



Confederation of Indian Industry

CII Industry-Academia Global Partnership Mission to UK



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Objective of the Delegation:

- Joint collaborations in research
- Dual degree programmes
- Learn from globally renowned best practices in academics besides
- Strengthen partnerships, build long-term relationships with UK's leading Universities
- Avenues for transforming education ecosystem towards global standards.

Edinburgh (18th June'25)

Founded over four centuries ago, the University of Edinburgh is a vital pillar of Scotland's educational heritage. University counts among its alumni luminaries such as Charles Darwin and Alexander Graham Bell.

Bayes Centre Visit

The delegation toured cutting-edge facilities in AI and robotics.

Academic Leadership Roundtable

Discussed university's strong industry engagement model and innovation-led research strategy.

Edinburgh Futures Institute (EFI)

Understood EFI's agenda for technological and societal transformation, highlighting cross-sectoral research & infrastructure support.

Scotland–India Collaboration

Roundtable focused on expanding academic partnerships between India and Scotland, covering student exchange, joint research, and value-driven co-designed programs.



Cambridge (19th June'25)

Established in 1209, University of Cambridge is 4th oldest surviving university in world. Notable alumni include Isaac Newton, Stephen Hawking, and Charles Darwin.

Educational Philosophy

Prof. Bhaskar Vira (Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education) elaborated on Cambridge's interdisciplinary model and its emphasis on social impact.

University–Industry Interface

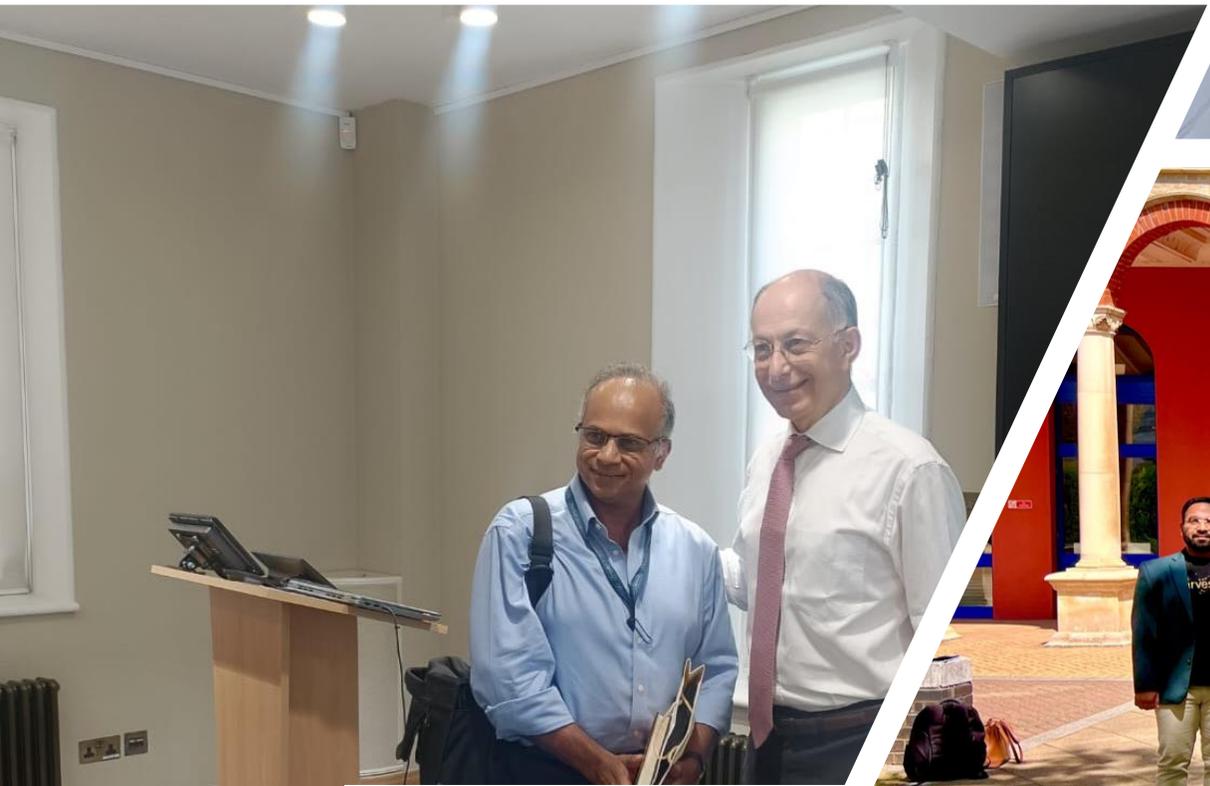
Cambridge's strengths lie in deep tech, including AI, robotics, quantum computing, and drug discovery. Cambridge Enterprise plays a pivotal role in translating research into commercial applications.

Judge Business School

Prof. Gishan Dissanaiké presented insights into curriculum evolution aligned with technology trends and market needs.

Institute for Manufacturing (IfM)

The delegation engaged with researchers working on advanced manufacturing, critical minerals, and discussed potential Indo-UK research collaboration.



Warwick Manufacturing Group (20th June'25)

Founded by Prof. Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya, WMG is a globally recognized interdisciplinary department and a core member of the UK's High Value Manufacturing Catapult.

Strategic Discussions

Prof. Stuart Croft (Vice-Chancellor) highlighted WMG's research focus on the circular economy, sustainable agriculture, and last-mile delivery innovations.

Industry Engagement & IP Model

WMG's approach is to allow industry ownership of IP from sponsored research which was presented as a model for impactful and sustained collaboration.

Safe Autonomy Research Centre

The delegation visited the lab to explore simulation tools and safety strategies for the integration of autonomous vehicles into public systems.



Somerville College, University of Oxford

Oxford India Forum (20th & 21st June'25)

Teaching existed in some form at Oxford as early as 1096. Growth began 12th Century. The university began to formalize in the 12th century with an influx of scholars, especially after the ban on studying in Paris.

Somerville College Visit

Founded in 1879. Hosted by Baroness Janet Royall, discussions focused on India–UK collaboration and plans for a Tata Group-supported India-focused research centre. Notable alums – Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi.

Oxford Innovation Hub

Delegates explored Oxford's infrastructure for supporting startups and science-based businesses in frontier technologies.

Research Showcase

Presentations highlighted work across healthcare, pp, AI, robotics, sustainability with focus on actionable social innovation.

Oxford India Forum



Imperial College London (23 June'25)

Established in 1907 through the merger of three prestigious institutions, became independent from the University of London in 2007. It is a leading public research university.

Innovation Hub

Imperial's campus is a central innovation hub integrating researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry experts.

Imperial Business Partners (IBP)

This program links businesses with Imperial's researchers, startups, and student talent to foster impactful collaborations.

Enterprise Lab

Provides end-to-end support for students and staff to incubate ideas and build startups and scale-ups.

High Commissioner of India to the UK (23 June'25)

- The UK's aging demographic presents strategic opportunities for Indo-UK collaboration in higher education and long-term market access.
- India's technology and innovation programs are rooted in socio-economic outcomes across domains like space, atomic energy, green transition, and AI.
- Education is central to unlocking India's demographic dividend, requiring coordinated efforts by academia, industry, and government.
- Indian institutions and British universities can leverage this complementarity to develop joint research programs and sustainable innovation ecosystems.

University College London (23 June'25)

Founded in 1826, UCL will celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2026. It ranks second in the UK in research power, particularly excelling in medicine, life sciences, and social sciences.

Impact at Heart of Innovation

UCL promotes innovation and knowledge exchange with a strong emphasis on societal and economic impact. A notable example is its collaboration with Newgiza University, Egypt, in developing engineering and health sciences curricula.

Strong Focus on Entrepreneurial Culture

It fosters an entrepreneurial culture through accelerators, venture support, and capacity-building programs. UCL supports over 500 active student-led startups, integrated with academic coursework and entrepreneurial mentoring.



Key Learnings

India as a Strategic Partner

UK institutions recognize India as a vital partner in shaping future research, education, and talent ecosystems.

Shared Challenges

Both nations grapple with similar hurdles in academia–industry collaboration, particularly around IP frameworks, scalability, and long-term engagement.

Focus on AI and Deep Tech

Major UK investments in AI, LLMs, quantum technologies present promising areas for Indo-UK research collaboration.

Policy and Practice Synergies

UK models of flexible IP management, interdisciplinary curricula, and robust innovation ecosystems offer valuable insights for Indian stakeholders.

Specific areas of partnership between Indian and UK universities

Joint research, student and faculty exchange programs, along with capability-building courses, are key areas of potential collaboration between Indian and British academia for fostering robust industry–academia collaboration.