



Host University



**CONFEDERATION OF
INDIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES**

3rd BHARAT HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT

THEME

TOWARDS VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

Universities as Engines of National Growth

18th & 19th JUNE 2026

VENUE

Chandigarh University, Mohali, Punjab



ABOUT THE 3rd BHES

The **3rd Bharat Higher Education Summit 2026**, organized by **The Confederation of Indian Private Universities (CIPU)**, was successfully held on 18–19 June 2026 at **Chandigarh University, Mohali**, bringing together eminent leaders from academia, industry, and government to deliberate on the theme ***“Towards Viksit Bharat 2047 – Universities as Engines of National Growth.”*** The summit served as a dynamic platform for discussing the transformation of higher education into an innovation-driven ecosystem focused on employability, research, and entrepreneurship. Through insightful inaugural addresses and engaging panel discussions, speakers emphasized the integration of AI, industry collaboration, skill development, and value-based education as key drivers of national progress. The summit reinforced the critical role of universities in shaping future-ready graduates and contributing to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.



DAY 01-18th JUNE 2026

INAUGURAL SESSION

Welcome Address

Prof. (Dr.) Raviraja Seetharam

Vice Chancellor

Chandigarh University, Punjab

Prof. (Dr.) Raviraja Seetharam welcomed the distinguished dignitaries, academic leaders, policymakers, industry representatives, and delegates to the 3rd Bharat Higher Education Summit. In his address, he emphasized that universities today have a responsibility that extends far beyond imparting knowledge. As India progresses towards the vision of Viksit **Bharat 2047**,

he noted that higher education institutions must emerge as key drivers of innovation, entrepreneurship, research excellence, and societal transformation. He highlighted the need for universities to create learning environments that are globally connected, industry-aligned, and responsive to the evolving needs of the economy and society.

He further stated that Chandigarh University is committed to building a future-ready academic ecosystem that empowers students to become leaders, innovators, and nation-builders. Stressing the importance of collaboration among academia, industry, and government, he remarked that the Bharat Higher Education Summit serves as an important platform for meaningful dialogue, knowledge sharing, and partnership building. Such collective efforts, he said, are essential for shaping the future of higher education and strengthening the role of universities in driving India's economic growth, global competitiveness, and knowledge leadership.

Context Setting

Mr. R. Karthik

Director General, CIPU

Mr. Karthik outlined the vision and objectives of the summit, emphasizing the need for transforming higher education to meet future national demands. He highlighted the role of CIPU in bringing together private universities for collective progress. He stressed the urgency of aligning education with innovation, employability, and global competitiveness. His remarks provided a strategic direction for the discussions ahead.





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Theme Address

Prof. (Dr.) Gopal Pathak

Honorary President, CIPU and
Director General, Sarala Birla University, Ranchi

Prof. Pathak elaborated on the summit theme, emphasizing universities as key drivers of economic growth and national development. He highlighted the need for research-driven education and industry-linked innovation. He urged institutions to focus on multidisciplinary learning and societal impact. His address reinforced the importance of transforming academic ecosystems to support Bharat 2047.



Special Address

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

Former Chairman, UGC & Advisor & Professor of
Eminence, Jio Institute, Mumbai

Prof. Pillai emphasized the importance of policy frameworks and governance in higher education. He discussed the need for quality assurance, research excellence, and global collaboration. He encouraged institutions to adopt innovative pedagogies and strengthen academic leadership. His address focused on systemic reforms required for achieving global standards.





Guest of Honour Address

Mr. Bhaskar Chatterjee

Former Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Govt of India & Former Director General & CEO, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

Mr. Chatterjee spoke about the role of industry and governance in shaping higher education. He highlighted the need for strong industry-academia partnerships to drive innovation and economic growth. He highlighted the importance of skill development and practical learning. His address encouraged institutions to align with national industrial priorities.

Thought Leadership Address

Mr. Debasis Satapathy

Executive Director,
NBCC (India) Limited, New Delhi

Mr. Debasis Satapathy delivered a thought-provoking address linking the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047** with the timeless wisdom embedded in the characters of the Mahabharata. He highlighted that India's greatest epic offers valuable lessons on leadership, ethics, duty, excellence, justice, and social responsibility—qualities that are essential for building a developed and progressive nation.

Mr. Satapathy also emphasized the relevance of Lord Krishna's visionary leadership, strategic thinking, and diplomacy in navigating complex challenges and shaping a prosperous future. Referring to Draupadi's courage and demand for justice, he stressed the importance of gender equality, dignity, and human rights in a developed society. He further highlighted Karna's generosity and valour as symbols of compassion, social welfare, and service to others. Concluding his address, he noted that the values embodied by these iconic characters provide a moral and philosophical framework for achieving the aspirations of Viksit Bharat.





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Presidential Address

Dr. Rahul V. Karad

Founder & Chief Patron, CIPU and
Executive President,
MIT-World Peace University, Pune

Dr. Rahul V. Karad, delivered the Presidential Address and underscored the pivotal role of higher education in realizing the national vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**. He emphasized that the aspiration of building a developed India requires a transformational approach to higher education, where universities evolve beyond traditional teaching institutions to become vibrant hubs of innovation, entrepreneurship, interdisciplinary learning, and societal impact.

Highlighting the significance of collaborative dialogue and collective action, Dr. Karad noted that the Bharat Higher Education Summit serves as a unique platform for academic leaders, policymakers, industry representatives, and other stakeholders to exchange ideas, forge meaningful partnerships, and contribute to strengthening India's knowledge economy. He stated that through such initiatives, CIPU seeks to bring together diverse voices to develop a comprehensive roadmap for a stronger, more resilient, and globally competitive higher education ecosystem.

He further remarked that universities today are not merely centres of learning but powerful engines of innovation, skill development, and national growth. As India progresses towards the goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047, he called upon higher education institutions to embrace their collective responsibility in nurturing future-ready talent, fostering research and entrepreneurship, and driving sustainable socio-economic transformation.





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Chief Guest Address

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha &
Chairman, Parliament Standing Committee on
Coal, Mines & Steel & Former Union Minister for
I&B & Youth Affairs & Sports

Addressing the 3rd Bharat Higher Education Summit 2026, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur emphasized the pivotal role of universities in shaping India's journey towards **Viksit Bharat 2047**. He underscored the need for higher education institutions to seamlessly integrate India's rich intellectual heritage with emerging technologies, stating that disciplines such as Ayurveda, Yoga, Sanskrit, and classical mathematics should be taught alongside Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, and Biotechnology.

Highlighting the importance of creating globally competent graduates rooted in Indian values, he remarked that students should be equally fluent in “AW and AI”—Ancient Wisdom and Artificial Intelligence. According to him, this balanced approach is essential for restoring India's position as a global knowledge leader and “**Vishwa Guru**.”

Shri Thakur further called upon universities to intensify investments in research, innovation, incubation ecosystems, and entrepreneurship. He noted that while the Government has laid a strong foundation through progressive reforms and policy support, the responsibility now lies with universities to translate these opportunities into tangible outcomes. By producing industry-ready, innovation-driven youth, higher education institutions can play a transformative role in driving India's economic growth and enhancing the nation's contribution to global development and progress.



Hosted by:
CHANDIGARH
UNIVERSITY

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

An important highlight of the inaugural session was the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **CIPU (Confederation of Indian Private Universities)** and the **International Automobile Centre of Excellence (iACE), Gujarat**. This collaboration aims to strengthen industry-academia partnerships by promoting skill development, advanced training, and research in emerging automotive and mobility technologies. The MoU reflects a shared commitment to enhancing employability, fostering innovation, and bridging the gap between education and industry requirements. It marks a significant step towards creating future-ready talent aligned with the needs of a rapidly evolving industrial landscape.



VOTE OF THANKS

The session concluded with the **Vote of Thanks** delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Parvinder Singh, Advisor, CIPU & Director, International Academic Affairs, Eco Paryavaran Engineers and Consultants Pvt. Ltd., who expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Guest, dignitaries, speakers, and delegates for their valuable presence and insightful contributions. He acknowledged the efforts of the organizers, partners, and participants in making the summit a grand success. He also reiterated the importance of continued collaboration among academia, industry, and policymakers to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. His concluding remarks brought the inaugural session to a formal and meaningful close.



DAY 01-GLIMPSE



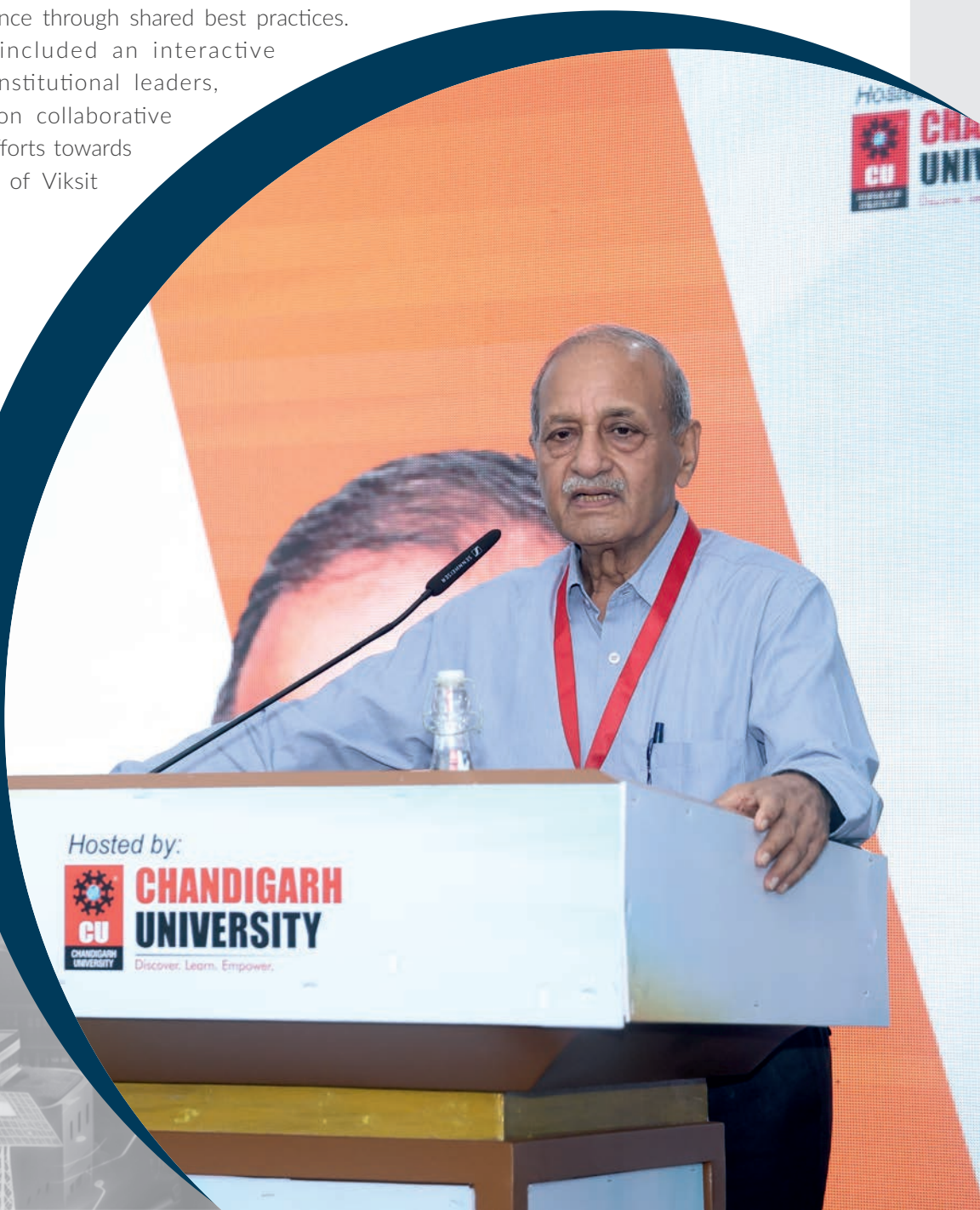
DAY 02-19th JUNE 2026

PLENARY SESSION

THE BHARAT COLLECTIVE

Prof. (Dr.) D. P. AgrawalDistinguished Member, CIPU Board of Advisors and
Former Chairman, UPSC,

The session on *"The Bharat Collective – A National League of Leading Private Universities"* was introduced by **Prof. (Dr.) D. P. Agrawal**, who elaborated on the vision of creating a collaborative platform among India's leading private universities. He underscored the importance of collective strength, knowledge sharing, and strategic partnerships to enhance the quality and global competitiveness of higher education in India. He highlighted that such a league can drive innovation, policy advocacy, and academic excellence through shared best practices. The session also included an interactive engagement with institutional leaders, fostering dialogue on collaborative growth and unified efforts towards achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.



PANEL DISCUSSION

FROM KNOWLEDGE TO NATIONAL WEALTH: UNIVERSITIES AS DRIVERS OF INNOVATION, START-UPS, AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Panel Discussion on *“From Knowledge to National Wealth: Universities as Drivers of Innovation, Start-ups, and Industrial Competitiveness”* was moderated and contextually set by **Prof. (Dr.) Raviraja Seetharam, Vice Chancellor, Chandigarh University, Punjab**. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the critical role of universities in transforming knowledge into economic value through innovation, research, and entrepreneurship. He highlighted the need for strong industry-academia collaboration, integration of emerging technologies like AI, and the creation of robust incubation ecosystems within campuses. Setting the tone for the session, he encouraged institutions to move beyond traditional teaching models and focus on developing problem-solving abilities, fostering startup culture, and contributing meaningfully to national growth and global competitiveness.

The panel discussion brought together distinguished academic and industry leaders who shared their perspectives on building a future-ready higher education ecosystem. **Prof. (Dr.) Anoop Gupta, Vice Chancellor, GLA University, Uttar Pradesh** emphasized integrating artificial intelligence across all disciplines, strengthening AI education, and preparing students with industry-relevant technological competencies.

Prof. (Dr.) V. Rajendran, Vice Chancellor, AMET University, Chennai highlighted the importance of multidisciplinary learning, innovation ecosystems, incubation centres, industry partnerships, and research commercialization.



Mr. Abhay Chebbi, Pro-Chancellor, Alliance University, Bengaluru stressed that entrepreneurship is a key driver of national growth and encouraged universities to create a “safe-to-fail” environment that nurtures innovation, creativity, and startup-oriented thinking. Prof. (Dr.) Raj Singh, Vice Chancellor, Bennett University, Greater Noida underscored the need to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills while emphasizing that research should focus on quality, impact, and addressing real-world challenges.

Adding an industry perspective, Mr. Sanjay Shah, Founder and CEO, Elevante AI, Bengaluru spoke about the transformative role of artificial intelligence in education and industry, encouraging students to become creators of AI-driven solutions rather than merely users of AI tools. He also highlighted the importance of stronger industry-academia collaboration to accelerate innovation. Prof. (Dr.) Nagajyothi Koripella, Vice Chancellor, B.E.S.T University, AP concluded by emphasizing holistic education that balances academic excellence with student well-being, leadership development, experiential learning, and social responsibility. Collectively, the panelists underscored that the future of higher education lies in integrating technology, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, strengthening research, and nurturing well-rounded, future-ready graduates.

Key Takeaway:

Universities must evolve into AI-driven innovation ecosystems focusing on research, entrepreneurship, and real-world impact.



PANEL DISCUSSION

BUILDING HUMAN CAPITAL FOR VIKSIT BHARAT 2047 TRANSFORMING UNIVERSITIES FOR SKILLS, EMPLOYABILITY, AND FUTURE WORK

Panel Discussion on “*Building Human Capital for Viksit Bharat 2047 - Transforming Universities for Skills, Employability, and Future Work*” was moderated and contextually set by **Prof. (Dr.) Parvinder Singh**, Advisor, CIPU & Director, International Academic Affairs, Eco Paryavaran Engineers and Consultants Pvt. Ltd., and **Former Vice Chancellor, Rayat Bahra University, Punjab**. In his opening remarks, he underscored the urgent need for universities to align education with future workforce requirements by focusing on skill development, employability, and adaptability. He emphasized that higher education must go beyond degrees to create industry-ready graduates equipped with practical knowledge, innovation capabilities, and strong ethical values. Setting the direction for the discussion, he highlighted the importance of experiential learning, industry collaboration, and continuous curriculum reforms to build a resilient and future-ready human capital for Bharat 2047.

The panel discussion featured insightful deliberations on preparing higher education for a rapidly evolving future. **Prof. (Dr.) Sanjay Kumar Bahl**, Vice Chancellor, Indus International University, Himachal Pradesh emphasized the need to equip students for careers that do not yet exist by fostering adaptability, lifelong learning, and industry-oriented education. **Prof. (Dr.) Prafulkumar M. Udani**, Vice Chancellor, Sankalchand Patel University, Gujarat highlighted the importance of strong industry-academia collaboration, regular curriculum updates, practical learning, and innovation- driven research to bridge the gap between education and industry.



Prof. (Dr.) Murari Lal Gaur, The Assam Kaziranga University, Koraikhowa stressed that employability depends on skills rather than degrees, advocating project-based learning and problem-solving approaches that prepare students for real-world challenges. **Prof. (Dr.) Paramjit Jaswal, Vice Chancellor, SRM University, Haryana** focused on entrepreneurship, flexible learning models, and research-driven innovation, encouraging institutions to build ecosystems that support startups and nurture job creators.

Adding further perspectives, **Prof. (Dr.) Yogesh Goswami, Vice Chancellor, Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, Indore** spoke about the importance of speed, scale, and strategic planning in achieving national growth, inspiring students to think ambitiously and develop scalable solutions to contemporary challenges. **Prof. (Dr.) Sunil Pareek, Dean (Post Graduate Studies), National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship & Management (NIFTEM), Haryana** emphasized the need for research with tangible societal and industrial impact, supported by strong industry collaboration, continuous faculty development, and value-based education. Together, the panelists underscored that the future of higher education lies in creating agile, innovation-driven institutions that combine academic excellence with practical skills, entrepreneurship, impactful research, and holistic student development.

Key Takeaway:

Universities must focus on skills, employability, industry collaboration, and lifelong learning to build strong human capital.



PANEL DISCUSSION

WHAT INDUSTRY EXPECTS FROM UNIVERSITIES IN VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

Panel Discussion on “*What Industry Expects from Universities in Viksit Bharat 2047*” was moderated and contextually set by **Mr. Abhishek Ranjan, Chairperson – Sustainability and CSR, The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India**. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the widening gap between academic learning and industry expectations, emphasizing the need for universities to produce job-ready graduates with practical skills and real-world exposure. He stressed the importance of integrating sustainability, innovation, and industry collaboration into the academic framework. Setting the tone for the session, he urged institutions to focus on experiential learning, continuous reskilling, and developing professionals who can adapt to rapidly evolving technological and economic landscapes.



The panel discussion focused on bridging the gap between academia and industry while preparing students for an AI-driven and rapidly evolving workforce. **Mr. E. Rajiv, Executive Director, International Automobile Centre of Excellence, Gujarat** emphasized the importance of continuous reskilling, strong industry-academia collaboration, and practical learning experiences to ensure that graduates remain relevant to industry needs. **Mr. Puneet Verma, Founder & CEO, Cybrain Software Solutions Private Limited, Mohali** highlighted the significance of developing meta-skills such as adaptability, continuous learning, innovation, and problem-solving, while encouraging interdisciplinary approaches to create future-ready professionals. **Mr. Vikram R. Singh, Founder & CEO, Antier Solutions, Chandigarh** stressed the need to produce job-ready graduates by integrating industry projects, hands-on learning, and sustained industry exposure into academic programmes.

Concluding the discussion, **Dr. Sandeep Garg, Managing Director, ECO Paryavaran Group, Punjab** underscored the importance of sustainability, ethics, and responsible innovation in shaping the future of higher education. He advocated value-based education and stronger collaboration among academia, industry, and society to foster holistic development. Collectively, the panelists emphasized that equipping students with practical skills, adaptability, ethical values, and industry exposure is essential for building a resilient, employable, and future-ready workforce.

Key Takeaway:

Universities must focus on practical learning, industry collaboration, innovation, and employability to meet future industry demands.





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VALEDICTORY & AWARDS

The Institutional Award was formally declared by **Prof. (Dr.) D. P. Agrawal, Chairman of the Jury, Distinguished Member, CIPU Board of Advisors, and Former Chairman, UPSC**, recognizing excellence in higher education and institutional impact. He highlighted the importance of innovation, academic quality, and societal contribution as key parameters for the award. The prestigious recognition was conferred upon **M. S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences**, acknowledging its outstanding contributions towards academic excellence, research, and skill-based education. The announcement marked a proud moment in the summit, celebrating institutional leadership and commitment to nation-building.





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Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Another significant highlight of the valedictory session was the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **CIPU (Confederation of Indian Private Universities)** and **Bennett University**, part of the **Times Group**, for the establishment of *"The Academy for Entrepreneurial Teaching & Transformative Learning."* This collaboration aims to foster innovation-driven pedagogy, entrepreneurial thinking, and transformative learning practices across institutions. The initiative is expected to empower faculty and students with cutting-edge skills, promote startup culture, and strengthen the overall ecosystem of experiential and future-ready education.

Special Address

The Special Address was delivered by **Mr. Ronjan Sodhi, Convenor of CIPU Sports Advisory Board, Olympian, Former World No. 1 Double Trap Shooter, and Khel Ratna Awardee**, who highlighted the vital role of sports in the holistic development of students. He emphasized that universities must integrate sports and physical education as an essential component of academic life to promote discipline, resilience, and teamwork. Drawing from his own journey, he underscored how sports instill leadership qualities and mental strength among youth. He encouraged institutions to create robust sports infrastructure and nurture talent, positioning sports as a key contributor to both personal development and national pride.



Guest of Honour Address

The Guest of Honour Address was delivered by **Prof. (Dr.) Bhola Ram Gurjar, Director, National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh, Ministry of Education**, who emphasized the critical role of quality teacher education and capacity building in transforming higher education. He highlighted that the success of Viksit Bharat 2047 depends on well-trained educators who can adapt to emerging technologies and innovative pedagogies. He stressed the importance of continuous faculty development, industry exposure, and skill-based teaching approaches. His address underscored that strengthening the teaching ecosystem is fundamental to producing competent, future-ready graduates and driving national progress.



Vote of Thanks

The summit concluded with the Vote of Thanks delivered by **Prof. (Dr.) G.K. Shirude, Honorary Vice President, CIPU and Vice Chancellor, Sri Balaji University, Pune**, who expressed sincere appreciation to all distinguished guests, speakers, panelists, and delegates for their valuable participation and contributions. He acknowledged the efforts of the organizers and partners in successfully conducting the summit and highlighted the significance of the deliberations held over the two days. He reiterated the importance of sustained collaboration among academia, industry, and policymakers to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. His remarks brought the summit to a meaningful and dignified close.



DAY 02-GLIMPSE





The summit successfully fostered dialogue, collaboration, and actionable insights for transforming India's higher education landscape.

Thank You!



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