



# Report of the **BHARAT-SRI LANKA**

**Higher Education Summit, 2025**

held at **COLOMBO**  
on 28th & 29th January, 2025



## Introduction

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the internationalization of Higher Education in India with a vision to position India as a global hub for quality and affordable education. By promoting initiatives like attracting international students, fostering research and teaching collaborations, and establishing faculty and student exchange programs, NEP 2020 seeks to create a robust global academic environment and advance 'internationalization at home'.

In alignment with these objectives, AIU has been actively organizing international summits to foster collaboration and partnerships with universities worldwide.

Bharat-Nepal Higher Education Summit (15-17 February 2024, Kathmandu University, Nepal, inaugurated by the Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal, witnessed the active participation of 45 Indian universities and academic leaders from 12 countries, including Bhutan, China, South Korea, Australia, and the UK. It engaged 2,000+ students and laid the groundwork for impactful collaborations in education and research.

Namaste Vietnam – Bharat Vietnam Higher Education Summit (24-26 August 2024, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam) which was organized in collaboration with the Consulate General of India, brought together 50 Indian and Vietnamese universities and attracted 400+ Vietnamese students. It facilitated meaningful partnerships and long-term academic collaborations, creating opportunities for student recruitment and research innovation.

Given the overwhelming response of universities and resounding success of these summits, AIU organised Bharat-Sri Lanka Higher Education Summit at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka from 28-29 January 2025 to advance the internationalization of higher education and strengthen academic and research collaborations between Indian and Sri Lankan universities.

## Key Activities

AIU invited universities for participation in the Bharat Sri Lanka Higher Education and asked the interested institutions for registration on its website INIHE (Indian Network for Internationalization of Higher Education, [www.inihe.aiu.ac.in](http://www.inihe.aiu.ac.in)).

Participation in the Summit was structured as an inclusive package, with a fee of INR 90,000/- covering all essential arrangements. Given the limited capacity, registrations were accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, ensuring a well-organized and highly productive event. In total 30 HEIs from India participated in the Summit including universities, technical institutions and autonomous colleges. Each participating institution was allotted a dedicated display space, which included a table, chairs, and a backdrop featuring their logo and name. This setup allowed institutions to effectively present their academic offerings and interact with prospective collaborators. Also, they brought promotional materials to enhance their outreach and visibility.

The event ensured a comfortable experience for delegates, with accommodation arranged at a decent hotel near the venue. Participants checked in on January 27, 2025, and checked out on January 30, 2025 (several delegates extended their stay to enable them to visit places in Sri Lanka at their own cost). Daily lunch and tea with snacks were provided throughout the Summit. Additionally, local sightseeing activities were organized, offering attendees the chance to explore the cultural and scenic beauty of Colombo and its surroundings. Several institutions opted to send additional representatives at their own expense, further enriching the engagement and discussions.

# Proceedings of the Bharat Sri Lanka Higher Education Summit

Day 1

## Inauguration and Networking Session

The Bharat Sri Lanka Higher Education Summit witnessed participation from senior dignitaries, policymakers, and representatives from universities in both countries, setting the stage for meaningful discussions and institutional partnerships.

## Inaugural Session

The Summit was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr. Madura Seneviratne, Honourable Deputy Minister Higher Education Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Dr. Satyanjal Pandey, Acting High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal Secretary General, AIU, Senior Professor H.D Krunaratne, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo, Senior Professor Kapila Seneviratne, Chairman, University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka, Mrs. H.G.A Caldera, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka.



The Summit commenced with a ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by the rendition of the national anthems of Sri Lanka and India, marking a respectful and symbolic start to the event. In her welcome address Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, AIU, emphasized the importance of strengthening academic and research collaborations between Indian and Sri Lankan universities.



## Special Remarks were delivered by



Senior Professor Kapila Seneviratne, Chairman, University Grants Commission, Sri Lanka, who highlighted the evolving higher education landscape and the potential for institutional partnerships.



Dr. Satyanjal Pandey, Acting High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, highlighted the strong and enduring relationship between India and Sri Lanka, referring to the two countries as “civilisational partners” with deeply interconnected histories and futures. In his address, he emphasized the shared democratic values and cultural bonds that unite the nations.



Mrs. H.G.A Calderera, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka, who emphasized policy-level support for student and faculty exchanges.



The Chief Guest, Dr. Madura Seneviratne, Honourable Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Sri Lanka, in his inaugural address appreciated the initiative of organising the Summit, and stressed the need for collaborative programs, research initiatives, and student mobility between Indian and Sri Lankan institutions. He underscored the role of higher education in fostering regional cooperation and mutual growth.

The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Mr. Sanjay Thapa, Managing Director, Sape Events and Media, acknowledging the contribution of all stakeholders in making the Summit a success.

Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General of AIU, presented mementos to the invited guests on the dais during the inaugural session, as a token of appreciation for their presence and contributions to the Summit. This gesture highlighted the spirit of collaboration and reinforced the commitment to strengthening academic partnerships between India and Sri Lanka.

*Following the inaugural session, the attendees proceeded for High Tea, providing an informal setting for networking.*



## Networking & Institutional Engagements

**The Networking Session:** The Summit was attended by about 70 universities and Institutions from India and Sri Lanka. University-to-University networking session facilitated direct interactions between universities and institutions from India and Sri Lanka. Delegates discussed potential collaborations in student and faculty exchange programs, joint research projects, and twinning or dual-degree programs. This session served as a vital platform for fostering long-term institutional relationships.



A Lunch Break followed, allowing participants to continue informal discussions in a relaxed setting.

Later, the Indian university delegation was taken for Colombo sightseeing, providing an opportunity to explore Sri Lanka’s cultural and historical landmarks.

## Counselling & Student Engagement Sessions

The second day of the Summit was dedicated to direct engagement between Sri Lankan students and Indian universities through Counselling Sessions. More than 2000 students from Sri Lanka participated in the session. Indian university representatives interacted with Sri Lankan students, providing detailed insights into academic programs, scholarships, admission processes, and career opportunities, allowing students to explore diverse higher education options in India.

The program successfully concluded marking the end of an enriching two-day academic exchange between India and Sri Lanka.



## Major Takeaways

- 1. Strengthened Bilateral Ties:** The Summit reaffirmed the deep-rooted educational and cultural connections between India and Sri Lanka, further strengthening the bilateral ties between the two nations.
- 2. New Collaborations:** Discussions during the event led to the possibilities of new academic collaborations, with several institutions expressing interest in joint research projects, faculty exchanges, and student mobility programs.
- 3. Knowledge Sharing:** The Summit provided a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and best practices in higher education, promoting mutual learning between Indian and Sri Lankan universities.
- 4. High Interest Among Sri Lankan Students** – Sri Lankan students actively engaged in the counseling sessions and were eager to learn about academic opportunities in India. Many expressed keen interest in pursuing higher education at Indian universities, highlighting the growing demand for cross-border educational exchanges.
- 5. Future Roadmap:** The event helped outline a roadmap for future cooperation in areas such as academic events, scholarships, and institutional partnerships, ensuring continued progress in the education sector.



## Conclusion

The Bharat Sri Lanka Higher Education Summit 2025 successfully brought together a diverse group of students, academicians, faculty members, and leaders from both countries and provided an impactful platform for strengthening academic ties, facilitating institutional collaborations, and enhancing student mobility between the two nations.

The Summit successfully achieved its objective of strengthening higher education ties between India and Sri Lanka, paving the way for future collaborations and academic exchanges.

# Glimpses of the Summit

