डॉ. (श्रीमती) पंकज मित्तल
(पूर्व कुलपति, बीपीएस महिला विश्वविद्यालय, हरियाणा)
महासचिव

Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal
(Former Vice Chancellor, BPS Women University, Haryana)
Secretary General

भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय संघ
ए०आई०यू० हाउस, 16, कॉमरेड इंद्रजीत गुप्ता मार्ग
(कोटला मार्ग), नई दिल्ली–110 002

Association of Indian Universities
AIU House, 16, Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg (Kotla Marg),
New Delhi-110 002

AIU/INT/iHED/2026
27th October, 2026

Subject: Nomination of Participants for the iHED Conference 2026 on "Transnational Education – Building Sustainable International Partnerships"

Dear Vice Chancellors/Directors

Greetings from Association of Indian Universities

The Association of Indian Universities (AIU), in collaboration with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Regional Office New Delhi, and PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, Coimbatore, is organising the iHED Conference 2026 on "Transnational Education – Building Sustainable International Partnerships" from 23 – 25 November, 2026 at PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

In line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and its emphasis on the internationalisation of higher education, the conference will bring together Indian and European universities, policymakers and funding organisations to deliberate on how Transnational Education (TNE) can foster sustainable international partnerships. It features panels on TNE policy and quality assurance, workshops on partnership design, bilingual degrees, recognition and AI in higher education, and roundtables on Indo-European partnerships and DAAD funding opportunities.

In view of the relevance of the conference to your institution's internationalisation efforts, I request you to kindly **nominate one or two suitable participants** from your University, preferably from among the following:

- Dean / Director of International Affairs or Head of the International Office;
- Senior faculty members engaged in international collaborations, joint / dual degree programmes or TNE initiatives; and
- Officers responsible for academic partnerships, quality assurance or recognition.

The nominated participants may register directly for the conference through the following link: **Register here**. Nominations may kindly be made at the earliest, **preferably by 10th November, 2026**, as seats are limited. The draft programme is enclosed for reference.

Travel and Accommodation: Nominated participants are requested to make their own arrangements for travel and accommodation. Meals during the conference will be provided by the organisers.

Participation of your University's representatives would enrich the deliberations and strengthen your institution's international engagement. I look forward to your kind cooperation and an early response.

With warm regards,

Dr. (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal

i HED Conference 2026

Transnational Education – Building Sustainable International Partnerships

23 – 25 November 2026

PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, Coimbatore

Overall Moderation: Shikha Sinha, DAAD New Delhi

23 Nov 2026	Day 1 - Monday
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 – 10:45	**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*
10:45 – 11:15	**Group Photograph & Coffee Break**
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, Global Higher Education Leader - Dr. J. Kanchana, Director PSG IAS **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. Preeti Aghalayam, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
- Professor Dhayalan Velauthapillai, Faculty of Technology, Environment and Social Sciences, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences
- Prof. Srikant Mutnuri, BITS Pilani
- N.N., Christ University

Chair: Dr. Rahul Choudaha, Global Higher Education Leader

15:45 – 16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00 - 17:30 **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 **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 (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
  Dr. Kavitha, Dr. Fröhling, PSGIAS – GST
- Workshop C: Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Recognition in TNE
  Soumyo Dattagupta, Ashoka University
- Workshop D: Learning Beyond Borders, focusing on pedagogy and learners' experiences- Global Centre for participatory research and training
  Ms. Maria Fatima & Ms. Sanya Sodhi, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)
- Workshop E: Beyond Borders, Powered by AI: Rethinking Transnational Higher Education
  n.n.

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**

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

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- Capacity building for international offices

Moderator: Dr. Geetha, PSG

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

- n.n. India
- n.n. Germany
- n.n. Norway

15:30 – 15:45 **Coffee Break**

15:45 - 16:45 **Visual Conference Reflections**
Moderator & Presenter: Prof. Gaurav Raheja & Divyang Purkayastha, IIT Roorkee

16:45 – 17:00 **Closing Remarks**
- DAAD, Mr. Arthur Rapp, Director, DAAD New Delhi
- Dr. B. Vinod, Head PSG IAS / Dr. Dirk Fröhling, Chairman, IGCHE

25 Nov 2026	Day 3 – Wednesday (Optional)
10:00	**Industry Visits** (Craftsman, ZF India / Suzlon, Roots, GRD Science Museum)

DAAD
India

iHED Conference 2026: Transnational Education

Building Sustainable International Partnerships

Date: 23–25 November 2026

Venue: PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, Coimbatore

Organised by: DAAD Regional Office New Delhi, in cooperation with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), and PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, Coimbatore

Register now!

