Knowledge Systems, highlighting cultural traditions and ecological metaphors of learning.





Prof. (Dr.) P. S. Jassal

Pro President & Campus Director
Singhania University, Rajasthan

He observed that much university research remains incompatible with market needs and argued that curiosity is the bridge between academic inquiry and applicability.

Prof. (Dr.) Parvinder Singh

Advisor, CIPU & Director, International Academic Affairs,
Eco Paryavaran Engineers and Consultants Pvt. Ltd. Punjab

He questioned whether existing accreditation regimes genuinely enhance curiosity and emphasised the importance of aptitude and attitude in research.





Prof. (Dr.) Yogesh Goswami

Vice Chancellor
Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya

Prof. Goswami advocated nurturing the art of questioning, blended pedagogies, open-book examinations, and responsible engagement with AI, stressing that curiosity should be evaluated—not merely content generation.

Prof. (Dr.) Anup Gupta

Vice Chancellor
GLA University, Mathura, UP

Using metaphors from folklore and literature, Prof. Gupta argued that curiosity is the oxygen of creativity. He criticised mass-produced education models and recommended compulsory fieldwork, problem-centric PhDs, fewer credits, and critical thinking as a mandatory course.





GLIMPSES FROM THE EVENT



GLIMPSES

FROM THE EVENT



GLIMPSES FROM THE EVENT



CIPU TEAM WITH SGT UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS



PRESS COVERAGE

2nd BHES

ANI
South Asia's Leading Multimedia News Agency



SGT University Successfully Hosts the 2nd Bharat Higher Education Summit 2025

ANI | Updated: Dec 26, 2025 15:42 IST

PNN

Curugram (Haryana) [India], December 26: SGT University, Curugram, successfully hosted the 2nd Bharat Higher Education Summit (BHES) 2025, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Private Universities (CIPU), bringing together eminent academic leaders, policymakers, industry experts, and global educationists to deliberate on the future of higher education in India.

The summit was held on the theme "Building Research-Driven Universities", highlighting the critical role of research, innovation, global collaboration, and industry linkages in strengthening India's higher education ecosystem.

Prof. (Dr.) Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, Executive Committee, NAAC, Bengaluru; Prof. (Dr.) Suresh Garimella, President, University of Arizona (USA); Dr. G. S. Chauhan, Joint Secretary, UGC, New Delhi; Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi; and Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Kaushik, Vice-Chancellor, Curugram University, were among the eminent personalities present at the summit.

The inaugural session commenced with an opening address by Prof. (Dr.) Hemant Verma, Vice-Chancellor, SGT University, who emphasised, "Research-driven universities are defined not by laboratories alone, but by a culture of curiosity, innovation, and critical thinking—where learning shifts from memorisation to discovery."

Prof. (Dr.) G.K. Shirude, Vice President, CIPU, addressed the gathering and highlighted that building research-driven universities requires leadership that embraces change, nurtures curiosity, and creates an environment where research thrives with purpose and impact.

The day-long summit featured three high-level panel discussions focusing on:

- Global collaborations and industry linkages for enhancing research impact
- Translating research from laboratories to society, policy, and practice
- Institutional strategies for fostering a culture of curiosity and research excellence

More than 150 Vice-Chancellors, Presidents, policymakers, academicians, and industry experts from across the country participated in these discussions, sharing best practices and actionable insights to strengthen India's research and innovation ecosystem.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. (Dr.) Anil Sahasrabudhe stated that the government is building a robust, trust-based research ecosystem through NEP 2020, mission-mode funding, and collaborative frameworks that link industry, academia, and global partners, enabling institutions across tiers to emerge as research-intensive universities.

Dr. Vibha Dhawan in her address, delivered that a strong research organisation is built when institutions allow young researchers to challenge established ideas and work on real-world problems, and continuously renew the thinking of senior scholars, as research thrives not in isolation but through constant intellectual exchange.

Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Kaushik emphasised that to build truly research-driven universities, institutions must clearly identify and invest in their strongest researchers, reduce their teaching load, and pursue a long-term research strategy focused on quality, relevance, and impact that serves both the nation and society.

R. Karthik, Director General of CIPU, concluded the summit by emphasising the importance of sustained collaboration among academia, industry, and government in building globally competitive, research-driven universities that make meaningful contributions to national development.

The successful hosting of the 2nd Bharat Higher Education Summit 2025 reaffirms SGT University's position as a leading institution committed to academic excellence, research-driven growth, and meaningful contributions to the national higher education discourse.

LIVE JABALPUR

SGT University Successfully Hosts the 2nd Bharat Higher Education Summit 2025



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Rajasthan Mirror

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Posted on 3 Weeks Ago By Karan Singhania



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allahabad POST



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December 26, 2025 Anil Sharma

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ABOUT CIPU

The Confederation of Indian Private Universities (CIPU) is a mission-driven, **not-for-profit** organisation established to champion the voice, visibility, and vitality of India's Private Universities. Born out of deep consultation and strategic dialogues with academic and policy leaders, CIPU took shape through landmark engagements-beginning with a Visioning Workshop in Washington D.C. in 2022 and followed by a pivotal national convening of over 70 leading private universities in Pune in 2023.

CIPU envisions positioning India as the knowledge capital of the world, reigniting its civilizational role as a Vishwa Guru in the 21st century. Anchored in this vision, CIPU works at the intersection of policy, practice, and partnerships to empower private universities and elevate their role in shaping national and global education agendas.

Through sustained engagement with government, academia, industry, and international associations, CIPU advocates for enabling policies, fosters institutional collaboration, and promotes the internationalization of Indian higher education.

CIPU also serves as a dynamic platform for academic leaders to exchange ideas, co-create solutions, and drive excellence. Its member institutions come together to share best practices, engage in consensus-building, and address emerging challenges in a rapidly evolving educational ecosystem.

Together, we strive to build a future-ready, globally respected, and socially impactful higher education system for India.



CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Moving Bharat (India) Again Towards Vishwa Guru

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