

Crosswinds



The Hydrogen Highway



Powering the Future

Country Lens on
South Korea

Spotlight on
Ecole Intuit Lab, France

Student Spotlight on
Aswin Karthik



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Kumaraguru Students secures podium finish at Shell Eco-Marathon in Qatar



A team of young engineers from Kumaraguru Institutions has secured the third position at the Shell Eco-Marathon as the only Indian Team unveiled a hydrogen fuel cell powered vehicle at one of the world's most prestigious clean mobility competitions. Developed at a total cost of ₹42 lakh, the prototype marked a significant milestone in student-led innovation in sustainable transportation.

The vehicle was built by Team ReNew, which competed for the third consecutive year at the Shell Eco-marathon. The Asia-Pacific edition of the marathon was held in Qatar from January 21 to 25, where the team raced its latest model, ReNew 3.0. Developed over ten months, ReNew 3.0 emerged as a major upgrade over its predecessors. The new prototype weighed about 21 kg less than the team's first model built in 2024, bringing the overall vehicle weight down to approximately 45 kg. This reduction was achieved through a comprehensive redesign of materials, structure, and aerodynamics.

Inspired by nature, Team ReNew evolved its design philosophy across generations. While earlier versions drew inspiration from dolphins and the Atlantic Blue Marlin, the 2026 prototype adopted Kingfisher-inspired aerodynamics. This biomimicry-driven approach enabled ultra-low drag, improved stability, and enhanced on-track performance.

One of the standout features of the new vehicle was its basalt fibre and PVC foam composite structure. By replacing conventional materials, the team achieved higher strength, lower weight, and improved sustainability. This shift reflected a strong focus on eco-composite research and net-zero material development.

From a technology perspective, the prototype featured an advanced BLDC hub motor system, refined power electronics, and an optimized energy management strategy. With these enhancements, Team ReNew targeted an efficiency of over 600 kilometres per cubic metre of hydrogen, positioning itself among the most ambitious hydrogen fuel cell teams in the Asia-Pacific region.

The 2026 prototype also stood out for several distinctive strengths. Team ReNew remained India's pioneering student team to consistently compete in the Hydrogen Fuel Cell category at Shell Eco-marathon. The vehicle incorporated four patented innovations, including a lightweight cantilever wheel hub system. The team was represented on the international circuit by a woman driver, reflecting a commitment to inclusion and leadership in motorsports. In-house motor control and telemetry systems enabled real-time performance monitoring during the race, while the project aligned closely with India's Green Hydrogen Mission 2030.

The 2026 edition of Shell Eco-marathon was hosted at the Lusail International Circuit and brought together more than 150 teams from over 30 countries. Shell Eco-marathon is one of the world's leading energy-efficiency engineering programmes for students. It aims to push the boundaries of what is technically possible and inspire young people to become leading scientists and engineers of future energy solutions.

"Inspired by nature, Team ReNew evolved its design philosophy across generations. While earlier versions drew inspiration from dolphins and the Atlantic Blue Marlin, the 2026 prototype adopted Kingfisher-inspired aerodynamics".

The programme provides a platform for high school and university teams to explore every aspect of design and technology, using their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM) skills to build their own ultra-energy-efficient cars, and then take them out on the track in competition. Competing across Battery Electric, Hydrogen Fuel Cell, and Internal Combustion Engine categories, the event served as a global platform for clean energy innovation and collaboration.

Looking ahead, Team ReNew stated that the competition was not only about pushing efficiency benchmarks but also about contributing meaningfully to the global transition toward hydrogen mobility. Through continued research in hydrogen storage, material durability, and AI-assisted energy management, the team articulated a long-term vision of translating student innovation into real-world clean transportation solutions.

Feature Article



Photo Credit : Referenced from, www.h2view.com

The Hydrogen Highway: The Promise and the Puzzle of Hydrogen Power

The global transport sector, responsible for a staggering 22% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, is at the heart of the climate challenge. As nations race to decarbonize their economies, the search for zero-emission mobility solutions has become a global imperative. In this high-stakes contest, clean hydrogen has emerged as a powerful but deeply complex contender.

A recent World Bank report, "Clean Hydrogen for Road Transport in Developing Countries," frames the central conflict: hydrogen offers immense potential to enhance energy security and clear polluted skies, yet it remains a "rarity on the road," hampered by steep economic hurdles and the need for entirely new infrastructure. The technology promises clean air and energy independence, but its high costs pose a formidable barrier to widespread adoption. This raises the critical question for policymakers and investors, particularly in the developing world: under what specific conditions does this ambitious technology make both economic and environmental sense?

The Main Event: Fuel Cells vs. Batteries

Choosing the right zero-emission technology is a strategic decision that will shape the future of transport for decades. While Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) have established a strong lead, especially in passenger cars, their limitations in more demanding applications have kept the door open for alternatives. The core difference lies in how they store and deliver energy. A BEV stores electricity in a large, heavy battery pack that must be recharged, a process that can take hours. An FCEV, by contrast, functions like a mobile power plant, generating electricity on board by combining hydrogen from its tank with oxygen from the air. This process, which emits only water vapor, allows for rapid refueling times comparable to gasoline or diesel vehicles. For fleet operators and national policymakers, this distinction is critical. It translates into fundamental trade-offs between range, payload capacity, refueling speed, and infrastructure costs—factors that determine the economic viability and operational practicality of decarbonizing different segments of the transport economy.

A Tale of Two Worlds: The Economics of Adoption

The economic case for hydrogen transport is not a global monolith; its viability is profoundly shaped by local country conditions. The World Bank report reveals a stark contrast in the economic rationale for FCEV adoption, particularly when comparing densely populated nations with those that are more sparsely inhabited.

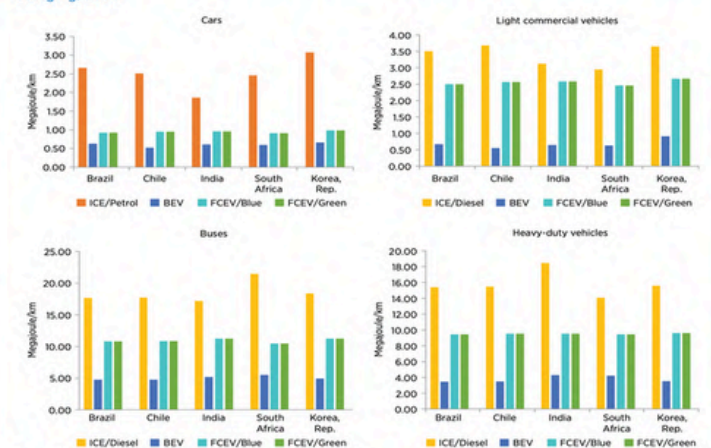
In countries like India and the Republic of Korea, the health and economic costs of urban air pollution are exceptionally high. The analysis finds that the monetized health benefits from reducing a single tonne of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) emissions in India are valued at an immense US\$380,000. This "environmental dividend" is so significant that it can completely offset the high capital and fuel cost disadvantages of FCEV buses and trucks when compared to their polluting diesel counterparts. For these nations, clean vehicles are not just a climate tool but a public health necessity with a clear economic justification.

In contrast, the economic calculus is dramatically different in less densely populated countries like Brazil, Chile, and South Africa. In South Africa, for instance, the value of reducing a tonne of PM2.5 is estimated at a much lower US\$60,000. Here, the environmental benefits are only sufficient to cover about one-third of the extra cost of choosing an FCEV over a conventional diesel vehicle. This reality means that for many developing nations, hydrogen cannot compete across the board and must instead be targeted to specific, high-impact roles where its unique advantages can shine.

Finding the Niche: Where Hydrogen Excels

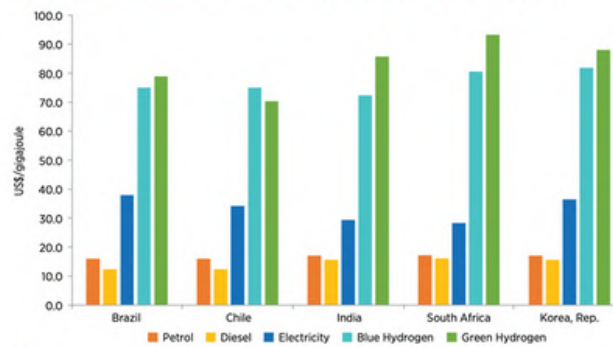
The most effective path for any emerging technology is not to compete head-on where it is weakest, but to dominate markets where it offers clear and undeniable operational advantages. The World Bank's analysis concludes that while BEVs will likely lead in passenger transport, FCEVs are a compelling alternative in specific high-impact niches where battery technology currently falls short.

FIGURE 3.5. Energy Efficiency of Fossil Fuels, Electricity, and Hydrogen per Unit of Travel by Vehicle Category, 2030



Source: World Bank.
Note: BEV = battery electric vehicle; FCEV = fuel cell electric vehicle; HDV = heavy-duty vehicle; ICE = internal combustion engine; km = kilometer; LCV = light commercial vehicle.

FIGURE 3.4. Cost of Fossil Fuels, Electricity, and Hydrogen per Unit of Energy, 2030



Source: World Bank.

The Fuel Factor: The High Cost of Clean Energy

A vehicle is only as viable as the fuel that powers it, and for FCEVs, the high cost of clean hydrogen remains the single greatest economic barrier to adoption. Clean hydrogen is primarily produced in two ways: "green hydrogen" is created through electrolysis powered by renewable energy, resulting in zero emissions, while "blue hydrogen" is derived from natural gas, with the associated carbon emissions captured and stored.

Despite expected technological advances, the World Bank's cost projections show that clean hydrogen will remain expensive. Even by 2030, the at-the-pump price for green hydrogen is forecast to be between US\$3.23/kg in the countries studied. While FCEVs are more energy-efficient than diesel vehicles, this high fuel price means their operating costs are projected to remain significantly higher. For example, a fuel cell heavy-duty truck in 2030 is estimated to cost US\$0.23 for its diesel equivalent. This fundamental cost challenge is a key reason why hydrogen's most promising near-term applications may lie beyond just roads and highways.

Global hydrogen demand, which reached 97 million tonnes (Mt) in 2023, is concentrated in the refining and chemical sectors. Clean hydrogen played only a marginal role, with production of less than 1 Mt in 2023, although production is projected to grow strongly, reaching 49 Mt a year by 2030. This growth in demand can lead to potential cost reductions, which can have a spillover effect and help to stimulate demand for hydrogen in the transport sector.

"The global push for clean transport reveals that hydrogen mobility is not a universal panacea poised to replace battery electric vehicles everywhere."

Beyond the Road: India's Hydrogen Rail Revolution

The global push for clean transport reveals that hydrogen mobility is not a universal panacea poised to replace battery electric vehicles everywhere. Instead, it is emerging as a strategic and complementary tool for decarbonizing specific, hard-to-abate sectors where electrification faces practical limits. The true potential of hydrogen may be realized not by competing with BEVs, but by tackling the challenges they cannot easily solve.

A powerful, real-world application of this niche strategy is now taking shape on India's vast rail network. In a landmark initiative, India is rolling out its first hydrogen-powered trains, with a debut slated for the Jind-Sonipat section in the state of Haryana. This project is a direct assault on emissions from the country's many non-electrified rail lines, particularly heritage routes where the cost and aesthetic impact of installing overhead power lines are prohibitive. By retrofitting diesel-electric trains with hydrogen fuel cells, Indian Railways is targeting a sector where heavy batteries are impractical due to range and weight constraints. This targeted approach is a powerful example of how the hydrogen economy is beginning to form—not as a rival to batteries, but as an essential solution for some of the world's toughest transport decarbonization challenges.

As global reports increasingly point to hydrogen fuel cells as a critical pathway for clean and sustainable mobility, these conversations are finding real expression on the ground at Kumaraguru. Translating global insights into hands-on innovation, Kumaraguru students have been actively working on hydrogen fuel cell technologies, applying advanced engineering, sustainable materials, and energy efficiency principles to real-world prototypes. Their work, showcased through participation in international platforms such as the Shell Eco-marathon, reflects how global sustainability narratives are being shaped into meaningful action within the student ecosystem.

Source: Clean Hydrogen for Road Transport in Developing Countries , World Bank Report, March 2025

Student Spotlight

An exclusive interview with Aswin Karthik, Lead-Team Renew

What inspired you to join Team ReNew and take on the role of team captain?

I was inspired to join Team ReNew because it represented the kind of engineering I believed in—purpose-driven, challenging, and globally relevant. Working on hydrogen mobility allowed me to contribute to a solution that goes beyond academic outcomes and addresses real-world sustainability challenges. Taking on the role of team captain was a natural progression, as I wanted to take responsibility not just for technical outcomes but for guiding a team, making decisions under uncertainty, and ensuring that our collective effort translated into meaningful impact for Kumaraguru and the larger engineering community.

How has this experience changed your perspective on engineering and innovation?

This experience fundamentally changed my understanding of engineering. I learned that innovation is not only about advanced technology, but about systems thinking, collaboration, and resilience. Engineering, in practice, requires balancing ideal designs with real constraints—time, resources, safety, and teamwork. Through Team ReNew, I came to see innovation as an iterative process where failures are valuable learning points and progress comes from persistence and adaptability.

How did you build and motivate your team through tough phases of the project?

During challenging phases, especially when timelines were tight or technical setbacks occurred, my focus was on clear communication and shared ownership. I made it a priority to ensure that every team member understood the larger vision and how their contribution mattered. We celebrated small milestones, encouraged open discussions, and addressed problems collectively rather than individually. Creating an environment of trust and mutual respect helped the team stay motivated even during demanding phases of the project.

What does representing Kumaraguru in the Shell Eco-Marathon mean to you on a global stage?

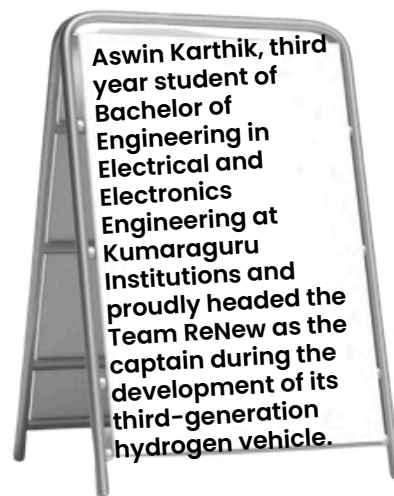
Representing Kumaraguru at the Shell Eco-Marathon is both an honour and a responsibility. On a global platform with teams from multiple countries, we are not just showcasing a vehicle—we are representing the quality of education, innovation culture, and values nurtured at Kumaraguru Institutions. It is deeply fulfilling to demonstrate that students from our institution can compete confidently at an international level.

How has working on a project like this prepared you for opportunities beyond campus, including international experiences or careers?

Working on Team ReNew has prepared me extensively for opportunities beyond campus by exposing me to real-world engineering workflows, global standards, and cross-functional collaboration. Managing deadlines, interacting with external stakeholders, and preparing for an international competition has strengthened my confidence and adaptability. These experiences have given me a strong foundation for pursuing international academic, research, or professional opportunities in the future.

What does representing India and Kumaraguru on a global stage mean to you personally?

Representing India and Kumaraguru on a global stage is a matter of immense pride for me. Personally, it reinforces the belief that meaningful innovation can emerge from student-led initiatives when supported by the right ecosystem. It motivates me to uphold the values of responsibility, excellence, and inclusivity, and to ensure that my work reflects positively on my institution and my country in the international engineering community.



What suggestion would you give to students who want to pursue impactful, world-class projects while still in college?

My advice to students is to actively seek projects that challenge them beyond their comfort zone and align with global needs. Do not wait for perfect conditions—start with what you have, learn continuously, and be open to failure. Surround yourself with people who share a strong work ethic and curiosity. Most importantly, treat every project as a learning journey rather than just an achievement to list on a résumé.

Hydrogen and clean energy are global priorities. How do you see your work connecting to global sustainability challenges?

Our work directly aligns with global sustainability goals by exploring hydrogen as a clean and efficient energy source for mobility. With transportation being a major contributor to carbon emissions, developing lightweight, energy-efficient hydrogen vehicles addresses a critical global challenge. Through Team ReNew, we are contributing at a student level to the broader conversation on clean energy transitions and sustainable engineering solutions.

Ecole Intuit Lab : Shaping Future Designers with a Global Mindset!

In an era where creativity meets technology to shape the future, Kumaraguru Institutions takes pride in partnering with Ecole Intuit Lab, a globally acclaimed design school known for redefining contemporary design education. This collaboration, facilitated through the Kumaraguru Global Engagement Office (K-GEO), brings international standards of creative learning to the heart of the Kumaraguru campus, opening new horizons for aspiring designers.

Ecole Intuit Lab has built a strong global reputation for its innovative approach to design education. With campuses across Europe and India, the institution focuses on nurturing designers who are not only visually creative but also digitally fluent and industry ready. Its programs seamlessly blend design thinking, digital tools, real world projects, and professional exposure, preparing students to thrive in fast evolving creative industries.



The partnership with Kumaraguru Institutions reflects a shared vision of offering globally relevant education while remaining deeply connected to local talent and opportunities. Through this association, students at Kumaraguru gain access to an international curriculum, exposure to global faculty expertise, and a learning environment that mirrors design schools across the world. Classrooms transform into creative studios where ideas are explored, challenged, and brought to life through hands on projects and collaborative learning.

Ecole Intuit Lab has built a strong global reputation for its innovative approach to design education.

What makes the Ecole Intuit Lab experience truly distinctive is its strong connection with industry. Learning goes far beyond textbooks as students engage in live projects, work on real client briefs, and build professional portfolios from the early stages of their academic journey. This industry driven approach ensures that graduates are not only skilled designers but confident professionals who understand market needs, user experience, and emerging digital trends.



At Kumaraguru Institutions, the presence of Ecole Intuit Lab has enriched the campus culture by fostering creativity across disciplines. Design students collaborate with peers from engineering, management, and liberal arts, encouraging interdisciplinary innovation and problem solving.

This vibrant ecosystem aligns perfectly with Kumaraguru's commitment to experiential learning, entrepreneurship, and global exposure. As part of Kumaraguru's growing network of international partnerships, Ecole Intuit Lab stands as a powerful example of how global collaboration can transform education. Together, the institutions are shaping a new generation of creative leaders equipped with global perspectives, practical skills, and the confidence to make an impact in the design world.

Looking ahead, this partnership continues to evolve with plans for deeper academic engagement, enhanced industry collaborations, and expanded global learning opportunities. Through Ecole Intuit Lab, Kumaraguru Institutions reaffirms its mission to provide world class education that prepares students for the challenges and possibilities of a rapidly changing creative economy.

**Article by Dr. Vijila Edwin-Kennedy,
Director, Kumaraguru Global Engagement Office**

Global Engagements

Passport Campaign – Student Facilitation Initiative



Passport Seva mobile unit stationed at Kumaraguru Institutions during the campaign.

The on-ground operations at the Passport Seva Kendra were overseen by Mr. Kannan, official from the Regional Passport Office, ensuring smooth coordination of appointments, document verification, and overall process flow.

The initiative significantly streamlined the passport application and verification process for students, reducing logistical challenges and saving time. The campaign reinforced Kumaraguru Institutions' commitment to enabling global exposure, international mobility, and student-centric support services.

The Passport Campaign was successfully conducted at Kumaraguru Institutions from 21 to 23 January 2026, with the objective of facilitating passport application services for students. The initiative was organised by the Kumaraguru Global Engagement Office in collaboration with the Regional Passport Office, Coimbatore.

The campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation, with 950 students registering for the service. Of the 90 appointment slots allotted by the Regional Passport Office, 63 slots were utilised by Kumaraguru students, while the remaining 27 slots were made available to the general public.



Students availing passport application services as part of the Passport Campaign.

Global Master's Accelerator Program (Level 104 – Ascend)



Students discussing with the study abroad consultants their higher education plans

The Kumaraguru Global Engagement Office (K-GEO) successfully organised the three-day Global Master's Accelerator Program (Level 104 – Ascend) from 6 to 8 January 2026 to support students aspiring to pursue higher education abroad. Designed to guide students from exploration to application readiness, the programme offered structured and practical support.

Day 1 began with a welcome by Dr. Satish and a circle talk facilitated by Dr. Vijila Edwin Kennedy, fostering peer interaction. Ms. Shanthi outlined the university admissions process, followed by IELTS and GRE masterclasses and one-to-one interactions with study abroad consultancies.

Day 2 featured an interactive quiz, sessions on writing an effective Statement of Purpose (SOP), an admission evaluation workshop, and an IELTS mock test to assess preparedness.

Day 3 focused on holistic readiness, with a recap quiz by Mr. Kishore, an alumni spotlight by Mr. Varun, the session "Mind Before Miles" by Mr. Sam Bharath, insights on education loans from ICICI Bank, and a live application workshop. The programme equipped students with clarity, confidence, and a clear action plan for studying abroad.

EM Normandie – Academic Collaboration and Global Business Education



Discussion on academic collaboration and global business education pathways.



Formal interaction session with EM Normandie delegates at Kumaraguru Institutions.



EM Normandie delegates during the institutional interaction session.

Kumaraguru Institutions hosted a delegation from EM Normandie Business School, France, on 20 January, as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen international academic partnerships. The visit, organised by the Kumaraguru Global Engagement Office (K-GEO), was represented by Dr. Venkatesh and Ms. Rhea Cheryl Shivan, and focused on exploring opportunities in global business education and collaborative engagement.

The discussions centred on multiple areas of potential collaboration, including student exchange programmes, alumni engagement initiatives, agri-business education, and the exploration of twinning programme models. Faculty interactions provided a platform to showcase Kumaraguru's academic strengths, interdisciplinary approach, and global engagement vision, while also gaining insights into EM Normandie's international academic framework.

As part of the academic engagement, Dr. Venkatesh delivered an insightful session for Business School students on the evolving paradigms of global supply chains, highlighting emerging trends, challenges, and the impact of global disruptions on business operations. Ms. Rhea Cheryl Shivan addressed students on global business education opportunities in France, offering an overview of EM Normandie's academic ecosystem, international exposure, and pathways for students seeking a global learning experience.

The visit played a significant role in strengthening institutional ties and identifying concrete pathways for future collaboration. It reaffirmed Kumaraguru Institutions' commitment to fostering international academic partnerships, global business education, and experiential learning opportunities, thereby preparing students to thrive in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

University of Birmingham Visit – Collaboration exploration

A delegation from University of Birmingham visited Kumaraguru College of Technology (KCT) to explore opportunities for academic and research collaboration across engineering and interdisciplinary domains. The discussions focused on potential collaboration in Mechanical Engineering, Robotics and Automation, Manufacturing Technology, Textile Engineering, and Liberal Arts, with emphasis on joint student projects, exchange of prototypes, and applied research initiatives. Faculty exchange programmes were also discussed to strengthen academic engagement and knowledge sharing.



Delegates from the University of Birmingham during the formal collaboration meeting at KCT.



Delegates reviewing student-developed engineering prototypes at the KCT Garage.

As part of the visit, the delegation toured the KCT Garage, where they interacted with students and reviewed ongoing student-led projects and prototypes. The interaction provided students with valuable global perspectives on engineering applications and research expectations, while encouraging collaborative and real-world problem solving. The visit laid a strong foundation for sustained international academic and research partnerships.

Global Engagements

TUM Asia Delegation Delivering Master Classes on Aerospace



Research Sharing Session on Railway Engineering by Ms. Sudheekshna

TUM Asia Visit – Advancing Academic Collaboration and Student Engagement
A delegation from TUM Asia visited Kumaraguru Institutions to explore opportunities for academic and institutional collaboration. The discussions focused on collaborative study programmes, credit-based courses, faculty exchange, and research initiatives, strengthening international academic engagement.

As part of the visit, aspiring aerospace engineering students interacted with Prof. Florian, gaining valuable insights into higher education pathways, global academic opportunities, and essential skill sets for advanced studies and careers in aerospace engineering.

The visit also featured master classes across disciplines. Prof. Florian conducted a session for Aeronautical Engineering students, focusing on advanced aerospace technologies, innovation, and future career pathways.



Prof. Florian delivering the master class on aerospace engineering and global pathways.

The delegation held structured interactions with Kumaraguru leadership to deliberate on joint academic offerings, credit transfer mechanisms, and faculty exchange models aligned with Kumaraguru's global education objectives. These discussions underscored a shared commitment to internationalisation and experiential global learning.

Additionally, Ms. Sudheekshna led a research sharing session on railway engineering, offering perspectives on applied research, emerging trends in transportation engineering, and interdisciplinary approaches to infrastructure development, enriching students' global and research-oriented outlook.

Master Class on Life Sciences Research Pathways by Prof Venkatesh N Murthy, Harvard University

A Master Class session was delivered by Venkatesh N. Murthy, Raymond Leo Erikson Life Sciences Professor at Harvard University Centre for Brain Science, offering students valuable insights into global research careers in life sciences. The session focused on emerging opportunities in neuroscience, biotechnology, and interdisciplinary research, and highlighted how the research landscape is rapidly evolving.

Dr. Murthy spoke about the significant transformation in biological research, underscoring that computational skills and coding have become essential competencies for life sciences students. He emphasised the growing importance of bioinformatics, data analytics, and computational modelling in modern research environments. He also noted the decline of purely wet-lab roles in leading global research ecosystems and stressed the need to integrate laboratory expertise with analytical and computational capabilities. The session provided participants with a clear understanding of global research expectations and practical guidance on preparing for future academic and professional pathways in life sciences.



Prof. Venkatesh N. Murthy, delivering a masterclass on Life Sciences research pathways



South Korea

Country Lens



Capital	Seoul
Currency	South Korean Won (KRW)
Population	51,486,343 (2025 est.)
Major cities	Seoul, Busan, Daegu, Incheon, Daejeon, Gwangju, Suwon, Ulsan, Changwon, Seongnam
Industry	Semiconductors, Automobiles, Shipbuilding, Electronics and ICT, Chemicals and advanced materials, and Bio-health and Green energy
GDP	1.88 Trillion USD (2024)
Higher Education Institutions	More than 300+ graduate degree-granting institutions. A few Popular institutions – Seoul National University, KAIST, University of Seoul, Sejong University
Academic cycles	Fall – September , Spring – March Summer – June/July
Popular Programs	Computer Science, Information Technology, Data Science, Science and Technology, Business Administration /Management, Journalism, Music
Post-study options	Students can stay for up to 3 years after graduation to search for jobs. Once employed, they can remain for up to 10 years. STEM graduates may obtain permanent residency within 9 months under the post-study option.
Visa policies	Student Visa type D2 – for degree-granting programs.

Perspectives

Higher Education News around the Globe

The UK is quickly expanding its TNE footprint in India



The UK is quickly expanding its TNE footprint in India

As universities in the Big Four (Australia, Canada, the UK, and the US) face more immigration-related challenges in recruiting international students, UK universities are moving quickly to build on their already impressive transnational footprint in ...

ICEF Monitor / Oct 24, 2025

- Foreign enrolment in UK higher education programmes delivered abroad is now almost as large as the onshore enrolment at universities in the UK
- Asia accounts for more than half of UK transnational enrolments
- The UK's activity in India is ramping up, with both individual universities setting up branch campuses and major third-party providers opening hubs for institutions to operate in
- GEDU Global Education is the largest of these third-party companies, with a major hub already in place and another one planned for 2027/28

<https://monitor.icef.com/2025/10/the-uk-is-quickly-expanding-its-tne-footprint-in-india/>

The Tamil Nadu Knowledge City – Foundation Stone Laid on January 29, 2026

- Spread across 870 acres in Tiruvallur district, about 40 km from Chennai, it will combine higher education, R&D, technology, and entrepreneurship.
- The self-contained hub will include educational institutions, corporate R&D centres, residential and mixed-use developments, retail and hospitality, supported by advanced infrastructure.
- Letters of Intent (LOIs) were signed with leading global and Indian institutions, including the University of Melbourne, IIT Madras (₹200 crore advanced automotive research centre), University of East London Innovation Hub, Illinois Institute of Technology, and IIT Madras Research Park.
- Modelled on global knowledge districts, it aims to be India's first integrated global education and innovation district.
- Phase 1 will feature a 1,00,000 sq. ft. Knowledge Tower.
- TIDCO projects ~25,000 students by 2030, with the tower operational by Q3 2027.



TN CM MK Stalin lays foundation stone for Knowledge City

TN CM MK Stalin inaugurates Tamil Nadu Knowledge City, a groundbreaking hub for education, R&D, and technology, fostering innovation.

BusinessLine / Jan 29

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/tn-cm-mk-stalin-lays-foundation-stone-for-knowledge-city/article70564432.ece>

Kazakhstan sets its sights on being a regional hub for international students

- Kazakhstan is attracting more international students than ever
- It has an ambitious goal of hosting 150,000 foreign students by 2029
- Foreign collaborations and branch campuses are key pillars in the strategy



Kazakhstan sets its sights on being a regional hub for international students

As Russia continues to wage war in Ukraine, international students who might once have chosen Ukraine or Russia for higher education are increasingly considering Kazakhstan. The country is hosting record numbers of foreign students year...

ICEF Monitor / Oct 25, 2025

<https://monitor.icef.com/2025/10/kazakhstan-sets-its-sights-on-being-a-regional-hub-for-international-students/>

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