

FICCI Higher Education Excellence Awards 2026

University of the Year

Category	Category Definition
University of the Year	<p><i>This award category celebrates universities that have erected enduring ecosystems and showcased unyielding dedication to excellence throughout every facet of university administration. Demonstrating a holistic approach, these universities have embraced a comprehensive range of endeavors, from enriching faculty development and pioneering curriculum design to fostering global engagement, conducting impactful research, spearheading student employability initiatives, forging robust industry partnerships, and pioneering social responsibility initiatives. Their consistent and outstanding performance has led to remarkable outcomes, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of Indian higher education.</i></p> <p><i>The award has two subcategories based on the number of years of establishment for both public and private institutions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging (5- 15 Years) - In existence for more than or equal to 5 years and less than or equal to 15 years as on March 31, 2026. • Established (More than 15 Years) - In existence for more than 15 years as on March 31, 2026

Section 1 – Basic information*				
Institution name				
Institution address		City:	State:	Zone: Choose an item.
Date of incorporation	Click here to enter a date.			
Type of institution	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Institution		<input type="checkbox"/> Private Institution	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Central Government Institution	<input type="checkbox"/> State Private University	<input type="checkbox"/> State Private University	<input type="checkbox"/> Others: (please specify) _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Government Institution	<input type="checkbox"/> Deemed to be University	<input type="checkbox"/> Deemed to be University	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deemed to be University	<input type="checkbox"/> Autonomous Institution	<input type="checkbox"/> Autonomous Institution	
Level of education provided	<input type="checkbox"/> Under-Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Ph.D./Doctorate <input type="checkbox"/> Others (please specify).....		<input type="checkbox"/> Post-Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Diploma/Certificate	

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Website	
Select your relevant sub-category	<input type="checkbox"/> Emerging University – (5 – 15 Years of establishment) <input type="checkbox"/> Established University – (More than 15 Years of establishment) Note - University must be in existence for a minimum 5 years as of May 31, 2026
Have you won an award for this category in any previous three editions of FICCI Higher Education Excellence Awards? If yes, then please provide details	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, please specify...

Section 2 – Contact Details *	
Name of Vice Chancellor or Director or Registrar or another equivalent person	
Designation	
E-mail ID	
Contact Number	
Name of the SPOC for the Awards (Same as above)	
Designation	
E-mail ID	

Section 3 – Operational Matrix*		
Parameters	FY 2024-2025	FY 2025-2026
% of full-time faculty with PhD	<input type="checkbox"/> <30% <input type="checkbox"/> 30–50% <input type="checkbox"/> 51–65% <input type="checkbox"/> 66–80% <input type="checkbox"/> >80%	<input type="checkbox"/> <30% <input type="checkbox"/> 30–50% <input type="checkbox"/> 51–65% <input type="checkbox"/> 66–80% <input type="checkbox"/> >80%
% of faculty with at least one research output (publication / funded project / patent) during the reporting year	<input type="checkbox"/> <25% <input type="checkbox"/> 25–50% <input type="checkbox"/> 51–65% <input type="checkbox"/> 66–80% <input type="checkbox"/> >80%	<input type="checkbox"/> <25% <input type="checkbox"/> 25–50% <input type="checkbox"/> 51–65% <input type="checkbox"/> 66–80% <input type="checkbox"/> >80%
Publications per full-time faculty in recognized peer-reviewed journals <i>Note:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <0.5 <input type="checkbox"/> 0.5–1 <input type="checkbox"/> 1–1.5 <input type="checkbox"/> 1.5–2 <input type="checkbox"/> >2	<input type="checkbox"/> <0.5 <input type="checkbox"/> 0.5–1 <input type="checkbox"/> 1–1.5 <input type="checkbox"/> 1.5–2 <input type="checkbox"/> >2

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<p>1. <i>Recognized journals include those indexed in global databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, or equivalent indexing platforms.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Calculated as total publications divided by total full-time faculty.</i></p>		
<p>% of graduating students placed through campus or institution-facilitated processes.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <30%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 30–50%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 51–65%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 66–80%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> >80%</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <30%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 30–50%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 51–65%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 66–80%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> >80%</p>
<p>% of academic programs with structured industry integration (live projects, co-designed curriculum, internships).</p> <p><i>Note – A program will be considered integrated only if it includes at least one of the following: co-designed curriculum, mandatory internship, or evaluated live industry project.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <20%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 20–40%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 41–60%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 61–80%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> >80%</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <20%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 20–40%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 41–60%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 61–80%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> >80%</p>
<p>Number of student-led startups incubated or formally supported by the institution.</p> <p><i>Note - Startups must be formally incubated, funded, or mentored through institutional programs.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 0</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4 – 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 9 – 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> >15</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 0</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 – 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4 – 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 9 – 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> > 15</p>
<p>% of students participating in international mobility</p> <p><i>Note - International mobility includes physical mobility (semester exchange, short-term programs, internships, research visits). Virtual exchange may be included only if institutionally structured.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <1%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1–3%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4–8%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 9–15%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> >15%</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <1%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1–3%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4–8%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 9–15%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> >15%</p>
<p>% of total students receiving any financial support</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <10%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10–20%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 21–35%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 36–50%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> >50%</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <10%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 10–20%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 21–35%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 36–50%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> >50%</p>
<p>% of core institutional processes digitized</p> <p><i>Note - Core processes include admissions, academics, examinations, finance, HR, and student services etc.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <25%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 25–50%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 51–75%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 76–90%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> >90%</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <25%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 25–50%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 51–75%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 76–90%</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> >90%</p>

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(Please note that the numbers provided here will be validated at a later stage hence they should be backed up with sufficient and relevant supporting documents)

Section 4 – Case Study

Note :

- Describe initiatives/projects undertaken by your institution in the areas of curriculum/ pedagogy, faculty development, infrastructure, internationalization of education, research, governance, employability, technology, etc. The initiatives must pertain to the eligibility period of April 01, 2024, to March 31, 2026
- This section should reflect the strategic vision and institutional priorities of the institution. It must be completed or reviewed by a member of the academic or leadership team (e.g., Director, Vice Chancellor, Dean, or Registrar). Inputs collected or compiled by administrative staff must be validated before final submission.

Initiative Start Date: (DD/MM/YYYY)

Initiative End Date: (DD/MM/YYYY) / Ongoing

Name of Initiative/ Project

Please select areas under which your initiative falls:

- To improve curriculum/pedagogy
- To promote faculty development
- To improve infrastructure
- To promote globalisation
- To promote research, innovation, and entrepreneurship
- To promote governance at your institution
- To promote creation of employment
- To promote technology & collaboration at your institution

Click here to enter a date / Ongoing

1. Describe a flagship initiative(s) undertaken by your institution that reflects your commitment to excellence and institutional transformation. Explain the objective, key components, implementation approach, and clearly defined goals/KPI's along with challenges addressed. Briefly indicate how the initiative aligns with your institution's overall strategic priorities.

(Max 200 words , preferably in bullets)

Your response should clearly cover:

- Problem or institutional gap addressed
- Objective and intended outcomes
- Target group and scale
- Key components and structure of the initiative
- Implementation approach and delivery model

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<p>Note: You may describe either a single flagship initiative or a cluster of interrelated projects, provided they collectively reflect a cohesive institutional strategy and measurable impact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defined goals and performance indicators (KPIs) • Key challenges and mitigation approach • Alignment with institutional strategy • Distinctive elements, if any
<p>2. Elaborate on how the initiative goes beyond the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP), showcasing unique or pioneering approaches, including the use of technology or digital/AI-enabled practices where relevant. (Max 200 words, preferably in bullets)</p>	<p>Your response should clearly cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with NEP 2020 principles • Areas of advancement beyond NEP recommendations • Innovation in academic design or delivery • Integration of technology / digital / AI-enabled systems • Introduction of new or differentiated institutional models • Extent of transformation beyond compliance
<p>3. What has been the measurable impact of the initiative undertaken by your institution? Include specific quantitative metrics and relevant qualitative outcomes. (Max 200 words, preferably in bullets)</p>	<p>Your response should clearly cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key quantitative outcomes achieved • Nature of improvement observed (trend, shift, consistency) • Impact on students, faculty, or institutional performance • Scale and reach of outcomes • Evidence of effectiveness • Extent and sustainability of impact
<p>4. Why should your institution be recognized as the University of the Year? Highlight what distinguishes your institution across multiple dimensions such as academic excellence, faculty strength, innovation, global engagement, student outcomes, societal impact, governance, alumni outcomes, and long-term institutional vision. (Max 200 words, preferably in bullets)</p>	<p>Your response should clearly cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What differentiates your institution • Strength across key performance areas • Depth and consistency of outcomes • Institutional impact and value created • Replicability and scalability • Long-term vision and sustainability

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Certificate of Incorporation/Registration certificate *	<u>Attach file</u>
Faculty records (PhD qualification, research engagement)*	<u>Attach file</u>
Scopus/Web of Science or equivalent publication reports*	<u>Attach file</u>
Placement records (audited reports, placement summary)*	<u>Attach file</u>
Curriculum documents, program structures, industry integration evidence*	<u>Attach file</u>
Incubation/startup records (startups supported, incubation reports)*	<u>Attach file</u>
Mobility records, exchange agreements, participation lists*	<u>Attach file</u>
Scholarship/financial aid records (beneficiary summary)*	<u>Attach file</u>
ERP/LMS or digital systems documentation*	<u>Attach file</u>
AI Report covering: * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI tool used • % of content generated or paraphrased • % Plagiarism <p><i>(Max 20% AI-generated content allowed)</i></p>	<u>Attach file</u>
Why should your institution win this award? <i>(Max 2 pages)</i> Please note : This document must be completed or reviewed by a senior member of the academic or leadership team.	<u>Attach file</u>
Any other collaterals (awards/ articles/certificates, etc.)	<u>Attach file</u>

Section 6 – Declaration

As a matter of record, I/we hereby declare that the information provided in the application form and the supporting documents submitted for the FICCI Higher Education Excellence Awards 2026 is, to the best of my/our knowledge and belief, true, correct, and complete. I/we understand that in the event any information is found to be false, untrue, misleading, or misrepresented, I/we shall be held liable and responsible for the same.

I/we declare that below is true:

- Initiative/ project is completely executed and fully implemented in the period April 01, 2024, to March 31, 2026
- The impact demonstrated and results showcased by initiative/ project is in the period April 01, 2025, to March 31, 2026

I/we, on behalf of my/our organization, <name of organization>, authorise FICCI to use the content submitted as part of my/our nomination, in whole or in part and use and display such entry, which shall include trade publications, press releases, electronic posting to the awards website, electronic hyperlinks to the website of

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the participant, and any display format selected by FICCI during the awards ceremony or at a later point in time, for a period of five years.

I/we further agree that the information provided has been approved by the Registrar or equivalent personnel of my/ our institution

Participant Name: _____

Designation: _____

Date: _____

