



## CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Moving Bharat (India) Again Towards Vishwa Guru

Host University



**SGT**  
UNIVERSITY

Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary University



### SPEAKER PROFILES

# 2<sup>nd</sup> BHARAT HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT (BHES)

## THEME

## BUILDING RESEARCH-DRIVEN UNIVERSITIES

23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2025

## VENUE

SGT University, Gurugram

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

## ABOUT SUMMIT

The 2nd Bharat Higher Education Summit 2025, organized by the Confederation of Indian Private Universities, is a flagship national platform dedicated to shaping the future of higher education in India. Building on the success of its inaugural edition, this second edition carries forward the vision of strengthening India's academic ecosystem with the theme "Building Research-Driven Universities." The summit aims to redefine the role of universities in driving innovation, advancing research excellence, and nurturing transformative academic leadership.

As India's higher education sector undergoes rapid transformation, the summit brings together distinguished Vice Chancellors, policymakers, academic leaders, industry experts, and institutional stakeholders to deliberate on strategies for developing globally competitive, research-intensive universities. Key discussions will focus on enhancing institutional capacities, promoting interdisciplinary research, fostering meaningful industry–academia collaboration, and preparing graduates for the evolving demands of a knowledge-driven economy.

By serving as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and policy dialogue, the 2nd Bharat Higher Education Summit 2025 aspires to inspire a new generation of leaders committed to academic excellence, innovation, and societal impact. The summit underscores the pivotal role of universities as engines of national progress and catalysts for sustainable development.





## **Dr. G.S. Chauhan**

**Joint Secretary**

**University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi**

Dr. G. S. Chauhan (Dr. Gambhir Singh Chauhan) is Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, and a distinguished academician and higher education administrator with extensive experience in teaching, research, and policy implementation. He began his academic career as a Lecturer at Government Colleges in Haryana and later served as Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar College, University of Delhi, contributing significantly to teaching and academic development.

He joined the University Grants Commission in September 2006 as Education Officer and has since held several key administrative positions, including at the UGC South-Eastern Regional Office, Hyderabad, and the Central Regional Office, Bhopal, where he served as Education Officer and Deputy Secretary. Since January 2019, he has been serving as Joint Secretary at UGC, New Delhi, playing an important role in strengthening regulatory frameworks, academic quality, and institutional governance in higher education.

Dr. Chauhan holds a Ph.D. in Geography from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, along with M.Sc. and M.Phil. degrees from Kurukshetra University. A prolific scholar, he has published over 85 research papers and eight books, including edited volumes on contemporary geographical issues and three books of poetry addressing social and national themes. He has presented research papers and participated in international conferences across Asia, Europe, Africa, and South America.

He has served on several prestigious national and international bodies, including as Member Secretary of the UGC–ISRO high-level committee for curriculum development in Remote Sensing, GIS, and GPS, and as a Steering Committee Member of the International Geographical Union's Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change. A Chancellor's Nominee to multiple universities and a two-time elected representative to the Indian Science Congress Association, Dr. Chauhan is also the Founder President of Academics for Social Transformation. His areas of specialization include Disaster and Water Resource Management, Desertification, Tourism Geography, and issues related to Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs).



## **Prof. (Dr.) Suresh Garimella**

**Chairperson, CIPU Global Advisory Council**  
**President, University of Arizona, USA**

Suresh Garimella serves as the 23rd president of the University of Arizona and University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, positions he assumed on October 1, 2024. He was unanimously appointed by the Arizona Board of Regents following a robust national search. On selecting Garimella to lead the university, Board Chair Cecilia Mata praised his collaborative leadership, experience, and vision, calling him a “tireless champion for students” who is well suited to lead the university into a bright future.

Previously, he was president of the University of Vermont (UVM) from 2019 to 2024. Under his leadership, the university underscored its reputation as a premier flagship research university dedicated to providing a world-class student experience and committed to fulfilling its land-grant mission, a focus he brings to the U of A as well.

Throughout his career, Garimella has emphasized the importance of access and affordability for students, and he has worked to promote excellence in the student learning experience. A professor of mechanical engineering, he is both a highly cited scholar and researcher and a passionate educator, mentoring over 90 graduate students and 50 post-doctoral scholars, 31 of whom were placed in prestigious faculty positions across the world. During his tenure as UVM's president, he led an annual undergraduate seminar class devoted to engaging students in civil discourse on multifaceted contemporary issues.

As a researcher, Garimella has made seminal contributions to the field of electronics thermal management and energy efficiency at micro and nano scales, and in sustainable energy systems technology and policy. He is co-author of more than 625 refereed publications and 16 issued patents, and he has been recognized as an elected Member of the National Academy of Engineering and elected Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Garimella also has made important contributions to national and international policy. He served as a member of the National Science Board, which oversees the National Science Foundation and acts as an independent body of advisers to both the President and Congress on policy matters related to science and engineering. He also chairs the research advisory board of Sandia National Laboratories, is a member of the board of directors at Modine and the executive committee for the Council on Competitiveness, and previously served as a Jefferson Science Fellow at the U.S. Department of State and as Senior Fellow for Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas.

His educational background includes a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.S. from The Ohio State University, and a bachelor's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.



## **Dr. Rahul V. Karad**

**Founder & Chief Patron, CIPU**

**Executive President, MIT World Peace University, Pune**

Dr. Rahul Vishwanath Karad is the Managing Trustee and Executive President, MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions having 70 plus institutes and 60000 plus current students.

A graduate in Engineering and Postgraduate in Management from Cardiff U.K and an alumnus of the Harvard Business School, USA. Shri. Rahul Karad is committed to empowering the nation through empowering its youth to reach their true potential via holistic and value-based education.

He established the MIT-WPU School of Government in 2005 with the aim of creating future political leaders with strong ethical and spiritual values coming from different walks of life, leading to a strong democratic foundation for our country.

Through the initiation of various programs such as 'India – The Superpower – Vision 2020', Bharat Asmita National Awards, Bhartiya Chhatra Sansad, National Teachers' Congress, National Women's Parliament, Rashtriya Sarpanch Sansad, National Legislators' Conference (NLC) Bharat, and several others, Shri Rahul Karad has embarked on a significant mission. His aim is to instil in the youth of the country the importance of engaging in public life and offering youthful, dynamic, ethical, and dedicated leadership to both society and the nation.

Among the diverse range of ventures pursued, one of the most noteworthy initiatives spearheaded by Shri Rahul Karad is the establishment of NLC Bharat. This ground-breaking, historic conference served as a platform for Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) and Members of Legislative Councils (MLCs) from across the nation to convene and exchange ideas. He envisioned the creation of a non- partisan ecosystem aimed at promoting education, training, skill development, and capacity enhancement. The conference aims to foster interstate and international cooperation among legislators and legislative staff, with the goal of enhancing the effectiveness and independence of legislative bodies. Through this collaboration, the conference strives to promote democratic values and practices of good governance, thereby strengthening the democratic fabric of the nation!



## **Prof. (Dr.) V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai**

Former Chairman, UGC

Advisor & Professor of Eminence, Jio Institute, Mumbai

Prof. (Dr.) V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai is a distinguished academic leader, eminent scientist, and higher education administrator with over five decades of experience in teaching, research, and academic governance in India and abroad. He served as the Vice-Chancellor of Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai, and earlier as Provost of Somaiya Vidyavihar and Somaiya Ayurvihar.

An Elected Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Pillai is among India's top-cited chemistry researchers and the founder of an internationally acclaimed research group in Polymer Science. He has supervised 67 doctoral and post-doctoral researchers at leading institutions in India, Germany, and Switzerland, including the University of Tübingen, Hochschule Mainz, and the University of Lausanne.

Prof. Pillai has held several eminent leadership roles, including Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Executive Director of NAAC, Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU, Mahatma Gandhi University, and Cochin University of Science and Technology. He also served on the UNESCO Policy on Higher Education Drafting Committee representing India. Currently, he serves as Advisor & Professor of Eminence at Jio Institute, Mumbai.



## **Dr. Vibha Dhawan**

**Director General**

**The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi**

Dr Vibha Dhawan is a distinguished scientist, academic leader, and policy expert with over three decades of association with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), dating back to 1985. She served as Vice-Chancellor of the TERI School of Advanced Studies from 2005 to 2007 and is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India. She also serves as an Adjunct Professor with the Consul General South Asia Partnership at Michigan State University.

Dr Dhawan has authored six books and over 50 research publications and is widely recognised for her contributions to research, innovation, and policy at national and international levels. She is a member of key national committees under the Department of Biotechnology and allied bodies and advises the UN-supported Sustainable Development Solutions Network. She previously co-chaired the T20 Task Force on Clean Energy and Green Transitions.

Under her leadership, several landmark initiatives were established, including the National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping at TERI and the Micropropagation Technology Park. Her research interests focus on biofuels and bio commodities. Dr Dhawan has received numerous national and international honours, including the Game-Changer Award from the UAE and multiple leadership awards in science and agriculture.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Kaushik**

**Vice Chancellor**

**Gurugram University, Gurugram, Haryana**

Prof. Sanjay Kaushik is the Vice-Chancellor of Gurugram University, and a distinguished academic leader with over 35 years of rich experience in teaching, research, administration, and policy advisory roles in higher education. Prior to his current role, he served Panjab University, Chandigarh, in several senior leadership positions, including Professor at the University Business School, P. L. Tandon Chair Professor of Strategic Management, Chairperson of UBS, Dean of the College Development Council, and Dean of the Faculty of Business Management and Commerce. He has also served as Dean, Faculty of Management at Punjab Technical University and as Director of the ICSSR North-Western Regional Centre.

Prof. Kaushik has made significant contributions to research and academic mentoring, having successfully supervised more than 40 Ph.D. scholars and over 50 M.Phil. dissertations. He has published extensively in reputed national and international journals and has presented research papers at conferences and seminars in India and abroad. A sought-after keynote speaker and expert resource person, he has also undertaken consultancies for government and non-government organizations. His contributions have been recognized with several prestigious honours, including the Him Ratna Award (2023) and the Bharat Ratna Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Shiksha Samman (2022), for excellence in education, research, and social service.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Bhushan Patwardhan**

**Distinguished Member, CIPU Board of Advisors**

**Former Vice Chairman, UGC**

**National Research Professor, Ministry of AYUSH, India**

Professor Bhushan Patwardhan is a highly accomplished academician with expertise in higher education, scientific research, and institutional governance. He is recognized as one of the most influential biomedical scientists, with distinguished elected Fellowships of the two National Academies in India. He serves as an Adjunct Professor at Western Sydney University and member Lancet Citizen's Commission for India. He played senior consultative and leadership roles in the World Health Organization (WHO).

His career includes significant positions such as Chairman NAAC, Chairman i/c ICSSR, and Vice Chairman UGC New Delhi Government of India. His current engagements involve chairing the Interdisciplinary R&D Taskforce on Covid-19, and advising the Ministry of AYUSH, and the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine. He has made significant contributions to evidence-based Ayurveda. His research spans Ayurvedic biology, ethnopharmacology, natural product drug development, and integrative approaches to public health systems. He has introduced groundbreaking concepts such as Therapeutic Adjuvants, AyuSoft™, AyuGenomics™, Reverse Pharmacology, and Network Pharmacology, gaining recognition globally.

He has secured several patents and research grants, guided Ph.D. students, and his scientific publications have received over 13,600 citations. His work to combat predatory publishing as the Chairman, UGC CARE has been appreciated, including a World View article published in NATURE. He has been honored with accolades such as the Sir Ram Nath Chopra Oration, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Award, Waldemar Haffkine Oration, and the V K Joag Best Teacher Award, among others. He has authored books published by esteemed publishers and serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine.

He actively participates in national committees and policymaking bodies including Ministries of Education, Ayush, and Health, research agencies such as DST, CSIR, DBT, DHR, ICMR, CCRAS, and NITI Aayog among several others. His extensive expertise, innovative research, and leadership roles continue to shape evidence-based Ayurveda and contribute significantly to global public health systems.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Rai**

**Chancellor**

**UPES Dehradun, Uttarakhand**

Prof. Dr Sunil Rai is the Chancellor of the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES). A veteran academician, he has a vast experience of 42 years with 19 years in academics, 21 years with the Indian Navy and two years in the corporate world. Before joining UPES, He holds a PhD in Business Continuity Management from BITS Pilani, M. Tech. in Computer Science & Engineering from IIT Mumbai and MBA with HR Specialization from IGNOU. He also holds a Master in Marine Engineering from Naval College of Engineering (NCE), INS Shivaji – Lonavla and a B.Sc. Honours degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.

He was the Vice-Chancellor of MIT Arts Design & Technology University, Pune and Director on the Board of Maharashtra IT Corporation, Govt. of Maharashtra. In his illustrious career in the world of academia. Prof. Rai has come to be known for designing and implementing plans that transform organisations. He has led them in various capacities - as pro-vice-chancellor, Director, Dean, and Chairperson.

Additionally, He has been instrumental in building some of these universities into huge brands – by implementing processes and developing and nurturing their staff obtaining accreditations for them. He is also a defence veteran and managed ships and technical establishments of the Indian Navy in various capacities. He was a commissioned officer in the Indian Navy for 21 years and served on ships INS Vikrant, Nilgiri, Himgiri and Oil tanker Shakti.

An astute academician, Prof. Rai has been rated as the best faculty for eight years in succession at national and foreign campuses. He has an eclectic mix of management, engineering and performing arts as part of his professional journey. His research interests comprise technology-enabled - people-driven change management and organisational development.

Prof. Rai is also a member of the Board of Advisors, Outreach Programs of Virginia Polytechnic University, Blacksburg, USA and the co-founder of Cambridge Global Partners, Edinburgh, the UK, which provides strategic consulting to several industrial and academic organisations. A proven thought leader with unbridled enthusiasm for work, he has published papers on business continuity and higher education in various journals and published articles in management magazines & business education columns in newspapers.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Sandeep Sancheti**

**Chairperson, CIPU National Committee on R&D &  
Industry Academia Collaboration & Vice President,  
Research Relations & Academic Affairs, Elsevier, India**

Professor Sandeep Sancheti is an Institution Builder, Policy Planner, Regular Columnist on various academic policies. He holds a Ph.D from Queens University of Belfast UK, M.Sc. (Engg.) from DTU Delhi and B.Tech from NIT Warangal. He is currently the Vice President – Research Relations & Academic Ambassador, Elsevier India. He is also serving/served many professional bodies like FICCI, CII, EPSI, IUCEE, NAAC, DST, CSIR, DRDO, TEQIP, AIM, ACU, ANZIBC, IISF, CIPU, SPIC MACAY etc. in different capacities. He was a member of the Court & Council of IISc Bangalore as well as a member of Board/Senate of many other academic institutions. In addition, he is/was on various national level committees of MHRD/MOE, UGC, AICTE and AIU for education related matters and had been a part of several Indian delegations abroad. He was also invited to address the Members of Parliament, Govt. of India on educational matters.

Formerly Dr. Sancheti headed Seven NITs like NITK Surathkal, NIT Trichy, NIT Calicut, NIT Delhi, and SPA Delhi (all institutions of national importance) as Director.

He has also led self-financed institutions like Manipal University Jaipur as President, SRMIST Chennai as Vice Chancellor and Marwadi University Rajkot as Provost. He is a recipient of the Commonwealth Scholarship & Fellowship under Colombo Plan and was a Visiting Faculty at Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Bangkok. He is the Past President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) New Delhi and the Executive Council Member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) London.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Gopal Pathak**

Honorary President, CIPU

& Director General, Sarala Birla University, Ranchi

Prof. (Dr.) Gopal Pathak is a distinguished academician and administrator with a career spanning decades. He graduated in Civil Engineering from BIT Mesra in 1977, completing his master's and Ph.D. from the same institute. Joining BIT Mesra as a faculty member in 1980, he became a professor in 2000 and held key administrative roles, including HOD, Dean of Student Welfare, Dean of Faculty Development, and Acting Vice Chancellor.

An accomplished researcher, Prof. Pathak has published extensively in national and international journals, presenting at conferences worldwide. He has served as a visiting professor at prestigious institutions, including the University of Technology, Sydney; University of Ningbo, China; Princeton University, USA; and Stanford University, California.

He was Vice Chancellor of Jharkhand University of Technology (2017–2020) and Sarala Birla University (2020–2024). Since August 2024, he has been serving as Director General of Sarala Birla University, continuing his commitment to academic excellence and institutional leadership.



## **Prof. (Dr.) G. K. Shirude**

Honorary Vice President, CIPU

Vice Chancellor, Sri Balaji University Pune, Maharashtra

Prof. (Dr.) G.K. Shirude is a distinguished academician with over 40 years of experience. He currently serves as the Vice Chancellor at Sri Balaji University, Pune (SBUP). He has an extensive academic and research background, having published 52 research articles and authored 7 books on various aspects of economics. Dr. Shirude has guided 16 Ph.D. students and 12 M.Phil. students in their academic pursuits. He is actively engaged in the academic community, serving as a member of the advisory board for more than 10 research journals and conference souvenirs. Dr. Shirude's commitment to continuous learning is evident through his participation in 81 seminars, workshops, and conferences in India and abroad. Throughout his career, Dr. Shirude has held significant leadership positions, including Head of the Department of Business Economics and Banking at S.P. College, Pune, and Director of S.P. Mandali Naralkar Institute of Career Development and Research (NICDR) in Pune. He has also been involved in various academic bodies and associations. Dr. Shirude's contributions to education have earned him several accolades and awards, such as the Ideal Teacher award, Order of Merit for Management Education, and the Mother Teresa Excellence Award. He continues to be an influential figure in the field of education and is a dedicated member of various professional organizations.



## **Mr. Amit Gossain**

**Managing Director  
KONE Elevator India**

An Industrial and Production Engineer with master's in Management and Systems from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) – Delhi, Amit joined KONE India as Managing Director in 2015.

KONE is a leader in the elevator and escalator industry globally and in India. Listed in the most innovative companies list of Forbes for eight times, innovation has been a strategic imperative for KONE. Constantly developing technology is an integral part of KONE's commitment to improve the flow of urban life. Prior to KONE, Amit was the Executive Vice President for JCB India Limited with responsibilities for Sales, Marketing, Business Development, Product Management and Corporate Affairs for India and South Asia. Amit worked with JCB for a decade and under his leadership, brand JCB was awarded amongst India's most impactful brands twice.

Amit has worked both in India and overseas. After working with L&T Earth Moving and Construction Equipment division in India, he worked for close to 10 years in Sydney, Australia with CNH Global, one of the world leaders in Agricultural and Construction equipment. He worked in various leadership roles, with the final assignment as Head of Sales and Marketing - Construction Equipment Group for Asia Pacific which included Australia, New Zealand, Oceania and Southeast Asia, before moving back to India to join JCB in 2005.

Amit is currently the Co-Chair of the CII National Committee on Real Estate & Housing and past Chairman of the Urban Development and Smart Cities Committee, as well as the past Chairman of the Solid Waste Management Committee for CII. He represents IEEMA as Chairman for Elevators & Escalators Division. Amit was the President of Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturers Association and the past Chairman of Finland Chamber of Commerce in India.



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

Vice Chancellor,  
SGT University, Gurugram, Haryana

Prof. (Dr.) Hemant Verma is a distinguished academician, scholar, and higher education administrator with over 27 years of impactful contributions to teaching, policy development, and governance in the education sector. His career reflects a seamless blend of academic excellence and administrative acumen, making him a visionary leader in higher education.

### **Academic Credentials and Teaching Experience**

Dr. Verma holds a B.A. (Hons.), M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. in English from Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. With 14 years of teaching experience in various government colleges across Haryana, he has been instrumental in developing innovative approaches to English pedagogy and curriculum design. His work has inspired students to engage critically with literature while fostering creativity and analytical thinking.

### **Administrative Leadership**

Dr. Verma has served as Deputy/Joint Director in the Higher Education Department of Haryana for 16 years, where he played a pivotal role in drafting and implementing transformative policies, Acts, and schemes that have positively impacted teachers and students alike. His leadership extended to his role as Additional Director of Foreign Cooperation, where he facilitated international collaborations and advanced global education initiatives.

As the State Nodal Officer for the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Dr. Verma spearheaded the development of new educational frameworks and governance structures to enhance the quality of higher education in Haryana. His efforts have directly contributed to aligning the state's education system with global standards.

### **Scholarly Contributions**

Dr. Verma is an accomplished author with several notable publications to his name:

- Gynocritics and the Traversals of Women's Writing: Intersections of Diverse Critical Essays (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2024)
- AIDS—A Global Challenge (Shri Sai Printographers, 2007)
- The Indian Diasporic Writing: Theory and Discourse (Friends Publications, 2005)

He has also published numerous research papers in peer-reviewed journals on themes such as gender studies, diasporic literature, deconstruction, and eco-feminism. His scholarly work has been widely recognized for its depth and originality.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Raghuvir Singh**

**Vice Chancellor**

**K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, Haryana**

Dr. Raghuvir Singh is the Vice Chancellor of KR Mangalam University, Gurugram—one of India's leading multi-disciplinary universities. A postgraduate in Management from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JBIMS), University of Mumbai, and a doctorate from the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Dr. Singh brings over 30 years of distinguished experience in higher education.

He has held several key leadership positions, including Vice Chancellor at Teerthankar Mahaveer University; Director, Business School at Manipal University Jaipur; Head, Management Group at BITS Pilani; Director at UPES Gurgaon Campus; Director & Executive Secretary at ISTE, New Delhi; and Director at J.K. Business School, Gurgaon.

Dr. Singh's core areas of expertise include strategic planning for universities, academic quality enhancement, Outcome-Based Education (OBE), accreditation & ranking frameworks, skilling and employability, leadership development, and change management. An acclaimed trainer, he has conducted impactful corporate training programs for organizations such as Parle, Department of Atomic Energy, Indian Navy, IOCL, Lanco Power, NADPL, and several PSUs and private sector entities.

A noted academic leader, he has also trained faculty and academic administrators nationwide for over 15 years in domains including research methodology, case teaching, academic auditing, innovative pedagogy, curriculum design, assessment strategies, and accreditation (NAAC & NBA).

Dr. Singh has authored 4 books and 58 research publications, guided 07 awarded Ph.D. scholars (with 05 ongoing), and delivered numerous invited lectures at national forums. He has received 16 national awards, including 14 as Vice Chancellor, and serves on the Boards of Governors and Executive Councils of 12 Higher Education Institutions.

He is trained in "Achieving Excellence in Higher Education" at ISB Hyderabad, "International Accreditation Systems" by global accreditation bodies, and "Case Teaching Methods" at IIM Ahmedabad and SPJIMR Mumbai. Dr. Singh is also a life member of AIMA, ISTD, ISTE, and AIMS-International.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Sandhir Sharma**

**Vice Chancellor**

**Chitkara University, Chandigarh, Punjab**

Dr. Sandhir Sharma, the current Vice Chancellor of Chitkara University, Punjab, brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the field of higher education. Holding a Ph.D in Strategic Management and MFC (Master of Finance and Control), Dr. Sharma boasts nearly 24 years of experience in academia. His scholarly contributions include over 150 research papers published in prestigious national and international journals and presented at numerous conferences. His research work has also been widely featured in various newspapers, underlining his influence in the field. His core areas of expertise is strategy formulation.

Dr. Sharma has played a pivotal role in transforming Chitkara Business School, scaling its operations from an initial cohort of 60 students and one management program to over 4000 students across business programs with more than 17 specialisations and super specialisations within a decade. Prior to this, he established a B-School in Ludhiana, propelling it to regional acclaim in almost a decade. His leadership and vision have not only enhanced the academic stature of these institutions but also enriched the learning experiences of countless students.

As a visiting faculty member at B-Schools in Indonesia, France and Germany, Dr. Sharma shares his knowledge and insights on a global platform. His commitment to education is further demonstrated by his guidance of over 10,000 students in the fields of Commerce and Management, and his mentorship of 8 Ph.D scholars, with research topics ranging from strategies in sustainability management, higher education, environment management, marketing management, technology management, consumer behaviour, etc.

Dr. Sharma is also a seasoned consultant for various SME organisations, specialising in strategy formulation. His innovative approach is evidenced by over 30 patents filed across health sciences, life sciences, social sciences, technology, and industrial products, of which 15 are granted. An active member of multiple management associations and university bodies, Dr. Sharma is dedicated to advancing academic excellence and fostering strategic growth within educational institutions. His extensive travels for academic events and collaborations further highlight his global engagement and contribution to the field of business management.



## **Prof. Venkappayya R. Desai**

**Director**

**Indian Institute Of Technology (IIT) Dharwad , Karnataka**

Prof. Venkappayya R. Desai is a distinguished engineering academician with over 35 years of teaching and administrative experience, including 27+ years at the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT Kharagpur). He holds a B.E. in Civil Engineering from BVBCET Hubballi, M.Tech in Hydraulic and Water Resources Engineering from KREC Surathkal (now NITK), and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Clemson University, USA.

Prof. Desai joined IIT Kharagpur in 1994 after earlier teaching roles in India and the United States. His academic contributions include co-authoring a textbook, Environmental Hydrology and Hydraulics (Science Publishers, USA, 2006), and coordinating two AICTE-sponsored national short-term courses.

At IIT Kharagpur, he has served in several key capacities, including Dean, Faculty of Engineering & Architecture, and has significantly contributed to academic administration across numerous departments, centers, and schools. He also held long-term roles such as Warden/Coordinating Warden, Freshman Course Coordinator for Engineering Drawing & Graphics, and Chairman of the Students' Brotherhood Fund Committee.

Prof. Desai has presented research papers internationally in China, USA, and Mauritius, and continues to be highly active in national academic leadership. He currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee (AICTE), Executive Committee (VTU Belagavi), and Board of Governors for institutions including NITTTR Kolkata, IISER Thiruvananthapuram, IIIT Raichur, and is the Officiating Chairman, BoG of IIT Dharwad.

His professional interests span Integrated Watershed Management, flood and drought mitigation, green and climate-resilient infrastructure, Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), voluntary afforestation through "Varsha/Vriksha Nakshatras", the Indianization of Roman Script, and linking modern science with classical Indian knowledge in Sanskrita and Kannada.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Ram Karan Singh**

**Vice Chancellor**

**The ICFAI University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand**

Sen. Prof. (Dr.) Ram Karan Singh is the Vice-Chancellor of ICFAI University, Dehradun, with over 34 years of academic, research, administrative and consultancy experience in India and abroad. A distinguished alumnus of BITS Pilani, he holds a PhD in Hydraulics & Water Resources Engineering and completed his Post-Doctoral Fellowship as a JSPS Fellow in Japan.

He has published over 150 research papers, authored five books, and holds 12 national and international patents—seven granted across the USA, Germany, UK, and Australia in areas including AI, machine learning and green technology. He has guided more than 20 PhD scholars and over 100 Master's theses and has overseen the graduation of 110+ PhD researchers.

Dr. Singh has received over 30 national and international awards, led major research projects funded by DST, JSPS, GTZ, UNESCO and others, and has extensive experience in global accreditation systems including ABET (USA). He also serves as Expert Member for the assessment and audit of higher academic institutions with the Quality Council of India (QCI–NABET).



## **Dr. Rakesh Kumar Jain**

**Vice Chancellor**

**Ajeenkya DY Patil University, Pune, Maharashtra**

Dr. Rakesh Kumar Jain is a distinguished academic and researcher with over 38 years of experience in higher education and leadership roles. As the Vice Chancellor at Ajeenkya DY Patil University, Dr. Jain has been pivotal in driving institutional growth and achieving national recognition.

With a PhD in Transportation Engineering, an ME in Town Planning, and a BE in Civil Engineering, Dr. Jain is renowned for his expertise in transportation, geotechnical engineering, and town planning. He has authored over 07 books and published over 150 research papers, significantly contributing to these fields. His research has attracted nearly 1 crore in funding, and he has successfully guided 12 PhD students.

Dr. Jain's contributions extend beyond academia, serving on various university and state-level urban development committees. He has held prominent positions such as Chairman of the Board of Studies and Member of the Academic Council. His dedication to quality education is evident in his role as a Program Evaluator for the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in India. His tenure as Chairman/Member of the Expert Committee at NBA, New Delhi, underscores his commitment to outcome-based education. Recognized as an "Ambassador" for guiding institutes towards NAAC accreditation and Margdarshak by AICTE, for guiding other institutes of NBA. Dr. Jain epitomizes quality assurance and good governance in higher education.

A transformative leader passionate about excellence, Dr. Jain has established a robust professional network that fosters collaboration and drives impactful educational outcomes. His innovative approach continues to shape the landscape of modern, borderless engineering education with innovation and distinction. Dr. Jain's career is marked by numerous awards and honors from reputed organizations and government agencies at both state and national levels, reflecting his enduring contributions to engineering and education.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Raviraja N Seetharam**

**Vice Chancellor,  
Chandigarh University, Mohali Punjab**

Dr Raviraja N. Seetharam is a distinguished academic leader, researcher, and administrator with over 28 years of post-PhD experience spanning microbiology, molecular biology, cancer biology, regenerative medicine, operations, and university management. He holds an M.Sc. and PhD in Biosciences from Mangalore University and has completed postdoctoral training and faculty appointments at premier global institutions, including Mount Allison University (Canada) and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Cancer Center (USA).

Upon returning to India in 2010, he served as Centre Head at Stempeutics Research Pvt. Ltd., Manipal Group, where he led innovation in stem cell manufacturing and played a pivotal role in commercialisation and strategic industry partnerships. In 2020, he joined the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), where he served in multiple senior leadership roles, including Founding Director–Corporate Relations, Director–Planning and Monitoring, Chief Operating Officer, and Senior Director–Research. He also founded the Department of Biotherapeutics and held the prestigious Dr TMA Pai Endowment Chair in Stem Cell Research and Therapy.

Dr Raviraja has authored over 90 peer-reviewed publications, filed more than eight patents—including one granted in 16 countries—and secured competitive research funding from national and international agencies such as the American Lung Association, AFOSR (USA), DST (India), and industry partners.

Known for his strategic vision and data-driven approach, he has significantly contributed to strengthening research ecosystems, fostering industry collaborations, and enhancing institutional operations. His leadership continues to advance innovation, high-quality education, and globally competitive research excellence.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Prahlad Rai Sodani**

**President**

**IIHMR University, Jaipur, Rajasthan**

Prof. P.R. Sodani is currently the President of IIHMR University, Jaipur. He is Health Economist and Public Health Professor for more than two decades and mentored faculty, students, and research scholars. Professor Sodani had demonstrated academic leadership, visioning, policy planning, and strategic implementation. He had significantly contributed to creating an organizational culture for the growth and development of the University. Professor Sodani, at various levels of leadership positions, had been responsible for leading and managing academics, research, training, fundraising, and networking with national and international organizations. Professor Sodani is Co-Founder of IIHMR Foundation.

Professor Sodani earned PhD in health economics and a Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA. He has been associated with the Department of International Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA for teaching MPH program jointly offered by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and IIHMR University. He is Associate Editor of the Journal of Health Management, an international peer reviewed journal published by SAGE Publications. He is Secretary-General of the South-East Asia Public Health Education Institutions Network (SEAPHEIN). He has published a book on Managing Quality in Health Care. He has published papers in indexed journals of national and international repute. He frequently writes blogs on emerging issues of health sector. He has organized number of national and international programs for health professionals on promoting Leadership, Strategic Management, Public Health Education, Health Economics, Health Financing, and Hospital Management Education.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Padode**

President

Vijaybhoomi University, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Sanjay Padode is President of Vijaybhoomi University and Chairman of IFIM Institutions. A BITS Pilani alumnus, he began his career as a technology entrepreneur, founding Asian CERC Information Technology Ltd — India's leading provider of market-data and trading systems — later acquired by Religare. After two decades in technology leadership, he turned his focus to education, founding Vijaybhoomi University and scaling IFIM Institutions into nationally recognised centres of excellence. A visionary committed to integrating liberal and professional learning, he believes education must inspire purpose, integrity, and societal transformation.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Nihar Ranjan Biswas**

**Vice Chancellor**

**Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Puducherry**

Dr. Nihar Ranjan Biswas, MD, DM, DNB, DSc, is an eminent clinical pharmacologist, medical researcher, and academic leader with a distinguished career spanning over four decades. Currently serving as the Vice Chancellor of Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Puducherry, he has previously held several prestigious positions, including Director and Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS), Patna, Director of Mahavir Vaatsalya Aspatal and Mahavir Heart Hospital, and Advisor to the Government of India at B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (BPKIHS), Nepal. He has also served as Professor of Pharmacology at AIIMS, New Delhi, and has been a Visiting Faculty at King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia.

He is internationally acclaimed for his contributions to ocular drug development, especially in nano-drug delivery systems, and has played a key role in translational research, including the development of novel eye drop formulations and innovative treatments for conditions like Acanthamoeba keratitis and fungal infections. His research output includes over 150 publications in peer-reviewed national and international journals, and he has delivered numerous prestigious orations and lectures across the globe.

A core member in various national and WHO-led programs, including the India-WHO Essential Drugs Program, Delhi Society for Rational Use of Drugs, and the Uppsala Monitoring Centre, Professor Biswas has also been instrumental in shaping health policy and pharmacovigilance in India.

At IGIMS Patna, he spearheaded transformative developments—establishing the Eye Bank of Bihar, Kidney and Liver Transplant Units, State Cancer Institute, and advanced care facilities across departments, along with starting multiple PG and super-specialty courses, upgrading labs, hostels, and infrastructure, and championing patient-centric services like Dharmshalas, Yoga centers, and AMRIT pharmacies.

His legacy is defined by a rare blend of academic brilliance, research innovation, visionary administration, and an unwavering commitment to public health and medical education. Professor Biswas continues to inspire generations of healthcare professionals and researchers in India and beyond.



## **Prof Dr. Parimal H. Vyas**

**Vice Chancellor**

**Vice Chancellor , Auro University , Surat, Gujarat**

Dr. Parimal H. Vyas is a distinguished academic leader currently serving as the Vice Chancellor/Provost of Auro University, Surat since September 18, 2022. Prior to this, he served for over seven years as the Vice Chancellor of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (MSUB), Vadodara from December 2014 to February 2022. He has been associated with MSUB for more than 18 years as Professor of Commerce & Business Management, and also held a Joint/Dual Professorship in Management Studies.

An inspiring teacher, researcher, and administrator, Prof. Vyas has guided 18 Ph.D. and M.Phil. scholars, completed five UGC-funded major research projects, published 132 research papers and 12 books, and presented 108 papers at national and international academic forums. A celebrated academician, he has received 14 Best Research Paper Awards and his contributions have been widely recognized across India.

Prof. Vyas has served as Chairman of NAAC Peer Teams, Chairman/Member of UGC Committees, and as a Member of Search Committees for appointment of Vice Chancellors in various state universities. He has held prestigious national roles including membership in the General Council & Executive Council of NBA, ICCR, Board of Management of Delhi Technological University, and the Academic Advisory Board of the Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh. He also served as an Executive Council Member of the State Higher Education Council, Government of Gujarat.

Known for his visionary leadership, professional integrity and commitment to academic excellence, Prof. Vyas has consistently championed quality-centric, technology-enabled, student-focused higher education rooted in Indian knowledge systems and values. His career reflects a deep dedication to advancing teaching, research, social responsibility, and value-based education in India.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Yogesh C Goswami**

**Vice Chancellor**

**Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, Indore,  
Madhya Pradesh**

Dr. Yogesh C Goswami Renowned academician and research leader with over 25 years of experience in teaching, research, and academic administration. Served as the Dean of the School of Sciences at ITM University, Gwalior, and has held several leadership roles, including Dean of Research and Development, Dean of International Cooperation and Projects, and Dean of Student Welfare.

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC), Senior Member of IEEE, and recipient of the prestigious AICTE Career Award for Young Teachers, Dr. Goswami has made impactful contributions to interdisciplinary research and education. He has mobilised research and conference grants and has led major national and international projects, including the DST ASEAN Trilateral Project, which involves India, Indonesia, and Myanmar.

Founder Member and Secretary of the Global Academy of Doctorates (GAD), through which successfully organized numerous national and international conferences, especially the landmark series “International Conference on Issues and Challenges in Doctoral Research (ICICDR)” held at institutions like JNU, Christ University, and Goa University.

With over 110 research publications, more than 10 Ph.D. scholars guided, and memberships in premier scientific bodies including ACS, Elsevier, and Royal Society of Chemistry, Prof. Goswami exemplifies academic excellence, global collaboration, and visionary leadership. His focus remains on fostering a research-driven, skill-based, and sustainable academic ecosystem that prepares students for future challenges.

As the founder of the P.C. Ray Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and the Nano Lab at ITM, his work focuses on nanomaterials for optoelectronic and environmental applications. A strong advocate for innovation, collaboration, and sustainability in education, Dr. Goswami brings rich experience and global vision to his academic endeavours.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Parvinder Singh**

**Director International Academic Affairs,  
Ecoparyavaran Group, Mohali, Chandigarh**

A dynamic academic leader with over 36 years of distinguished experience in higher education, examination reforms, and institutional governance. Known for driving impactful academic transformations, he has played a pivotal role in modernizing examination systems, strengthening administrative processes, and promoting transparent, technology-enabled governance across institutions.

He has served Panjab University, Chandigarh, in several key leadership roles, including Controller of Examinations, Dean, College Development Council, Registrar (Examinations), and Head, Department of Chemistry. He has successfully implemented major reforms such as online examination services, VPN-enabled systems, EGMS, digital portals for colleges, and the Semester System at the UG level. He chaired and contributed to several statutory committees including the Regulation Committee, CDC, Fee Committee, Purchase Committee, and CBCS Standing Committee.

As Vice Chancellor of RBGI, Chandigarh (2020–2025), he led strategic initiatives to enhance academic quality, fostered strong industry partnerships, aligned curricula with emerging technologies, promoted faculty development, and ensured institutional sustainability through effective resource management.

He has also coordinated numerous national and state-level competitive examinations such as IAS, PCS, HCS, NDA, CDS, Banking Services, and more, reflecting his expertise in large-scale academic and administrative operations.

A highly organized, communicative, and adaptable leader, he is committed to academic excellence, institutional growth, and the holistic development of faculty and students.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Anup Kumar Gupta**

**Vice Chancellor**

**GLA University, Mathura, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh**

Anup Kumar Gupta is a Professor, Vice-Chancellor of GLA University, Mathura, Patron Of GLA University Entrepreneur Cell and Honorary Advisor Of GLAU NewGen IEDC , Technology Business Incubator and many more NGOs and organisations . He has been associated with GLA since its inception in 1998 and has been decisively instrumental in the establishment of the University in 2010, and thereafter in the successful introduction of so many new courses and degree programs at regular intervals . He is a Gold Medallist in MA and MPhil in English Literature

Having completed his Ph. D in English, Dr. Gupta did his Executive MBA from IIT Bombay in 2012. He was the overall topper of the Batch . His keen interest as educator has taken him to Michigan State University, USA to earn his masters in Higher Education Administration . Six students have done their Ph. D under his guidance and presently six doctoral students are working under his guidance in the field of English Literature, Management and Higher Education. Computer savvy and well networked; Dr. Gupta has effective communication and presentation skills. He is proactive in solving problems. He understands national, international and cross cultural sensitivities. He has expert interviewing skills in hiring of personnel at higher level. Having complete knowledge of rules and regulations related to AICTE, UGC, NIRF, NAAC, NBA etc. helps him in organizational development at national level.

With his continuous involvement and participation at international seminars and conferences he is instrumental in signing of MOUs with other international universities as well as processing accreditation with international agencies like ABET, IACBE , AACSB etc. All these skill-sets make Dr. Gupta a visionary lighthouse in providing synergic leadership and developing strategic goals for any institution of higher learning. He has special interest in school education and is whole heartedly associated with Shikshakayakalp as Vice President, a Social Project under which hundreds of Govt Primary , secondary and senior secondary schools of Braj kshetra are adopted . He is also Board Member of various schools in Mathura.



## **Prof. (Dr.) P. S. Jassal**

**Pro-President & Campus Director  
Singhania University, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan**

Prof. (Dr.) P. S. Jassal is a distinguished academician and researcher specializing in nanotechnology, environmental science and biomedical applications. With a career spanning prestigious institutions, he has served as Principal at Guru Nanak Institute of Higher Education and Professor at SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi. His research focuses on developing innovative materials for sustainable solutions, particularly in water purification, toxic substance removal, and energy applications.

Currently serving as Pro President & Campus Director at Singhania University, Dr. Jassal plays a pivotal role in strengthening scientific research initiatives and mentoring future innovators. He has successfully led multiple funded research projects supported by DBT, UGC, and other funding agencies, making significant contributions in the areas of polysaccharide nanoparticles, metal detoxification, and nanocrystals for energy applications. His visionary leadership and strong commitment to innovation continue to drive impactful advancements across academia and industry.



## **Prof. (Dr.) Vishnu Nanda Magare**

**Vice Chancellor**

**Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences**

**(Deemed to be University) Loni, Maharashtra**

Dr. Vishnu Nanda Magare is a distinguished academic leader, administrator, and researcher with over four decades of experience in higher education. He currently serves as the Vice Chancellor of Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed to be University), Loni, Maharashtra. A former Pro Vice Chancellor of SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, Dr. Magare has also held several senior leadership roles at the University of Mumbai, including Acting Pro Vice Chancellor, Director of the Board of College & University Development (BCUD), and In-Charge Vice Chancellor and Registrar.

An accomplished zoologist, Dr. Magare holds a Ph.D. in Zoology (Fish Endocrinology) from the University of Mumbai and has made significant contributions to teaching, research, and institutional development. He has served as Principal of reputed institutions such as Kirti M. Doongursee College, Mumbai, and Fergusson College, Pune, leading them to academic excellence and NAAC 'A' grade accreditations.

Dr. Magare is an active NAAC Assessor and Executive Committee Member, a research guide, author of books, holder of patents, and a prolific researcher with numerous publications in national and international journals. His contributions to higher education governance are further reflected through his extensive work with UGC, Government of Maharashtra, and academic statutory bodies. He is a recipient of the Best Teacher Award by the Government of Maharashtra, underscoring his commitment to academic quality, research excellence, and educational leadership.



## **Prof.(Dr.) Govind Singh Rajwar**

Vice Chancellor

Sparsh Himalaya University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Dr. Govind Singh Rajwar is an eminent botanist, ecologist, and academic leader with over four decades of distinguished teaching, research, and administrative experience. He currently serves as Vice-Chancellor, Sparsh Himalaya University, Dehradun, and is Co-Chair (Ethics) of the International Society for Ethnobiology. A Fellow of the Linnean Society of London and Vice President of the Himalayan Academy of Science and Technology, Prof. Rajwar is internationally recognised for his contributions to ecology, environmental science, and ethics.

Honoured with several prestigious international and national awards, including recognition as a Brilliant Young Scientist by the International Botanical Congress (Berlin), and the Himshri Samman by the Government of Uttarakhand, he has authored 7 books, published 114 research papers, and supervised 22 Ph.D. scholars. He has held key leadership roles in higher education, served on multiple university statutory bodies, edited leading scientific journals, and represented India in conferences across Europe, Africa, and Asia.



## **Mrs. Meenakshi Kachroo Chatta**

Senior Director

South & Central Asia, The College Board

Meenakshi Kachroo Chatta is the Senior Director in International division and leader of College Board India.

Meenakshi works towards improving access to College Board programs, across all countries in South and Central Asia: SAT suite of assessments and Advanced Placement Program.

Meenakshi also works closely on improving equity through India Scholars Program that enables Indian students to get world class higher education in India.

Prior to joining College Board, Meenakshi served in senior management roles for more than two decades in the education sector.

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