



**CONFEDERATION OF
INDIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES**

Organized

**NATIONAL
ROUNDTABLE**

**Challenges & Opportunities for
Women in Higher Education**

at Host Institution



K.R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY
THE COMPLETE WORLD OF EDUCATION



6th Mar 2026, Gurugram

Introduction

The Confederation of Indian Private Universities (CIPU), successfully organized a National Roundtable on “Challenges and Opportunities for Women in Higher Education” on 6 March 2026 at the K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram.

The roundtable aimed to bring together academic leaders, policy experts, and institutional administrators to deliberate on the evolving role of women in higher education and explore pathways to strengthen their participation in academic leadership and research.

Higher education institutions today are increasingly recognizing the importance of gender equity, inclusive leadership, and institutional support mechanisms for women professionals. Despite significant progress in access to education, women continue to face various structural and institutional challenges such as:

- Limited representation in leadership roles
- Work-life balance pressure
- Gender bias in research and administrative opportunities
- Lack of mentorship and leadership development programmes

This roundtable served as an important policy dialogue platform to examine these challenges and identify strategic solutions for building gender-inclusive academic ecosystems.

The programme commenced with the arrival of distinguished guests, followed by an informal networking session and group photograph. The formal proceedings included welcome remarks, keynote addresses by distinguished speakers, context-setting discussions, and an interactive open-house dialogue among participants.

The roundtable concluded with the distribution of Certificates of Appreciation to all participants in recognition of their valuable contributions to the dialogue.



Objectives of the Roundtable

The National Roundtable was organized with the following key objectives

- To promote dialogue on gender equity and the evolving role of women in higher education leadership.
 - To identify key challenges faced by women academicians, administrators, and researchers in academic institutions.
 - To explore institutional strategies and policy interventions that can strengthen women's participation in academic leadership.
 - To encourage collaboration among universities for creating mentorship, research, and leadership development opportunities for women.
 - To build institutional frameworks that promote inclusive, equitable, and supportive environments for women professionals in higher education.
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Inaugural Session

The program began with a formal welcome address delivered by the university

The dignitaries were formally welcomed and introduced to the participants, marking the beginning of the roundtable discussions.



Address by CIPU Leadership

Mr. R. Karthik, Director General of CIPU, delivered the Special Address, highlighting the importance of collaboration among private universities in addressing national education challenges.

He emphasized that platforms such as national roundtables are crucial for:

- Sharing institutional best practices
- Facilitating policy dialogue among academic leaders
- Encouraging collaborative research and leadership initiatives

He also acknowledged the efforts of K.R. Mangalam University in hosting such meaningful academic discussions and contributing to the broader dialogue on gender equity in higher education.



Chief Guest Address



DR. D. P. AGARWAL

Dr. D. P. Agarwal, Former Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), delivered the Chief Guest Address, offering valuable perspectives on policy frameworks and institutional reforms necessary to strengthen women's participation in higher education.

He highlighted that:

- Women's leadership is essential for the future transformation of higher education institutions.
- Universities must actively promote merit-based opportunities and equal participation in academic governance.
- Institutional policies should support career progression, research opportunities, and leadership roles for women academicians.

His address served as an inspiration for participants and reinforced the importance of inclusive leadership in academic institutions.

Context Setting Session

Dr. Archana Mantri, Vice Chancellor of Anurag University, delivered the Context Setting Address, presenting an overview of the current status of women's participation in higher education in India.

Her presentation focused on:

- Trends in women enrolment and faculty representation
- The gender gap in academic leadership positions
- Strategies for bridging institutional gender disparities
- The role of universities in promoting inclusive governance and leadership

Her insights provided a strong foundation for the subsequent roundtable discussion.



DR. ARCHANA MANTRI

Roundtable Discussion and Open-House Dialogue

The interactive roundtable session provided participants with an opportunity to share their perspectives, experiences, and institutional best practices.

Key themes discussed during the open-house session included:

Women Leadership in Academic Institutions

Participants discussed the importance of increasing women's representation in university governance bodies, academic councils, and administrative leadership positions.

Institutional Support Mechanisms Participants emphasized the need for:

- Flexible work environments
- Gender-sensitive policies
- Institutional mentorship programmes

Work-Life Balance Challenges

The discussion also highlighted challenges faced by women professionals in balancing academic responsibilities with personal and family commitments.

Mentorship and Career Development

Participants recommended establishing:

- Women leadership forums
- Structured mentorship networks
- Professional development programmes

Policy Initiatives for Gender-Inclusive Campuses

Experts suggested that universities should adopt gender equity policies, leadership training programmes, and inclusive institutional frameworks.



Participation and Engagement

The roundtable witnessed active participation from university leaders, faculty members, policy experts, and academic administrators representing various higher education institutions.

Participants engaged in meaningful dialogue and contributed valuable insights on:

- Institutional policies
- Leadership development programmes
- Gender-inclusive academic environments

The collaborative nature of the discussion fostered knowledge exchange and networking among participants, strengthening institutional cooperation.

Conclusion

The National Roundtable on “Challenges and Opportunities for Women in Higher Education” proved to be a highly insightful and impactful academic engagement.

The event successfully:

- Created a platform for policy dialogue on gender equity in higher education
- Encouraged institutional collaboration and knowledge sharing
- Generated valuable recommendations for strengthening women's leadership in academia

The discussions reinforced the importance of building inclusive academic ecosystems that support the professional growth and leadership development of women in higher education.

K.R. Mangalam University and CIPU reaffirmed their commitment to organizing such academic initiatives that contribute to policy dialogue, institutional innovation, and leadership development in the Indian higher education landscape.



Participants engaging in discussions during the National Roundtable at K.R. Mangalam University.



Distribution of Certificates of Appreciation to participants.



Distinguished speakers addressing participants during the roundtable session.



Participants of the Roundtable Session

CONTACT

CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

S. No. 124, Paud Road, Kothrud, Pune - 411038, India

✉ initiatives@cipuglobal.org / info@cipuglobal.org

🌐 cipuglobal.org

in [linkedin.com/company/cipu-global-org](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cipu-global-org)

▶ [youtube.com/@cipuglobal](https://www.youtube.com/@cipuglobal)