

Envisioning Tomorrow's University — Lucknow Visioning Workshop

Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow | September 09, 2025 | MIT WPU (Host)

1. Overview

The Lucknow Visioning Workshop convened senior academic leaders, faculty, and practitioners to co-create a roadmap for transdisciplinary higher education in India. Hosted by MIT World Peace University in collaboration with Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, the workshop brought together participants from central and state universities, private institutions, and industry consultants to discuss curriculum innovation, governance reform, and global positioning of Indian universities. Through four focused themes—ecosystem expectations, transdisciplinary curriculum, institutional governance, and a roadmap for global Indian universities—delegates exchanged region-specific insights and actionable proposals intended to inform MIT WPU's national co-creation process.

2. Key Highlights

- Shift from content delivery to facilitation: teachers as mentors preparing students for real-world problem solving.
- Strong push for transdisciplinary and experiential learning—village adoption, industry projects, and CBCS-enabled mobility.
- Embedding values, life-skills, and mental wellness alongside technical competencies.
- Calls for strengthened university–industry–finance linkages and increased R&D investment.
- Practical governance suggestions: autonomy for colleges, faculty exchange programs, and research tracks to reward innovation.

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

Major institutions:

- Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Lucknow
- Lucknow University
- Amity University Uttar Pradesh – Lucknow Campus
- Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Lucknow Campus)
- MIT World Peace University (MIT-WPU), Pune

Notable participants:

- Dr. Victor Babu Saragandala (In-charge VC, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow)
- Dr. Ajai Prakash (Associate Professor, Lucknow University)
- Dr. Jivan Kumar Chowdhury (Professor, Lucknow University; Ex. RBI employee)
- Dr. Srinivas Bandameedi (Assistant Professor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Lucknow Campus)
- Mr. Rohit Arvind (Consultant Samcara; IIM A Alumni)
- Dr. Lata Bajpai Singh (Assistant Professor, Department of Management Studies, School of Management and Commerce, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow)
- Dr. Manoj Kumar Pandey (Professor, Lucknow University)

In-House -

- Dr. Urvashi Makkar (Dean, Ramcharan School of Leadership, MIT-WPU, Pune) (Conference Convener)
- Dr. Anup Kale (Dean, School of Science, MIT-WPU, Pune)
- Dr. Pranav Kayande (Associate Professor, MIT-WPU, Pune)

Total delegates: 31

5. Thematic Insights

Theme 1: Evolving Higher Education Ecosystem & Stakeholder Expectations

Participants stressed redefining higher education to meet stakeholder expectations — students, faculty and society. Discussions emphasised learning outcomes (employability, competencies, global citizenship), ethical grounding, and equitable digital access. The teacher's role emerged as facilitator and mentor, while curricula should integrate behavioural and humanistic management along with domain skills. Panelists urged stronger university–industry partnerships, increased R&D investment, and policy mechanisms for effective NEP 2020 implementation to ensure inclusive, future-ready education.

Theme 2: Transdisciplinary Curriculum Development & Pedagogy

Transdisciplinary curriculum discussions highlighted flexible program structures, CBCS-enabled choice, and blended experiential learning. Speakers advocated agile syllabi, assessment reform moving away from rote exams to research, projects and reflective evaluation, and faculty training for AI-enabled instruction. Community-engaged models (village adoption, social entrepreneurship) were proposed to align learning with local problems and provide students with authentic practice-based exposure.

Theme 3: Institutional Governance for Transdisciplinary Education

Governance conversations focused on autonomy, participatory decision-making, and systems that reward research and collaboration. Panelists recommended strengthening advisory boards, streamlining institutional committees, and creating dedicated research tracks. Emphasis was placed on bridging teacher–student gaps via mentorship, devolving operational autonomy to principals, and enabling resource-generation at the institutional level to implement NEP 2020 effectively—especially in rural and under-resourced colleges.

Theme 4: Roadmap for a Global Indian University

To march towards a Global Indian University, delegates proposed embedding employability structures (placement & student development cells), institutionalizing internships and industry certifications, and fostering continuous faculty–industry immersion programs. Speakers also stressed protecting and promoting indigenous knowledge systems alongside global collaborations, reviving faculty-exchange models and ensuring grassroots-level implementation to build internationally competitive yet culturally rooted universities.

6. Key Takeaways

- Education must evolve from information transfer to wisdom-oriented, value-driven learning.
- Transdisciplinary and experiential learning should be mainstreamed via CBCS and flexible program architectures.
- Governance reforms must enable autonomy, research incentives, and inclusive implementation of NEP 2020.
- Global readiness requires integrated employability support, faculty upskilling, and preservation of indigenous knowledge systems.

7. Outcomes / Action Points

- Recommend adopting village/community engagement as experiential curriculum components.
- Establish Technical Placement Cells and Student Development Cells across institutions.
- Design faculty training & immersion programs for AI and industry-aligned pedagogy.
- Pilot assessment reforms emphasizing project-based evaluation and micro-credentials.
- Promote university–industry–finance partnerships and increase targeted R&D funding.

8. Photo Gallery



Picture no. 1 – Group photograph of participants



Picture no. 2 – Dr Urvashi Makkar briefing about the conference