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## Section 1

### Workshop Title

*Envisioning Tomorrow's University: A Transdisciplinary Dialogue on the Future of Education*  
**Bengaluru, Karnataka | 13 September 2025 | National Law School of India University**

### 1. Overview

The Bengaluru Visioning Conference brought together leading academics, policy thinkers and institutional leaders to reflect on the rapidly transforming higher education landscape. Hosted by MIT-WPU as part of its national co-creation process, the workshop examined India's preparedness for global academic shifts shaped by technology, sustainability, and societal expectations. Participants engaged in transdisciplinary dialogue to define how universities should evolve to remain impactful, future-ready, and globally relevant.

### 2. Key Highlights

Strong emphasis on shifting universities from rigid, rank-driven systems to capacity-building ecosystems.

Recognition that today's students are multi-source learners, demanding pedagogy aligned with digital and informal learning behaviours.

Call to broaden employability definitions to include entrepreneurial, creative, and socially-embedded roles.

Recurrent focus on ethical, inclusive, and human-centred AI adoption in teaching and governance.

Need for deep industry-academia linkages and community integration to maintain social relevance.

### 3. Objectives of the Workshop

Standard across all workshops:

- Reposition higher education for evolving societal expectations
- Advance transdisciplinary curriculum and pedagogy
- Integrate technology & AI for academic transformation
- Strengthen governance and academic ecosystems
- Expand India's global academic footprint

### 4. Participants & Institutions

Key participants included senior academic leaders, policy experts, institutional representatives and practitioners from:

IISc Bangalore  
Northern Trust  
Manipal University

Total delegates: 17

|   |                             |                                                          |                                                                                                        |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Dr. Pushkarni Panchamukhi   | Associate Dean                                           | School of Economics and Public Policy, RV University,Bangalore                                         |
| 2 | Dr.Prof .Vishal Singh       | Associate Professor                                      | Department of Design and Manufacturing, Indian Institute of Science                                    |
| 3 | Dr Sunil S                  | Professor and HoD                                        | Mechanical Engineering Controller of Examinations ,Sri Venkateshwara College of Engineering, Bengaluru |
| 4 | Dr Manjunatha N K           | Professor and Head                                       | Department of Basic Science and Humanities ,Sri Venkateshwara College of Engineering, Bengaluru        |
| 5 | Dr. Kedar Vishnu Shankarrao | Associate Professor                                      | Department of Liberal Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences,Manipal University.                         |
| 6 | Dr Shanmukha                | HOD Mech Dean Academics                                  | RVCE Bangalore                                                                                         |
| 7 | Dr Rajanish M               | Associate Professor, HOD Mech                            | Dayanand Sagar institute of Management and Technology Kanakpura Road Campus Bangalore                  |
| 8 | Ar. Gayathri Aaditya        | Principal, Professor and Head of the Planning department | NITTE School of Architecture Planning and Design                                                       |

|    |                       |                                                    |                                    |
|----|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9  | Kalesh Nair           | Vice President                                     | Northern Trust                     |
| 10 | Rajesh Pandit         | Visiting faculty                                   | IIM Bangalore                      |
| 11 | Lavina Sharma         | Associate Professor                                | SIBM Bangalore                     |
| 12 | Dr. C P Lohith        | Assistant Professor                                | Siddaganga Institute Of Technology |
| 13 | Sonali Jha            | Founder, CEO                                       | Cunomial (SaaS Company)            |
| 14 | Dr. Gurudev Sahil     | Associate Professor                                | SOL-Dnyan Sagar University         |
| 15 | Ms. Maithili Iyer Roy | Head of External Communications and Brand, Amadeus | Amadeus                            |
| 16 | Samir Kamerkar        | Engineering Director                               | Canonical                          |
| 17 | Amitabh Sinha         | Head of Growth -Membership and Accreditation       | IET Services(India)Pvt.Ltd.        |

## 5. Thematic Insights

### 4 Themes – Standard Across Website

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### **Theme 1: Evolving Higher Education Ecosystem & Stakeholder Expectations**

- Universities must evolve into facilitators of individual capacity development, not merely rank-oriented institutions.
- Stronger academia–industry–community linkages are essential for real-world relevance.
- Students increasingly blend formal, digital and informal learning; pedagogy must reflect this shift.
- Employability must include entrepreneurial, social, and creative career paths.

### **Theme 2: Transdisciplinary Curriculum Development & Pedagogy**

- Transdisciplinary learning must rest on strong disciplinary foundations.
- Communication and psychology training are vital for all professional pathways.
- Structured academic counselling is necessary to support flexible curriculum choices.
- Students should be gradually introduced to cross-disciplinary pathways following disciplinary grounding.

### **Theme 3: Institutional Governance for Transdisciplinary Education**

- Governance structures must integrate practitioners and industry experts.
- Quality assurance systems require continuous, cyclical monitoring.
- Faculty workloads must be redesigned to reduce administrative burden and enhance focus on research and mentoring.
- Governance must encourage collaboration and relevance in curriculum outcomes.

### **Theme 4: Roadmap for a Global Indian University**

- AI should act as a supportive tool, augmenting—not replacing—human judgement in education.
- Faculty development must extend beyond traditional FDPs to include consultancy and practice-based learning.
- Students require exposure to emerging technologies, creativity, and global competencies.
- Alumni networks should be institutionalized for teaching, mentoring, and reputation building.

## **6. Key Takeaways**

- Indian higher education must shift from institutional rigidity to responsive, ecosystem-based learning models.
- Transdisciplinary innovation succeeds only with strong disciplinary foundations and guided academic pathways.
- Governance reforms, reduced administrative load, and industry participation are critical for institutional excellence.
- Ethical, inclusive technology adoption—especially AI—is central to future-ready universities.
- Alumni engagement, faculty upskilling, and global collaborative pathways will define India's academic footprint.