
Envisioning Tomorrow's University: A Transdisciplinary Dialogue on the Future of Education
Dehradun, Uttarakhand 11th September 2025 | Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand
Technical University, Dehradun

1. Overview

The Dehradun Visioning Conference brought together academics, policy thinkers, institutional leaders and industry representatives to deliberate on India's rapidly transforming higher education ecosystem. Hosted by MIT-WPU, Goa as part of its national co-creation initiative, the workshop examined India's preparedness for global shifts driven by technological disruption, sustainability imperatives, and evolving societal expectations.

Participants engaged in transdisciplinary dialogue to articulate how universities must evolve to stay impactful, future-ready, and internationally relevant. The discussions spanned pedagogy, governance, curriculum frameworks, AI integration, industry partnerships, and India's role as a global education leader.

2. Key Highlights

High-value insights unique to the Dehradun workshop

- Curriculum Rebuilding: Introduction of transdisciplinary approach, flexible, and research-based curricula with integrated experiential and ethical learning. Inclusion of psychology subjects, Peace and Yoga for student well-being.
- Holistic Student Development: emotional and ethical training, mentoring, mental health services, and practical skill-building. Providing counselling sessions and having cyber soldiers on campus. Inclusion of life skill upliftment program.
- Policy Reformation: Introduce flexible regulations, simplify approval processes, and develop specialized training for administrators. Strong and steady policy for uplifting the administrative support.
- Faculty empowerment: Empower educators through professional development, research support, and clear incentive structures. Support for faculty well-being.
- Inclusivity and Accessibility: Leverage CSR funding, promote multilingual education, and implement talent-identification mechanisms.
- Global Engagement: Foster international collaborations, soft-power initiatives, and cross-border mobility programs.
- Technology Integration: Use AI responsibly to enhance pedagogy, learning outcomes, and research capabilities. Inclusion of Internship and increasing Industry involvement.
- Assessment Reform: Shift to formative, practice-oriented evaluations, emphasizing applied skills, ethics, and collaborative problem-solving.

3. Objectives of the Workshop

- 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

The workshop saw participation from distinguished academicians, industry leaders, senior faculty members, and institutional representatives across North Karnataka.

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Sr. No.	Name of Participants	Designation	Short Bio
1	Adya Tiwari	Associate Professor	Dr. Adya Tiwari is currently working as an Associate Professor at MGM University, she holds a Ph.D. in Textiles and Apparel Designing from MPUAT Udaipur (2018), M.Sc. in Clothing & Textiles from Banasthali University (2012), and B.Sc. in Home Science from Agra University (2010).
2	Ankit Vishnoi	Associate Professor	Dr. Ankit Vishnoi is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering at Graphic Era Deemed to be University, Dehradun, India. With over 21 years of experience spanning academia, industry, and research, he specializes in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, machine learning, IoT, and advanced healthcare diagnostics. He has published more than 30 peer-reviewed research papers, patents, and edited volumes, and has played leadership roles in IEEE, Springer, and EAI conferences. His contributions include developing AI-driven frameworks for medical imaging, threat detection, and IoT security, alongside community-oriented projects funded by DST.
3	Ashish Arya	Associate Professor	Dr. Ashish Arya is an Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management at the School of Management Studies, Swami Rama Himalayan University, Dehradun. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering (B.E.), MBA (HR), UGC-NET, Ph.D. in Management, and an M.A. in Psychology, along with certifications in counselling and psychometric assessments.
4	Deepa Bhatt	Assistant Professor	Deepa Bhatt is an Applied Researcher, Materials Scientist, Device Fabrication Specialist with 8+

			years of experience in developing advanced electronic devices for sensing and flexible electronics. advanced electronic devices for sensing and flexible electronics.
05	Dr. Girish Kapil	Director	Director, Uttarakhand Technical University Dehradun
06	M. K. Panda	Director	Prof. Manoj Kumar Panda is presently working as Director, Women Institute of Technology, a campus institute of VMSB Uttarakhand Technical University Dehradun Since June 2023.
07	Mitali Chugh	Associate Professor and Program Lead (CSO)	Dr. Mitali Chugh is a distinguished academic and researcher with over 22 years of experience in computer science and education. She currently serves as the Program Lead for Cloud and Software Operations and as an Associate.
08	Ms Shweta Dhyani	Founder	A passionate and results-driven professional with over a decade of transformative experience in leadership roles across education and media. Shweta's career is marked by a relentless pursuit of innovation, strategic vision, and a commitment to nurturing excellence. In her current role as Deputy Director - Student Affairs at Doon Global University, she is instrumental in establishing the Department of Student Affairs and cultivating a robust student community.
09	Niraj Chugh	Associate Professor	Academic leader with 24 years of teaching, research, and administrative experience in Computer Science.
10	Nishant Rai	Professor	He has teaching and research experience of over 22 years. He worked as Research Associate at IVRI, Izatnagar, Bareilly.
11	Sanjay Singh	Director	Dr. Sanjay Singh is a Principal at Siddhartha Institute of Pharmacy, Rajeshwar Nagar PHASE- II, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun and has 1.5 Years Production Experience as a Production Chemist in Akums Drug & Pharmaceutical Ltd, Haridwar.
12	Sharafat Ali	Director	Dr. Sharafat Ali is a Principal at Siddharath Law College, and has 22 years of experience. Extensive background in Law Teaching and administration, including experience in employee recruitment and retention, staff development, mediation, conflict resolution, benefits and compensation.
13	Shiladitya Bhattacharjee	Associate Professor	Associate Professor, UPES, Dehradun, PDF, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), Perak,

			Malaysia P.Tech, Malaysian Board of Technology, Malaysia PhD (Malaysia), M. Tech., B. Tech. and Diploma in Information Technology IEEE Senior Member, Indian Section. He is having 10 years of experience.
14	Shilpi Mittal Panwar	HoD, ASD, TPC	Dr. Shilpi has Completed PhD in the area of Management (Human Resource Management) with the title 'Role of Psychological Contract In Employees' Retention:
15	Sumegh Shrikant Tharewal	Associate Professor	Dr. Sumegh Tharewal is an Associate Professor at DBS Global University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India, before joining DBS Global University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India.
16	Tanupriya Choudhury	Professor, CSO Cluster,	Dr. Tanupriya Choudhury, Senior Member of the IEEE, is a distinguished academician, researcher, and innovator with more than 16 years of experience in higher education, research, and industry collaboration in the field of Computer Science and Engineering.
17	Vartika Bisht	Assistant Professor	Dr. Vartika Bisht is presently serving as an Assistant Professor at DBS Global University, Dehradun, India. She holds a Ph.D. in Commerce from the University School of Business, Chandigarh University, and a Master of Commerce degree from Panjab University, Chandigarh.
18	Vidushi Kala	Alumni	Vidushi holds a degree in M.Sc. Environmental Science from MITWPU. VIDUSHI KALA Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
19	Dr.Shailendra Kumar Tiwary	Director	Dr. Shailendra Kumar Tiwary holds Ph.D. in Civil Engineering and currently works as a Director at Tula's Institute, Dehradun.
20	Vijay Vir Singh	COO	The Vijay Vir Singh Runway Incubator refers to an organization where Vijay Vir Singh is a Chief Operating Officer (COO), and it's associated with UPES University in India. Runway Incubator functions as an entity to support startups,
21	Dr. P. K. Chaudhary	Director	Dr. P. K. Chaudhary of Dehradun is the Director of JB Institute of Technology (JBIT), where he focuses on a student-centric approach and fostering holistic development for both students and faculty within the institution.
22	Dr. Parveen Kumar	Director	Dr. Praveen Kumar, is working as a Director at Himalayan Institute of Pharmacy & Research

			Dehradun. His research interest includes Pharmacology & Toxicology.
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Total Participants: 30+

Key Academic Institutions Present:

- Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University
- Women Institute of Technology, a campus institute of VMSB Uttarakhand Technical University
- Siddhartha Institute of Pharmacy, Rajeshwar Nagar
- Himalayan Institute of Pharmacy & Research Dehradun
- JB Institute of Technology (JBIT)
- Doon Global University
- Siddharath Law College

Industry Participants:

Distinguished Contributors (Select):

- Prof. Dr. Vinod Shastri – MIT World Peace University, Pune
- Prof. Dr. Rashmi Phalnikar – Convener, MIT World Peace University, Pune
- Prof. Dr. Onkar Singh, – Vice-Chancellor, Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University, Dehradun
- Prof. Dr. M.K. Panda – Director, Women Institute of Technology, a campus institute of VMSB Uttarakhand Technical University Dehradun
- Several senior faculty and industry experts who actively led thematic discussions.

5. Thematic Insights

Theme 1: Evolving Higher Education Ecosystem & Stakeholder Expectations

- It is necessary for the academicians to understand what we mean by skill set development and there is a need to develop a module that harnesses this because competency is the real challenge now. Spenser & Spenser model, Ice-burg model- how a student sees himself is important.
- 4 aspects of learning which includes knowledge, skills, behaviour and ethics. cross-branch learning i.e. Transdisciplinary approach broadens the perspectives of the students and faculties.
- Focus should be on building the life skills of the students. As these aspects affect learning outcomes, core competencies, and at times employability.
- Mentor-Mentee Framework. number of students allocated to the mentor should not be more than 10 otherwise we lose that personal touch.

- Integration of AI must include ethical considerations, ethical usage of AI awareness as topics in the courses. Also, student centred processes must have AI to guide students.

Theme 2: Transdisciplinary Curriculum Development & Pedagogy

- Create a cross-functional body/council of faculty, researchers, and external experts to guide curriculum integration and research priorities.
- Empower departments with autonomy to take decisions of co-designing the programs that blend disciplines, while aligning with institutional goals.
- Offer grants, awards, or career advancement opportunities for faculty engaged in transdisciplinary teaching and research.
- Conduct workshops on systems thinking, collaborative pedagogy, and integrative assessment methods for the faculties

Theme 3: Institutional Governance for Transdisciplinary Education

- Governance must shift to transparent, agile, and empowering systems.
- Distributed leadership is essential; young faculty must be enabled to lead and innovate.
- Faculty assessment should balance teaching and research, supported by adequate resources.
- Governance bodies need experienced academicians and industry experts to stay relevant.

Theme 4: Roadmap for a Global Indian University

- AI Integration: Participants discussed the need to ethically integrate AI into education. The consensus was to view AI not as a threat but as a tool to enhance learning.
- Curriculum Reform: Keynotes called for a move from traditional, rigid curricula to a flexible, transdisciplinary model that focuses on practical skills and student interests.
- Institutional Overhaul: The sessions stressed the need for a comprehensive overhaul of institutional governance to create a quality-driven culture and align with global standards.
- Holistic Development: Discussions emphasized the importance of prioritizing the mental and emotional well-being of students and faculty, as well as developing essential infrastructure like start-up incubators.

6. Key Takeaways

From Theme 1

- Transdisciplinary approach broadens the perspectives of the students and faculties.
- Focus should be on building the life skills of the students
- AI and digital competencies should be integral to all programs, without compromising fundamental thinking.

From Theme 2

- Create a cross-functional body/council of faculty, researchers, and external experts to guide curriculum integration and research priorities.
- Empower departments with autonomy to take decisions of co-designing the programs that blend disciplines, while aligning with institutional goals.

From Theme 3

- Governance systems must reduce administrative burdens on faculty to allow focus on quality teaching and research.
- Autonomy, continuous quality culture, and depoliticized academic ecosystems are necessary for future-ready institutions.

From Theme 4

- Indian universities must align with global benchmarks while retaining cultural and ethical grounding.
- Expansion of international collaborations, internships, and research partnerships is key to global competitiveness.

7. Photo Gallery

Felicitation Ceremony – MIT-WPU team honouring participants with shawls and World Peace Dome portraits.



- **Opening Discussion at Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University, Dehradun**



Prof. Dr. Onkar Singh, – Vice-Chancellor, Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University, Dehradun, Dr. Upadhyay, Registrar, Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University, Dehradun, Directors affiliated college from the University and other participants