
Workshop Title

Envisioning Tomorrow's University: A Transdisciplinary Dialogue on the Future of Education
Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh | 17th September 2025 | SPA, Vijaywada

1. Overview (Short Intro Block)

The National Visioning Conference at the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), Vijayawada, brought together distinguished academics, policymakers, scientists, industry leaders, and institutional heads to collaboratively envision the future of Indian higher education. Anchored in MIT-WPU Goa's national initiative for designing India's next-generation transdisciplinary universities, the conference addressed emerging challenges- technological disruption, global competitiveness, employability, institutional governance, and sustainability. Hosted at SPA Vijayawada, the event emphasized the redesign of curriculum, governance systems, and university models that balance global benchmarks with India's social and cultural contexts.

The deliberations form a key component of MIT-WPU Goa's nationwide visioning initiative for designing India's future transdisciplinary university.

2. Key Highlights

- Strong shift in focus from expansion to excellence, prioritizing quality, ethics, and
- Strong consensus on transforming rigid degree structures into flexible, transdisciplinary learning pathways.
- Urgent need to align curricula with industry expectations, AI-driven models, and regional priorities.
- Recognition of governance reforms greater autonomy, transparent decision-making, and participatory leadership.
- Emphasis on blending Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) with modern science and global best practices.
- Vision for globally benchmarked Indian universities rooted in sustainability, ethics, and societal relevance.
- Clear push toward flexible, transdisciplinary learning, dissolving disciplinary silos in line with NEP 2020.

3. Objectives of the Workshop

- Reposition higher education to address evolving societal and stakeholder expectations.
- Foster transdisciplinary curriculum and pedagogy aligned with NEP 2020 and global models.
- Leverage AI and emerging technologies for impactful and inclusive academic transformation.
- Strengthen governance, quality assurance, and institutional ecosystems for innovation.
- Advance India's global academic footprint through internationalization and partnerships.

4. Participants & Institutions

Distinguished Guests / Keynote Speakers

- Dr. Ramesh Srikonda – Director, SPA Vijayawada

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- Dr. Uma Rao – Registrar, SPA Vijayawada
 - Prof. M.L.S. Deva Kumar – Secretary, Board of Community Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh
 - Dr. Krishna V. Mirji – Senior General Manager, Department of Atomic Energy
 - Dr. P. G. Rao – Independent Director
 - Experts from NID Vijayawada, SRIVT, medical, legal, scientific and industry domains
 - Dr Srinivas Daketi, Professor & Head, Department of Architecture
 - Dr. Rajakumari M, Associate Professor, Department of Planning
 - Dr. Abhishek Kumar, NID
 - Dr. Amitava Sarkar, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture
 - Dr. Paruchuri Gangadhar Rao, Chairman, Research Advisory Council, SRIVT, Guntur (Moderator)
 - Dr. Sri A. B. S. Sastry Distinguished Vedic Scholar, Renowned Astrologer & Researcher
 - Dr. Shubham Gautam consultant Psychiatrist at Indlas Hospital
 - Dr. M V Basaveswara Rao (Pro Vice-Chancellor), Krishna University & Hon. Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Akademi of Sciences

Participating Institutions

- SPA Vijayawada
- NID Vijayawada
- SRIVT Guntur
- Krishna University
- ACE Engineering College
- Industry and professional bodies from engineering, planning, design, medicine, law and sciences

5. Thematic Insights

Theme 1: Evolving Higher Education Ecosystem & Stakeholder Expectations

- Rising demand for flexible, hybrid, and lifelong learning pathways.
- Need for AI integration, digital adaptation, and industry-collaborative curricula.
- Indian industries face a widening employability gap and shortage of job-ready graduates.
- Stakeholders emphasized quality, affordability, and regional relevance.
- Doctors and scientists highlighted integrating well-being, preventive healthcare, and research ecosystems.

Theme 2: Transdisciplinary Curriculum Development & Pedagogy

- Strong call for lighter, flexible, skill-oriented curricula aligned with NCeF.
- Need to integrate problem-based learning, design thinking, experiential projects, and community engagement.
- Curriculum must balance technical depth with human values—emotional intelligence, wellbeing, ethics.
- Alumni and industry leaders stressed hands-on learning, internships, and creativity-focused pedagogy.

Theme 3: Institutional Governance for Transdisciplinary Education

- Governance must evolve toward autonomy with accountability.
- Need for distributed leadership, involving younger faculty and industry in key academic bodies.

- Faculty performance metrics must recognize innovation, interdisciplinary projects, student engagement, not only publications.
- Institutions need agile administrative systems and transparent decision-making.

Theme 4: Roadmap for a Global Indian University

- Focus on global benchmarking, improved research quality, faculty development, and international collaborations.
- Strategic partnerships, dual-degree pathways, and student/faculty mobility are critical.
- Universities must integrate sustainability, ethics, cultural roots, and global competencies.
- Creating innovation hubs, incubators, and strong industry linkages is essential for global competitiveness.

6. Key Takeaways

- India must shift from degree-centric to learning-centric education, integrating skills, research, and societal impact.
- Transdisciplinary frameworks are essential for addressing complex 21st-century challenges.
- Governance reform autonomy, transparency, and collaboration is the key to institutional transformation.
- Indian universities can achieve global prominence by blending technology, cultural knowledge, research excellence, and global partnerships.
- Quality over quantity must drive the next phase of Indian higher education.
- Flexible, transdisciplinary learning is essential for future-ready graduates.
- Agile, transparent governance is critical to enable innovation.
- Global standards with Indian ethos should define the universities of tomorrow.

7. Photo Gallery







