
Envisioning Tomorrow's University: A Transdisciplinary Dialogue on the Future of Education
Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV), Indore, Madhya Pradesh | 15 September 2025 |
National Visioning Conference

1. Overview (Short Intro Block)

The Indore workshop brought together 30+ senior academic leaders, policy thinkers, researchers, and industry representatives to deliberate on the future of Indian higher education. The discussions contributed to the national co-creation process led by MIT-WPU Goa (UNESCO Chaired Institution). Participants examined how universities can evolve in an AI-driven world, strengthen transdisciplinary learning, reform governance, and build India's global academic presence.

2. Key Highlights

- Strong call to restore thinking, writing, and dialogic pedagogy as core academic competencies.
- Consensus on ending memory-based examinations and shifting to research, project, and problem-based assessments.
- Recognition that faculty must serve as mentors and coaches, not just content deliverers.
- Emphasis on cross-faculty studios and experiential, integrative learning grounded in real-world challenges.
- Push towards international mobility, diversity hiring, and structured global partnerships to build world-class universities.

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
- Strengthening governance and academic ecosystems
- Expand India's global academic footprint

4. Participants & Institutions

Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Indian Institute of Management Indore, Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya Indore.

5. Thematic Insights

4 Themes – Standard Across Website

Theme 1: Evolving Higher Education Ecosystem & Stakeholder Expectations

- Thinking must be treated as a measurable academic outcome, alongside grades and credits.
- AI literacy requires responsible use to prevent the erosion of writing, reasoning, and creativity.
- Students need exposure to biodiversity, sustainability, and social realities to regain environmental and civic awareness.
- Universities must reduce silos and adopt interdisciplinary, application-oriented learning pathways.
- Faculty recruitment must prioritize mentors capable of fostering dialogue and curiosity.

Theme 2: Transdisciplinary Curriculum Development & Pedagogy

- Memory-based assessments are obsolete; universities must shift to research-based and problem-oriented evaluation.
- Experiential and liberal education together promote holistic, ethical, and creative growth.
- Learning infrastructure must become flexible, collaborative, and makerspace oriented.
- Cross-faculty project studios can break silos and simulate real-world interdisciplinary teamwork.
- Continuous faculty upskilling is essential for pedagogical transformation.

Theme 3: Institutional Governance for Transdisciplinary Education

- BOS and Academic Councils must evolve from procedural approval bodies to quality custodians.
- Faculty recruitment and development must be treated as strategic functions, not administrative routines.
- International exposure for faculty and administrators is critical for benchmarking global best practices.
- Professionalization of non-teaching staff is essential for world-class academic operations.
- Governance transparency through public rubrics and decision logs strengthens academic credibility.

Theme 4: Roadmap for a Global Indian University

- Global aspirations must focus on creating knowledge of international relevance, not just rankings.
- International mobility, joint curricula, and collaborative research require dedicated funding and KPIs.
- Diversity hiring enriches classroom discourse and prepares graduates for global environments.

- Industry and government must serve as co-creators in curriculum, research, and innovation projects.
- Research autonomy, reward systems, and global visibility are essential for building a global brand.

6. Key Takeaways

- Thinking, writing, and dialogue must form the core cultural foundation of future universities.
- Transdisciplinary and experiential learning are essential for producing future-ready, ethical graduates.
- Strong governance and strategic talent development are prerequisites for academic excellence.
- Internationalization must be structured, resourced, and meaningful—driving global competence and collaboration.
- Institutions must integrate industry, government, and community as partners in innovation and impact.

7. Group Photo of the Attendees

