



Talking Points: Eduverse Summit in New Delhi, India
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- It is a pleasure to join such a distinguished audience at the Eduverse Summit in New Delhi, India. This summit is a vital forum for discussing the transformative power of student mobility and international partnerships in higher education.
- At the University of Rochester, we know that education should transcend borders and foster a global community of learners and innovators. We have been participating in this global community of learners since just after our founding in 1850.
- Our commitment to global engagement is driven by the knowledge that diverse perspectives enrich academic experiences, drive innovation, and prepare students to navigate an interconnected world.

Student Mobility: A Catalyst for Global Understanding

- Student mobility is at the heart of our mission to cultivate global citizens. By providing education abroad opportunities for our students, we enable them to immerse themselves in different cultures, develop cross-cultural competencies, and gain unique insights that are crucial in today's globalized society. Equally, serving as home to a high number of international students, we foster global awareness, engagement, and inclusion on our home campus in Rochester, New York.
- Programs such as exchange semesters, internships, and research collaborations allow students to expand their horizons, build international networks, and enhance their employability.

- However, student mobility is not just about sending students abroad; it also involves welcoming international students to our campus. We are proud to host students from over 130 countries, and I'm delighted to share that students from India constitute our second-largest group of international students. Their unique perspectives and experiences enrich our academic community, and their participation in intercultural exchanges, collaborative projects, and campus events fosters a culture of inclusivity and mutual respect.
- In the same vein, we believe it is extremely important to intentionally integrate cross-cultural experiential learning into our higher education curriculum. This involves designing courses and co-curricular offerings that emphasize intercultural communication, global perspectives, and leadership.

International Partnerships: Building Bridges Across Borders

- In addition to student mobility, we also recognize that forming robust International partnerships is integral to our strategy for global engagement. Collaborations with universities, research institutions, governments, the Private Sector and other organizations worldwide enable us to co-create knowledge, address global challenges, and drive innovation. These partnerships facilitate joint research projects, faculty exchanges, and collaborative academic programs, creating synergies and fostering knowledge creation that benefits all parties.
- Over 100 institutions in more than 30 countries partner with the University of Rochester; these numbers highlight the global reach and impact of our collaborative efforts. Through these partnerships, we work on projects that address critical issues such as climate change and social inequality, as well as; global, planetary and public health.

India's Educational Transformation and the National Education Policy (NEP)

- At the University of Rochester, we deeply value India as a critical partner in our global engagement efforts. This partnership has grown significantly

since 2011, marked by collaborations with more than 30 Indian institutions and an increasing number of Indian students enrolling in our undergraduate and graduate programs. Through these existing connections, we aim to further expand student enrollment from India, foster meaningful academic and research partnerships, and promote cross-cultural exchange.

- India's diverse research landscape offers a wealth of opportunities for collaboration. The country's cutting-edge advancements align with our University's motto, *Meliora* (Latin for 'Ever Better'), and our enactment of this motto by continually bettering our existing research and using it to advance solutions to pressing societal problems. India is currently achieving especially innovative breakthroughs in health sciences and engineering, areas in which our university also has particular research strengths. These strengths are demonstrated daily in our Research Centers such as the Center for Emerging Innovative Sciences, Center for Freeform Optics, Center for Medical Technology and Innovation, Goergen Institute for Data Science, and Laboratory for Laser Energetics. There are countless areas where the University of Rochester can partner with Indian institutions of higher education and other partners present today to drive change and address global challenges.
- In addition, India's educational ecosystem is currently undergoing a remarkable transformation, driven by the visionary National Education Policy (NEP). This forward-thinking policy is a result of recent significant investments in higher education and prioritizes the internationalization of Indian universities and research institutions. It marks a departure from the traditional academic framework towards a more globally engaged and collaborative approach.
- During my recent visit last Spring, my colleagues and I engaged in illuminating discussions with various stakeholders, including government officials, academic leaders, and representatives from esteemed research institutions in Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad. Together, we explored the implications of the NEP, identified opportunities for international collaboration, and outlined the challenges that lie ahead. It is evident that effective implementation and further substantial investments will be crucial to the success of this initiative, and I look forward to remaining engaged with colleagues and institutions in

India during this remarkable phase of higher education development and expansion

- As the educational landscape in India continues to evolve, we at the University of Rochester stand ready to embrace collaboration mobility and strategic engagement as a ways to broaden access and deepen our relationship with our Indian counterparts, which could lead to more research partnerships and innovative joint projects.

Personal and Professional Connections with India

- Allow me to pivot my remarks and share that I have both personal and professional connections with India, which stem mainly from my status as a Fulbright-Nehru scholar as well as involvement in leadership delegations and dialogues organized by the Institute for International Education, which has a Delhi office. As a Fulbright-Nehru scholar, I was able to engage with USIEF, a bi-national collaboration for fostering links between higher education institutions in the United States and India. These connections fuel my passion for cultivating meaningful cooperation that benefits the institutions and communities in both countries.

Emerging Trends in Global Education

- Several trends are currently shaping the landscape of global education. Firstly, the rapid advancement of technology is revolutionizing the way we teach and learn. Virtual exchange programs, online collaboration platforms, and digital learning tools are breaking down geographical barriers, making education more accessible and inclusive.
- Second is the increased global demand for higher education, primarily from the global south. While some of us located in the global north often speak of the so-called “enrollment cliff” facing higher education, I see a veritable enrollment mountain in the global south. This increased demand is exciting, it indicates substantial development and signals incredible opportunity for collaboration to meet this demand.
- Third, although many governments are implementing new visa restrictions which limit education mobility, there is much hope in policy innovations (such

as the previously mentioned NEP in India,) which play a crucial role in facilitating student mobility and international collaborations.

- Finally, the positive ties between global educational mobility and economic empowerment—at individual and national scales—are profound. Strong educational mobility empowers the economies it touches — full stop. We must work together to promote, and remove barriers to, educational mobility.

Navigating Global Education Challenges

- Despite the numerous benefits of student mobility and international partnerships, we must also navigate the challenges that come with them. These include logistical issues, cultural differences, governmental regulations, and financial constraints. By fostering a supportive and inclusive environment with all key partners and stakeholders, we can help our students overcome these challenges and make the most of their international experiences.
- At the University of Rochester, we provide comprehensive support services, including pre-departure orientations, cultural welcoming events, and financial aid for our large international student and scholar community. We also prioritize the safety and well-being of our students, ensuring that they have access to resources and assistance whenever needed.
- In closing, I would like to reiterate that student mobility and international partnerships are vital in shaping the future of higher education. They not only enhance academic excellence but also promote mutual understanding, foster innovation, and contribute to global peace and prosperity.
- As we continue to navigate the complexities of the evolving higher education landscape, we remain steadfast with our Indian partners in pursuing excellence and fostering meaningful partnerships. The U.S. and India share so much: democratic ideals, a belief in the criticality of academic freedom, and expertise in crucial areas such as global public health, environmental sustainability, technology, and AI. For these reasons and many more, the mutual benefits of our alliance are enormous, and I am filled with optimism

that together, we can embark on a transformative journey towards a better future for the generations to come.

- Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to the continuing discussions and collaborations that will emerge from the Eduverse Summit in New Delhi.

For more information, visit rochester.edu/global.