



CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Moving Bharat (India) Again Towards Vishwa Guru

In association with



BHARAT HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT (BHES) 2025

23rd & 24th April 2025

—  **VENUE**  —
Mahindra University
Hyderabad

ABOUT THE SUMMIT

The Bharat Higher Education Summit 2025 was a premier platform dedicated to shaping the future of higher education in India. With the theme "Building Next Generation Leaders in Higher Education," the summit aimed to address the evolving educational landscape and the need for leadership that is visionary, inclusive, and transformative.

India's higher education sector is at a pivotal crossroads. The demand for dynamic leadership capable of navigating complex challenges, fostering innovation, and steering institutions toward excellence has never been greater. This summit brought together thought leaders, policymakers, educators, and industry experts to discuss strategies for nurturing future leaders who will not only contribute to academic excellence but also drive sustainable socio-economic development.

The Summit highlighted the role of universities as engines of innovation, research, and community impact, ensuring they are equipped to meet the demands of tomorrow's workforce.

By providing a platform for cross-sector collaboration, the Bharat Higher Education Summit sought to lay the foundation for a new generation of academic leaders who would champion educational reforms and empower future generations to excel in a globalized world.

BHARAT HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT (BHES) 2025

23rd & 24th APRIL 2025

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DAY
01



INAUGURAL SESSION

23rd April 2025, Mahindra University



In the inaugural session, the welcome address was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Yajulu Medury, Chairperson of the CIPU Southern India Regional Council and Vice Chancellor of Mahindra University, Hyderabad. Welcoming the attendees, he noted that BHES 2025 was a collaborative movement aimed at building institutions of excellence through bold leadership, technology integration, and sustainable innovation. He expressed that Mahindra University was honored to convene this important dialogue focused on developing globally competent and socially conscious future leaders.

Prof. (Dr.) Gopal Pathak, Honorary President, CIPU and Director General Sarla Birla University, Ranchi delivered the theme address in which he discussed the significance of character, culture, and collaboration in academic governance. He emphasized that global technological developments offer valuable lessons, and it is important to learn from them. Reflecting on the theme of future leadership, he highlighted that young faculty members must cultivate leadership skills and prepare themselves to guide the next generation, as they are responsible for shaping students' futures. He stressed that without technological advancement, character building, honesty, and integrity among academicians, all efforts in education would be rendered meaningless.





In his presidential address, **Dr. Rahul Karad**, Founder & Chief Patron of CIPU and Executive President of MIT World Peace University, Pune, emphasized that in a vibrant democracy, co-creation is essential, beginning with people coming together to drive collective progress. He acknowledged the growing role of private universities in shaping India's educational landscape and underscored the importance of a unified platform like the Confederation of Indian Private Universities (CIPU). Such a body, he noted, can effectively represent the interests of private institutions, address shared challenges, and ensure that research, quality, innovation, and inclusivity remain central to the evolution of higher education in India.

During his keynote address, **Prof. (Dr.) Anil Sahasrabudhe**, Chairman of the Executive Committee, NAAC, and Chairman of NBA, emphasised how institutional innovation and integrity need to be at the heart of accreditation. He noted that CIPU has raised a crucial topic by focusing on how future leadership must be shaped, particularly at a time when the Hon'ble Prime Minister is emphasizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Reflecting on the essence of leadership, he stated that true leaders are those who lead by example—by practicing what they preach. Without demonstrating this in action, he remarked, others will not be inspired to follow.



In a special address **Mr. Murali Bukkapatnam**, Chairman, Global Board of Trustees, TiE, highlighted the importance of cross-sector partnerships to drive entrepreneurship and innovation in curriculum and research respectively.



Delivering the inaugural address, **Prof. (Dr.) T. G. Sitharam**, Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), highlighted the responsibility of higher education institutions to shape visionary leaders amid rapid technological disruptions and global shifts. He emphasized that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offers a transformative roadmap, promoting a move away from rote learning toward critical thinking, and encouraging multidisciplinary integration over siloed learning. He also noted that private universities will be instrumental in achieving the ambitious target of a 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) by 2035.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by **Prof. (Dr.) G.K. Shirude**, Honorary Vice President, CIPU and Vice Chancellor Balaji University, Pune and followed by Networking dinner. During the event, academicians reiterated the need to sustain the momentum initiated through collaborative action and continued dialogue.



INAUGURAL SESSION

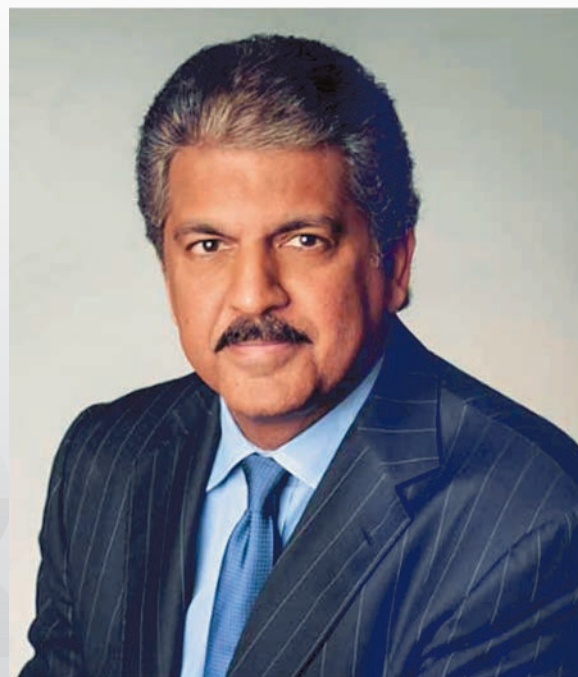
23rd April 2025



Mr. Anand Mahindra's message

“ Bharat Higher Education Summit 2025 is a significant milestone in our collective journey towards shaping the future for our coming generations. Together, we must pave the way for India to continue thriving in the global knowledge economy and lead the charge with our innovative and cutting-edge ideas.

This summit has sparked vital discussions and strengthened partnerships across academia, industry leaders, and policymakers, underscoring its importance in our shared mission to transform India's higher education ecosystem. The way forward is clear; we must nurture curious minds to drive growth and foster global thinkers, trailblazers and fearless leaders.”



Mr. Anand Mahindra, Chancellor, Mahindra University, was unable to attend the inaugural session due to prior commitments. However, his special message was read out during the session by Prof. (Dr.) Yajulu Medury, Vice Chancellor, Mahindra University.

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PLENARY SESSIONS

24th April 2025, Mahindra University



In a special address on 'Challenges to Academic Leadership in the Next Decade', **Prof. (Dr.) D. P. Agarwal**, Former Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission, highlighted that the coming decade will be rapidly evolving, demanding agile and visionary leadership in education. He stated that leaders capable of driving meaningful change will emerge as the frontrunners in shaping the future of Indian education. He underscored the need to be prepared for an IT-enabled, distance learning-driven educational landscape. He mentioned that when considering how to fund NEP, it is stated that philanthropy must play a role. He questioned how much CSR money has been allocated toward this cause. He further pointed out that as long as the model persists, where

one entity pays and others benefit from it, there will be a lack of real demand. He assured with sincerity that the quality sought is not yet on the horizon, and no matter what efforts are made, it will remain elusive, as there is no demand for it from society. He raised the concern about the absence of societal support, questioning whether municipalities would be willing to come forward and support these initiatives, including funding. He stated that the answer to this is no. He further emphasized that the current financial model for higher education is not sustainable, and he does not foresee the quality improving, particularly as student engagement remains a significant issue. Prof. Agarwal also noted that while AI will shape many aspects of the future, it is the human mind and critical thinking that must remain in control, emphasizing that future skills will go beyond design and require a deeper understanding of technology's role without losing human agency.





BHES 2025

Bharat Higher Education Summit 2025

PANEL DISCUSSION

Public-Private Partnership in Research Capacity Building

This session explored how collaborative models between academia, industry, and government could drive research excellence and innovation. Panelists discussed best practices, funding mechanisms, and policy frameworks that could strengthen research ecosystems in higher education. The discussion focused on fostering meaningful partnerships that enhanced institutional research capacity and global competitiveness.



Prof. (Dr.) Anil Kashyap, President Chancellor of NICMAR University, Pune, chaired and moderated the panel discussion. In his welcome remarks, he emphasized that collaboration between industry and academia is crucial for strengthening the research ecosystem. He highlighted that such partnerships not only drive innovation but also ensure that research efforts are aligned with real-world challenges and opportunities. He invited the panel and participants to explore ways to build stronger and more sustainable models for impactful research and development.



Prof. (Dr.) Roop Mahajan, Lewis A. Hester Chair in Engineering, Virginia Tech, Prof. (Dr.) Padmakali Banerjee, Vice Chancellor, IILM University, Gurugram, Dr. (Mrs.) C Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR – Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad and Prof. (Dr.) Nihar Ranjan Biswas, Vice Chancellor, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth, Puducherry joined as distinguished panelists.



Prof. Roop highlighted that a significant portion of research is funded through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). He stressed the importance of collaboration between universities to strengthen research capacity and innovation. Additionally, he emphasized the need to establish and support Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers as a key mechanism for fostering impactful, application-oriented research.



Dr. (Mrs.) C. Tara Satyavathi emphasized the importance of deep ownership and commitment to one's profession. Reflecting on the agricultural sector, she noted the shift from traditional staples like rice and wheat to the growing mainstream adoption of millets. She highlighted that ICAR has developed over 80 technologies that have been successfully commercialized and adopted by industry, demonstrating the tangible impact of agricultural research and innovation.

Prof. Banerjee referenced Thomas Jefferson's perspective, expressing a preference for the potential of the future over the history of the past. She emphasized that capacity building in research should go beyond just developing infrastructure—it must involve creating a comprehensive ecosystem that supports innovation, talent development, and sustainable growth.



Dr. Nihar Ranjan Biswas stressed that to achieve a 50% Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER), open and distance learning must be effectively utilized—though this also presents a challenge to maintaining quality. He emphasized that Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), skill development, and capacity building are essential strategies to meet this goal. He also called for greater collaboration among private universities to collectively strengthen the higher education ecosystem.



THE KEY TAKEAWAYS

■ Collaboration Between Academia, Industry, and Government

Strong collaborative models between these sectors are crucial for driving research excellence and innovation. Such partnerships can align research efforts with real-world challenges and opportunities, fostering a more impactful research ecosystem.

■ Importance of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

A significant portion of research is funded through PPPs, which play a critical role in supporting innovation. Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers should be established to bridge the gap between academic research and industry needs.

■ Capacity Building Beyond Infrastructure

Capacity building in research must go beyond just infrastructure development. It should focus on creating a comprehensive ecosystem that supports talent development, sustainable growth, and continuous innovation.

■ Commitment to Profession and Ownership

Individuals, especially in academia and research, must demonstrate ownership and deep commitment to their professions. A shift in the agricultural sector, for example, demonstrates how research-driven innovation (such as the adoption of millets) can significantly impact industry and society.

■ Focus on Skill Development and Open Learning

To achieve higher enrollment ratios (50% GER), open and distance learning must be better utilized, alongside a focus on maintaining quality education. Skill development and capacity building should be prioritized to meet evolving educational needs.



THEME

Building Next Generation Leaders in Higher Education



PANEL DISCUSSION

Leadership Skills for Digital Age

In an era defined by rapid technological advancements, academic leaders have to embrace digital transformation to drive institutional success. This session examined the essential leadership competencies required to navigate digital disruption, implement technology-driven learning models, and create future-ready institutions. Experts shared insights on digital fluency, data-driven decision-making, and leading in an increasingly tech-centric education landscape.



Prof. (Dr.) Parvinder Singh, Chairperson of the CIPU Northern India Regional Council and Vice Chancellor of Lamrin Tech Skill University, Ropar, Punjab, chaired and moderated the panel discussion. In his welcome address, he emphasized that leadership in the digital era requires not only strategies, planning, and skills but also a mindset capable of navigating complexity, embracing innovation, and fostering resilient, adaptive academic practices. He highlighted emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, Blockchain, and Virtual Reality as essential tools for forward-thinking academic leadership in today's rapidly evolving educational landscape.



Dr. Onkar Bagaria, Trustee & CEO, Vivekananda Global University, Jaipur, Prof. (Dr.) Rajita Kulkarni, President, Sri Sri University, Cuttack, Prof. (Dr.) Arun Kumar Pujari, HOD of AI & CSE, Adviser & Professor Emeritus, Mahindra University, Hyderabad and Prof. (Dr.) Monika Sethi Sharma, Vice Chancellor, K.K. Modi University, Chattisgarh joined as distinguished panelists.



Dr. Bagaria emphasized that leadership in the digital age must be data-driven, especially in the higher education sector, where decision-making increasingly relies on managing and interpreting vast amounts of data.



Prof. Arun Kumar Pujari encouraged a deeper reflection on the factors behind the success of AI, suggesting that similar principles-such as data sharing, code sharing, restructuring, relearning, and competitive, data-driven ecosystems-should inform the development of leadership skills in the academic and research domains.

Dr. Sethi highlighted that this is a uniquely empowered era for the younger generation, with unprecedented access to data and knowledge. She noted that this accelerates decision-making but also places responsibility on leaders to understand and respond to the evolving needs of students in higher education.



Prof. Kulkarni observed that in today's hyper-connected world, particularly through social media, greater connectivity can ironically lead to greater feelings of isolation. She emphasized that fostering a sense of trust is crucial in helping individuals feel secure, supported, and truly connected in both academic and social environments.



THE KEY TAKEAWAYS

■ Data-Driven Decision Making

Emphasized the importance of using data to make informed and effective decisions.

■ Digital Fluency in Future Generations

The coming generation will be more fluent in handling and understanding data, and it is crucial to create an environment that allows leadership to adopt these changes effectively.

■ Skills for Leaders

Leaders must have digital skills, including the ability to focus, draw valuable insights, and connect with people who have a focus and insights.

■ Upskilling Faculty and Leaders

Faculties and leaders need to constantly upskill to stay ahead of rapidly evolving technologies.

■ Strategic Agility for Leaders

University leaders should possess strategic agility, adaptability, and the ability to navigate a volatile global environment.

■ Role of AI

AI can serve as a facilitator in improving leadership and decision-making processes.



PANEL DISCUSSION

Fostering Entrepreneurial Mindsets in Academia

Entrepreneurial thinking is becoming essential in higher education to drive innovation, problem solving, and industry impact. This session delved into strategies for embedding entrepreneurship within academic institutions, empowering faculty and students to pursue innovation, and building a culture that supports startups and commercialization. Panelists shared global best practices and discussed how universities can be catalysts for economic growth and societal transformation.



Prof. (Dr.) Ramgopal Rao, Group Vice Chancellor of BITS Pilani, chaired and moderated the panel discussion. In his welcome remarks, he emphasized the need for academic institutions to move beyond traditional approaches and address systemic challenges within the current academic framework. Citing that India's patent filings have increased tenfold in the past five years, placing the country 6th globally, he stressed that patents must evolve into prototypes, which should then become marketable products, leading to profit that can be reinvested into the academic ecosystem. He also touched on emerging research frontiers like gravitational waves, quantum science, and nanotechnology, urging institutions to look beyond patents and publications, and instead focus on building a full cycle of innovation—from idea to impact.



Prof. (Dr.) Pawan Kumar Singh, Director, IIM Tiruchirappalli, Prof. (Dr.) Y.S.R. Murthy, Vice Chancellor, The Assam Royal Global University, Dr. Madhu Chitkara, Pro-Chancellor, Chitkara University, Punjab, Mr. Yogesh Brahmkar, Innovation Director, MoE's Innovation Cell, Mr. Rajesh Pagadala, President, TiE Hyderabad and Founder & Managing Director, Pagadala Constructions Pvt. Ltd. joined as distinguished panelists.



Prof. Pawan Kumar Singh emphasized the need for a society with strong entrepreneurial orientation, beginning with academicians themselves embodying entrepreneurial values, which in turn will influence and inspire students.

Dr. Chitkara shared the initiatives at Chitkara University aimed at promoting a robust startup ecosystem, highlighting that 73% of the startups on campus are women-led, showcasing the university's commitment to inclusivity in entrepreneurship.



Mr. Yogesh discussed the role of the ministry in promoting entrepreneurial mindsets, stressing the need to challenge existing assumptions, foster this mindset among faculty, and provide continuous support and trust for long-term success.

Mr. Rajesh pointed out that innovation exists across all academic verticals, with opportunities for patents and process improvements. He stressed that successful entrepreneurship requires holistic management abilities, not just ideas.



Prof. Y.S.R. Murthy advocated for a greater focus on social entrepreneurship in higher education, noting that while industry problems are often prioritized, the social impact dimension remains underexplored and under-supported.

THE KEY TAKEAWAYS

■ Encouraging Original Thinking in Academicians

Helping academicians think creatively and develop original ideas.

■ Entrepreneurial Mindset in Research and Societal Sensitivity

Entrepreneurial mindset should be sensitive to societal issues and focused on identifying and addressing pain points. There is a need for an entrepreneurial mindset in research, aiming to solve problems and contribute to translational research.

■ Entrepreneurship Addressing Societal Issues

Entrepreneurship should focus on addressing societal challenges and creating solutions that have a positive impact.

■ Encouraging Innovation and Risk-Taking

Encouraging a culture of innovation, research, and risk-taking is essential for entrepreneurial success in academia.

■ Integrating Entrepreneurship into Curriculum

Entrepreneurship should be integrated into academic curricula to better prepare students for real-world challenges.

■ Mentorship and Support Systems

Providing mentorship and robust support systems for students is crucial to fostering an entrepreneurial spirit. Ensuring access to funding, resources, and opportunities is vital for nurturing entrepreneurial initiatives in academia.





PANEL DISCUSSION

Leadership in Research and Innovation

Research and innovation are at the core of academic excellence and national progress. This session brought together thought leaders to discuss how universities can strengthen research capabilities, drive interdisciplinary collaborations, and ensure research integrity. Panelists explored key themes such as research inclusion, impact, intelligence, and ethical leadership in advancing knowledge and shaping the future of higher education.



Prof. (Dr.) Sandeep Sancheti, Chairperson of the CIPU National Committee on R&D and Industry-Academia Collaboration and Vice President, Research Relations and Academic Affairs at Elsevier (India), chaired and moderated the panel discussion. In his welcome remarks, he posed a thought-provoking challenge—to identify research initiatives in India that have been successfully productized and gained global acceptance, emphasizing that achieving such milestones reflects true research leadership. He underscored that leadership in research is not an individual pursuit but emerges through teamwork and collaboration. Highlighting the need for structured progress, he stressed the importance of benchmarks, attainments, and

actionable plans. He introduced the concept of "Research I (RI)", where 'I' stands for Impact, Integrity, Internationalization, Inclusivity, and Innovation, advocating for these as the core pillars of a forward-looking research ecosystem.



Prof. M. Krishnamurthy, Centre Director, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Hyderabad, Prof. (Dr.) Arvind Shaligram, Hon. Director, ISRO-UoP Space Technology Cell, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Prof. (Dr.) Bishnu Pal, Professor & Dean Ecole Centrale School of Engineering & HoD, Physics, Mahindra University, Prof. (Dr.) KP Venugopal Rao, Director (Finance), Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Hyderabad joined as distinguished panelists.



Prof. M. Krishnamurthy expressed concern that, as a country, India is not investing sufficiently in research. He emphasized that effective research requires substantial investment, robust infrastructure, and the nurturing of a culture that embraces risk-taking and innovation.



Prof. Bishnu Pal noted that universities serve as the breeding grounds for future ideas. He stressed that research is often incremental and not every project results in an invention. To build long-term capacity, entry-level faculty need time and support to engage meaningfully in research.

Prof. Arvind Shaligram introduced the concept of three layers of research:

- Fundamental Research: high-risk, high-impact breakthroughs where traditional metrics like publications may not initially apply.
- Routine Research: involves creating reusable infrastructure for consistent outputs like data, papers, and patents.
- Utility Research: focused on solving industry-specific problems with practical solutions. He highlighted the importance of balancing all three layers to build a sustainable research ecosystem.



Prof. K.P. Venugopal Rao brought in the managerial and business perspectives of research. He noted that the National Education Policy (NEP) has created timely opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and cultural transformation within universities. He advocated for fostering curiosity and providing incentives to students and faculty to enhance research engagement and innovation.



THE KEY TAKEAWAYS

■ Research Leadership Lies in Collaboration

Effective research leadership is driven by collaboration across institutions, industries, and other stakeholders.

■ The 'RI' Framework for Research Excellence

The 'RI' framework, focusing on Research Impact, Integrity, Internationalization, Inclusivity, and Innovation, is essential for fostering research excellence.

■ Investment and Culture Are Critical

Sufficient investment in research infrastructure and creating a supportive research culture are key factors for success.

■ Universities as Idea Incubators

Universities should be seen as incubators for new ideas, fostering innovation and driving the development of breakthrough solutions.

■ Faculty Development

Ongoing professional development for faculty is crucial for enhancing research capabilities and fostering leadership in academia.

■ Incentivizing Research Participation

Providing rewards, recognition, and institutional support for both students and faculty can significantly increase research engagement and participation.



**CIPU OFFICIALS WITH
STUDENT VOLUNTEERS OF
MAHINDRA UNIVERSITY**

GLIMPSES FROM BHES 2025

23rd & 24th April 2025, Mahindra University, Hyderabad



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

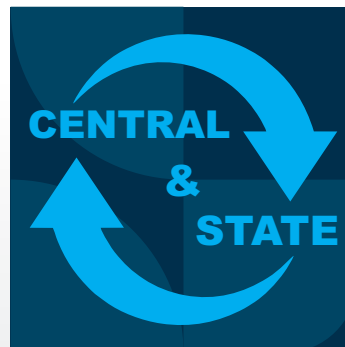


Establish a Distinct Ranking Framework for Private Universities

Solution: Develop a dedicated ranking system tailored to private universities, considering their unique contexts and contributions. This framework should emphasize parameters like industry collaborations, innovation, and societal impact.

Enhance Coordination Between Central and State Regulatory Bodies

Solution: Establish a joint task force comprising representatives from central agencies (UGC, AICTE) and state authorities to facilitate regular dialogues. This body can address challenges faced by state private universities, including revisiting fee structures and regulatory frameworks, ensuring policies are cohesive and contextually relevant.



Promote Partnerships Between Private Universities and Premier Institutions

Solution: Initiate structured collaboration programs between private universities and premier institutions like IITs and IIMs. These partnerships can focus on faculty exchange, joint research projects, and sharing of best practices, fostering a culture of mentorship and academic excellence.



Increase Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Investments in Higher Education

Solution: Encourage private sector companies to allocate a portion of their CSR funds to higher education initiatives. This can be facilitated by creating a centralized platform that connects corporations with educational institutions, ensuring transparency and alignment of objectives.

Recognize Higher Education as a Public Good

Solution: Advocate for policies that treat higher education as a public good, ensuring broader access and equity. This includes implementing inclusive admission policies, providing financial aid to underprivileged students, and investing in infrastructure to accommodate diverse student populations.



Innovate PhD Programs to Cultivate Entrepreneurship

Solution: Reorient doctoral programs to include entrepreneurship training, encouraging PhD holders to venture beyond academia. This can involve integrating modules on business development, innovation management, and startup incubation into the curriculum, fostering a new generation of academic entrepreneurs.

ABOUT CIPU

Confederation of Indian Private Universities (CIPU) emerged as an outcome of several rounds of discussions and brainstorming with stakeholders in the Higher Education ecosystem. This took the shape of the first formal dialogue in 2022 when more than 25 American and 30 Indian thought leaders met in Washington D.C. Building on the successful deliberations in Washington, more than 70 leading Private Universities met in Pune in January 2023 to take forward the mission.

CIPU is a not-for-profit member driven body that works and advocates for the promotion and interests of the tertiary, higher education, and University levels in various national and international forums.

The vision of CIPU is to make India, the knowledge capital of the world and re-establish the country's credentials as a Vishwa Guru in the 21st century.

The organisation will work closely with the Government and Education Entrepreneurs to ensure that the needs and concerns of higher education institutions are heard and addressed in policy making. CIPU also collaborates with international organisations and associations to promote the internationalization of higher education and to enhance the global reputation of the sector.


The Confederation serves as a unifying force, providing a platform for member institutions to exchange ideas, share best practices, and collectively address challenges facing the higher educational landscape. It also provides a platform for consensus building and networking on key issues.



CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Moving Bharat (India) Again Towards Vishwa Guru

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