



# CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Moving Bharat (India) Again Towards Vishwa Guru

In collaboration with



Host University



**REPORT**

## REIMAGINING INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATION - A Strategic Dialogue

📅 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025 📍 Chennai



[cipuglobal.org](http://cipuglobal.org)

## ABOUT THE ROUNDTABLE

In a strategic initiative to foster deeper engagement between academia and industry, the **Confederation of Indian Private Universities (CIPU)**, in collaboration with the **Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI)** and **TiE Global**, successfully hosted a high-level roundtable titled "**Reimagining Industry–Academia Collaboration: A Strategic Dialogue**" on 12th August 2025 at **Jeppiaar University, Chennai**. This inaugural session marked the beginning of a national-level series of roundtables to be conducted across various cities in India.

This exclusive, **boardroom-format dialogue** brought together senior academic leaders from leading private institutions and seasoned industry professionals to co-develop actionable strategies for bridging the long-standing disconnect between academic learning and industry needs.

## KEY THEMES DISCUSSED

- Designing future-ready curricula aligned with evolving industry demands
- Building robust innovation ecosystems through collaborative research
- Enhancing student employability via structured internships and placement pipelines
- Fostering trust and long-term partnerships between academia and industry





## MESSAGES FROM DIGNITARIES



**Dr. Anil Sahasrabudhe**  
Chairman, NAAC

“ It gives me great pleasure to extend my warm wishes to the Confederation of Indian Private Universities (CIPU) on the occasion of the Inaugural Roundtable on “Reimagining Industry-Academia Collaboration – A Strategic Dialogue” being held at Jeppiaar University, Chennai.

As Indian higher education advances toward global benchmarks under NEP 2020, fostering meaningful partnerships between academia and industry has become not just desirable, but essential. Initiatives like this by CIPU serve as a catalyst to align academic outcomes with real-world needs, driving innovation, employability, and national progress.

I commend CIPU for curating this important dialogue and look forward to the insights and outcomes that emerge from this nationwide initiative. ”

My best wishes for the success of the event.

“ As the Chief Patron of CIPU, I take immense pride in the launch of this national initiative that seeks to catalyze deeper partnerships between academic institutions and industry. In a time where innovation, employability, and social impact define the strength of a University, this dialogue is both timely and vital. ”



**Dr. Rahul V. Karad**  
Founder & Chief Patron, CIPU & Executive President, MIT World Peace University, Pune

# message

from **DIGNITARIES**

## WELCOME ADDRESS



**Mr. R. Karthik**  
Director General, CIPU

The roundtable commenced with a welcome address by Mr. R. Karthik, Director General, CIPU, who outlined CIPU's mission to build strong, enduring partnerships between academia and industry. He emphasized the organization's role in enabling impactful collaborations through initiatives such as:

- Industry-Academia Roundtables
- Industry Immersion Programs for Faculty
- MoUs between universities and companies
- Platforms promoting problem-solving-led learning

Mr. Karthik urged for strategic, long-term engagement that benefits students, educators, and enterprises alike.

## OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Gopal Pathak, Honorary President, CIPU and Director General, Sarala Birla University, delivered the opening remarks. He stressed the urgency of realigning academic structures with current industry expectations. He called for:

- A shift from passive learning to active, experiential learning
- Integration of industry mentorship, practical exposure, and skill-based training
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration to future-proof graduates for innovation-led careers



**Dr. Gopal Pathak**  
Honorary President, CIPU and  
Director General, Sarala Birla University



## KEY SUGGESTIONS & TAKEAWAYS

### Academia's Requests to Industry

- **Faculty Development:** Encourage ongoing industry exposure for faculty through regular visits and exchanges.
- **Student Integration:** Bring students into real business environments-boardrooms, R&D labs, and innovation hubs-under the guidance of industry mentors.
- **Live MoUs & Semester Internships:** Institutions should establish MoUs that enable students to spend one full semester in industry settings, including in-situ assessments.

### Bridging the Industry-Academia Gap

- **Curriculum Lag:** Curricula need updating to reflect emerging trends and job-market demands.
- **Technology Exposure:** Students must be trained in contemporary tools and platforms used in the workplace.
- **Soft Skills Deficiency:** Skills such as adaptability, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking should be embedded in academic programs.

### Preparing Modern Students for the Future

- **Industry Exposure:** Encourage internships, live projects, hackathons, and collaborative R&D.
- **Lifelong Learning:** Promote a mindset of continuous skill development, beyond degrees.
- **Blend of Technical and Human Skills:** Emphasize coding, data literacy, empathy, leadership, and creativity.
- **Mentorship & Reverse Mentoring:** Facilitate two-way mentorship between experienced professionals and digitally fluent students.

### Curriculum Co-Creation

A strong call was made for co-developing curricula between universities and industries, ensuring relevance, agility, and readiness for tomorrow's job markets.

Key   
Takeaways



## ATTENDEES

The roundtable witnessed participation from esteemed leaders across academia and industry, including:

### ACADEMIC LEADERS

**Prof. (Dr) Gopal Pathak**  
Honorary President, CIPU and  
Director General, Sarala Birla University

**Prof. (Dr) Regeena J. Murali**  
Chancellor  
Jeppiaar University

**Prof. (Dr) Baskaran**  
Vice Chancellor  
Jeppiaar University

**Prof. (Dr) N R Biswas**  
Vice Chancellor  
Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth

**Prof. (Dr) C Jeganathan**  
Vice Chancellor  
Sarala Birla University

**Prof. (Dr) Vivek Inder Kochhar**  
Vice Chancellor  
Takshashila University

**Prof. (Dr) Naga Jyothi**  
Pro Vice Chancellor  
B.E.S.T Innovation University

**Prof. (Dr) Shaleesha Stanley**  
Pro Vice Chancellor  
Jeppiaar University

**Prof. (Dr) Prasad Khandekar**  
Chief Academic Officer  
MIT-WPU

**Prof. (Dr) Nitin Khedkar**  
Director-HR  
MIT-WPU

**Prof. (Dr) R Belinda**  
Director - Extension Programs  
Madras Christian College

**Prof. (Dr) S Deepa**  
Coordinator-Industry Connect  
Stella Maris College

**Prof. (Dr) Vanitha Vaidialingam**  
Coordinator-Industry Connect  
Stella Maris College

**Prof. (Dr) Binu Siva Singh**  
Registrar  
Jeppiaar University

**Ms. Snehal Tapre**  
Lead-Membership Relations and  
Outreach, CIPU

**Mr. R. Karthik**  
Director General  
CIPU

**Mr. Akshay Choudhari**  
Lead-Strategic Partnerships and  
Alliances, CIPU

### INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

**Mr. R Senthil Kumar**  
Executive Director  
Ultramarine & Pigments Ltd

**Mr. Venkat Kumar Siddineni**  
Principal Consultant-Business Support  
Kone Elevator India Pvt Ltd

**Mr. B N Jayaprakash**  
Vice President-Education Vertical  
Futurenet Technologies India Pvt Ltd

**Mr. Balasundaram**  
Board Member  
Frost & Sullivan

**Mr. Johnny Edward**  
Partner  
Grant Thornton Bharat LLP

**Mr. R Krishnamurti Rao**  
Core Team Member  
IIT PALS

**Mr. Nishanth Veluswamy**  
Solution Consultant  
EDS Technologies

**Ms. Muthumala S**  
Head-HR & Executive Coach  
Congruent Solutions Pvt Ltd

**Mr. Stalin Soundarapandian**  
Independent Consultant  
Chem Skill Development Centre

**Ms. Saraswathi K**  
Secretary General  
Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry

**Mr. Loganathan**  
Lead-Training & Program  
Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry

## CONCLUSION

Dr. Gopal Pathak delivered the concluding remarks, effectively summarizing the key action points and reinforcing the collective commitment to foster lifelong, collaborative partnerships between academia and industry.

Participants acknowledged the urgent need to rethink education models, enable continuous skilling, and build sustainable innovation ecosystems.

The **Confederation of Indian Private Universities (CIPU)** reaffirmed its commitment to act as a **national catalyst** in nurturing this transformation through policy support, strategic partnerships, and cross-sectoral platforms.



## CONTACT

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