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27th National Annual Conference of

Indian Colleges Forum

Higher Education in the era of Industry 6.0

November 20th - 22nd 2026

G.G.D.S.D. College, Raipur, Palampur, Dist. Kangra Himachal Pradesh



Human-Centred Transformation, Innovation and Social Responsibility

Organized by

Indian College Forum

Society for Education and Economic Development (SEED)

In Collaboration With

GGDSD College, Raipur, Palampur, Dist. Kangra, Himachal Pradesh

Higher Education in the Era of Industry 6.0

Introduction: Education and industrial development have always evolved together. At times, advances in education, knowledge and research have preceded technological and industrial transformations; at other times, industrial revolutions have driven fundamental changes in educational processes, research and development.

This dynamic relationship can be traced to the 18th century, when the First Industrial Revolution introduced mechanisation and new sources of energy that transformed production, distribution and patterns of social life. The First, Second and Third Industrial Revolutions evolved relatively gradually, but each brought significant changes to education, skills, employment and society. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, characterised by rapid advances in digital technologies, artificial intelligence, automation, big data and connected systems, has accelerated the pace of change and created new challenges for institutions and societies.

The transition from Industry 4.0 towards Industry 5.0 has further emphasised human-machine collaboration, human-centred technology and resilience. Even as institutions and societies are adapting to these changes, the world is moving towards what may be described as **Industry 6.0**, characterised by increasingly intelligent, autonomous and interconnected machines and deeper interaction between human and machine intelligence.

This transition presents both unprecedented opportunities and significant challenges. **Judicious and responsible collaboration between human intelligence and machine intelligence** can contribute to a more productive, inclusive and sustainable global society. Conversely, the absence of appropriate ethical frameworks, safeguards and human oversight may create serious risks for humanity. Higher education has a crucial role in navigating this transition. It must prepare graduates with empathy, creativity, critical and analytical thinking, ethical awareness, communication and collaborative skills, while enabling them to harness emerging technologies for the well-being of humanity. It must also contribute to the development of appropriate ethical frameworks and institutional guardrails to prevent the misuse of artificial intelligence and other forms of machine intelligence.

The Conference: The **Indian Colleges Forum (ICF)** has been consistently examining emerging technological developments and their implications for higher education. In continuation of this endeavour, ICF is organising its **27th National Conference** on the theme:

The Theme :

Higher Education in the Era of Industry 6.0

Sub-Themes:

To provide a broad framework for discussion and to explore different dimensions of the relationship between higher education and Industry 6.0, the following sub-themes are proposed:

1. Human-Centred Digital Transformation of Higher Education

Harnessing EdTech, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies while preserving human values, agency, academic integrity and the essential human purpose of education.

2. Preparing Future-Ready Graduates for the Human-Machine Age

Developing values, creativity, critical thinking, ethical awareness, communication and collaborative capabilities to enable graduates to work effectively and responsibly with human and machine intelligence.

3. Developing Colleges as Think-and-Act Research Hubs for Local and Community Development

Strengthening research, innovation and knowledge partnerships to understand and address challenges in the local community and neighbourhood, while contributing to sustainable and inclusive development.

4. Strengthening Internal and External Quality Assurance in Colleges

Developing effective systems, processes and institutional capacities for continuous quality improvement, self-evaluation, accountability and meaningful external quality review.

5. Advancing SDG 4 through Equity, Quality, Inclusion and Affordability in Higher Education

Developing strategies to make higher education more equitable, inclusive, accessible, affordable and responsive to the diverse needs of learners and communities.

6. Leadership, Governance and Institutional Transformation for Industry 6.0

Reimagining institutional leadership, governance, curriculum, teaching–learning practices and organisational processes to respond effectively to rapid technological, economic and societal transformations.

7. Sustainability, Climate Responsibility and the Future of Higher Education

Integrating sustainability, climate action, green campuses and environmental responsibility into institutional policies, curricula, research, innovation and community engagement.

A New Approach to the Conference

Building on the experience of previous ICF conferences, the 27th Conference will provide wider opportunities for participants to engage with the main theme and its sub-themes. Participants will be encouraged to present research papers, case studies, innovative practices and institutional experiences through **oral presentations, PowerPoint presentations, posters and other appropriate digital or multimedia formats**.

The Conference will provide a platform for participants to share experiences, exchange ideas, deliberate with peers and explore practical approaches to addressing the emerging challenges and opportunities associated with Industry 6.0.

Expected Outcomes of the Conference

The deliberations will help participants and institutions to:

- understand the scope and implications of technological, educational and societal changes associated with Industry 6.0;
- identify emerging opportunities, challenges and risks for higher education;
- examine the changing role of colleges and universities in a human–machine society;
- share innovative institutional practices, research findings and successful experiences;
- develop institutional strategies and actionable recommendations for responding to emerging changes; and
- contribute to a forward-looking **action agenda for higher education institutions and their stakeholders**.

The Conference seeks to move beyond discussion towards **reflection, collaboration and action**, enabling higher education institutions to become more human-centred, innovative, inclusive, ethical, sustainable and future-ready in the era of Industry 6.0.

Participants:

Principals of Colleges, Heads of Higher educational institutions, Senior faculty members, policy makers, Researchers, Educational Administrators, and eminent scholars are invited to participate in the conference.

About the Organiser:

The Indian College Forum (ICF), a professional association of Colleges across India, has consistently organised National Level Conferences for Principals and Academic Leaders and faculties on themes of Contemporary relevance. So far ICF has successfully organised 26 National conferences across India. 27th Conference is being held First Time in Himachal Pradesh in collaboration with Goswami Ganesh Dutt Sanatan Dharam College Rajpur (Palampur) Distt Kangra

About the Host Institution:

GOSWANI GANESH DUTT SANATAN DHARAM COLLEGE RAJPUR (PALAMPUR)

The Sanatan Dharam institutions Himachal Pradesh have been in service of the people of Himachal Pradesh since Last nine decades under the Control and management of GGDSD Education Society and under aegis of Shri Sanatan Dharam Pratinidhi Sabha (Pb) New Delhi with working area in state of Himachal Pradesh, Panjab, Haryana, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan and Delhi. Established by Late Pt. Amar Nath Sharma, Great Educationist, Philanthropist, in 1984, GGDSD College Raipur was the first Co-educational college in Palampur. The College is affiliated to Himachal Pradesh University Shimla and recognized by UGC in 2(F)12 (B) Category. Starting with a small campus in the outskirts of Palampur, Distt Kangra, the institution being fully self-Financing institution has developed well laid infrastructure and facilities which complement the quality education by qualified and experienced faculty. Currently there are Five Graduate courses and One Post Graduate Diploma Course being offered to students all approved by the Himachal Pradesh University and AICTE.

Alumni of the college have occupied high position in academic, policy making, and administration nationally and in Himachal Pradesh.

VENUE:

College Auditorium & Seminar Halls, GGDSD College Rajpur Palampur.

Important Dates

Activity

Registration opens on	15 th September, 2026
Last date of Registration	10 th November, 2026
Last Date of Submission of Paper	10 th November, 2026

Participants are invited to submit papers, posters, or reports of action projects on (3000-5000) words on the conference theme via e-mail in word and pdf form.

REGISTRATION FEE

<i>Category</i>		<i>Fee (INR)</i>
General -Non-ICF Member Colleges	(With Accommodation)	9500/-
ICF Member Colleges	(With Accommodation)	7500/-
Local Colleges	(With accommodation)	6500/-
Retired College Principals	(With accommodation)	5000/-
Faculty members from colleges	(Without Accommodation)	3000/-

Link for the Registration From: <https://forms.gle/bCdXjFU6YVg2a553A>

REGISTRATION WITH ACCOMMODATION INCLUDES:

Accommodation for three nights with meals and Kit with digital conference materials.

Without Accommodation include Food at Venue of Conference for Two Days & Complementary Kit

TRAVEL AND ACCESSIBILITY:

Rajpur (Palampur), is well connected by air, rail, and road from Amb Anduara (Himachal) Pathankot, Chandigarh and Delhi. Direct Flights from Delhi to Dharamshala & Chandigarh to Dharamshala and Trains from Delhi to Amb Anduara and Pathankot and Luxury Bus service from Delhi to Palampur

Distance to Palampur by Road from

Delhi (By Road)	565 K.M
Chandigarh	265 K.M
Amb Andura Railway Station	132 K.M
Pathankot Railway Station	105 K.M
Gagal Dharamshala Airport	32 K.M
to Palampur	

PLACE OF SITE SEEING NEAR PALAMPUR

Palampur in Himachal Pradesh is surrounded by stunning natural, cultural, and spiritual attractions — from tea gardens and monasteries to lakes, temples, and adventure hubs. Within 5–40 km, one can Explore:

1. Neugal Khad,	Picnic Spot	4 K.M
2. Andretta Pottery	Cultural/Heritage	13 K.M
3. Shobha Singh Art Gallery	Art	13 K.M
4. Bir Billing	Adventure (Paragliding)	28 K.M
5. Chamunda Devi Temple	Spiritual	19 K.M
6. Ancient Shiva Temple	Baijnath	13 K.M
7. Dharamshala's HPCA Stadium	Sports	36 K.M
8. Tashi Jong	Monastery	15 K.M
9. Saurabh Van Vihar	Nature Park	4 K.M

CONTACT DETAILS

ICF Secretariat
Secretary General, Indian College Forum
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Mob: 9868820215, 9419189855 | Landline: 011-43008598

HOST INSTITUTION

Dr Vivek Kumar
Secretary, EC, ICF (Himachal State Chapter)
Director cum Principal
GGDSD College Rajpur (Palampur)
Distt Kangra Himachal Pradesh -176061
Land Line: 0189493215 MOB: 9816052889 Email: principal@ggdsdrajpur.com

ORGANISING COMMITTEE AT COLLEGE:

1. Mr Suman Kumar HOD, Dept. of History
2. Dr Dhruv Dev Sharma HOD, Dept. of Sanskrit
3. Mr Arvind Kumar HOD, Dept. of Sanskrit
4. Mr Anurag Sharma, HOD, Dept. of Business Administration
5. Mr Vaneet Thakur, HOD, Dept. of Physics
6. Dr Maneshwar Thakur, Assistant Professor in Physics
7. Mr Aneesh Kumar, Assistant Professor in Zoology
8. Mr Yashvinder Singh, Assistant Professor in Commerce

Management, Director-Principal, Faculty Members and Students of the Colleges welcome delegates to this eventful and intellectually rewarding National Conference of ICF

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REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Designation

Name of the College / University

Please Tick mark

Member of ICF

☐

Non-Member

☐

Address for Correspondence

E-mail

Phone No. (O) (R)

Accompanying Spouse- Yes / No. If Yes, Put the Name of Spouse

Accommodation required; (Tick as applicable)

(1) For Myself alone () (2) For my spouse & myself ()

No. of Persons ()

Registration Fee:

General – Non Member Colleges Rs. 9,500/-, ICF Member Rs 7,500/-, Local Colleges Rs 6,500/-, Retired College Principal Rs 5,000/-, Faculty members from Colleges Rs 3000/-

The Amount is sent through;

DD No..... Date Bank

For Rs. Drawn in favour of Indian College forum, SEED is enclosed or the amount has been transferred to Canara Bank through bank RTGS on SB A/C No. 1484101030880 IFSC Code – CNRB 0001484 vide receipt no. Date

Link for the Registration From: <https://forms.gle/bCdXjFU6YVg2a553A>

Signature of the Participant and Office Seal



To,
The Conference Secretary
INDIAN COLLEGES FORUM
Society for Education and Economic Development,
Flat No. 56-B, DDA (SFS) Flats; Sector - 1 Pocket -1
Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075
Contact No: 9868820215, 9419189855, 011-4300-8598,
E-mail: seedicf@gmail.com / mohinderas@gmail.com

Host College
Dr. Vivek Kumar Sharma
Director Cum Principal,
GGSD College
Rajpur (Palampur)
Distt. Kangra, Himachal Pradesh 176061
Contact No – 9816052889, 0189493215
Email id - principal@ggdsdrajpur.com

Annual Conference of Indian College Forum

ICF has conducted 26 Annual Conferences on themes of importance in higher education at different places in the country. The themes of conferences and places these have been conducted are given below:

- First Conference: **Development of Higher Education Quality and Resource Aspects** Delhi.
- Second Conference: **Governance of Colleges** Panaji, Goa.
- Third Conference: **Vocationalization and Restructuring of Undergraduate Courses** Chandigarh.
- Fourth Conference: **Industry College Linkage** Pondicherry
- Fifth Conference: **Challenges of Governance and Career Orientation of College Education** Delhi.
- Sixth Conference: **Shifting Paradigms of National Development: Role of Colleges in Development and Transmission of Knowledge** Bangalore.
- Seventh Conference: **Future Challenges of Development of Colleges** Pune.
- Eighth Conference: **Challenges Before Higher Education in 21st Century** Amritsar.
- Ninth Conference: **Response of Colleges to Future Challenges of Quality in Higher Education** Jaipur.
- Tenth Conference: **Hopes & Challenges in Development of Higher Education under Globalization** Chennai.
- Eleventh Conference: **Colleges towards Excellence and International Competitiveness** Hyderabad.
- Twelfth Conference: **Positioning Colleges for Building India as a Knowledge Society** Meerut.
- Thirteenth Conference: **Role of Higher Education in Development of World View and Values Among Youth** Rajkot.
- Fourteenth Conference: **Perspective of Development of College Education in Knowledge Economy** Dehradun.
- Fifteenth Conference: **Education, Economy, and Sustainable Development** Udipi, Karnataka.
- Sixteenth Conference: **Reforming Higher Education in the Context of Globalisation** Coimbatore.
- Seventeenth Conference: **Higher Education in India: The Developing Dynamics** Shillong, Meghalaya.
- Eighteenth Conference: **Higher Education for Innovations & Change** Jammu.
- Nineteenth Conference: **New Policy and Planning Strategies for Development of Colleges in India**, Kerala.
- Twentieth Conference: **Higher Education for Development of Economy & Society Through Research and Innovations** Patiala, Punjab.
- Twenty-first Conference: **Challenges of Development of Higher Education through Public and Private Universities** Jorhat, Assam.
- Twenty Second Conference - **Higher Education for Bridging the Gap between Rural and Urban India**, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- Twenty Third Conference - **Challenges before Higher Education in Emerging Fourth Industrial Revolution**, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Twenty Fourth Conference - **Higher Education for Empowerment of People and Development of India**, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
- Twenty Fifth (Silver Jubilee) Conference - **Transforming Higher Education to Meet Future Challenges**, New Delhi.
- Twenty Sixth Conference – **Challenges of implementation of NEP – 2020 and Impact of AI and Climate Change on Institutions of Higher Education**, New Delhi.