Confederation of Indian Industry

An Exhibition and Conference on "Powering Education with Technology"

24 September 2026 | Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai, India

Agenda

1000 - 1100 hrs	**Inaugural Session**	
1000 - 1005 hrs	Welcome Address	**Mr Ravichandran P** Chairman, CII Southern Region & President, Danfoss India
1005 - 1010 hrs	Theme Address	**Dr R Nandini** Chairperson – CII Edu-Tech Expo & Founder Trustee, GRG Educational Institutions
1010 – 1015 hrs	Special Address and Context Setting	**Dr G V Selvam** Co-Chair – CII Edu-Tech Expo & Chairman – CII SR Taskforce on Industry Aligned Education and Skills Pipeline & Vice President, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT)
1015 – 1020 hrs	Special Address	**H.E. Mr Valerii Khodzhaev** Consul General Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Chennai
1020 – 1030 hrs	Special Address	**Mr Dheeraj Kumar, IAS.,** Additional Chief Secretary Department of Higher Education Government of Tamil Nadu
1030 – 1035 hrs	Briefing on the Report	**Mr Narayanan Ramaswamy** Partner and National Leader, Education and Skills KPMG India
1035 -1040 hrs	*Release of **CII-KPMG White Paper** on **Closing the Employability Gap :*** *Role of Technology in Building the Academia-Industry Bridge in Indian Higher Education*	
1040 -1050 hrs	Inaugural Address by Chief Guest	**Mr P Viswanathan** Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education including Technical Education, Electronics, Science & Technology Government of Tamil Nadu
1050 -1055 hrs	Concluding Remarks	**Mr Ravichandran P**
1100 -1130 hrs	**Exhibition Inaugural Ribbon Cutting & Visit to Stalls**	

1100 - 1130 hrs : Session I

Fireside Chat: Powering Education with Technology

Technology is redefining how learning is delivered, assessed, and connected to workforce opportunities. From AI-enabled learning and immersive experiences to digital credentials and skills-based learning pathways, innovation is reshaping the relationship between education, skills, and employability. This fireside chat will bring together leaders from academia, industry, and the edtech ecosystem to examine how India can harness technology to build a more agile, inclusive, and future-ready education system that drives learning outcomes, innovation, and economic growth.

1100 – 1120 hrs	Fireside Chat	**Mr Anand Sudarshan** Founder & Director Sylvant Advisors Private Ltd **Mr Brijesh Prabhakar** Executive Vice President Congruent Solutions **Ms Ambika Natarajan** Senior Vice President & Global Head HCL Tech
1120 - 1125 hrs	Q&A	
1125 - 1130 hrs	Closing Remarks	**Mr Anand Sudarshan**
1130 – 1145 hrs	*Tea Break*	

1145 - 1230 hrs : Session II

AI in Education: From Adoption to Responsible Action

Artificial Intelligence has moved from experimentation to everyday use in education, powering adaptive learning, AI tutors, automated feedback and new ways of supporting educators. As institutions scale AI adoption, attention is shifting to the responsible use of these technologies, including how student data is protected, how algorithmic bias is addressed, and how academic integrity and human judgement remain central to learning. This session will examine where AI can create meaningful educational value, where safeguards are needed, and what responsible implementation looks like for schools and universities.

1145 -1150 hrs	Opening Remarks by Session Moderator	**Ms Nikita Sivakumar** Co-Founder Ken42
1150 -1220 hrs	Panelists	**Dr K S Sujatha** Vice Chancellor (Officiating) Sri Krishna Knowledge Foundation Deemed to be University Coimbatore **Mr Ganesh Padmanabhan** Global Solutions Partner & Project Management Manager Google **Dr Anbuthambi Bhojarajan** AI Strategist & Author Director Successverse
1220 - 1225 hrs	Q&A	
1225 - 1230 hrs	Closing Remarks	**Ms Nikita Sivakumar**

1230-1315 hrs: Session III

The Future of Assessment: Integrity and Credential Trust in a GenAI World

Generative AI can now write essays, solve problem sets and pass many conventional exams, which puts the credibility of traditional assessment under direct pressure. Institutions are responding by shifting toward competency-based, continuous and project-based evaluation, and by adopting secure digital assessment and proctoring at scale. Underneath the mechanics is a larger question for employers and admissions offices: what a marksheet or degree actually certifies once the work behind it can be automated. This session brings universities, assessment-technology providers, accreditors and researchers together to discuss how India keeps its qualifications trustworthy.

1230 - 1235 hrs	Opening Remarks by Session Moderator	**Mr Narayanan Ramaswamy** Partner and National Leader, Education and Skills KPMG India
1235 - 1300 hrs	Panelists	**Prof. Dr V Kumaresan** Registrar Anna University **Prof. Dr Vinod V Thomas** Adviser Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) **Prof. Dr T Nagarajan** Professor & Associate Dean School of Engineering Shiv Nadar University
1300 - 1310 hrs	Q&A	
1310 - 1315 hrs	Closing Remarks	**Mr Narayanan Ramaswamy**
1315 - 1400 hrs	*Lunch Break*	

1400 -1500 hrs : Session IV

Future-Ready Skills: Closing the Campus-to-Industry Gap

Employers consistently report that graduates arrive strong on theory but short on what work demands, from applied AI and data fluency to communication, problem-solving and adaptability. At the same time, the nature of work is evolving, with gig, freelance, startup and project-based opportunities growing alongside conventional employment. Work-integrated models such as apprenticeships, internships and industry-embedded degree programmes help connect learning with real-world application, while innovation hubs and startup incubators foster entrepreneurial thinking and venture creation. This session will explore the skills and competencies needed for the future of work, how academia and industry can collaborate to develop them, and how institutions can foster innovation, entrepreneurship and workforce readiness.

1400 -1405 hrs	Opening Remarks by Session Moderator	**Mr Srikanth Talluri** Founder 6D.WORKS Pvt Ltd
1405 -1445 hrs	Panelists	**Mr V Srikanth** Chief Executive Officer ICT Academy **Mr Anshul Gupta** Head – College Connect Sales & Academic Partnerships L&T Edu-Tech **Mr Om Prakash** Director – Operations Deloitte
1445 -1455 hrs	Q&A	
1455 -1500 hrs	Concluding remarks	**Mr Srikanth Talluri**

1500-1600 hrs: Session V

From Theory to Practice: Immersive Learning Across Disciplines

Augmented and virtual reality, digital twins and simulation enable learners to practise skills that are difficult, costly or impractical to teach in real-world settings, from surgical procedures and machine operations to engineering design and field training. As these technologies move beyond pilot projects into mainstream education and training, institutions are increasingly focused on demonstrating impact and scalability. This session will showcase leading implementation examples and examine how immersive learning can enhance engagement, skill development and real-world readiness, while exploring the lessons and challenges of adoption.

1500 -1505 hrs	Opening Remarks by Session Moderator	**Mr Thirumalai Kumar M** Associate Vice President & Head of Research Group Siemens Technology and Services P Ltd
1505 -1545 hrs	Panelists	**Dr Thyagarajan T** Pro Vice Chancellor VIT, Chennai
		Mr Laiju I.P Nair HOD- COE & Skill Demand Aggregation ASAP Kerala Department of Higher Education Government of Kerala
		Mr Vijay Karunakaran Founder and CEO InGage Technologies
1545 -1555 hrs	Q&A	
1555 -1600 hrs	Concluding remarks	**Mr Thirumalai Kumar M**

1600-1700 hrs: Session VI

Beyond the Degree: Micro-credentials, Skills-Based Hiring and Lifelong Learning

The signal of a single, front-loaded degree is giving way to learning that continues across a career and is recognised in smaller, verifiable units. Micro-credentials, digital badges and stackable certificates let people add skills as industries change, while a growing number of employers hire on demonstrated capability rather than the qualification alone. India's National Credit Framework and Academic Bank of Credits give this a national spine, letting academic, vocational and experiential learning be credited and carried across institutions. This session looks at how micro credentials, skills-based hiring and lifelong learning are reshaping the relationship between what people study and what work rewards.

1600 -1605 hrs	Opening Remarks by Session Moderator	**Dr. Nithya Darisini P.S.** Dean Academics Professor School of Computer Science and Engineering (SCOPE) VIT Chennai
1605 -1645 hrs	Panelists	**Dr Vikas Misra** Vice Chancellor Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science
		Ms Rohini Krishnan Director – GenC Talent Acquisition Group Cognizant Technologies Solution
1645 -1655 hrs	Q&A	
1655 -1700 hrs	Concluding remarks	**Dr. Nithya Darisini P.S.**

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2nd Edition EDU-TECH EXPO
Powering Education with Technology

Con-current Event
CII AI CONNECT
Academia - Industry Connect
Nurturing Talent & Fostering Innovation

Hands-on Training Workshops

25 September 2026 | Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai, India

1100 - 1300 hrs **AI for Educators: Create Your Own AI Agent for Teaching & Tutoring** (Organised by HCL Tech exclusively for HODs, Professors & Technical Staffs)

AI can move beyond content generation to become a practical teaching and tutoring assistant. This hands-on session will introduce educators to AI agents that can support lesson planning, content creation, student queries, personalised learning and academic feedback. Participants will explore how AI agents work and create their own agent for a real teaching or tutoring use case, with a focus on practical application rather than technical complexity.

Introduction & Context setting:

Ms Srimathi Shivashankar, *Corporate Vice President and Global Head, EdTech Business, HCL Technologies*

Speakers:

- ***Mr Natesan Rajan,*** *Data Science Expert, HCL Tech Career Shaper*
- ***Mr Sathyanarayanan Srinivasan,*** *Training and Solutions Lead – Modern IT Ops, HCL Tech Career Shaper*

1300 - 1400 hrs ***Lunch Break***

1400 - 1630 hrs **Placement Officers Workshop** (Exclusively for Placement Officers)

To keep engaging directly with industry to understand its evolving talent requirements, as reflected through the Placement Officers' Workshop, which will focus on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on recruitment and emerging hiring trends, as well as dedicated sessions on Global Capability Centres (GCCs). These engagements will enable Placement Officers to better understand the changing recruitment landscape, gain insights into industry's evolving hiring needs, and prepare and train students more effectively for upcoming placement seasons.

1400 - 1500 hrs ***Panel Session on "From Cost Arbitrage to Intellectual Arbitrage, The GCC Story"***

Speakers:

- ***Mr Abishek S****, Vice President – Human Resource, BNY*
- ***Mr Arun Sasindran,*** *Senior Director, NielsenIQ*
- ***Mr J Enfil Premraj,*** *Head HR India, Smart Data solutions*
- ***Mr Mohammed Azad A K,*** *Sr Program Manager – Chennai Tech Centre Champion & University Relations, Visteon Corporation*

Moderator: ***Mr Ramkumar Ramamoorthy,*** *Partner, Catalincs*

1500 - 1530 hrs ***Interaction session with Mr P Viswanathan,*** *Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education including Technical Education, Electronics, Science & Technology, Government of Tamil Nadu*

1530 - 1630 hrs ***Panel Session on "Shifts in Recruiting in the AI Era"***

Speakers:

- ***Mr Ganesh Rajendran,*** *Regional Head Talent Acquisition, TCS*
- ***Mr Viswanathan Subramanian,*** *Director Talent Acquisition, Wipro Ltd*
- ***Ms Rophia Rose,*** *Associate Director - HR, GenC Campus Recruitment, Cognizant*
- ***Mr Krishna Balagurunathan,*** *Chief Mentor & AVP - Early Careers, Hexaware*
- ***Ms Ophilia Pushpa,*** *SVP, Revature India*

Moderator: ***Mr Sriram Rajagopal,*** *Director, Galent*