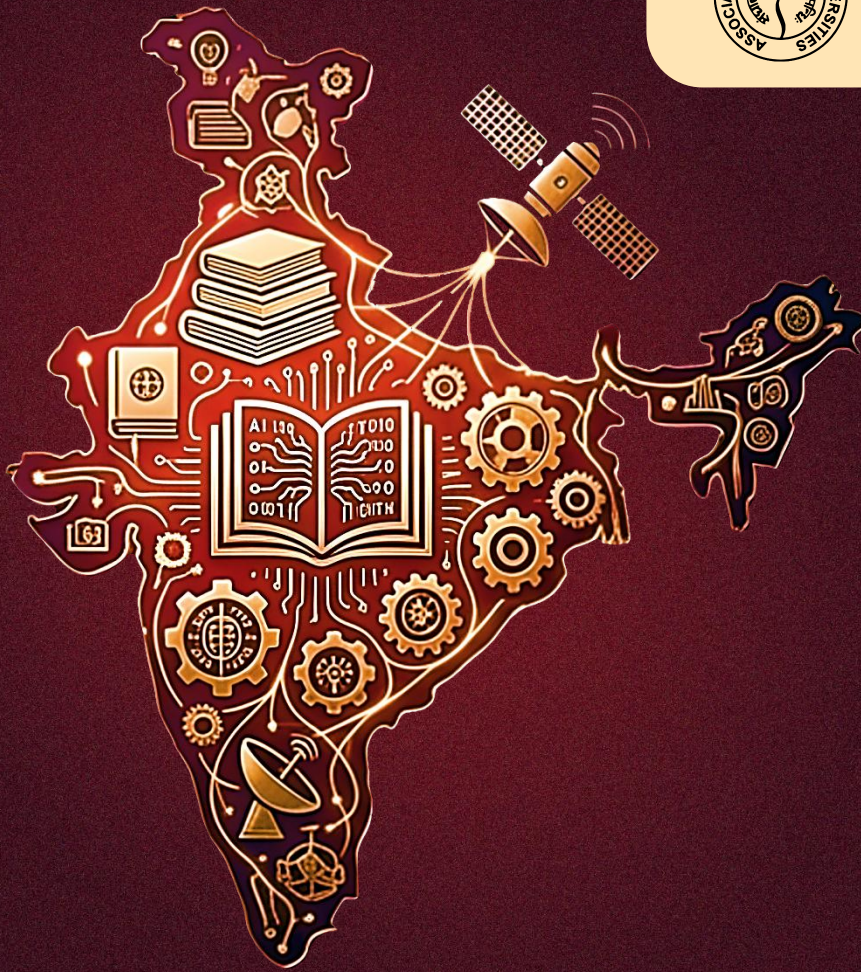




**DPU**

DR. D. Y. PATIL VIDYAPEETH, PIMPRI, PUNE  
(Deemed to be University)



# 100<sup>th</sup>

**AIU Annual General Body Meet  
and National Conference of Vice Chancellors**

Hosted by –

**Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pimpri, Pune**

Theme -----

**Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat through Knowledge and Innovation**

| Date: 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 |

BROOCHURE

## About the Conference

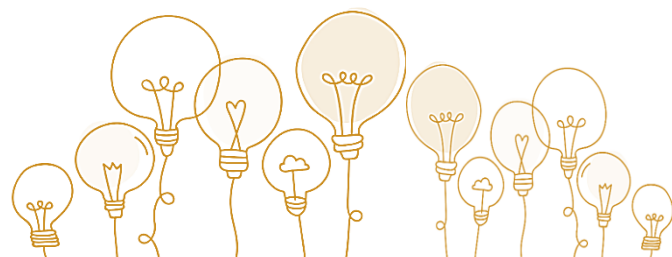
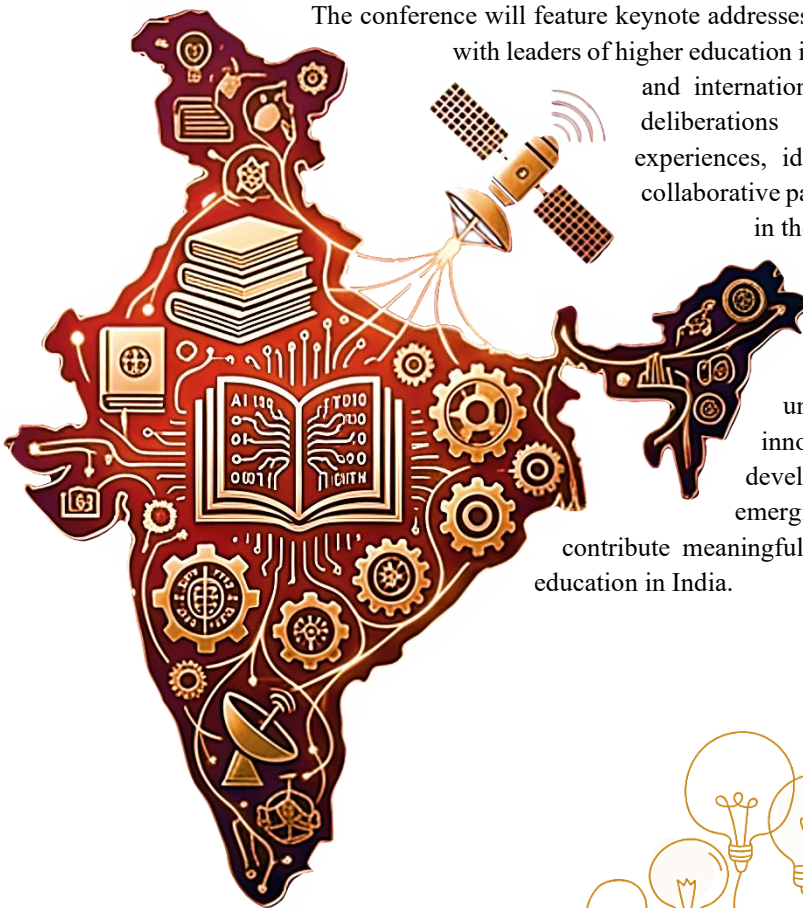
The **100th Annual General Body Meeting and National Conference of Vice Chancellors of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU)** marks a historic milestone in the evolution of higher education in India. Since its establishment in 1925, the Association of Indian Universities has served as an important platform for collaboration among universities, facilitating dialogue, policy engagement, academic mobility, and institutional cooperation across the country. The centenary edition of the Vice Chancellors' Conference therefore represents a significant moment to reflect on the achievements of Indian universities and to collectively envision the future of higher education.

The conference is being hosted by **Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (DPU), Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra**, from **28–30 April 2026**, bringing together Vice Chancellors, Directors, policymakers, and senior academic leaders from universities and higher education institutions across India. The gathering provides a distinguished forum for deliberation on key issues shaping the higher education landscape, including academic governance, research and innovation ecosystems, digital transformation, industry–academia collaboration, and global engagement.

The theme of the conference, **“Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat through Knowledge and Innovation,”** reflects the national vision of strengthening India’s knowledge economy through excellence in education, research, and technological advancement. Universities have a crucial role to play in nurturing talent, promoting interdisciplinary inquiry, and generating solutions to societal challenges. By fostering innovation, encouraging entrepreneurship, and advancing cutting-edge research, higher education institutions can significantly contribute to the realization of a self-reliant and globally competitive India.

The conference will feature keynote addresses, plenary discussions, and interactive sessions with leaders of higher education institutions as well as representatives from apex and international bodies associated with the sector. These deliberations will provide opportunities for sharing experiences, identifying emerging priorities, and exploring collaborative pathways for strengthening the university system in the country.

As the academic leadership of India gathers for this landmark centenary conference, the event reaffirms the enduring commitment of universities to advancing knowledge, fostering innovation, and contributing to national development. The insights and perspectives emerging from the discussions are expected to contribute meaningfully to shaping the future trajectory of higher education in India.



## Message from the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra



जिष्णु देव वर्मा  
Jishnu Dev Varma



सत्यमेव जयते  
राज्यपाल, महाराष्ट्र

GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA

लोक भवन,  
मलबार हिल, मुंबई ४०००३५  
LOK BHAVAN,  
Malabar Hill, Mumbai 400 035

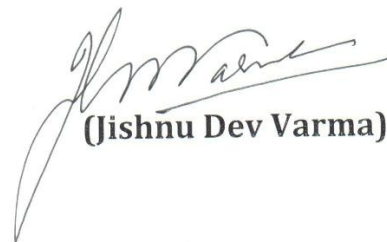
17 April 2026

### MESSAGE

I am pleased to know that Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (DPU), Pimpri, Pune is hosting the Centenary Conference of the Association of Indian Universities from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

As India advances towards the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047, universities have a central role in shaping a knowledge-driven, self-reliant nation. They must serve as catalysts of transformation by nurturing talent, promoting research, and fostering innovation and enterprise. The Conference provides a valuable platform for Vice-Chancellors and academic leaders to deliberate on the future of higher education and align it with national priorities. The discussions will contribute to strengthening research ecosystems, encouraging multidisciplinary learning, and enhancing the global competitiveness of Indian institutions.

I am confident that the Conference will come up with actionable outcomes for the advancement of higher education in India. I congratulate Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth for its efforts in hosting the Conference and convey my best wishes for the success of this important academic endeavour.

  
(Jishnu Dev Varma)

## Message from the President - AIU



### **100<sup>th</sup> AIU Annual General Body Meeting and National Conference of Vice Chancellors' 2026**

It gives me immense pride and joy to extend my heartfelt greetings to all esteemed Vice Chancellors, academic leaders, and distinguished delegates gathered for the historic 100<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting and National Conference of Vice Chancellors of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). This centennial milestone is not merely a celebration of longevity, but a testament to the enduring commitment of Indian higher education institutions to nation-building and global knowledge advancement.

The chosen theme, “*Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat through Knowledge and Innovation*”, resonates deeply with the aspirations of our country. As India strides confidently into the future, the role of universities becomes ever more critical in nurturing self-reliance—through cutting-edge research, innovative pedagogy, and the cultivation of values that empower our youth to lead with wisdom and courage. Knowledge, when coupled with innovation, becomes the strongest pillar of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

I express my sincere appreciation to Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra, for graciously hosting this landmark event. Their commitment to academic excellence and societal progress provides an inspiring backdrop for our deliberations.

As we convene from **28–30 April 2026**, let us reaffirm our collective resolve to transform Indian higher education into a global beacon of creativity, inclusivity, and resilience. May this conference ignite fresh ideas, foster collaborations, and strengthen our shared mission of shaping a self-reliant Bharat through the power of knowledge and innovation.

With warm regards and best wishes for fruitful discussions and outcomes,

**Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak**

President, Association of Indian Universities (AIU)  
& VC, CSJM University, Kanpur

## Message from the Secretary General - AIU

डॉ. (श्रीमती) पंकज मिश्रा  
(पूर्व कुलपति, बीपीएस महिला विश्वविद्यालय, हरियाणा)  
महासचिव

**Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal**  
(Former Vice Chancellor, BPS Women University, Haryana)  
Secretary General



भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय संघ  
ए०आई०यू० हाउस, 16, कॉमरेड इंद्रजीत गुप्ता मार्ग  
(कोटला मार्ग), नई दिल्ली-110 002

**Association of Indian Universities**  
AIU House, 16, Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg (Kotla Marg),  
New Delhi-110 002



AIU/SGO/2026  
6<sup>th</sup> April, 2026

### MESSAGE

I am pleased to convey my warm greetings and best wishes to **Dr. D Y Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pune** on the proud occasion of hosting the **100<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting and National Conference of Vice Chancellors** on the theme of **"Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat through Knowledge and Innovation,"** under the aegis of the **Association of Indian Universities**, from 28th to 30th April 2026.

This historic milestone of the **100<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting and National Conference of Vice Chancellors** is not merely a numerical achievement but a celebration of a century long journey of collective vision, collaboration, and commitment towards strengthening higher education in India. It reflects the enduring spirit of academic excellence, institutional leadership, and the shared resolve to shape the future of our nation through knowledge and innovation.

Dr. D Y Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pune has consistently demonstrated exemplary dedication towards academic distinction, research advancement, and holistic development of students. Hosting this landmark event is a testament to the University's stature and its pivotal role in the higher education ecosystem of the country.

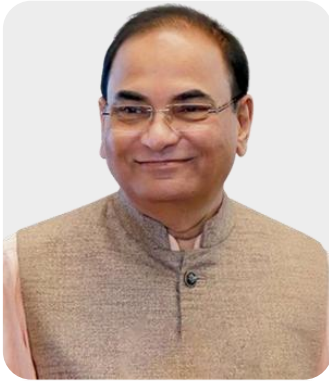
As we gather for this significant occasion, it serves as a platform to reflect on our achievements, deliberate on emerging challenges, and collectively envision a progressive roadmap for the future. In an era defined by rapid transformation, universities must continue to act as catalysts of change nurturing critical thinking, fostering inclusivity and driving sustainable development.

I am confident that the deliberations and discussions during this Conference will further strengthen the bonds among member universities and contribute meaningfully towards policy formulation and academic advancement.

I once again congratulate Dr. D Y Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pune for hosting this prestigious event and extend my best wishes for its grand success. May this occasion inspire renewed commitment towards excellence, innovation, and nation-building.

  
(Pankaj Mittal)

## Message from the Chancellor - DPU



It gives me immense pleasure that **Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (DPU), Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra** has the privilege of hosting the **100th Annual General Body Meeting and National Conference of Vice Chancellors of the Association of Indian Universities** from 28–30 April 2026.

The centenary conference of the Association of Indian Universities represents a significant milestone in the history of Indian higher education. For nearly a century, the Association has served as a vital platform for collaboration among universities, fostering academic dialogue, institutional cooperation, and policy engagement that have contributed to strengthening the university system in the country.

The theme of this conference, **“Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat through Knowledge and Innovation,”** resonates strongly with the national vision of building a knowledge-driven society. Universities today play a pivotal role in nurturing innovation, promoting interdisciplinary research, and preparing future generations to address global challenges with creativity and responsibility.

I am confident that the deliberations of Vice Chancellors, policymakers, and academic leaders during this conference will generate valuable insights and strengthen collective efforts to enhance the quality, relevance, and global standing of Indian higher education.

I extend my warm welcome to all distinguished participants and wish the conference great success.

**Dr. P. D. Patil**  
Chancellor, DPU

## Message from the Pro Chancellor - DPU



It is a matter of great pride for **Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (DPU), Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra** to host the **100th Annual General Body Meeting and National Conference of Vice Chancellors of the Association of Indian Universities**. We are honoured to welcome academic leaders and policymakers from universities and institutions across the country to our campus for this landmark centenary gathering.

Over the years, universities in India have played a crucial role in advancing knowledge, fostering innovation, and contributing to national development. In the rapidly evolving landscape of higher education, collaboration and dialogue among institutions are essential to address emerging challenges and harness new opportunities.

The theme of this conference, “**Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat through Knowledge and Innovation,**” highlights the responsibility of universities to cultivate research excellence, encourage entrepreneurial thinking, and promote meaningful engagement with society and industry.

At Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, we remain committed to creating an academic environment that nurtures intellectual curiosity, supports interdisciplinary research, and contributes to the broader goals of national progress.

I extend my sincere welcome to all participants and hope that the deliberations during this conference will inspire new ideas and collaborations for the advancement of higher education in India.

**Dr. (Mrs.) Bhagyashree P. Patil**

**Pro Chancellor, DPU**

## Message from the Vice Chancellor - DPU



It is my proud privilege to welcome the distinguished Vice Chancellors, AIU Officials, Directors, Policymakers and Academic Leaders, who will be participating in the **100th Annual General Body Meeting and National Conference of Vice Chancellors of the Association of Indian Universities**, hosted by **Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (DPU), Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra**.

This centenary event offers a unique opportunity for the leadership across all Indian universities to come together and reflect on the evolving role of higher education in shaping the national vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**. The theme, “**Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat through Knowledge and Innovation**,” underscores the importance of strengthening research ecosystems, fostering innovation, and nurturing talent that can contribute meaningfully to national and global development.

Universities today are not only centres of learning but also engines of innovation, social transformation, and sustainable progress. Through collaborative dialogue and shared experiences, this conference will provide a valuable platform for discussing emerging priorities in university governance, academic excellence, and global engagement.

I hope that the deliberations during this historic gathering will lead to constructive insights and renewed commitment towards strengthening the Indian higher education system to fulfil our aspirations of Self-Reliant Bharat.

On behalf of **Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (DPU), Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra**, I extend a warm welcome to all participants and wish the conference every success.

**Dr. N. J. Pawar**

Vice Chancellor, DPU

## Message from the Pro Vice Chancellor - DPU



It is a matter of great pleasure that **Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (DPU), Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra** is hosting the **100th Annual General Body Meeting and National Conference of Vice Chancellors of the Association of Indian Universities**, scheduled from 28–30 April 2026. This centenary conference brings together the leadership of universities across the nation and provides a valuable platform for dialogue on the evolving priorities of higher education in India.

Universities today stand at a transformative moment where academic institutions are expected not only to impart knowledge but also to foster innovation, strengthen research culture, and contribute meaningfully to societal progress. The theme of the conference, **“Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat through Knowledge and Innovation,”** reflects the collective responsibility of universities to create an environment that encourages creativity, interdisciplinary learning, and impactful research. Such national forums play an important role in enabling academic leaders to exchange perspectives, share best practices, and develop collaborative approaches to address emerging challenges in higher education. By bringing together Vice Chancellors, policymakers, and institutional leaders, this conference provides an opportunity to explore pathways for strengthening academic excellence, enhancing institutional governance, and promoting innovation-driven growth within universities.

At **Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (DPU), Pimpri, Pune, Maharashtra**, we remain committed to nurturing a vibrant academic ecosystem that supports quality education, research advancement, and meaningful engagement with society. I am confident that the deliberations during this historic centenary conference will contribute significantly to shaping a progressive and resilient future for higher education in India.

I extend a warm welcome to all the distinguished participants and wish the conference every success.

**Dr. Smita Jadhav**

**Pro Vice Chancellor, DPU**  
**Secretary, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth Society**

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## - CONCEPT NOTE -

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### **100<sup>th</sup> AIU ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEET AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF VICE CHANCELLORS'**

&

### **SHAPING SELF-RELIANT BHARAT THROUGH KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION**

Hosted by

**DR. D. Y. PATIL VIDYAPEETH, PIMPRI, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA  
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)**

#### **ABOUT AIU ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING & NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF VICE CHANCELLORS'**

Association of Indian Universities (AIU), one of the premier apex higher education institutions of the Country established in 1925, is a research-based policy advice institution to the Government of India in the field of Higher Education, Sports & Culture and internationalization. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Hussain and Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee are among some of the stalwarts who served AIU as its presidents. At present it has a membership of **1159** universities including **20** international universities. Since its inception, it has been playing a vital role in shaping Indian higher education. Being an apex institution, it constitutes an integral part of decision-making and facilitates cooperation and coordination among Indian universities and liaise between the universities and the Government and also national and international bodies of higher education in other countries in the matters of common interest. Also, AIU plays a dynamic role in shaping Indian higher education by being a research-based policy advice institution to the Government of India in the fields of Higher Education, Sports, and Youth affairs & Culture. As a National Sports Promotion Organization (NSPO) it promotes sports among Member-Universities.

One of the significant activities of the AIU is to convene the Vice Chancellors Meets at the Zonal and National levels to discuss various issues related to higher education. India is a country with a large geographical area, for ease of reaching out, AIU has grouped the member HEIs into 5 zones i.e., North, South, East, West and Central. Thus, 5 Zonal Meets and one National Conference of Vice Chancellors are organized annually. These Meets are important platforms not only to discuss the significant issues of higher education but also to play a catalytic role in finding solutions for different problems of higher education through collective wisdom. Further, AIU carries forward the voice of the participating leaders of higher education to appropriate agencies and authorities for their dispensation. Every year in the National Conference of Vice Chancellors, a specific theme that is of topical significance for the higher education community is taken up for discussion. As a run-up, subthemes related to the main theme are discussed in the AIU Zonal Vice Chancellors Meets.

**AIU's National Conference of Vice Chancellors'** is one of the mega events of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) which takes place annually. This conference is a major highlight of AIU's activities, coinciding with the Annual General Body Meeting. It provides a unique opportunity to the Vice Chancellors/ Directors of its member universities/ institutes, its Associate member universities (Foreign Universities) and eminent leaders of the higher education system, national and international delegate to exchange their ideas and evolve consensus on various policies and initiatives for the betterment of HEIs. The Annual General Body Meet is an occasion for the Association to showcase its past year's achievements, present its financial statements and delineate the scheme of activities for the forthcoming years. It is also a platform to inform the members universities/ institutes about the 'Recommendations of Zonal Vice Chancellors' Meets and other Meetings that take place during the preceding year and to come on a common consensus on a collective course of action, policies and various initiatives. Apart from a grand Inaugural Ceremony and splendid Valedictory Function, events marking the occasion are AIU Governing Council Meet, AIU General Body Members Meet, Business & General Session, Technical Sessions, Special Session (if any), an Interface Session with Higher Education Regulators and an Interface Session with International Delegates.

## THEMES: ZONAL VICE CHANCELLORS' MEET 2025-26

**The themes for the AIU Zonal Vice Chancellors' Meet 2025-26 were proposed as:**

Zone	Theme	Sub-themes
North	Integrating Traditional Wisdom in Curriculum and Research	Interdisciplinary Research Linking Ancient Wisdom with Modern Science & Technology
		Embedding Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) into Curricula & Faculty Development
		Futuristic dimensions of IKS
East	Promoting Sustainability and Social Responsibility in HEIs	Research and Innovation in HEIs for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
		University Social Responsibility (USR) for promoting Swadeshi
		Futuristic Digital and Technological Pathways to Sustainability
South	Promoting Entrepreneurship & Startups in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)	Education for Increasing Entrepreneurship mindset in Students
		Establishing Incubation and Innovation Centres to promote Techno-Nationalism
		University–Industry Collaboration for Startup Development
Central	Creating AI & Quantum enabled HEIs	Integrating AI and Quantum Technologies into Higher Education Curriculum, Pedagogy and Governance
		AI-Driven Indigenous Research and Product Development
		Global Regulatory Framework for AI and Ethics in AI
West	Self-Reliant Bharat through Swadeshi, Economic Patriotism and Techno-Nationalism	Redesigning Educational Ecosystem to Promote Swadeshi
		Promoting Research and Development in Indigenous Technologies
		Economic Patriotism Leading to Economic Indigenization

## 100<sup>TH</sup> AIU NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF VICE CHANCELLORS' HIGHLIGHTS

The 100<sup>th</sup> AIU National Conference of Vice Chancellors' will be held at Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, (Deemed to be-university), Pune, Maharashtra during 28-30 April, 2026. The broad theme of the conference is as 'Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat Through Knowledge and Innovation'.

### FORMAT AND APPROACH

The three-day event will include the Inaugural Session, AIU Foundation Day Lecture on the main theme, Session on Interface with Heads of Apex Bodies & International Delegates, Special Session on Health, 5 Technical Sessions to discuss the concerned topics, AIU Business and General Session and Valedictory Session.

The details of various sessions, proposed during the conference are mentioned below:

Sessions	Theme
AIU Foundation Day Lecture on the main theme	Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat through Knowledge and Innovation
Session on Interface with Heads of Apex Bodies & International Delegates	Promoting Internationalization in Higher Education
Special Session on Health	Universities as Catalysts for Equitable and Sustainable Healthcare in Self-Reliant Bharat
Technical Session –I	Self-Reliant Bharat through Swadeshi, Economic Patriotism and Techno-Nationalism
Technical Session –II	Promoting Sustainability and Social Responsibility in HEIs
Technical Session-III	Promoting Entrepreneurship & Startups in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
Technical Session -IV	Creating AI & Quantum enabled HEIs
Technical Session -V	Integrating Traditional Wisdom in Curriculum and Research

Each Technical Sessions will be of approximately of 1 Hour and 30 minutes. In each Session, there will be 1 chairperson and 3-4 speakers including experts from Government and HEIs. Presentations will be followed by interaction and Question and Answer session. Based on deliberations; a commitment statement will be framed for the universities to further the cause of Higher Education in India.

## SESSION DETAILS

### **AIU Foundation Day Lecture on the theme: Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat through Knowledge and Innovation**

The theme “Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat through Knowledge and Innovation” highlights how Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India are playing a crucial role in building a stronger, more confident nation. Today, higher education is not just about teaching from textbooks, it is about encouraging students to think, question, and create. HEIs are gradually becoming spaces where ideas are tested, research is applied to real-life problems and innovation is encouraged. By connecting learning with practical skills, promoting Indian knowledge traditions, and working closely with industry, universities can help students become capable contributors to society and the economy, rather than just job seekers. At the same time, academic leaders, especially Vice Chancellors/ Directors of HEIs, have an important role in shaping this direction. They need to encourage a culture where research leads to real solutions, where startups and new ideas are supported, and where students feel inspired to innovate. While aiming for global standards, it is equally important to stay rooted in local needs and values. When universities balance modern knowledge with societal responsibility, they help build a system that is not dependent on others but confident in its own strengths. In this way, knowledge and innovation together become the foundation for a truly self-reliant and future-ready Bharat.

### **Session on Interface with Heads of Apex Bodies & International Delegates on the theme: Promoting Internationalization in Higher Education**

Promoting internationalization in higher education is about opening doors for bringing the world into Indian campuses and taking our ideas to the global stage. Today, it is not limited to students going abroad; it also includes welcoming international students, collaborating with universities across countries, and introducing global perspectives in teaching and research. For Indian universities, this is a valuable opportunity to showcase their strengths, attract diverse talent, and enrich the learning environment. When students and faculty interact with different cultures and ideas, it broadens their thinking, builds confidence, and prepares them to work in a global setting. At the same time, internationalization should not mean losing our own identity. It is important for HEIs to stay connected to India’s values, priorities, and local needs while engaging with the world. The goal should be to build meaningful partnerships where knowledge is shared and both sides benefit. Academic leaders have a key role in making this possible by creating a welcoming environment, simplifying processes, and encouraging collaboration. In this way, internationalization becomes not just a policy goal, but a lived experience that strengthens both our education system and our contribution to the global community.

### **Special Session on Health on the theme: Universities as Catalysts for Equitable and Sustainable Healthcare in Self-Reliant Bharat**

HEIs can play a very meaningful role in improving healthcare in a self-reliant Bharat by going beyond classrooms and actively engaging with society. They are not just places where doctors and health professionals are trained but also spaces where new ideas and solutions can take shape. By bringing together different fields like medicine, pharmacy, technology, and social sciences, HEIs can help develop affordable and practical healthcare solutions that suit local needs. Their outreach activities, especially in rural and underserved areas must ensure that knowledge and services reach people who often have limited access to quality healthcare. At the same time, HEIs can promote a more sustainable approach to healthcare by focusing on prevention, awareness, and the use of locally relevant practices. They can encourage research that leads to simple, cost-effective innovations and support young professionals who are committed to serving society. Academic leaders have an important role in creating an environment where such efforts are valued and supported. When universities combine knowledge with compassion and a sense of responsibility, they help build a healthcare system that is not only self-reliant but also fair, accessible, and responsive to the needs of all.

### **Technical Session –I: Self-Reliant Bharat through Swadeshi, Economic Patriotism and Techno-Nationalism**

The idea of a self-reliant Bharat reflects a vision of national strength grounded in Swadeshi, economic patriotism, and techno-nationalism principles that blend cultural pride with modern innovation. Swadeshi encourages the revival and celebration of indigenous knowledge, local craftsmanship, and homegrown industries, helping communities become creators rather than consumers in the global economy. Economic patriotism strengthens this by inspiring citizens to consciously support local enterprises, invest in Indian innovations, and contribute to national progress. This approach is not about closing doors to the world, but about building inner strength where India's economic and cultural identity grows from within while engaging confidently with global markets. Techno-nationalism adds a futuristic dimension to this vision, urging the nation to lead through innovation and technological excellence rooted in self-belief. When science, technology, and education come together to empower communities, they transform national potential into global leadership. Universities, research centers, and startups become the engines of progress turning ideas into sustainable solutions for energy, health, agriculture, and digital empowerment. A self-reliant Bharat thus embodies a human-centered model of development one that honors its heritage, embraces innovation, builds a future where progress, pride, and purpose move hand in hand.

### **Technical Session –II: Promoting Sustainability and Social Responsibility in HEIs**

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have a vital role in shaping a better and more sustainable future. Beyond providing academic instruction, they are communities that influence how people think, act, and engage with the world. By promoting sustainability, universities can inspire students and staff to care for the environment and use resources responsibly. Simple actions like reducing waste, conserving energy, or supporting eco-friendly initiatives can make campuses models of environmental awareness. When these values are integrated into learning and research, they help students connect their education to real-world challenges and empower them to contribute to meaningful change. At the same time, social responsibility reminds HEIs of their duty to the communities they serve. This involves ensuring that education is inclusive and that every student, regardless of background, has the opportunity to succeed. It also means using knowledge and innovation to address local and global issues such as poverty, inequality, and public health. Through outreach programs, volunteer work, and community partnerships, universities can extend their impact beyond the classroom. In doing so, they help foster empathy, civic engagement, and a shared sense of responsibility for building a fairer and more compassionate society.

### **Technical Session –III: Promoting Entrepreneurship & Startups in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**

Promoting entrepreneurship and startups in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is essential for nurturing a spirit of creativity, innovation, and self-reliance among students. When universities create spaces such as incubation centers, innovation hubs, and mentorship programs, they provide young minds with the confidence and resources to turn their ideas into impactful ventures. Embedding entrepreneurship in academic programs encourages students to think beyond conventional career paths and become proactive problem-solvers who contribute to society through innovation. This not only strengthens employability but also fosters a sense of purpose and empowerment, allowing learners to see themselves as creators of change rather than passive participants in the job market. At a broader level, entrepreneurship education humanizes learning by connecting knowledge with real-life needs and aspirations. When students engage with communities, industries, and pressing social challenges, they begin to understand how innovation can serve both economic and humanitarian goals. Startups emerging from HEIs often focus on sustainable development, social equity, and local empowerment demonstrating how business can be a force for good. Through this integration of academic knowledge and entrepreneurial action, universities can cultivate a generation of socially conscious innovators who combine ambition with empathy, driving progress that is both inclusive and meaningful.

#### **Technical Session –IV: Creating AI & Quantum enabled HEIs**

Creating AI and quantum enabled Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) is crucial for preparing students and researchers to thrive in an era defined by rapid technological change. Such institutions must go beyond traditional academic models to foster curiosity, creativity, and collaboration across disciplines. By combining the power of artificial intelligence and quantum technologies with human-centered learning, HEIs can nurture a new generation of thinkers who not only understand advanced systems but also know how to apply them for societal good. Establishing innovation hubs, interdisciplinary research centers, and hands-on learning environments will help students engage directly with real-world challenges, transforming abstract theory into meaningful impact. At the same time, building AI and quantum-enabled HEIs must remain grounded in ethics, empathy, and inclusivity. As these technologies have the potential to reshape economies and human relationships, education should focus on developing both technical expertise and moral responsibility. Encouraging dialogue between scientists, humanists, and policymakers can ensure that innovation is guided by values that uphold human dignity, collective well-being. By weaving together technology, humanity, such institutions can become beacons of responsible progress empowering learners not only to create smarter machines, but also to envision a wiser, fairer more compassionate world.

#### **Technical Session –V: Integrating Traditional Wisdom in Curriculum and Research**

Integrating traditional wisdom into education helps make learning more meaningful and connected to real life experiences. It brings in knowledge passed down through generations such as local farming methods, healing practices, and community values which can offer practical insights and deepen students' understanding of the world. When students learn about these traditions, they also learn to respect different cultures and ways of thinking. This approach not only preserves cultural heritage but also encourages more inclusive and well-rounded learning environments. In research, traditional knowledge can offer fresh perspectives and solutions, especially in areas like healthcare, environmental conservation, and community development. Working with local communities and valuing their insights helps build trust and leads to more grounded, ethical research. It also ensures that research benefits the people it involves. By combining scientific methods with traditional ways of knowing, we can create more sustainable and respectful approaches to solving today's complex problems.

#### **Participation and organization**

Vice Chancellors/ Directors of Indian Universities/ Institutes, experts from the Government of India, senior officials of Apex Bodies of Higher Education and Academia will be Chairpersons and Speakers during the various session of the Meet. Experts from international organizations will also be invited to contribute during the discussion. All the deliberation will take place in English language. The sessions will be conducted in physical mode. The 100<sup>th</sup> AIU National Conference of Vice Chancellors' 2025-26 will also be attended by more than 400 Vice Chancellors/ Directors of AIU member Universities/ Institutes from whole country. Remaining Vice Chancellors/ Directors of AIU member Universities/ Institutes will attend the conference through online mode.

## TENTATIVE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Day and time	Programms
<b>Session to be held</b>	
<b>DAY-1: APRIL 28, 2026 TUESDAY</b>	
09.00 AM- 10.00 AM	Tea & Registration
10.00 AM – 10.45 AM	<b>Interacting Session for Partners/Sponsors/ Edu Tech Companies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ M/s Google</li> <li>➤ M/s Vir SoftTech</li> <li>➤ MasterSoft ERP</li> <li>➤ D2L India Private Limited</li> <li>➤ Meritto- No Paperforms Solutions Limited</li> <li>➤ Geomedics Pharma Pvt. Ltd.</li> </ul>
11.00 AM- 12.00 Noon	<b>INAUGURAL SESSION</b>
11.00 AM	Arrival of the Chief Guest: <b>Hon’ble Governor, Maharashtra</b>
11.01 AM	Arrival of <b>Hon’ble Governor, Maharashtra</b> and other dignitaries on the
11.02 AM	National Song “Vande Mataram”
11.05 AM	National Anthem
11.06 AM	Maharashtra State Song
11.08 AM	Lighting of Lamp with Saraswati Vandana
11.09 AM	Floral Welcome of <b>Hon’ble Governor, Maharashtra</b> and other dignitaries on the Dais by Dr. P. D. Patil, Chancellor, Dr. D Y Patil Vidyapeeth, (Deemed to be University), Pune
11.14 AM	Welcome Address by <b>Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal</b> , Secretary General, AIU
11.19 AM	Release of University News (Special Issue) of AIU by the Hon’ble Governor, Maharashtra
11.20 AM	Release of Book: <b>Transformative Higher Education@2047</b> by the Hon’ble Governor, Maharashtra
11.23 AM	Address by <b>Dr. P. D. Patil</b> , Chancellor, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, (Deemed to be University), Pune
11.28 AM	Address by <b>Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak</b> , President AIU & Vice Chancellor, CSJM University, Kanpur



<b>Day and time</b>	<b>Programms</b>
11.33 AM	Inaugural Address by Chief Guest: <b>Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, Hon'ble Governor, Maharashtra</b>
11.43 AM	Vote of Thanks by <b>Prof. (Dr.) N. J. Pawar</b> , VC, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, (Deemed to be University), Pune, Maharashtra
11.48 AM	National Song "Vande Mataram"
11.51 AM	National Anthem
11.53 AM	Group Photo
12.00 Noon	Departure of Chief Guest: <b>Hon'ble Governor, Maharashtra</b>
12.00 Noon -12.30 PM	<b>Tea</b>
12.30 PM - 02.00 PM	<b>Interface with International Delegates</b>  <b>Theme: Promoting Internationalization in Higher Education</b>  <b>Chair: Prof. Vinay Pathak</b> , President AIU & Vice Chancellor, CSJMU, Kanpur <b>Co-Chair: Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal</b> , Secretary General, AIU <b>Speakers:</b>  (i) Representatives of <b>International Organizations</b>  (a) <b>Prof. Colin Riordan</b> , Secretary General, The Association of Commonwealth Universities  (b) <b>Prof. Achyut Prasad Wagle</b> , VC, Kathmandu University, Nepal  (c) <b>Prof. Kunal Saigal</b> , Academic Director- International Affairs, IU University, Germany  (d) <b>Mr. Arthur Rapp</b> , Director, DAAD  (e) <b>Dr. Vishal Talwar</b> , COO, University of Southampton, Delhi  (f) <b>Ms. Megha Sunger</b> , Deputy Director, USIEF  (g) <b>Dr. Ashwin Fernandes</b> , Chair, QS India and Vice President, Strategic and International Engagement
02.00 PM-03.00 PM	<b>Lunch</b>
03.00 PM -04.30 PM	<b>Technical Session – I: Self-Reliant Bharat through Swadeshi, Economic Patriotism and Techno-Nationalism</b>



<b>Day and time</b>	<b>Programms</b>
	<p><b>Chair: Prof. Bhagwati Prakash Sharma</b>, Former VC, Gautam Buddha University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) <b>Prof. Raj Kumar Mittal</b>, VC, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (BBAU), Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh</li><li>(ii) <b>Dr. Shashank Shah</b>, Senior Specialist Education, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India, New Delhi</li><li>(iii) <b>Dr. V S Kanchana Bhaaskaran</b>, VC, Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore, Tamil Nadu</li></ul> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>
04.30 PM-04.45 PM	<b>Tea</b>
<b>Venue: DPU Dental College Auditorium</b>	
04.45 PM-06.15 PM	<p><b>Special Session on Health: Universities as Catalysts for Equitable and Sustainable Healthcare in Self-Reliant Bharat</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Prof. (Dr.) Ved Prakash Mishra</b>, Pro-Chancellor &amp; Chief Advisor, Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education &amp; Research, Wardha, Maharashtra</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) <b>Prof. (Dr.) G. D. Yadav, (Padma Shri Awardee)</b>, Emeritus Professor of Eminence &amp; Former Vice Chancellor, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, Maharashtra</li><li>(ii) <b>Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma, (Padma Shri Awardee)</b>, Vice Chancellor, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi</li><li>(iii) <b>Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan</b>, Former Vice Chairman UGC &amp; Former Chairman, EC, NAAC</li></ul> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>
06.15 PM - 06.45 PM	<b>Tea</b>
06.45 PM onwards	<b>Cultural Programme followed by Dinner</b>



<b>Day and time</b>	<b>Programms</b>
<b>Session to be held</b> <b>DAY-2: APRIL 29, 2026 WEDNESDAY</b>	
09.30 AM –09.40 AM	<b>Brief on Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) by the representative of Ministry of Corporate Affairs</b>
09.40 AM – 09.50 AM	<b>Brief by the representative of The Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG)</b>
10.00 AM – 11.30 AM	<b>Technical Session -II: Promoting Sustainability and Social Responsibility in HEIs</b>  <b>Chair: Chair: Prof. B. R. Kamboj, VC, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, Haryana</b>  <b>Speakers:</b>  (i) <b>Prof. Vimala Y, VC, Maa Shakumbhari University, Saharanpur, U.P</b>  (ii) <b>Prof. C. Muthamizchelvan, VC, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu</b>  (iii) <b>Prof. B K Ravi, VC, Bengaluru North University, Karnataka</b>  <b>DISCUSSION</b>
11.30 AM–12.15 PM	<b>AIU Foundation Day Lecture on Shaping Self-Reliant Bharat through Knowledge and Innovation by Dr. Ram Madhav, President, India Foundation</b>  <b>&amp;</b> <b>Release of Book on AIU History titled “Association of Indian Universities A Century of Evolution Transformation and Leadership”</b>
12.15 PM –12.30 PM	<b>Tea</b>
12.30 PM -02.00 PM	<b>Technical Session-III: Promoting Entrepreneurship &amp; Startups in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)</b>  <b>Chair: Prof. (Dr.) Goutam Sutradhar, Director, National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand</b>  <b>Speakers:</b>  (i) <b>Dr. Tessa Thomas, VC, Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education, Kumaracoil, Tamil Nadu</b>  (ii) <b>Dr. Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi, IAS (Retd.) Former Chairperson, National Council for Vocational Education and Training, New Delhi</b>  (iii) <b>Prof. (Dr.) Rajeev Sood, VC, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot, Punjab</b>  <b>DISCUSSION</b>
02.00 PM - 02.45 PM	<b>Lunch</b>

<b>Day and time</b>	<b>Programms</b>
02.45 PM – 04.15 PM	<p><b>Technical Session – IV: Creating AI &amp; Quantum enabled HEIs</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Prof. H Sudarsana Rao</b>, VC, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Anantpur, A.P</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) <b>Prof. Vineet Kansal</b>, Director, Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Pune, Maharashtra</li> <li>(ii) <b>Prof. (Dr.) Prafulkumar Udani</b>, VC, Sankalchand Patel University, Mehsana, Gujarat</li> <li>(iii.) <b>Mr. Srijan Pal Singh</b>, Founder, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre, New Delhi</li> <li>(iv.) <b>Mr Sanjay Jain</b>, Head of Google for Education for India</li> </ul> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>
04.15 PM -04.45 PM	<p><b>Interacting Session for Partners/Sponsors/ Edu Tech Companies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>DEXIT GLOBAL</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Social Worth Technologies Private – FIBE</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Philips taem</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Anand Chemicetics</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Hybrid Biomedical Equipment &amp; Allied Technologies</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Visionary Medicare Solutions Pvt Ltd</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Elsevier- Relx India Private Limited</b></li> </ul>
04.45 PM - 05.00 PM	<b>Tea</b>
05.00 PM -06.30 PM	<p><b>Session –V: Integrating Traditional Wisdom in Curriculum and Research</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Prof. Sat Prakash Bansal</b>, VC, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) <b>Prof. Ujwala Chakradeo</b>, VC, Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women’s University, Mumbai, Maharashtra</li> <li>(ii) <b>Prof. Shashikala Wanjari</b>, VC, National Institute of Educational Planning &amp; Administration, New Delhi</li> <li>(iii) <b>Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi</b>, VC, Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi</li> </ul> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b></p>
06.30 PM	<b>Tea followed by Campus Tour</b>
08.00 PM Onward	<b>Dinner</b>



Day and Time	Programms
<b>Session to be held</b> <b>DAY-3: APRIL 30, 2026 THURSDAY</b>	
09.30 AM-10.30 AM	Open Session on <b>Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025</b>
10.30 AM-12.00 Noon	<b>AIU General Session &amp; AIU Business Session</b>  <b>Chair: Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak</b> , President AIU & Vice Chancellor, CSJM University, Kanpur <b>Co-Chair: Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal</b> , Secretary General, AIU
12.00 Noon- 12.30 PM	<b>Tea</b>
12.30 PM - 01.30 PM	<b>Valedictory Session</b> Floral Welcome of Chief Guest & Guests on the Dais
12.30 PM	Welcome Address by Prof (Dr.) N. J. Pawar, VC, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, (Deemed to be University), Pune, Maharashtra
12.33 PM	Welcome Address by Prof (Dr.) N. J. Pawar, VC, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, (Deemed to be University), Pune, Maharashtra
12.38 PM	Presentation of Report by <b>Dr. J.S. Bhawalkar</b> , Registrar Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pune, Maharashtra
12.43 PM	Announcement of Result of Winners of Best Practices Poster Presentation and award of Certificates
12.45 PM	Address by <b>Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal</b> , Secretary General, AIU
12.50 PM	Address by <b>Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak</b> , President AIU & Vice Chancellor, CSJM University, Kanpur
12.55 PM	Address by <b>Guest of Honour: Dr. Atul Kothari</b> , National Secretary, Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas, New Delhi
01.15 PM	<b>Valedictory Address by Chief Guest: Shri. Chandrakant (Dada) Patil</b> , Minister of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra
01.35 PM	Vote of Thanks by <b>Dr Vijendra Kumar</b> , Head, Meetings Division, AIU
01.40 PM	National Anthem
01.45 PM	<b>Lunch and Bid Adieu</b>

**Chief Guest**

**Shri Jishnu Dev Varma**  
**Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra**



Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, hails from the royal Manikya dynasty of Tripura, known for its progressive legacy, including the introduction of Tripura's first written Constitution in 1941 promoting inclusivity and civic values. Despite his royal background, he is widely admired for his humility and accessibility. He began his political career with the Bharatiya Janata Party in 1993 and later served as Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura from 2018 to 2023, handling key portfolios such as finance, rural development, and power, and spearheading initiatives like Bio Village 2.0 for sustainable rural development. He has also contributed to policy-making in the North-East and cultural preservation through INTACH. A multifaceted personality, he is an accomplished artist, poet, and writer, with notable works including Children of Water Goddess and Master of Time. Deeply committed to tribal welfare, education, health, and culture, he was appointed Governor of Telangana in July 2024 and assumed office as Governor of Maharashtra on 10 March 2026, continuing his vision of compassionate and inclusive public service.



# Shri. Chandrakant (Dada) Patil

Minister of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra



## Chief Guest: Valedictory Session

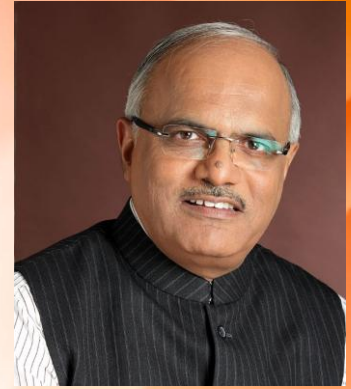
Shri Chandrakant (Dada) Patil is a senior Indian politician and currently serves as the Minister for Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra. A prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, he has played an important role in state governance and public service. He has earlier handled key portfolios such as Revenue and Public Works and has also served as the State President of the BJP in Maharashtra. Known for his strong administrative experience and leadership, Shri Patil is focused on improving the quality of higher and technical education and strengthening links between academia and industry.

He believes that education plays a vital role in shaping both individuals and society. With this perspective, he encourages institutions to adopt modern, practical, and research-oriented approaches to learning. He supports the use of new technologies in education and promotes innovation and entrepreneurship among students. His efforts aim to create opportunities that help young learners grow into skilled, responsible, and future-ready citizens.



# Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe

## Member of Parliament



Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe is a prominent Indian public intellectual, parliamentarian and institution-builder whose career reflects a synthesis of academic scholarship and practical engagement in governance and democratic capacity-building. He holds a postgraduate degree in English Literature and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Mumbai, grounding his work in a strong interdisciplinary academic foundation. He served as a Member of the Rajya Sabha representing Maharashtra from July 2016 and chaired the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development in 2020, contributing to policy discourse in education and allied sectors. Dr. Sahasrabuddhe currently serves as President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, where he advances India's cultural diplomacy and soft power initiatives. His long-standing association with Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini—including over two decades as Director General—underscores his role in training elected representatives and strengthening democratic institutions. He is also affiliated as Vice President with the Indian Social Responsibility Network and has previously served as National Vice-President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, reflecting his broader engagement in India's political and civic landscape.



# डॉ. अतुल कोठारी

राष्ट्रीय सचिव, शिक्षा संस्कृति उत्थान न्यास,  
नई दिल्ली



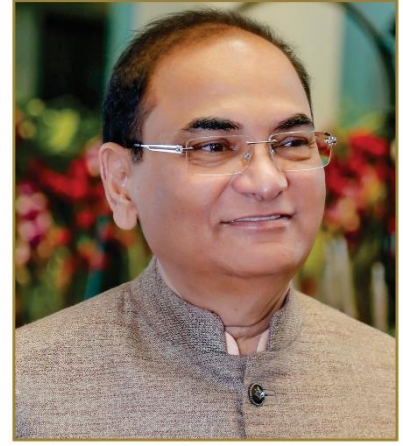
## Guest of Honour: Valedictory Session

श्री अतुल कोठारी, शिक्षा संस्कृति उत्थान न्यास, नई दिल्ली के राष्ट्रीय सचिव हैं। वे देश-विदेश के विभिन्न विश्वविद्यालयों और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों से जुड़े एक प्रतिष्ठित शिक्षा-विशेषज्ञ हैं। वे हिमाचल प्रदेश स्कूल बोर्ड के सदस्य, भारतीय भाषा आयोग तथा भारतीय भाषा अभियान के संरक्षक के रूप में भी सक्रिय हैं। उन्होंने शिक्षा स्वास्थ्य न्यास तथा दक्षिण फाउंडेशन की स्थापना कर समाजोपयोगी कार्यों को बढ़ावा दिया है।

पूर्व में वे जम्मू टेक्निकल यूनिवर्सिटी के वैल्यू एजुकेशन बोर्ड के सदस्य रहे हैं तथा 'चरित्र-निर्माण एवं व्यक्तित्व विकास' समिति से जुड़े रहे हैं। शिक्षा पर उनके द्वारा अनेक महत्वपूर्ण पुस्तकें प्रकाशित की गई हैं, जिनमें भारतीय शिक्षा राष्ट्रीय संकल्पना, शिक्षा में नए आयाम, उच्च शिक्षा : भारतीय दृष्टि, तथा भारतीय शिक्षाविदों के विचारों पर आधारित संकलन प्रमुख हैं। शिक्षा से संबंधित उनके 70 से अधिक शोध-पत्र और लेख विभिन्न पत्रिकाओं में प्रकाशित हो चुके हैं। उन्हें राष्ट्रीय तथा अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंचों पर अनेक सम्मान भी प्राप्त हुए हैं।

# Dr. P. D. Patil

## Chancellor, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (DPU), Pimpri, Pune



Dr. P. D. Patil is a distinguished educationist, institution builder, and visionary leader who serves as the Chancellor of Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (DPU), Pimpri, Pune. As Chairman of the Dr. D. Y. Patil Unitech Society and Vidyapeeth Society, he has played a pivotal role in developing DPU into a premier multidisciplinary university, impacting the lives of thousands of students over the past four decades. Under his visionary leadership, DPU has evolved into a comprehensive academic ecosystem offering over 117 programmes across diverse disciplines. The university has gained national prominence and international outreach, attracting students from across the globe and contributing significantly to higher education access and quality in India.

Dr. P. D. Patil has made remarkable contributions to healthcare through the establishment of a large, NABH-accredited, super-specialty hospital in Pimpri. With advanced infrastructure and over 2,000 beds, the hospital is among the leading charitable healthcare institutions in Maharashtra, providing high-quality, affordable care. His initiatives have enabled large-scale community outreach, including free medical camps, organ transplantation programmes, and critical care services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Beyond education and healthcare, Dr. P. D. Patil has significantly contributed to literature and culture. As Executive Trustee of the Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad, he has led landmark literary events such as the Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan and the Global Marathi Conference, promoting the Marathi language and fostering cultural engagement at national and global levels.

Guided by the philosophy of “Empowerment through Knowledge,” Dr. P. D. Patil has aligned institutional growth with national priorities such as the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), emphasizing multidisciplinary education, research, innovation, and inclusivity. His efforts have strengthened educational infrastructure, supported economically disadvantaged students, and contributed meaningfully to societal development. A recipient of numerous national and international honours, Dr. P. D. Patil continues to inspire through his commitment to excellence, social responsibility, and holistic development. His leadership reflects a rare blend of vision, compassion, and sustained institutional growth, making him a transformative force in education and society.

**President, AIU**

## **Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak**

**Vice Chancellor, Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur**



Professor Vinay Kumar Pathak is a distinguished academic leader and visionary administrator, widely recognized for his exemplary contributions to higher education and technological advancement in India. An alumnus of Harcourt Butler Technological Institute (now HBTU), Kanpur, and the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, Prof. Pathak is a computer scientist by training with over twenty-six years of outstanding leadership experience. He has served as faculty, Professor and Dean of the School of Computer Sciences at HBTU, Kanpur, and as Vice Chancellor of eight universities across Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand, including multiple institutions concurrently an exceptional testament to his administrative acumen. His tenure as Vice Chancellor is marked by transformative governance, technology-driven reforms, and optimal utilization of limited resources. In 2024, he was unanimously elected President of the Association of Indian Universities, Delhi, after serving as its Vice President. Despite extensive administrative responsibilities, Prof. Pathak has maintained strong scholarly engagement, with 46 research publications, a patent in solar technology, and supervision of ten doctoral scholars. A firm believer in integrating Indian values with futuristic innovation, he has played a pivotal role in national policy initiatives, expert committees, and boards of institutions of national importance.

**PROFILE**



## **Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal** Secretary General, AIU



Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) is the second women Secretary General of the Association in its 97 years of existence. She has been serving the higher education sector for more than 03 decades at senior positions at the University Grants Commission of India. She is the Chief Commissioner for Guides of Bharat Scouts and Guides. She is also the Member of General Assembly and Finance Committee of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi.

Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal is a Fulbright Scholar and has been a topper in MSc and PhD in Agricultural Statistics from IARI, New Delhi. Dr Mittal has also served as the first regular Vice Chancellor of Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya, Haryana, the first rural women university of North India for two terms. Dr Mittal is also the recipient of many Awards and Honours like Fulbright Nehru Scholarship grant for Educational Administrators, President of India Award in 2017 for Digital Initiatives in Higher education, Honorary Doctorate-D. Litt. (Honoris Causa) from Karnataka State Women's University, Karnataka, First Padam Shri Subhashini Devi Award 2018 for contributions in Societal Development and Community Engagement, Qimpro Gold Standard Award for leadership in Education for the year 2018 and Smt. Sushma Swaraj Stree Shakti Samman 2020. She has published a number of papers, articles, occasional papers and reports on issues relating to higher education and women empowerment in national and international journals.



# **Prof. (Dr.) N. J. Pawar**

## **Vice Chancellor, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (DPU), Pimpri, Pune**



Born in June 1957, Professor Dr. N. J. Pawar is a distinguished academician and geologist with over 35 years of experience in teaching, research, and academic administration. He completed his B.Sc. with First Class with Distinction from Shivaji University, Kolhapur, followed by an M.Sc. in Geology (First Class) and a Ph.D. from the University of Pune. He was awarded the Young Scientist Award (1984) by the Indian Science Congress Association and received the prestigious British Council Fellowship twice for post-doctoral research at the University of East Anglia, U.K., as well as the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellowship, Japan. Professor Pawar has held several key academic positions at Savitribai Phule Pune University, including Professor and Head of the Department of Geology, and has contributed significantly to the development of Environmental Science education. He served as the Vice-Chancellor of Shivaji University, Kolhapur (2010–2015). After superannuation in 2017, he was associated with an international collaborative centre between Savitribai Phule Pune University and Penn State University, USA.

In May 2018 he joined Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pimpri, Pune as a Director (Academics) and subsequently has been appointed as a Vice-Chancellor of Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) from January 1st, 2019. Under the leadership of Dr. N. J. Pawar, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth has achieved notable progress in national and global rankings, including strong positions in NIRF, QS, and Times Higher Education. The University holds an 'A++' NAAC accreditation and has developed a robust research ecosystem with extensive publications, patents, and funded projects from national and international agencies. He has been also instrumental in establishing collaborations with leading global institutions, enhancing its academic and research excellence. Besides academic administration Professor Pawar has made varied and significant research contributions in the field of Geology in general and Environmental Geology, Geochemistry and Hydrogeology in particular. He has successfully guided the Ph.D. research of 18 Ph.D. students in the Geology and Environmental Science departments, published over 100 research papers, edited 4 research volumes, 2 abstract volumes and translated 2 books on popularization of science besides several popular articles. He has contributed to textbook development for Standards 5th to 12th under the Bal Bharati, Government of Maharashtra.

# Prof. Colin Riordan

**Secretary General and Chief Executive, The Association of Commonwealth Universities**



Prof. Colin Riordan CBE is the Secretary General and Chief Executive of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and a distinguished leader in global higher education. He completed his PhD in German from the University of Manchester in 1986 and began his academic career at Swansea University, later becoming Professor of German at Newcastle University, where he also held key leadership roles including Head of School, Faculty Dean, and Pro Vice Chancellor. He served as Vice Chancellor of the University of Essex from 2007 to 2012 and as President and Vice Chancellor of Cardiff University from 2012 to 2023. Prof. Riordan has held several prominent board positions with organizations such as Universities UK, UCAS, Advance HE, and the Association of Commonwealth Universities. He has also served as Chair of Universities Wales, UUKi, and The Conversation, and chaired the IDP Connect Strategic Advisory Board from 2021 to 2023, contributing significantly to higher education leadership and international collaboration.



# Prof. Achyut Prasad Wagle

## Vice Chancellor, Kathmandu University



Prof. Achyut Prasad Wagle is the Vice Chancellor of Kathmandu University. Earlier, he held the positions of Registrar of the university, Associate Dean of the School of Management, and Head of the Management Science Department at the School of Management. He holds a PhD in Economics from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, an MSc in Economics from the University of Birmingham, UK and an MA from Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

Prof. Wagle has also held several important public positions including Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal and Advisor to the Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, the Central Bank of the country. He is a seasoned fortnightly columnist for The Kathmandu Post and Kantipur, the most popular daily newspapers in Nepal. He teaches Econometrics and other core courses on economics and research. His research interests include business environment, regional economy, fiscal federalism and entrepreneurship.



# **Prof. Dr. Kunal Saigal**

## **Academic Director- International Affairs, IU University, Germany**



Prof. Dr. Kunal Saigal is an accomplished academic and global business professional, currently serving as Professor of Business Management and Academic Director at IU since 2020, where he focuses on building innovative, collaborative study models and strengthening international academic partnerships. He began his career as an investment analyst at a leading US investment bank and later worked as a consultant in foreign direct investment before transitioning into academia at a prominent German institution. Over the past eight years, he has held roles as lecturer, professor, and director, collaborating with universities across the European Union. He holds a BA from Lawrence University, USA, an MBA from International University Bad Honnef, Germany, and completed his doctoral research on Portfolio Management at the Warsaw Management Institute. With diverse global industry and academic experience, Prof. Saigal brings a strong practical perspective to international business, education strategy, and cross-border collaboration.



# Mr. Arther Rapp

## Director, DAAD



Mr. Arthur Rapp is the Director of the German Centre for Research and Innovation (DWIH) New Delhi and also serves as Director of the DAAD Regional Office in New Delhi, overseeing activities across India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. He has held key international roles, including Deputy Executive Director at the Goethe-Institut in Johannesburg and Head of the DAAD Information Centre in Dushanbe. His professional interests include migration and education policy, multilingualism, language and identity, and diversity. He holds a master's degree in applied Linguistics, Hispanic Studies and Sociology from the University of Hamburg, reflecting his strong academic and global outlook.



# Dr. Vishal Talwar

COO, University of Southampton,  
Delhi



Dr. Vishal Talwar is an accomplished academic leader with extensive experience in higher education, innovation, and marketing. Prior to his current role, he served as Director & Head of Campus and Professor of Marketing at the Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad, and held key leadership positions at BML Munjal University, including Dean of the School of Management and Director of Innovation & Entrepreneurship. His academic career includes associations with globally reputed institutions such as SP Jain School of Global Management and the London School of Economics. A prolific researcher, he has published in leading journals, including those listed in the FT 50, and contributed to books, book chapters, and major international conferences like the Academy of Management and American Marketing Association. He holds a PhD from Manchester Business School, UK, and is committed to fostering globally relevant, industry-integrated education.



# Ms. Megha Sunger

## Deputy Director, USIEF



Megha Sunger joined USIEF in 2023 as Deputy Director for USIEF. Alongside the Executive Director, Megha oversees the Fulbright and Education USA programs, manages operations of USIEF's regional offices across India, and collaborates with the leadership to advance the organization's mission. Her efforts are focused on expanding USIEF's impact, fostering alumni engagement, and enhancing educational ties between the United States and India. She brings extensive expertise in education and skills development and has led numerous bilateral and multilateral education, research, and skills development programs in her previous roles at the British Council, UNESCAP, and the British High Commission. Her portfolio includes government initiatives such as the UK–India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) and the India–UK Accelerating Smart Power and Renewable Programme (ASPiRE).

Megha holds an Executive MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resources Management. She is also certified by the Association for Project Management. In her free time, Megha enjoys traveling, reading, and playing Sudoku.



# Dr. Ashwin Fernandes

**Chair, QS India and Vice  
President, Strategic and  
International Engagement**



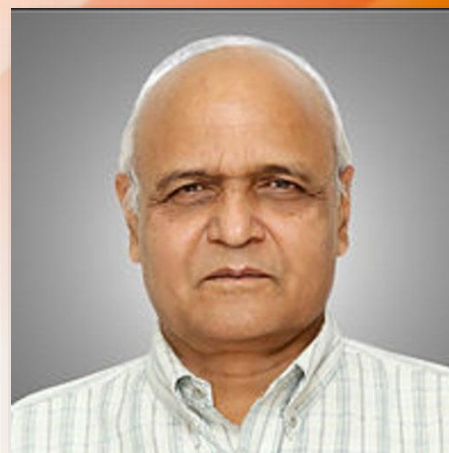
Dr. Ashwin Fernandes is a recognised authority in higher education, having spearheaded the QS Arab Region Rankings and founded India's first nationwide private-sector assessment framework, QS I-GAUGE.

During his professional engagement, Dr Fernandes has met with senior leaders from the region and is often invited to speak at several conferences and events on university rankings, ratings, education, higher education etc. He has been a panellist on various discussion forums and presented his recommendations on thought provoking topics related to higher education. Dr Fernandes championed the need for an independent rankings framework for the Arab Region and hence was instrumental in developing the QS Arab Region University Rankings in 2014/15. He also founded India's first nationwide private sector evaluation framework called QS I-GAUGE.



# Prof. Bhagwati Prakash Sharma

Former VC, Gautam Buddha  
University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh



## Technical Session-I

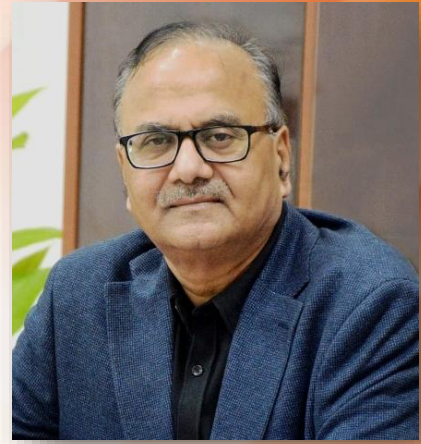
Self-Reliant Bharat through Swadeshi, Economic Patriotism  
and Techno-Nationalism

Prof. Bhagwati Prakash Sharma is a distinguished academic and expert in global trade, WTO affairs, economic globalization, and business environment, with over four decades of teaching experience in commerce and management since 1978. A keen observer and commentator on international trade issues, he has actively participated in WTO ministerial conferences since 2003, including the Nairobi Conference in 2015, where he addressed key global economic concerns. He has guided 15 doctoral scholars and held prominent leadership positions such as Vice Chancellor of Gautam Buddha University (2018–2021) and President of Pacific Academy of Higher Education and Research University. Internationally recognized, he has delivered lectures across countries and received several prestigious awards, including the Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya Award and Lifetime Achievement honours for his contributions to academia and management. Engagements, editorial leadership, innovative pedagogy and commitment to nurturing young scientific minds.



# **Prof. Raj Kumar Mittal**

**Vice Chancellor, Babasaheb Bhimrao  
Ambedkar University (BBAU),  
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**



Prof. Raj Kumar Mittal is a distinguished Indian academic, economist, and higher education administrator with over three decades of experience in institution building and academic leadership. Currently serving as Vice Chancellor of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow since March 2025, he holds advanced degrees in economics and management from Kurukshetra University and IGNOU. He has previously served as Founder Vice Chancellor of Teerthanker Mahaveer University, Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Bansi Lal University, and held key positions at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and Guru Jambheshwar University. A prolific scholar, he has authored over 110 publications, guided numerous Ph.D. scholars, and presented research at leading global institutions including Harvard and MIT. His expertise spans business environment, development policy, and higher education, and he continues to contribute actively to academic and professional bodies.



# **Dr. Shashank Shah**

**Senior Specialist Education, NITI  
Aayog, Govt. of India, New Delhi**



Dr. Shashank Shah is a renowned stakeholder management strategist, public policy expert, international researcher, and national bestselling author, widely recognised among the world's top global thought leaders. His work focuses on economic and social value creation through visionary leadership, inclusive strategies, and stakeholder-centric decision-making. A Fellow at leading institutions such as Harvard and the University of Oxford, he is a recipient of the prestigious Chevening Gurukul Fellowship and has held key academic and research roles at Harvard Business School and Harvard University. Dr. Shah holds a PhD in corporate stakeholder management and has authored over 250 publications and several acclaimed books, including *The Tata Group: From Torchbearers to Trailblazers*. He has contributed extensively to global academia, policy, and industry through research, advisory roles, executive education, and over 250 lectures worldwide, shaping discourse on leadership, sustainability, and corporate responsibility.



# **Dr. V. S. Kanchana**

## **Bhaaskaran**

**Vice Chancellor, Vellore Institute of  
Technology (VIT) Vellore, Tamil Nadu**



Dr. V. S. Kanchana Bhaaskaran obtained her Bachelor's in Engineering from the Institution of Engineers (India), her Master's from BITS, and her PhD from Vellore Institute of Technology. With over 45 years of experience across industry, teaching, and research, she has built a distinguished academic career. She began at SSN College of Engineering and later joined VIT Chennai in 2011, where she served as Dean of Academics and Pro Vice Chancellor before becoming Vice Chancellor of VIT Vellore. Her expertise includes low-power VLSI design, microprocessor architectures, and linear integrated circuits. She has published more than 150 research papers and holds three patents. She is also the author of four books published by McGraw Hill Education and has contributed to book chapters on VLSI design. An active academic leader, she delivers invited lectures, reviews journals, and is a Fellow or member of professional bodies like IETE, IEI, IEEE, IET, and ISTE.



# Prof. (Dr.) Ved Prakash Mishra

Pro-Chancellor & Chief Advisor, Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education & Research, Wardha, Maharashtra



## Special Session on Health

Universities as Catalysts for Equitable and Sustainable Healthcare  
in Self-Reliant Bharat

Prof. (Dr.) Ved Prakash Mishra, serving as the Pro-Chancellor and Chief Advisor at Datta Meghe Institute of Higher Education & Research, is a respected academic leader known for combining scholarly excellence with practical insight in higher education administration. With a rich experience in institutional governance and academic development, he has played a key role in nurturing a culture of quality, innovation, and research within the university. His approach reflects a balance between strategic vision and a deep understanding of academic needs, enabling the institution to grow as a multidisciplinary center of learning. Prof. Mishra is particularly appreciated for his commitment to creating an inclusive and forward-looking academic environment that supports both students and faculty in achieving excellence.



# Prof. (Dr.) G. D. Yadav

**(Padma Shri Awardee)**

**Emeritus Professor of Eminence &  
Former Vice Chancellor, Institute of  
Chemical Technology, Mumbai,  
Maharashtra**



Prof. Ganapati Dadasaheb Yadav (G. D. Yadav) is a distinguished Indian chemical engineer and academic. He is renowned for his contributions to green chemistry, catalysis, and sustainable technologies, including biomass valorization and carbon dioxide utilization. He served as the founding Vice Chancellor of Institute of Chemical Technology and later as National Science Chair at the Science and Engineering Research Board (now under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation). With over 570 publications and 136 patents, he has a strong research impact. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2016 and is a Fellow of several prestigious science academies.



# **Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma**

## **(Padma Shri Awardee)**

### **Vice Chancellor, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi**



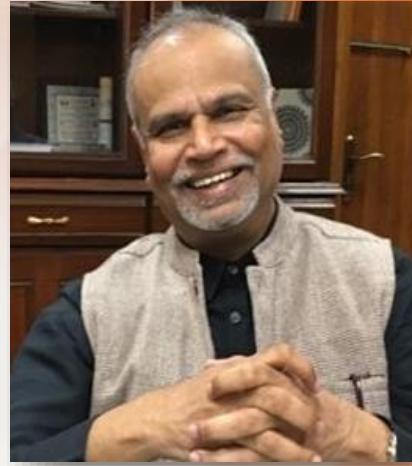
Prof. Mahesh Verma is an eminent academician, clinician, and higher education administrator, currently serving as the Vice Chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University. A specialist in oral and maxillofacial surgery, he has made significant contributions to dental education, clinical research, and healthcare policy. He previously served as the Director of Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, where he played a pivotal role in strengthening academic and clinical frameworks. With extensive experience in institutional leadership and governance, Prof. Verma has been instrumental in promoting interdisciplinary education, research innovation, and quality assurance in higher education. His academic and professional engagements with national and international bodies reflect a sustained commitment to advancing excellence in education, research, and public health systems.



# Prof. Bhushan

# Patwardhan

**Former Vice Chairman UGC &  
Former Chairman, EC, NAAC**



Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan is a distinguished biomedical scientist whose scholarly contributions span traditional medicine research, higher education, and institutional governance. He is internationally recognized for his seminal work in Ayurveda biology and evidence-based integrative medicine, and for advancing interdisciplinary research through initiatives at Savitribai Phule Pune University, including the establishment of the Centre for Complementary and Integrative Health and the founding of the Journal of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine. His research encompasses areas such as botanicals, reverse pharmacology, AyuGenomics™, and network pharmacology, and has achieved high citation impact, placing him among the top 2% of global scientists. Prof. Patwardhan has held several key leadership positions, including Vice Chairman of the University Grants Commission and Chairman of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, and has contributed to national and international policy frameworks through associations with NITI Aayog and the World Health Organization. He currently serves as National Research Professor under the Ministry of AYUSH, continuing to advance the domain of integrative health sciences.



PROFILE

**Prof. B. R. Kamboj**  
**VC, Chaudhary Charan Singh**  
**Haryana Agricultural University,**  
**Hisar, Haryana**



### **Technical Session-II**

Promoting Sustainability and Social Responsibility in HEIs

Prof. Baldev Raj Kamboj is a distinguished agricultural scientist and academic leader currently serving as the Vice Chancellor of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, one of Asia's leading institutions dedicated to agricultural education and research. With nearly three decades of sustained association with the university, he has held several key administrative and academic positions, including that of Registrar, demonstrating a deep institutional understanding and commitment to academic governance. Specializing in agronomy and agricultural extension, Prof. Kamboj has made substantial contributions to advancing research, promoting evidence-based farming practices, and strengthening linkages between scientific innovation and field-level application. His scholarly output includes approximately 300 research papers and technical publications in reputed national and international journals, reflecting both depth and breadth of expertise. He is widely recognized for his efforts in enhancing farmers' livelihoods through sustainable agricultural practices and technology dissemination. In recognition of his contributions to agricultural science and extension, he has been conferred with the prestigious M. S. Swaminathan Award. Under his leadership, the university has further consolidated its focus on research excellence, crop improvement, capacity building, and national and international collaborations.



# Prof. Vimala Y

VC, Maa Shakumbhari University,  
Saharanpur, U.P



Maa Shakumbhari University envisions the future of higher education as a synthesis of academic rigor and practical application, fostering an integrated ecosystem wherein teaching, research, and community engagement collectively address contemporary societal challenges. The university is committed to designing curricula that promote critical thinking, interdisciplinary learning, and the acquisition of skills relevant to a rapidly evolving global context. Its progressive trajectory is reflected in the expansion of academic programmes and the initiation of impactful research endeavors aligned with societal needs. Anchored in the transformative potential of education, the institution prioritizes innovation, knowledge creation, and community-oriented outcomes. In consonance with the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, the university has instituted mechanisms such as the “MSU Academic Foundation” and its incubator “AMBIKA” to promote entrepreneurship and translational research. Through strategic collaborations with industry, government, and civil society, it seeks to strengthen research capacity and resource mobilization. Guided by a forward-looking vision, the university aspires to emerge as a centre of excellence dedicated to nurturing socially responsible graduates and advancing inclusive and sustainable development.



# Prof. C. Muthamizhchelvan

## VC, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu



Prof. C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology, is an accomplished academic leader with extensive experience in engineering education, research, and institutional governance. He has made significant contributions to the advancement of academic systems through the promotion of interdisciplinary research, innovation-oriented pedagogy, and outcome-based education. His scholarly work, reflected in numerous publications in reputed national and international journals, underscores his commitment to research excellence. Under his leadership, the institution continues to strengthen industry–academia linkages, enhance quality assurance mechanisms, and foster the development of globally competent and socially responsible graduates.



# Prof. B K Ravi

## VC, Bengaluru North University, Karnataka



Prof. B. K. Ravi is a distinguished academician, researcher, and institution builder with over four decades of experience in higher education, particularly within Karnataka's public university system. A senior professor of Communication and former Vice Chancellor of Koppal University, he has made significant contributions to academic governance, research advancement, and institutional development. He has served as Registrar of Bangalore University and held key roles in academic and policy bodies, reflecting his commitment to educational leadership. His extensive scholarly output includes over 100 research publications, books, and the successful supervision of doctoral scholars, contributing substantially to the field of communication studies. He has actively engaged with international academic platforms, including collaborations with UNESCO, thereby enhancing global academic exchange. During his tenure as Vice Chancellor, he played a pivotal role in establishing robust academic and administrative frameworks, fostering a research-oriented environment, and promoting inclusive and quality-driven higher education.



# Prof. (Dr.) Goutam Sutradhar

Director, National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand



## Technical Session-III

Promoting Entrepreneurship & Startups in  
Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

Prof. (Dr.) Goutam Sutradhar currently the Director at the National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur, since 12th May 2023. Before this, he served as the Director of NIT Manipur for a full term of five years. He completed his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Jalpaiguri Government Engineering College, West Bengal in 1984. He subsequently earned his master's degree in mechanical engineering with a specialization in Foundry Technology from IIT Kharagpur in 1986. He completed his Ph.D. in Engineering from Birla Institute of Technology (BIT) Mesra, Ranchi. After working for five years in Hindustan Motors Limited and Indian Railways, he joined as a faculty member at the National Institute of Foundry & Forge Technology, Ranchi, Jharkhand in 1991. He later served at Serampore Textile College, West Bengal and Kalyani Government Engineering College, West Bengal for about ten years before joining Jadavpur University, Kolkata, as a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering in 2005. He has supervised more than 20 M.Tech thesis and 21 Ph.D. students in the field of Metal Matrix Composites, Polymer Matrix Composites, Development of Environment-friendly Materials, Synthesis of Forged Powder Metallurgy Components, and Metal Casting Processes. He has supervised many research projects sponsored by AICTE, New Delhi; CSIR, New Delhi; UGC, New Delhi; DST, New Delhi. He has authored two books, namely "Design and Manufacturing: An Integrated Approach" published by Oxford & IBH, and "Foundry Process Design" published by New Age Publishers, New Delhi. He has published over 125 technical papers in referred journals of national and international importance and presented more than 50 technical papers at national and international conferences.



# Dr. Tessa Thomas

**VC, Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education, Kumaracoil, Tamil Nadu**

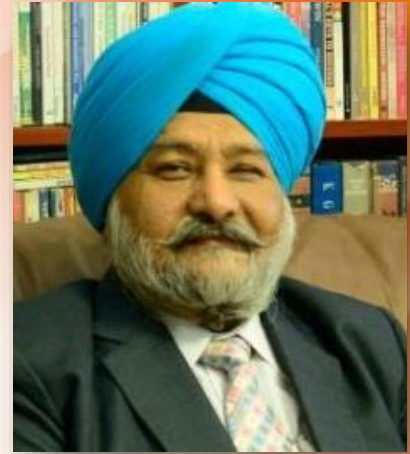


Dr. Tessa Thomas, Vice Chancellor of Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education, is an eminent scientist and academic leader with distinguished contributions to aerospace engineering and strategic defence research. Associated with the Defence Research and Development Organisation, she has played a pivotal role in the development of advanced missile systems, thereby significantly strengthening India's technological capabilities. Her transition to academic leadership reflects a strong commitment to advancing research-driven education, fostering innovation, and promoting interdisciplinary learning. Under her stewardship, the institution is focused on enhancing its academic and research ecosystem, strengthening industry linkages, and nurturing globally competent, socially responsible graduates aligned with national priorities.



# **Dr. Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi,** **IAS (Retd.)**

**Former Chairperson, National Council  
for Vocational Education and Training,  
New Delhi**



Prof. Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi is a distinguished public administrator and policy expert with over three decades of experience in governance, institutional reform, and skill development. He served in the Indian Administrative Service from 1984 to 2019, during which he held several key positions in the Government of India and the Punjab Cadre, contributing significantly to public administration, policy formulation, and national development. Prior to his civil service career, he worked with NTPC and the Indian Railways Service of Electrical Engineering, thereby acquiring foundational experience in technical and infrastructure management. He has played a pivotal role in ICT-enabled governance, digital transformation, and reforms in education and skill development systems. As Chairperson of the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET), he was instrumental in conceptualizing the National Credit Framework (NCrF) and the revised National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), facilitating stronger integration between academic education and the skill ecosystem. His professional contributions are characterized by strategic leadership, policy innovation, and a commitment to efficient and ethical public service delivery.



# **Prof. (Dr.) Rajeev Sood**

## **VC, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot, Punjab**



Prof. Rajeev Sood is a distinguished medical academician and healthcare administrator serving as the Vice Chancellor of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Punjab. He has made significant contributions to neurosurgery, medical education, and institutional development within India's higher medical education system. With extensive experience in clinical practice and teaching at premier medical institutions, he has played a pivotal role in strengthening academic standards, curriculum development, and research output in health sciences. His scholarly work, published in reputed national and international journals, reflects a sustained commitment to evidence-based medical practice and academic excellence. As an academic leader, he has emphasized the integration of clinical expertise with research innovation, enhancement of healthcare education quality, and advancement of institutional frameworks, thereby contributing to the development of a robust and progressive medical education ecosystem.



# Prof. H Sudarsana Rao

## VC, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Anantapur, A.P



### Technical Session-IV

#### Creating AI & Quantum enabled HEIs

Prof. H. Sudarsana Rao is a distinguished academician and higher education administrator serving as the Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Anantapur. He has extensive experience in engineering education, research, and institutional governance, with significant contributions to strengthening academic systems and quality assurance in technical education. His scholarly engagement reflects a sustained commitment to advancing research, fostering innovation-oriented pedagogy, and promoting interdisciplinary academic collaboration. As an institutional leader, he has focused on enhancing academic standards, developing robust research ecosystems, and encouraging student-centric learning practices. Through his leadership, he continues to contribute to the advancement of a progressive, inclusive, and quality-driven higher education environment aligned with evolving technological and societal requirements.



# Prof. Vineet Kansal

Director, Indian Institute of  
Information Technology (IIT) Pune,  
Maharashtra



Prof. Vineet Kansal is a distinguished academician and higher education administrator serving as the Director of Indian Institute of Information Technology Pune. He possesses extensive experience in computer science and information technology education, with significant contributions to academic leadership, curriculum development, and institutional strengthening. His scholarly and professional engagements reflect a sustained commitment to advancing research, promoting innovation-driven pedagogy, and enhancing industry–academia collaboration. As an institutional leader, he has focused on developing robust academic frameworks, fostering a research-oriented environment, and strengthening quality assurance mechanisms. Through his leadership, he continues to contribute to the advancement of a progressive, technology-enabled, and outcome-based higher education ecosystem aligned with contemporary national and global priorities.



# Prof. (Dr.) Prafulkumar Udani

VC, Sankalchand Patel University,  
Mehsana, Gujarat



Prof. Prafulkumar Udani is a distinguished academician and higher education administrator serving as the Vice Chancellor of Sankalchand Patel University, Gujarat. He has extensive experience in academic leadership, teaching, and institutional development, with notable contributions to strengthening higher education systems and enhancing academic quality assurance mechanisms. His professional engagement reflects a sustained commitment to curriculum development, research advancement, and the promotion of innovation-oriented pedagogical practices. As an institutional leader, he has emphasized the development of a student-centric academic environment, the fostering of interdisciplinary collaboration, and the enhancement of research capacity across disciplines. Through his leadership, he continues to contribute to the development of a progressive, inclusive, and quality-driven higher education ecosystem aligned with contemporary academic standards and societal expectations.



# Mr. Srijan Pal Singh

## Founder, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre, New Delhi



Mr. Srijan Pal Singh is a distinguished policy expert, social entrepreneur, and academic practitioner, serving as the Founder of the Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Centre. An alumnus of Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, he has professional experience in international and national organizations, including the Boston Consulting Group and the United Nations World Food Programme, prior to his engagement in public policy and development-oriented initiatives. He has served as Advisor and Officer on Special Duty to the 11th President of India, A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, contributing to key national initiatives focused on rural development, innovation, science communication, and inclusive growth. Through the Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam Centre, he has spearheaded multiple initiatives in education, skill development, and youth empowerment, including libraries, learning labs, and teacher capacity-building programmes across India. He is also a noted author and speaker, actively engaged in national and international policy and academic platforms, contributing to discourse on innovation-led development and social transformation.



# Prof. Sat Prakash Bansal

VC, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh



## Technical Session-V

### Integrating Traditional Wisdom in Curriculum and Research

Prof. Sat Prakash Bansal is a distinguished academician and higher education administrator currently serving as Vice Chancellor of Central University of Himachal Pradesh and holding additional charge as Vice Chancellor of Himachal Pradesh University. He has extensive experience in academic leadership and institutional governance, having previously served as Vice Chancellor of several universities, including Himachal Pradesh Technical University, Indira Gandhi State University, Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya, and as founding Vice Chancellor of Maharaja Agrasen University. He is widely recognized as an institution builder for his contributions to strengthening higher education systems and advancing academic reforms, including active engagement in the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and advisory roles in national bodies such as UGC, AICTE, NAAC, and AIU. His academic contributions include authorship of books and research publications, supervision of doctoral research, execution of projects of national importance, and holding multiple patents. He has also contributed to curriculum development, policy formulation, and international academic collaborations, and has been conferred with several national and international awards in recognition of his contributions to higher education, research, and institutional development.



# Prof. Ujwala Chakradeo

VC, Shreemati Nathibai Damodar  
Thackersey Women's University,  
Mumbai, Maharashtra



Prof. Ujwala Chakradeo is a distinguished academician and higher education administrator serving as the Vice Chancellor of Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University, Maharashtra. She possesses extensive experience in academic leadership, women's education, and institutional governance, with significant contributions to strengthening inclusive and quality-driven higher education systems. Her academic work reflects a sustained commitment to curriculum development, research advancement, and the promotion of interdisciplinary and gender-sensitive pedagogical practices. As an institutional leader, she has focused on enhancing academic standards, fostering a robust research culture, and expanding opportunities for women's empowerment through education. Under her leadership, the university continues to advance its mandate of promoting excellence in women's education, innovation, and socially responsive academic development aligned with contemporary higher education priorities.



# **Prof. Shashikala Wanjari**

## **VC, National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration, New Delhi**



Prof. Shashikala Wanjari is a distinguished academician and education administrator currently serving as the Vice Chancellor of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, a deemed-to-be university under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. She has earlier served as Vice Chancellor of Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University and has held significant academic leadership roles, including Head of the Department of Education at RTM Nagpur University. With over 35 years of professional experience across higher education and school education, she has made substantial contributions to academic governance, teacher education, and educational policy development. Her scholarly contributions include numerous research publications, books, and over 250 invited lectures at national and international forums. She has played a pivotal role in curriculum development, notably as Chairperson of the committee for the National Curriculum Framework for the Foundational Stage (2021–2023). She has received several prestigious awards in recognition of her academic excellence and leadership. Prof. Wanjari also serves on multiple statutory and advisory bodies in higher education. Her vision emphasizes strengthening educational planning, policy implementation, and institutional capacity building in alignment with the National Education Policy 2020.



# Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi

VC, Central Sanskrit University,  
New Delhi



Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi is a distinguished scholar, researcher, and academic administrator in Sanskrit studies, Nyāya philosophy, and computational linguistics. He holds a Ph.D. in Nyāya and possesses over three decades of extensive experience in teaching, research, and academic leadership. He has served as Vice Chancellor of several universities, including Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, Karnataka Sanskrit University, and Gondwana University, and has held important positions such as Registrar, Dean, and Professor in reputed institutions. His academic expertise also extends to Natural Language Processing and Artificial Intelligence, developed through his association with IIT Hyderabad. As Vice Chancellor of the Central Sanskrit University, he has contributed significantly to institutional excellence, including NAAC A++ accreditation and UGC Category I recognition. He is a prolific author and editor with substantial contributions to Sanskrit philosophy, linguistics, and Indian Knowledge Systems through books, translations, and research publications. He has successfully guided numerous doctoral and post-doctoral scholars and actively participates in national-level academic and policy-making committees. His contributions have been recognized with several prestigious awards, reflecting his commitment to advancing Sanskrit education and promoting India's intellectual and cultural heritage globally.

PROFILE



# BROCHURE

The logo for Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (DPU) features the letters 'DPU' in a bold, red, serif font. A stylized, golden-yellow swoosh or flourish is positioned behind the letter 'D', extending from the top left towards the middle of the 'D'.

**DR. D. Y. PATIL VIDYAPEETH, PIMPRI, PUNE**  
(Deemed to be University)

Sant Tukaram Nagar, Pimpri, Pune- 411 018, Maharashtra (India)

Ph. +91-20-27805000 / 27805001.

• E-mail : [info@dpu.edu.in](mailto:info@dpu.edu.in) • Website : [www.dpu.edu.in](http://www.dpu.edu.in)