

Vol. 2 | Issue 1 | Quarter 1 (Jan-Mar) 2026

KOMMUNIQUÉ

IQAC Newsletter *(A Quarterly Magazine)*

Smt. Nita Ambani Honoured at KIIT and KISS for Humanitarian Service

Smt. Nita M. Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, received two prestigious honours in Bhubaneswar on 16 March 2026.

At the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, she was conferred the KISS Humanitarian Award 2025 before an audience of 40,000 students and dignitaries. Nobel Laureate Prof. Mohan Munasinghe presented the award, established in 2008 by KISS Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta, recognising Ambani's sustained contributions across education, healthcare, rural development, women's empowerment and sports promotion.

The same day, KIIT conferred upon her an Honorary Doctorate, a DLitt Honoris Causa, acknowledging her transformative impact on social development across India. Addressing students at both ceremonies, Ambani dedicated the honours to the entire Reliance Foundation team and urged the gathering to pursue their ambitions with discipline and integrity. "Dream big, and to achieve those dreams, you must work hard with dedication," she said. She praised both institutions as "modern temples of education," describing the philosophy of Seva, or service, as the bedrock of a more equitable world.

Dr. Samanta noted that earning genuine love through service, in an increasingly materialistic world, remains rare.

> ***" I see the future of India here in KIIT & KISS. After seeing the children here, I am confident that the future of India is bright."***
>
> **~ Smt. Nita M. Ambani, Founder and Chairperson, Reliance Foundation**

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Leadership & Advisories

Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT-KISS-KIMS - Chief Patron

Mr. Dwiti Vikramaditya, Vice President, International Relations

Prof. (Dr.) Saranjit Singh, Vice-Chancellor, KIIT & KISS

Prof. (Dr.) Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar, KIIT-DU

Dr. Vikas Kumar Sabata, Joint Director, International Affairs

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Prof. (Dr.)
Achyuta Samanta
Founder,
KIIT-KISS-KIMS

"Young scholars must transition from being thinkers to doers. Every scientific breakthrough must translate into a tangible benefit for society."



Prof. (Dr.)
Saranjit Singh
Vice-Chancellor, KIIT-DU

"Science and innovation are the primary drivers of societal progress, and our rising trajectory in global rankings reflects a deep commitment to these ideals."



Prof. (Dr.)
Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty
Registrar, KIIT-DU

"Innovation, collaboration, and inclusive growth are not just institutional goals; they are the essential drivers for achieving the vision of a developed India by 2047"

World Stage, KIIT Campus

KIIT Becomes First Indian University Campus to Host World Beach Volleyball Championship

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, hosted the World Beach Volleyball Championship 2026 from 4 to 8 March, making history as the first university campus in India to stage the prestigious FIVB-sanctioned event. The VolleyballWorld Beach ProTour Challenge, entrusted to KIIT by the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball, drew athletes and officials from across the globe to the institution's specially prepared sand courts.

The championship featured 164 international athletes representing 52 countries, competing across 82 teams, with over 300 accredited participants in attendance. The event holds particular significance as an Olympic qualifier, being held on Indian soil in this format for the first time. A sport traditionally associated with coastal venues found an unlikely but remarkable home inside an academic campus, with KIIT's grounds transformed into a world-class beach volleyball arena for the occasion.

Beyond the competition itself, organisers and the university expect the event to accelerate beach volleyball's growth in Odisha and India, strengthen sports tourism, and enhance KIIT's international profile while providing Indian athletes direct exposure to elite global competition.







Excellence in Numbers, Purpose in Vision



KIIT Earns QS Platinum Rating and 5-Star Excellence in Historic Sweep

KIIT Deemed to be University has secured two of global higher education's most coveted distinctions: the Platinum Rating from QS I-GAUGE and an Overall 5-Star Rating from QS Stars, both awarded by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, the world's foremost higher education analysts.

The ratings followed a rigorous institutional audit evaluating performance across academic and research excellence, infrastructure, governance, global engagement, and diversity, equity and inclusion. KIIT demonstrated world-class proficiency across each pillar, earning the highest possible tier in both frameworks simultaneously.

The achievement carries particular significance regionally: KIIT is now the only university in Eastern India to hold both distinctions at once, placing it firmly among the world's elite institutions. The recognition reflects the combined contribution of the university's leadership, faculty, and student community in building an institution of sustained global standing.

KIIT Shines in QS Sustainability Rankings 2026

KIIT University secured four distinctions in the QS Sustainability Rankings 2026, placing 834th overall and 395th in Governance globally, affirming its standing among sustainability-conscious institutions worldwide.



KIIT Tops Foreign Student Inflow in Odisha - NITI Ayog

5th *in India* *among Private Universities*

Odisha has emerged as India's leading destination for international students, with KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar, accounting for nearly the entire share of that distinction. According to a **NITI Aayog report on the internationalisation of higher education**, Odisha recorded the highest inflow of foreign students in India during the 2021–22 academic year, ranking among the country's top 10 states in international student attraction.

Of the 2,362 foreign students enrolled across all institutions in eastern India, close to **2,000** study at KIIT alone. The university currently hosts students from over **70 countries** and ranks fifth among private universities nationally for international enrolment. Odisha's tally surpasses that of states with far greater metropolitan advantage, including West Bengal, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.

KIIT's draw is attributed to its academic reputation, campus environment, and sports infrastructure. Approximately 5,000 international alumni have graduated from the institution to date. KIIT Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta noted that foreign student numbers will continue to grow in the coming academic year.

At The Helm : Honours & Recognitions

Dr. Achyuta Samanta Elected Chief Patron of Indian Volleyball Federation



Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS, has been unanimously elected Chief Patron of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) for a four-year term. The decision was taken during the Annual General Council meeting in Varanasi, held on the sidelines of the 72nd Senior National Volleyball Championship 2026, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 4 January 2026.

The council, attended by state association representatives from across India, cited Dr. Samanta's long-standing contributions to the sport as the basis for his appointment. The General Council also approved hosting the National Youth Volleyball Championship at KIIT.

The VFI acknowledged the FIVB's conferral of the Grand Cross Award on Dr. Samanta and his appointment to the FIVB Volleyball Foundation Council. Dr. Samanta, who served as VFI President from 2020 to 2024, expressed gratitude to the federation and reaffirmed his commitment to growing volleyball nationally.

KIIT Marks 22 Years with Lifetime Achievement Honours and Counsel on Purpose



KIIT Deemed to be University celebrated its 22nd Foundation Day on 16 February 2026 with a special lecture and the presentation of the KIIT Lifetime Achievement Award to four distinguished figures: John Oppenheimer, Founder and Chairman of Columbia Hospitality (USA); Venerable Dr. Kirinde Assaji Nayaka Thero, Chief Incumbent of Hunupitiya Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo; K.N. Shanth Kumar, Director of The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd. and Board Director of Press Trust of India; and Gyetrul Jigme Rinpoche, Spiritual Director of the Ripa International Center, Switzerland.

Oppenheimer urged students to trust their instincts. "Follow your heart," he said. "It keeps you connected to your purpose. Decisions get so much easier." He described the campus as transformative, telling students not to underestimate their contributions to society and to the world.

Media veteran Shanth Kumar drew on four decades in journalism to remind the audience that while the landscape has shifted, fundamentals have not. "Truth, credibility, verification and ethical storytelling remain the bedrock of journalism," he said, calling on students to stay curious, build resilience and practise responsible citizen journalism.

Dr. Kirinde Assaji Nayaka Thero called the occasion a "spiritual reunion of history," praising KIIT's rare combination of compassion, discipline and vision. Rinpoche, speaking on practical compassion, noted that generosity requires no philosophy: "By giving, you never become poor." Founder Dr. Achyuta Samanta dedicated every achievement to the staff and students of KIIT, KISS and KIMS.

KIIT Wins National Award for Sports Infrastructure Excellence

KIIT Deemed to be University has been conferred the National Ranking Award 2026 for Best Institution for Overall Sports Infrastructure at the Global Sports Education Convention (G-SEC) 2026, held at the India International Centre, New Delhi. Instituted by CSRI in association with SAAB and supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the award was received by the university's representative.

The recognition underscores KIIT's sustained investment in world-class sporting facilities and its commitment to nurturing an athlete-centric ecosystem where academic rigour, discipline, and sporting excellence develop in tandem.

At The Helm : Honours & Recognitions



Amazon's Global Legal Head Honored With KIIT Lifetime Achievement Award

David A. Zapolsky, Chief Global Affairs and Legal Officer at Amazon US, received KIIT University's Lifetime Achievement Award at a special ceremony on Friday, attended by Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS, and senior Amazon India officials.

Speaking with KIIT Vice Chancellor Prof. Saranjit Singh, Zapolsky outlined India's role in Amazon's global strategy. The company has invested nearly USD 40 billion in the country, with data centres in Mumbai and Hyderabad, and committed an additional USD 35 billion last year. "India is a leader in shaping the global conversation around AI. No nation has expressed as clearly as India what it wants to achieve with AI," he said.

Addressing students, he drew on his journey through science, music, law and corporate leadership: **"Listen to your gut. Do what makes you happy. When you pursue your passion, opportunities follow."** He visited the KISS campus, praising its contribution to tribal empowerment.

Dr. Achyuta Samanta Receives His 70th Honorary Doctorate at JECRC University



Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT, KISS and KIMS, received an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from JECRC University, Jaipur, at its 9th Annual Convocation Ceremony on 3 January 2026. The honour was conferred by Shri O.P. Agrawal, Chairperson of JECRC University, in the presence of other dignitaries. Dr. Samanta addressed the gathering as chief guest.

The degree marks his 70th honorary doctorate from universities across India and abroad, reaffirming the global recognition accorded to his decades of work in education and social transformation. JECRC Foundation, a 25-year-old institution with over 25,000 students across its two educational wings, conferred the honour at a ceremony that drew wide institutional participation. Dr. Samanta expressed gratitude to JECRC University for the recognition, describing it as an affirmation of his lifelong commitment to education as an instrument of social change and tribal empowerment.



KIIT Wins University Excellence Award at Cisco's Bengaluru Event

KIIT University received the University Excellence Award 2026 at an event hosted by Cisco Systems in Bengaluru, recognising its commitment to industry collaboration and skill development. Dr. Suman Bhattacharya, Director of Kareer School at KIIT and KISS, accepted the award following strategic discussions with Cisco's leadership on the evolving talent ecosystem. Prof. Debashree Mishra was honoured with the Instructor Leadership Award 2026. A forward-looking roadmap was developed through the COE and EDGE models to align KIIT students with fast-changing global industry requirements.

Moments


KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
Doctor of Letters
Smt. Nita M. Ambani

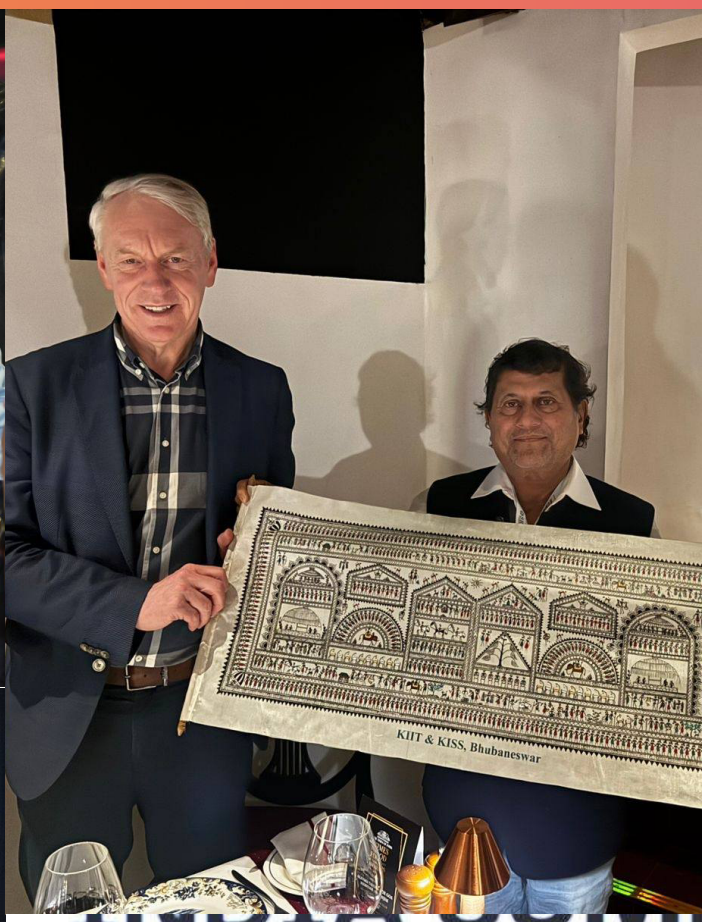


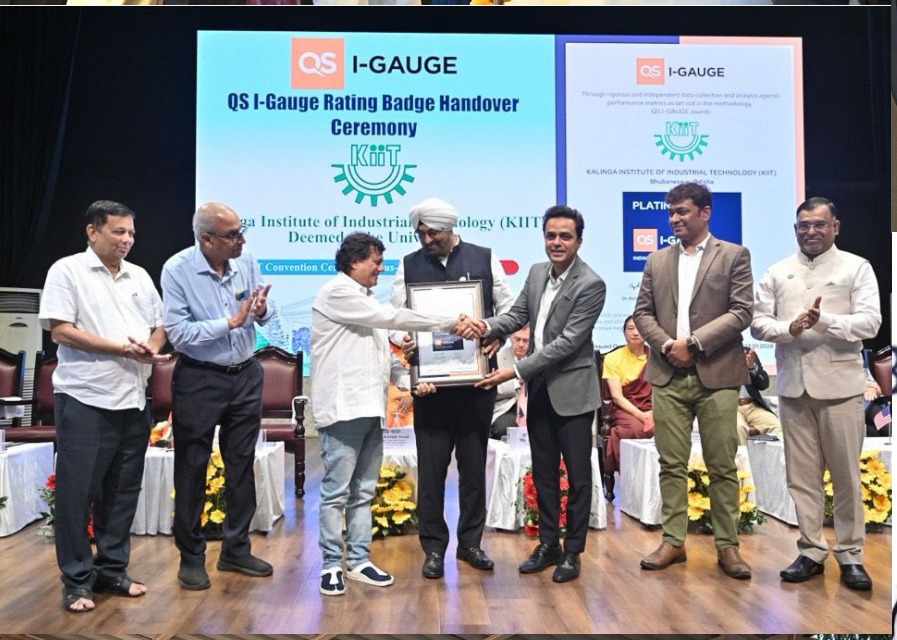

PRESENTS
FEMINA


PRO TOUR CHALLENGE
GLOBAL PARTNER
MIKASA
1XBAT

Moments


6TH . 7TH MARCH 2026


KIIT & KISS, Bhubaneswar


QS I-GAUGE
QS I-Gauge Rating Badge Handover Ceremony
KIIT




KIIT

Building Quality Through Collaboration

KIIT Participates as Silver Sponsor at QS Summit 2026

KIIT University joined the QS Summit 2026 as a Silver Sponsor, with the event held at Taj Goa from February 1 to 3 under the theme India@2047: Building Skills, Achieving Scale, Driving Innovation. The summit is a premier global forum for dialogue and collaboration on the future of higher education.





Prof. (Dr.) Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS, and Prof. (Dr.) Saranjit Singh, Vice Chancellor, represented the university as distinguished panelists at the India-Arab Presidents' Roundtable, co-organised with the Association of Arab Universities (AArU). Their participation underscored KIIT's growing stature in international academic circles.

A dedicated KIIT booth, managed by the KIIT-IQAC led by Dr. Siddharth Swarup Rautaray and International Relations Office team under the leadership of Dr. Vikas Kumar Sabata, facilitated wide-ranging academic interactions and the signing of MoUs with partner universities worldwide, reinforcing the institution's enduring commitment to global collaboration, innovation, and academic excellence.

IQAC Speaks at Internationalisation Seminar at Christ University



Dr. Siddharth Swarup Rautaray, Dean of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell at KIIT-DU, presented at the National Seminar on Internationalisation for Sustainable Impact in Higher Education, held at Christ University, Bengaluru, on February 19 and 20. His address, "The Strategic Data Matrix: Aligning Institutional Strategy with Global Ranking Frameworks," made a case for aligning institutional policy with global ranking and accreditation frameworks, rather than pursuing ranking metrics in isolation. The session drew strong appreciation from all participants and organisers alike.

KIIT Hosts 3rd National Conclave 2026 on Viksit Bharat@2047



The **3rd National Conclave 2026 on Viksit Bharat@2047**, themed **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth, One Family, One Future,** was held at KIIT-DU on 13 March 2026. Co-organised by the KIIT School of Economics and Commerce and the KIIT-IQAC, the event drew around 120 participants. Chief Guest **Mr. Joydeep Roy**, Managing Director of Human Resources at PwC India, addressed India's growth trajectory and the importance of global cooperation. Two edited volumes were released, and 45 research papers were presented across 11 technical sessions.

National Spotlight for KIIT

Shri Bharat Lal Champions Education and Human Rights at KIIT



Shri Bharat Lal, Secretary General of the National Human Rights Commission, visited KIIT and KISS on Friday, addressing students, faculty and senior officials. Speaking at KISS, Lal drew on his own career to underline education's transformative power. ***"If I have reached this position today, it is because of education,"*** he said, urging students to use their time wisely to build knowledge and character. He praised the institution's work: ***"KISS is life-transforming with its education."***

Delivering a lecture under the KIIT Knowledge Tree series, Lal argued that empathy and compassion form the core of the human rights framework. He called on students to become custodians of human rights and uphold the values of equality and dignity. Linking human rights to economic development, Lal said businesses must prioritise workers' welfare and environmental protection, warning that poor labour conditions risk triggering global trade barriers. On governance, he stressed transparency and accountability, cautioning that corruption and nepotism erode institutional integrity.

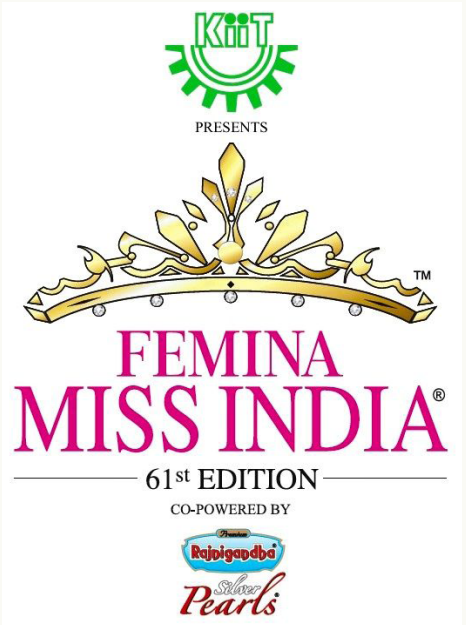
KIIT to Host Femina Miss India Grand Finale

KIIT Deemed to be University will host the 61st Femina Miss India Grand Finale in April, making it the first university in India to stage the event and the first time the competition's finale comes to eastern India.

A Memorandum of Understanding formalising the arrangement was signed at the Times of India office in Mumbai, in the presence of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS. The signatories included Vice Chancellor Prof. Saranjit Singh, Prof. S.S. Ray, Director General of KIIT School of Architecture, and Rohit Gopakumar, Chief Executive Officer of the Times Group. The ceremony was broadcast live.

The decision followed a site inspection four months ago, when Femina Miss India representatives visited KIIT and assessed its infrastructure. Satisfied with the facilities, they confirmed the university as the venue for the finale.

Speaking at the signing, Dr. Samanta called the event a matter of pride for KIIT, KISS and Odisha, and thanked Times Group Managing Director Vineet Jain and the Femina Miss India team for selecting the university.







The Thought Corner

Together We Achieve More

Building Bridges Beyond Borders



Ms. Shreeparna Roy
OA, IQAC,
KIIT-DU

Sustainable development is a shared journey shaped by collective effort, calling for cooperation. Recognizing this, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) emphasize collaboration through Goal 17-Partnerships for the Goals, highlighting global cooperation to achieve meaningful progress by 2030.

At its core, SDG 17 reminds us that ambitious visions require collaboration. Whether addressing climate change or reducing inequality, interconnected challenges cannot be solved in isolation. Partnerships become the bridge connecting ideas, resources, and people, enabling inclusive and sustainable solutions.



Universities play a unique role in nurturing such partnerships. As spaces where knowledge is shared, they bring together students, researchers, and communities. They serve as platforms for dialogue, innovation, and social engagement. In this context, KIIT-Deemed to be University consistently demonstrates its commitment to building meaningful collaborations for sustainable development.

In today's interconnected world, an institution's strength is measured by its collaborations. KIIT stands as a shining example of how strategic partnerships elevate education, research, and global engagement. Over the years, KIIT has developed a wide network of collaborations with prestigious universities, multinational companies, and international organizations.

At KIIT-DU, partnerships extend beyond academic exchange. The university engages with international institutions and industries to promote knowledge sharing and interdisciplinary research. These collaborations create opportunities for students and faculty to participate in global dialogue, joint research, and exchange programs. Through such engagements, ideas grow beyond geographical boundaries.

A significant aspect of KIIT's collaborations lies in strong academic partnerships with world-renowned universities. Institutions like Harvard University and University of Cambridge enrich KIIT's academic environment through knowledge exchange and collaborative research. Similarly, KIIT's association with University of Nottingham enhances student exchange programs and joint research, allowing learners to experience diverse educational systems.

Beyond academia, KIIT has built strong ties with leading industry players. Collaborations with companies like Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys bridge theoretical knowledge and practical application. These partnerships focus on skill development, training, internships, and placement. Students benefit from industry-oriented curricula and hands-on experience. Furthermore, collaborating with Microsoft enables access to advanced technologies and training in artificial intelligence and cloud computing.

KIIT's commitment to global development is reflected in its association with organizations like the United Nations. Through this, the university participates in SDG-related initiatives. KIIT hosts international conferences encouraging students to contribute to challenges like climate change and poverty. Additionally, its membership in the Association of Commonwealth Universities facilitates collaborative research, scholarships, and academic mobility.

In conclusion, KIIT's collaborations reflect its vision of becoming a global hub of educational and research excellence. By forging strong ties with prestigious universities, industries, and international organizations, KIIT ensures students receive a holistic, future-ready education. These partnerships empower students to become global citizens capable of making a positive impact on the world.



Academic & Research Ecosystem



KIIT's 2nd Research and Innovation Conclave Champions Scientific Inquiry

KIIT Deemed to be University hosted its 2nd Annual Research and Innovation Conclave in Bhubaneswar in March 2026, centered on the theme "Convergence of Invention to Innovation." The three-day event brought together researchers, industry leaders, and academicians to bridge the gap between discovery and practical application.

Distinguished speakers included Dr. Gurpreet Singh Kapur of GAIL (India) Limited, Prof. Sanjay Mathur of the University of Cologne, Prof. Sourav Pal of Ashoka University, Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, Prof. Manoj Kumar Sinha of Dharmashastra National Law University, and technology innovator Mr. Miten N. Mehta from the United States. Prof. Saranjit Singh, Vice-Chancellor, delivered the inaugural address, highlighting KIIT's rising global ranking trajectory. Prof. Gopal C. Kundu, Chairman of the RDI Cell, led the organising committee.

Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, urged scholars to transition from thinkers to doers, underscoring that breakthroughs must yield tangible societal benefit. The research showcase yielded 40 Best Poster Awards and five Best Start-up Ideas, reflecting the conclave's commitment to scientific excellence and innovation.

Harvard Immunologist Visits KIIT, Attends Global Immunology Summit



Prof. Vijay Kuchroo, Glen Chair of Immunology at Harvard Medical School, visited KIIT University to attend the Global Immunology Summit 2026, co-organised by KIIT's School of Biotechnology and the Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar. A pioneering researcher, Prof. Kuchroo was the first to identify TIM-3 as an immune checkpoint inhibitor and has uncovered the role of Dark RNAs in immune regulation.

He met Founder Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Saranjit Singh, and senior faculty. Discussions covered KIIT's vision and the work of KISS, which provides tribal children with free education, healthcare, and residential support. Prof. Kuchroo visited the KISS campus and expressed his intention to return for future academic collaboration.



Konverge 1.0 by K-1000 & Kinetex Lab Unites 550 Students in Tech

K-1000 & Kinetex Lab at KIIT hosted Konverge 1.0 on February 27 and 28, drawing more than 550 students. Love Babbar headlined day one, covering data structures, algorithms, and career strategy before announcing the hackathon problem. Day two saw teams compete in the hackathon, evaluated by Varun Singla of Gate Smashers, who also spoke on computer science fundamentals and quantum computing. Top performers and their teams received the Champion Trophy.

Strategic Partnerships

KIIT and University of Newcastle Forge Global Academic Partnership

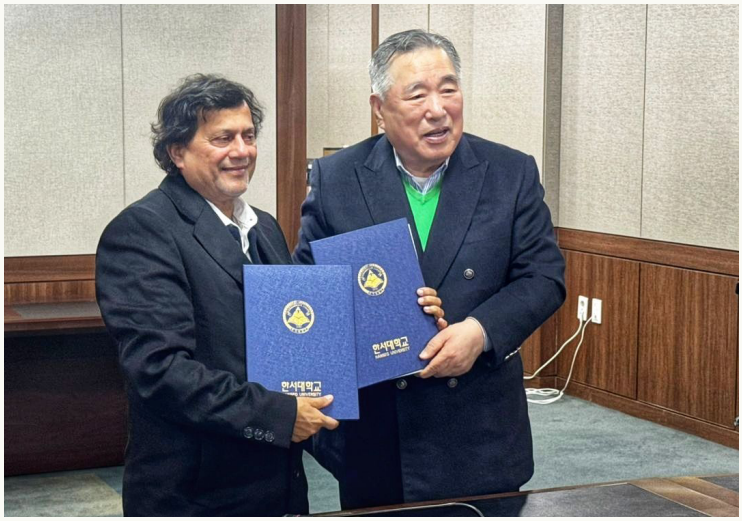


KIIT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Newcastle, Australia, establishing a formal framework for academic cooperation between the two institutions.

The MoU was formalised at the QS Global Summit in Goa in the presence of Professor Alex Zelinsky AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, and Dr Alek Voninski, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global), University of Newcastle, alongside Professor Saranjit Singh, Vice-Chancellor, KIIT, and senior officials from both sides.

The agreement opens pathways for academic exchange, joint research, and student and faculty mobility, with collaboration focused on areas of shared academic interest. The partnership is expected to provide students and faculty at KIIT with meaningful global exposure through shared knowledge and cooperative learning.

The MoU reflects both institutions' commitment to building an internationally connected academic environment that broadens opportunity and strengthens educational outcomes.



KIIT and Hanseo University Renew a 16-Year Academic Partnership

KIIT and the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding with Hanseo University, Republic of Korea, extending a partnership that has been in place since 2009.

The renewal took place at Hanseo University during a visit by Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS, to South Korea. Over 16 years, the two institutions have collaborated on student and faculty exchanges, cultural visits, and the sharing of academic practices.

The renewed agreement expands the scope of this collaboration significantly. It provides for joint research initiatives, internship opportunities, and the establishment of an Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at KIIT. A 2+2 twin programme in Aerospace Engineering will allow students to complete two years at each institution.

Hanseo University, founded by Dr. Kee Sun Ham, is widely recognised across Asia for its strengths in aviation and aerospace education, training, and research.

By the Numbers

23+ MoUs Signed

1200+ International Guests & Visitors

250+ Contributions to SDGs across all categories

(Jan-Mar 2026)



Prof. (Dr.)
Siddharth Swarup Rautaray
Dean, IQAC, KIIT-DU

As we reflect on the first quarter of 2026, KIIT Deemed to be University continues to bridge the gap between institutional vision and global impact. Achieving the prestigious QS I-GAUGE Platinum Accreditation and the QS 5-Star Rating is a testament to our rigorous commitment to academic, research, and inclusive excellence. These milestones validate our continuous self-assessment and strategic alignment with international standards.

At the recent National Seminar on Internationalization for Sustainable Impact in Higher Education, I emphasized the critical role of the Strategic Data Matrix. Higher education institutions must move beyond merely pursuing ranking metrics and instead focus on integrating global accreditation frameworks directly into their foundational policies. KIIT's active participation as a Silver Sponsor at the QS Summit 2026 in Goa further underscores our commitment to shaping the future of global higher education through collaborative dialogue and innovation.

Our strategic partnerships, including new agreements with the University of Newcastle and the expansion of our 16-year collaboration with Hanseo University, reinforce our dedication to providing students with unparalleled global exposure. Furthermore, receiving the University Excellence Award 2026 from Cisco Systems highlights our agility in adapting to the rapidly evolving technological landscape, ensuring our curriculum remains highly industry-relevant.

Quality assurance is a dynamic process of continuous improvement. I extend my gratitude to the KIIT leadership, faculty, and staff. It is your collective dedication to transparency, data-driven strategy, and academic rigor that positions KIIT firmly among the world's elite institutions.

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