

## India Higher Education Research Conference (IHERC) 2026

Theme: Research into Practice and Practice  
into Research

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27–28 November, 2026, IIT-D

In 2026, the India Higher Education Research Network (IHERN) will organise its second flagship research conference, the India Higher Education Research Conference (IHERC) on the theme of *Research into Practice and Practice into Research*. The theme has been selected to encourage participants to explore how research can drive a culture of innovation and bring about improvements in policy and practice in Indian higher education.

As a forum for presenting high-quality research of relevance to Indian higher education, this conference will discuss the intersection of research and practice and the ways in which they inform each other. It will promote dialogue on how the scholarly field of higher education examines and engages with key practices of higher education, and how research is subsequently translated into practice by universities, colleges and other higher education providers, and most importantly, by policymakers.

Connections between research into practice and practice into research will be explored and examined, and through this, opportunities to build new linkages and address gaps will be identified. The complexity and diversity of Indian higher education mean there are major gains for students, researchers, governments and communities in building new connections between research and practice.

IHERC 2026 will bring together the scholarly community and leading researchers to examine the empirical context of higher education in India through both a local and global lens.

**Venue:** IHERC 2026 will be held at the Ground Floor of the R&D Building, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, in New Delhi, India.

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# Themes of the Conference

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The sub-themes of the conference include–

- Higher Education, National Development and Global Public Good
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment in Higher Education
- Student Experiences and Learning Trajectories
- Equity, Access and Inclusion in Higher Education, including Gender
- Digital Transformation and Educational Possibilities
- Governance, Leadership and Managing Institutional Change
- Internationalisation of Higher Education and Global Collaboration and Engagement
- Research Policy, Funding, and the Changing Nature of Academic Work
- The Role of Higher Education in Driving Cultures of Innovation

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## Important Dates

<b>1 April, 2026</b>	Abstract submission opens
<b>31 May, 2026</b>	Deadline for abstract submission
<b>31 July, 2026</b>	Acceptance decision
<b>15 August, 2026</b>	Registration opens
<b>30 September, 2026</b>	Deadline for full draft paper submission

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# Abstract Submission

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IHERC 2026 will feature scholarly contributions through oral presentations, poster presentations, roundtables and panel discussions. To be considered for a paper presentation or a poster, submission of an extended abstract, as detailed below, is required.

- Minimum of 650 but not exceeding 1 000 words.
- Abstracts must clearly state–
  - The research problem and context
  - The theoretical and conceptual framing used
  - The methodological approach employed, where it is applicable
  - The key arguments, findings and/or insights
  - Relevance to the conference theme (research–practice linkage)

Abstracts to IHERC 2026 can be submitted to be considered for either a paper presentation or a poster.

## **Paper presentation**

Papers can be focused on higher education as a field of study or from different disciplines that examine higher education. Abstracts must be placed with respect to the current state of the field and address the key criteria listed above. Papers can either be empirically grounded or put forward an analytical argument located within recent higher education scholarship. Papers need not be based on Indian higher education, but need to demonstrate applicability to the future of higher education and higher education studies relevant to India.

Following acceptance of an abstract for a presentation, authors will be expected to submit the full paper, not exceeding 7,000 words. The papers will also be considered for an edited volume to be released after the conference and published by a major international publisher. Papers must be based on rigorous research with a contribution to knowledge and must meet the standard expected for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

## Posters

Posters are an opportunity to share scholarly research without the presentation of an oral paper. They must be based on rigorous research with a contribution to knowledge and can be focused on higher education as a field of study or from other disciplines that examine higher education. The posters will be displayed in a spacious and accessible venue central to the conference. All posters will be eligible for award recognition to be judged by an expert jury, which will undertake the evaluation process.

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## Conference Registration

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Participation at IHERC 2026 is open to all registered IHERN members. The membership to IHERN is free and available to all. To avail special discounted rates for the IHERC 2026, please register yourself at <https://iiitd.ac.in/IHERN/applications/register.php>. Those not presenting any paper will also need to register to attend the conference.

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## Contact details

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All queries for the conference are to be sent to [ihern@iiitd.ac.in](mailto:ihern@iiitd.ac.in)