

Envisioning Tomorrow's University: A Transdisciplinary Dialogue on the Future of Education
Dharwad, Karnataka | 25th August 2025 | Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad (IIIT Dharwad)

1. Overview

The Dharwad 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 Dharwad workshop

- **Strong consensus on balancing fundamentals with industry-driven skills**, ensuring graduates gain deep conceptual grounding alongside employability-oriented competencies.
- **Intensive discussion on AI's pedagogical impact**, emphasizing that AI should be used as a collaborative tool, not a threat—teachers becoming facilitators while students engage in deeper analytical thinking.
- **Advocacy for reducing faculty administrative burden**, freeing teachers to innovate, conduct research, and mentor students effectively.
- **Recognition of Dharwad as a unique academic hub** with six universities, yet facing parallel coaching-centre dependency—highlighting the need to re-establish academic institutions' role in holistic student preparation.
- **Strong regional push for practical, project-based learning and fractal credit structures**, pioneered by IIIT Dharwad, to promote multidisciplinary learning pathways.
- **Call for embedding human values, ethics, sustainability, and societal wellbeing** as integral components of higher education transformation

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.

Total Participants: 30

Key Academic Institutions Present:

- Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad (IIIT Dharwad)
- University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad
- Karnataka State Women's University, Bijapur
- Government Degree College (Autonomous), Kalaburgi
- Government First Grade College & PG Centre, Dharwad
- Government Polytechnic, Hubballi
- College of Community Science, Dharwad

Industry Participants:

- RNS Motors, Hubballi
- Skymount, Hubballi
- Ultimez Technology, Hubballi

Distinguished Contributors:

- Prof. Dr. Bharat B. Kale – MIT World Peace University, Pune
- Prof. Dr. Parul Jadhav – Convener, MIT World Peace University, Pune
- Prof. Dr. S.R. Mahadeva Prasanna – Director, Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad
- Prof. Dr. Rajendra Hegadi – Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad
- Several senior faculty and industry experts who actively led thematic discussions.

Below is the list of participants who actively participated in the National Visionary Conference

Academic Participants

Sr No.	Name of Participants	Designation	Name University/Institute
1	Prof.Manjula Patil	Assistant Professor	Government First Grade College

2	Dr. Mouneshwar Badiger	Assistant Professor	Government First Grade College
3	Dr.Iranna Bhustali	Associate Professor	Government First Grade College
4	Dr.C.V.Maridevarmath	Associate Professor	GFGC and PG Centre
5	Prof.Aravinda Dyama	Associate Professor	Government Degree College
6	Prof Konjengbam Anand	Assistant Professor	Indian Institute of Technology(IIT)
7	Prof.Ataulla A Yellapur	Selection Grade Lecturer	Government Polytechnic
8	Prof.Rubeena Nagnoor	Selection Grade Lecturer	Government Polytechnic
9	Prof.Vijaylaxmi Panikatti	Selection Grade Lecturer	Government Polytechnic
10	Prof.Savita Shinde	Selection Grade Lecturer	Government Polytechnic
11	Dr. Rajendra Hegadi	Associate Professor	Indian Institute of Information Technology
12	Dr.M S.Jogad	Associate Professor	Karnataka State Women's University
13	Dr. G.M.Hiremath	Associate Professor	College of Agriculture
14	Dr. G.S.Yadahalli	Professor	College of Agriculture
15	Dr.Geeta Tamgale	Assistant Professor	College of Community Science
16	Dr. Archana Lamdande	Assistant Professor	College of Community Science
17	Dr.Rajeshwari N.	Professor & Head	College of Community Science
18	Dr. Ramya H.G.	Assistant Professor	College of Community Science
19	Dr.P L Patil	VC	University of Dharwad

20	Dr. Manjunath Vanahalli	Assistant Professor	Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad
21	Dr.Anushree	Assistant Professor	Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad
22	Dr.Sunil Saumya	Assistant Professor	Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad
23	Dr.Sandesh Phalke	Assistant Professor	Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad
24	Dr.Ramesh Athe	Assistant Professor	Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad
25	Dr.Rajesh K	Assistant Professor	Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad
26	Dr. K.T.Deepak	Assistant Professor	Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad

Industry Participants

1	Mr.Pratik Patil	HR Manager	HR Industries
2	Mr.Qadir Kazi	Manging Director	
3	Manish Jain	Sky Mount	Huballi

5. Thematic Insights

Theme 1: Evolving Higher Education Ecosystem & Stakeholder Expectations

- Core competencies needed include communication, digital skills, critical thinking, ethics, and global citizenship.
- Strong push for dual/multiple degrees and modular learning to improve adaptability.
- AI should be embraced as an enabler for personalized learning, efficiency, and innovation—not feared.
- Need for purposeful industry–academia partnerships across disciplines including social sciences.
- Students require deeper exposure to experiential learning beyond rote and exam-focused culture.

Theme 2: Transdisciplinary Curriculum Development & Pedagogy

- IIIT Dharwad’s fractal credit system highlighted as a model for flexible, multidisciplinary learning.
- Core courses should build strong fundamentals; electives should promote exploration, innovation, and industry relevance.
- Greater inclusion of skill-oriented, vocational, and sustainability-focused modules recommended.
- Experiential learning, competitions, and cross-disciplinary projects should carry academic credit.
- Curricula must bridge gaps between traditional content and emerging industry needs.

Theme 3: Institutional Governance for Transdisciplinary Education

- Faculty overload due to administrative duties severely affects teaching quality—urgent need for structural reforms.
- Autonomy must be protected from political fluctuations to ensure academic stability.
- Governance reforms should emphasize transparency, teamwork culture, and continuous quality improvement.
- Recruitment processes must be regular and efficient to maintain academic standards.
- Quality of education should be measured not just through marks but values, research, and societal impact.

Theme 4: Roadmap for a Global Indian University

- Integrate formative + summative assessment aligned with global standards.
- Embed ethics, peace studies, and well-being as essential components of university design.
- Promote international internships, start-up incubation, and global mobility programs.
- Encourage research co-creation with global and industry partners.
- Build India’s global academic footprint through innovation and multidisciplinary excellence.

6. Key Takeaways

From Theme 1

- Higher education must shift from rote learning to value-driven, skill-based, and adaptable learning models.
- AI and digital competencies should be integral to all programs, without compromising fundamental thinking.

From Theme 2

- Flexibility in curriculum design—core, electives, vocational components, and flexible exits—is essential.
- Project-based, experiential learning must be central for meaningful transdisciplinary education.

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 Senate Hall, IIIT Dharwad – Scholars and industry experts sharing insights.



MIT-WPU Delegation Meeting with IIIT Dharwad Director – Seeking guidance and blessings for the conference.



Meeting and felicitation of Prof. Dr. S. R. Mahadeva Prasanna, Indian Institute of Information Technology Dharwad (IIIT Dharwad), by the MITWPU