
Section 1: Template

Workshop Title

Envisioning Tomorrow's University: A Transdisciplinary Dialogue on the Future of Education

Cochin, Kerala | 9th September 2025 | National University of Advanced Legal Studies, (NUALS), Cochin

1. Overview (Short Intro Block)

The National Visioning Conference "Envisioning Tomorrow's University," held on September 9, 2025, at NUALS Cochin, brought together 21 distinguished academicians. The one-day conference featured four thematic sessions exploring stakeholder expectations, curriculum innovation, institutional governance, and pathways to building globally competitive yet culturally rooted universities. This conference directly supported MIT World Peace University Goa's commitment to co-creating a contextually relevant and globally attuned academic framework through nationwide stakeholder consultation.

2. Key Highlights

- Assessment Reform and Holistic Recognition
- Ethical AI Integration and Research-Led Pedagogy from Day One
- Governance Reform and Academic Freedom
- Internationalization at Home
- Equity-Centred NEP Implementation.
- Faculty Empowerment through Multi-Track Careers

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

1. Dr. Shakila Shamsu - Former OSD (NEP), Ministry of Education; Secretary to the NEP 2020 Drafting Committee
2. Dr. Baiju K.C. - Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kerala; Retired Professor of Economics
3. Dr. D. Dhanuraj - Chairman & CEO, Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Cochin

4. Dr. Dileep Vasudevan, Scientist, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram
5. Dr. Toney Thomas -Head, School of Tourism studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam
6. Prof. Asha J.V. - Professor & Head, School of Pedagogical Sciences; Dean, Faculty of Education, Mahatma Gandhi University
7. Dr. Santhosh T. Varghese - Head, Department of Economics, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam
8. Dr. C. S Praveen, International School of Photonics, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin
9. Dr. Anoop.V.S, Amrita School of Business, Amrita Vishwavidyapeetham, Cochin
10. Dr. Satheesh Varma, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Heritage, Chinmaya Vishwa Vidyapeeth, Cochin
11. Dr Jithin Benedict, Department of Management, St Albertz College, Ernakulam
12. Dr. Nidhin Johny, Department of Management, St Albertz College, Ernakulam
13. Dr. Harry Cleetus, Ex Principal at St. Alberts College, IQAC Expert, Ernakulam
14. Dr Salini K, Department of Commerce, Vimala College, Thrissur.
15. Dr. Pius Auguetsine, Department of Physics, Sacred Heart College, Thevara, Cochin.
16. Dr. Emmanuel Thomas, Department of Economics, St Thomas College, Thrissur.
17. Dr. Justine George, Department of Commerce, St Pauls College, Kalamasseri, Cochin.
18. Dr. Abhilash T, International Relations, Center for Development of Studies, Affiliated to JNU, Thiruvanthapuram
19. Dr. Leena Mathew - Registrar, National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), Cochin
20. Dr. Usha Aravind, Head of the Department of Chemistry, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin
21. Dr. Rajesh K, Department of Management, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, Panangad, Cochin.

Host Institution:

- Dr. Leena Mathew - Registrar, National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), Cochin

Total Participants: 21

5. Thematic Insights

4 Themes – Standard Across Website

Theme 1: Evolving Higher Education Ecosystem & Stakeholder Expectations

- The evolving higher education ecosystem under NEP 2020 emphasizes an outcome-based, learner-centric approach that develops critical thinking,

communication, collaboration, creativity, digital literacy, and ethical values for global competitiveness in the Industry 4.0 era.

- AI integration must be holistic and ethical, aligned with curriculum and pedagogy to complement human mentorship while enabling personalized learning and operational efficiency.
- Future-ready education depends on strategic stakeholder engagement, especially strong industry-academia partnerships and inclusive internationalization models such as virtual mobility and joint programs. These collaborations foster transdisciplinary innovation and broaden access beyond traditional elite student exchanges.

Theme 2: Transdisciplinary Curriculum Development & Pedagogy

- **Curriculum & Structure Reform:** Programs must move beyond superficial structural changes to truly interdisciplinary, skill-integrated learning with strong communication, employability, and capstone-based safeguards against hollow flexibility and overreliance on MOOCs or AI.
- **Pedagogy & Assessment Transformation:** Blended, experiential, and transdisciplinary learning require incentive-aligned appraisal systems, reduced exam-centrism through continuous assessment, integration of real-world themes (sustainability, geopolitics, values), and deeper knowledge synthesis rather than shallow disciplinary overlap.
- **Systemic & Cultural Shift:** NEP 2020's vision can only be realized through governance clarity, regional autonomy, vocational-conventional integration, linguistic inclusivity, and a mindset change where educators become facilitators and institutions collaborate with industry, communities, and diverse stakeholders for holistic development.

Theme 3: Institutional Governance for Transdisciplinary Education

- **Autonomy & Access Reform:** The sharp decline in academic freedom highlights the need to shift from state control to meaningful institutional autonomy, while simultaneously dismantling language, socio-economic, and digital barriers faced by first-generation and marginalized learners.
- **From Compliance to Quality Culture:** Boards of Studies and advisory bodies must move beyond paperwork and syllabus coverage toward transdisciplinary, problem-solving, stakeholder-integrated frameworks that link education to sustainability, service learning, innovation, and real-world challenges.
- **Transparent, Outcome-Oriented Governance:** A regulatory (not controlling) government role, AI-enabled public monitoring, equitable resource distribution, revived research funding, and alignment of pedagogy with ethics, environment, and skills are essential for a genuinely future-ready, accountable education system.

Theme 4: Roadmap for a Global Indian University

- **Assessment, Employability & Research Integration:** Move from grade-based degrees to skill-focused certification through second

transcripts, balanced formative–summative evaluation, early research-based pedagogy, and AI-supported learning that complements human creativity—aligning education with industry needs while addressing India’s employability gap.

- **Holistic & Systemic Transformation:** Integrate Indian Knowledge Systems with global learning, expand “earn while learn” and innovation ecosystems, strengthen teacher education, and ensure inclusive access to research facilities through public collaboration-supported by genuine academia-industry-community participation over symbolic autonomy.

6. Key Takeaways

- **Curriculum & Pedagogy Reform:** Shift from rote memorization to outcome-based, experiential learning that builds critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and real-world problem-solving abilities.
- **Ethical Technology & Assessment Transformation:** Use AI as a supportive, ethical complement to human mentorship while adopting holistic assessment models (including second transcripts and digital credentials) that value creativity, soft skills, and applied learning.
- **Research & Wisdom-Centered Education:** Embed research and inquiry from day one, integrate knowledge with values, and prioritize ethical relevance and industry-linked innovation over “publish-or-perish” cultures.
- **Autonomy, Governance & Internationalization:** Move from compliance to outcome-based governance that protects academic freedom, ensures transparency and stakeholder participation, and democratizes global exposure through inclusive, value-rooted international partnerships.

7. Photo Gallery (Optional)



Group Photograph with the participants



Brain storming round table session in process

Section 2: Sample Template Filled – Tirupati Workshop

Envisioning Tomorrow's University — Tirupati Visioning Workshop

IIT Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh | 15 September 2025 | National Visioning Conference

Overview

The Tirupati workshop convened **27 delegates** from leading institutions including IIT Tirupati, IISER, Venkateswara Vedic University, VIT, and SPMVV. The workshop explored the evolving purpose of universities and contributed to WPU Goa's multi-city national visioning process to design India's next-generation transdisciplinary university.

Key Highlights

- Strong emphasis on moving from information transfer to knowledge creation.
- Deep discussion on integrating Indian Knowledge Systems into higher education.
- Recognition of student flexibility via Academic Bank of Credits as a system changer.
- Need for resource-sharing models between private and government institutions.
- Call for ethical grounding, scientific temper, and early research exposure.

3. Objectives

- 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:

- Director, IIT Tirupati
- Vice Chancellor, Venkateswara Vedic University
- Dean of Academics, IISER
- Senior faculty from VIT, SPMVV, MGM College, NBKR Institute
- Convener: Prof. Rahul Landge

Total delegates: 27

5. Thematic Insights

Theme 1: Evolving Higher Education Ecosystem

- Modern education still struggles with resource access similar to the Socratic era.
- Universities must shift from grades and ranks to holistic evaluation.
- Immediate need to return to deep reading, contextual interpretation, wisdom-building.

Theme 2: Transdisciplinary Curriculum & Pedagogy

- NEP flexibility allows BA students to study Cloud Computing or Cyber Security.
- Academic Bank of Credits enables cross-institution pathways.
- Blended learning and experiential learning must become mainstream.
- Referenced Blue Book model (USA) for flexible assessment.

Theme 3: Institutional Governance

- Institutions must improve student & faculty quality simultaneously.
- Strong emphasis on resource sharing (labs, infrastructure) between institutions.
- Governance must encourage research, collaboration, and ABC utilisation.

Theme 4: Roadmap for a Global Indian University

- Build future-ready classrooms with technical, ethical, and research competencies.
- Redefine formative & summative assessments to global standards.
- Early development of scientific thinking from school years is essential.

Key Takeaways

- Education must evolve into wisdom-oriented, not information-heavy systems.
- Transdisciplinary flexibility is central to future universities.
- Strong governance + collaboration = enhanced national academic quality.
- Ethical grounding and global competence must co-exist.

7. Outcomes / Action Points

- Recommendations for flexible curriculum models shared with visioning group.
- Identified possibilities for joint research and ABC-driven mobility.
- Commitment to develop “future-ready assessment frameworks”.

Section 3: Guidelines for populating the template

- Read the full workshop report.
- Fill sections 1 and 2 using a 150–180-word summary. Focus on, why this workshop mattered, distinct regional insights and diversity of participants.
- Extract from the attendance list, 3–5 major institutions, 5–7 notable participants and Total count.
- Populate the thematic insights, preferably direct insights from the speakers. Ensure summary is not more than 100–120 words per theme.
- Key Takeaways - Synthesize themes into 4–6 universal bullets and while doing so, keep it crisp and benefit-focused.
- Ensure consistency across all workshops through same tone, same structure, same theme blocks and similar word counts.