



Digiii100x

ANDHRA PRADESH

Swarn Andhra & Viksit Bharat.

Shaping Andhra Pradesh's edge in higher education.

Friday, 12 June 2026

Radisson Blu Resort
Visakhapatnam

A leadership playbook from
Invite-only, no-sales community

A community built around **action**

Every Digii100x chapter is designed to turn dialogue into decisions and shared ambition into collective action.

On **Friday, 12 June 2026**, Digii100x Andhra Pradesh brought together a distinguished community of leaders in Visakhapatnam for a day of meaningful dialogue. The gathering was graced by the Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Human Resources Development, and Real-Time Governance, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Nara Lokesh, and the Member of Parliament (Visakhapatnam) and President, GITAM Deemed to be University, Shri Sribharat Mathukumilli, alongside chancellors, vice chancellors, founders, institutional leaders, policymakers, industry experts and technology innovators. Together, they created a space where diverse perspectives converged around a common purpose—to reimagine the future of higher education.

Throughout the day, the community engaged in plenary sessions, roundtables, and a masterclass, each offering a distinct perspective on the future of higher education.

This Knowledge book brings together the most compelling ideas that emerged from these conversations, along with the Leadership Actions developed for each session. It is designed to serve as a practical reference for institutions as they continue their transformation journeys.

For readers who wish to explore these discussions in greater depth, dedicated roundtable playbooks, along with video recordings of the plenary sessions, masterclass, and other sessions, are available through Digii's digital channels.

These resources can be accessed using the QR code on the back cover of this playbook.

The day, in a glance

250+

Leaders

5

Roundtables

4

Plenary Sessions

1

Masterclass

Vision



From the Education Minister of AP

Shri Nara Lokesh

Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology,
Electronics & Communications;
Human Resources Development;
and Real-Time Governance,
Government of Andhra Pradesh.

“To every vice chancellor, founder, entrepreneur, CEO and academic leader who took the time to be in Visakhapatnam — thank you. This is the dialogue the sector has been missing.”

In a rapidly changing world, the **greatest competitive advantage** is not land, and it is not resources. It is **talent**. That is why a gathering like Digii100x matters.

Universities today are no longer just places of learning. They are talent-nurturing institutions, research engines, innovation hubs and entrepreneurship launchpads. The most successful institutions do three things exceptionally well — they **create talent, create knowledge, and create entrepreneurs**. Andhra Pradesh looks to partner with institutions committed to all three.

The role of government in this journey should be that of a **guardrail** — helping the sector self-regulate, helping it define how it wants to move forward. Dialogue between vice chancellors, founders, entrepreneurs and academicians is the beginning of that trust, and this convening is a fine example of it.

The next phase of this journey will be defined by how confidently institutions embrace emerging technologies. AI is one such opportunity. It will not replace universities. But it has to be embraced by all of us. Every industrial revolution has created more jobs than it has replaced — and this one will too, in geographies that are ready. **Andhra Pradesh intends to be one of those geographies**. The work begins with the institutions in this room.

Congratulations to the organisers, and to every leader who made the journey. This is a beginning worth honouring — and a rhythm worth continuing.

The sessions

One day of Power packed conversations.

Across the day, the community engaged in a series of conversations, each exploring a different dimension of the future of Indian higher education.

The pages that follow capture the defining ideas from every session, concluding with Your Three Moves—the practical actions institutions can carry forward. Read the conversations for perspective. Return to the moves for action.

Inaugural Ceremony

Setting the frame for the day.

Three vantage points converged on one question — what is Andhra Pradesh's edge in a knowledge-driven economy?

Chief Guest: **Shri Sribharat Mathukumilli**
Special Guests: **Dr. Ashwin Fernandes · Prof. Arindam Ghosh**
Welcome Address: **Shri Hemant Sahal**

Fireside Chat

When the World's Best Meet India's Best: How Will It Unfold?

Host: **Dr. Ashwin Fernandes**
In conversation:
Dr. Ananya Mukherjee
Shri S. Vaitheeswaran

Panel Discussion

Building India's World-Class, Research-Led Institutions

Moderator: **Shri Narayanan Ramaswamy** (KPMG India)
Panelists: **Prof. Atul Khosla · Dr. Satya Prakash Dash · Dr. Shailesh Kumar · Dr. Suresh Ramanathan**

Keynote

Sarvottam vs Sarvashreshtha: Excellence vs Being Better than Others

Delivered virtually
Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao
Group Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani

Roundtable

Beyond Campus Boundaries

Building High-Impact Education Ecosystems for Innovation, Talent, and Growth

Chairs: **Dr. K. M. Suceendran · Dr. M. P. Shyam · Ms. Richa Bajpai**

Roundtable

One State, One Higher Education Ecosystem

Unlocking Collective Excellence Through Collaboration

Chairs: **Dr. Narayana Bharath Gupta · Prof. M. Chandrasekhar · Prof. M. L. N. Rao**

Roundtable

The Digital Transformation Mandate

Building the Foundation for AI-First Campuses

Chairs: **Ms. Avnee Khosla · Shri Jitu Mishra · Shri Shazil Ahmed**

Roundtable

Building Great Institutions

Developing Leaders, Faculty, and Teams for the Next Decade

Chairs: **Ms. Nidhi Reddy · Dr. V. J. Byra Reddy**

Roundtable

Beyond Marks and Rankings

What Makes a Great Student?

Chairs: **Shri Akshay Saxena · Prof. Chakkalakal V. Tomy · Shri Maheshwer Peri**

Masterclass

Quantum Frontier

A Leadership Playbook for Future-Ready Institutions

Moderators: **Prof. Arindam Ghosh · Dr. Prashanth C. Upadhya**

Panel Discussion

Learning in the Age of AI

How Will Institutions Evolve?

Moderator: **Shri Rajesh Kumar**
Panelists: **Dr. Ranjan Banerjee · Prof. Rishikesh T. Krishnan · Dr. Satish Reddy Nallamilli · Shri Shankar Vanavarayar · Shri Srikant Nandigam**

Panel Discussion

Skills for Jobs or Skills for Life

What Should Education Prioritize?

Moderator: **Dr. Avantika Tomar**
Panelists: **Prof. D. N. Rao · Shri Gopal Devanahalli · Dr. Ibrahim Hafeezur Rehman · Dr. Sekar Viswanathan**

Valedictory

The close of the day.

Chief Guest · **Shri Nara Lokesh**

Along with: **Dr. Sangita Reddy · Shri Sriniraju · Dr. Narayana Bharath Gupta · Shri Sribharat Mathukumilli · Dr. Sekar Viswanathan**

Inaugural Ceremony

Vidya for Viksit Bharat.

Before the discussions turned to research, AI, student outcomes and institutional transformation, the inaugural returned to a more fundamental question: how can Andhra Pradesh build a higher education ecosystem that succeeds together?

“For the first time in a long time, private and public higher education in this state are being asked to walk into the **same room**. That itself is the story.”



Chief Guest · Inaugural

Shri Sribharat Mathukumilli

Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Visakhapatnam;
President, GITAM (Deemed to be University)

Partnership!

That is the foundational principle for the future of higher education in Andhra Pradesh. Today, we no longer view institutions through a lens of regulation alone; we view you as partners in a shared journey of transformation.

We must ask ourselves a defining question: Is the purpose of higher education only to transfer knowledge, or is it to provide a **moral compass**? We believe in building exceptional, knowledge-driven institutions that advance a culture of honesty and compassion to make a genuine difference to the world.

Technical excellence is most powerful when it is anchored in these human values.

We also know that true excellence is a direct result of autonomy. When we grant our educators the trust and freedom to innovate—modeled after the success of our premier national institutes—excellence follows. In Andhra Pradesh, we are backing this trust with action, ensuring that leadership across our universities is selected through a transparent, merit-based process to build institutional integrity.

Finally, we must move beyond being "protective of our domains. We are not insecure; if our research facilities or infrastructure can be used by other institutions to help students thrive, we are happy to collaborate. Our collective responsibility is to strengthen the entire ecosystem—both state and private—to ensure that the potential of every student is nurtured and sustained.

Continuing the opening · Special Guests & Convener



Special Guest

Dr. Ashwin Fernandes

Chair, QS India · Vice President, Strategic and International Engagement, QS Quacquarelli Symonds

If Viksit Bharat is the destination, higher education is the **Swarna Setu** that leads us there.

Swarna Andhra 2047 will be shaped by institutions that create meaningful outcomes, foster innovation and build global relevance alongside local impact. India's growing presence in global rankings reflects strong momentum; the next chapter will be defined by the lasting impact institutions create for learners, research and society.

Special Guest

Prof. Arindam Ghosh

JRD Tata Chair Professor of Physics, Indian Institute of Science · Head, Quantum Materials & Devices Vertical, National Quantum Mission

A student's career, a student's future, cannot be something to be played with. **Government, industry and academia have to arrive together.**

Future-ready institutions are built long before new programmes are launched. Sustained investment, academic excellence and collaboration across government, industry and academia create the conditions for innovation, while faculty capability lays the foundation for every emerging discipline.



Convener · The welcome address

Shri Hemant Sahal

Founder & CEO, Digii · Convener, Digii100x Andhra Pradesh

Education is the strongest force in the world. Technology is the lever. **Community is what turns both into collective progress.**

Digii100x is built on a simple belief: education transforms lives, technology accelerates impact, and communities create lasting change. By bringing together leaders from policy, higher education, industry and technology, every chapter creates space for ideas, partnerships and collective progress to grow.

Fireside Chat

When the World's Best Meet India's Best: How will it unfold?



Host

Dr. Ashwin Fernandes

Chair, QS India

In conversation

Dr. Ananya Mukherjee

Vice Chancellor, Shiv Nadar
Institution of Eminence

In conversation

Shri S. Vaitheeswaran

Vice Chairman & MD, Manipal
Education & Medical Group

Identity is built long before rankings arrive — and shaped by governance culture and the freedom given to early-career researchers. **World-class is a repeatable system, not a single campus:** leadership pipelines, patient capital and honest measurement do the work a single flagship cannot.

What the fireside asked of your institution

Three moves surfaced when world-class practice met Indian ambition — a working consensus of the room, not any one voice.

01

External recognition follows internal culture — not the other way around. Audit one governance practice this quarter that would embarrass you if benchmarked against a global peer — and fix it.

02

Early-career researchers signal what your institution will be in ten years. Name three assistant professors your institution will actively protect and back over the next 24 months.

03

A single flagship rarely carries a sector — systems do. Publish one operating principle your institution follows repeatedly — the kind others could adopt.

Panel Discussion

Building India's World-Class, **Research-Led** Institutions.



On the panel

Shri Narayanan Ramaswamy (Moderator, KPMG India) · **Prof. Atul Khosla** (Shoolini) · **Dr. Satya Prakash Dash** (IKP Knowledge Park) · **Dr. Shailesh Kumar** (Jio Institute) · **Dr. Suresh Ramanathan** (IMI)

Research is no longer just the core — it needs to be **the purpose**. India is home to the third-largest number of universities in the world. The question is no longer scale. It is depth.

What the panel asked of your institution

Three moves the room converged on — not the position of any one panelist, but the working consensus that emerged.

01

Ecosystems begin around problems, not around methods or vanity metrics. Name one real-world problem your institution's research programme will visibly own over the next three years.

02

Curiosity is a habit built long before doctoral admissions. Launch one undergraduate research pathway that connects to a live faculty problem — not a textbook.

03

The country has scale. Depth is where the gap sits. Commit one long-cycle research theme with patient funding of five years or more before the next budget cycle.

Panel Discussion

Learning in the Age of AI: **How will institutions evolve?**



Shri Rajesh Kumar (Moderator, Kalvium) · **Dr. Ranjan Banerjee** (Nayanta) · **Prof. Rishikesh T. Krishnan** (IIM Bangalore) · **Dr. Satish Reddy Nallamilli** (Aditya) · **Dr. Srikant Nandigam** (Vignan)

What goes away is any problem that is structured and programmable. The world is getting increasingly ambiguous. **Universities have to teach unstructured problem solving** — and they have to earn the classroom, not inherit it.

What the panel asked of your institution

Three moves surfaced as the collective posture of the room — how universities should evolve in an AI-shaped world.

01

Structured, programmable knowledge is the first thing AI eats. Review one course in your flagship programme and re-anchor half its assessment around unstructured problem solving.

02

Faculty authority now depends on approachability, not credentials alone. Introduce one ritual per semester where faculty visibly learn something new alongside students.

03

AI-first submissions are converging — the human first draft still differentiates. Rewrite one assignment policy to explicitly reward the student's first thinking, then AI refinement.

Panel Discussion

Skills for Jobs or Skills for Life: What should education prioritise?



On the panel

Dr. Avantika Tomar (Moderator, EY-Parthenon India) · **Prof. D. N. Rao** (Centurion) · **Shri Gopal Devanahalli** (Wadhvani Foundation) · **Dr. Ibrahim Hafeezur Rehman** (NAMTECH) · **Dr. Sekar Viswanathan** (VIT)

Skills for the job and skills for life are different — but they are not mutually exclusive. They are **interdependent**. And more and more, you require skills for life. That is going to be part of the continuum.

What the panel asked of your institution

Three moves the room converged on — how to design curricula that hold up across a working life, not just a first job.

01

Employers already value life skills more than tool skills — and AI widens the gap. Add one credit-bearing life-skills strand (resilience, communication, financial literacy) to every degree.

02

Job skills date; life skills compound. Redesign one capstone project so it is judged as much on communication and reasoning as on technical output.

03

Skills for life have to be observable to be teachable. Publish one honest employer-facing report card of your graduates' life-skill outcomes by year-end.

Masterclass

The Quantum Frontier.

What every institution leader needs to understand about quantum technologies — without becoming a physicist.

Delivered by Prof. Arindam Ghosh

JRD Tata Chair Professor of Physics, Indian Institute of Science · Head, Quantum Materials & Devices Vertical, National Quantum Mission

You can think about it from a height — but **can you afford NOT to invest in it?** A country without quantum sensors is a country whose industrial security is jeopardised.

Quantum tech is not one thing — it is three

01

Computing

Quantum vectors, not binary bits.
Google targets 1,000 logical qubits by 2029; IBM by 2033.

Amaravati Quantum Valley —
156-qubit IBM processor arriving in AP.

02

Communication

Secure transfer via quantum encoding — any eavesdropping disrupts the channel and is detectable.

National Quantum Mission:
Delhi–Chennai quantum network in flight.

03

Sensing

Detectors more sensitive than classical — magnetometry, gravity, medical imaging, quantum radar.

Already field-ready — the most underappreciated of the three.

What the masterclass asked of your institution

Three moves surfaced from the session — the working consensus on where quantum readiness begins for Indian higher education.

01

Fabrication is a central-facility game — no institution can build its own lithography stack. Identify one central quantum facility (IISc, TIFR, IIT Madras, Amaravati) your faculty and students can access this year.

02

Faculty depth precedes student programmes — the useful window opens 2029–2032. Send two faculty for a quantum sabbatical or upskilling programme in the next academic year.

03

Sensing is the most underappreciated of the three — and closest to industrial revenue. Name one applied problem — medical, radar, materials — your institution will explore first.

Masterclass

Quantum Frontier: A Leadership Playbook for Future—Ready Institutions



Roundtable

Beyond Campus Boundaries.

Building high-impact education ecosystems for innovation, talent and growth.



Session chairs

Dr. K. M. Suceendran (Head, Academic Alliances, TCS) · **Dr. M. P. Shyam** (President, RV Institutions) · **Ms. Richa Bajpai** (Founder & CEO, Campus Fund)

Teaching institutions have to become **innovation institutions** that produce job creators alongside job seekers. The most durable takeaway was cultural: **send faculty to industry**, not only students — three-month internships close small gaps, faculty who stay connected close systemic ones.

What the roundtable asked of your institution

Three moves surfaced as the working consensus of chairs and industry voices — how to build ecosystems that outlive any single MoU.

01

Industry integration works only if it starts early enough to shape a graduate. Redesign one UG programme so students are inside a company by the second semester — not the final one.

02

Faculty that stay current close the systemic gap; three-month internships do not. Fund two faculty industry-immersion sabbaticals next year — treated as promotion-worthy, not optional.

03

Entrepreneurship is core, not extracurricular — and student founders need patient capital. Commit one annual student-founder fund with a gap-year policy that lets founders build, not pause.

Roundtable

One State, One **Higher Education** Ecosystem.

Unlocking collective excellence through collaboration.



Session chairs

Dr. Narayana Bharath Gupta (Commissioner, Collegiate Education, GoAP) · **Prof. M. Chandrasekhar** (Director, IIM Visakhapatnam) · **Prof. M. L. N. Rao** (Vice Chancellor, RGUKT-AP)

For the first time, AP's central, state, deemed and private university leaders sat in one room with the Commissioner and the IIM Visakhapatnam Director. The working belief that anchored the session: **together, everyone achieves more** — and on a state-wide working group meeting quarterly.

What the roundtable asked of your institution

Three commitments surfaced as consensus — how to move from institutional silos to a state-level higher-education ecosystem.

01

A shared credit and mobility framework is the fastest visible win. Sign one credit-recognition MoU with a peer AP institution before the next semester begins.

02

Research infrastructure is under-utilised because it is under-shared. Publish one list of central facilities and instruments your institution will open to peer researchers this year.

03

Quarterly cadence is the difference between a working group and a talking group. Nominate one senior representative to the state working group and block quarterly dates on your calendar today.

Roundtable

The Digital Transformation **Mandate.**

Building the foundation for AI-first campuses.



Session chairs

Ms. Avnee Khosla (Trustee & VP, Shoolini) · **Shri Jitu Mishra** (Chief Administrative Officer, ISB) · **Shri Shazil Ahmed** (Vice President, Digii)

The question is no longer whether an institution is AI-enabled but **how it uses AI responsibly — humanely, inclusively, ethically, at scale**. The immediate obstacle is not tool adoption but **integration** — ERPs, LMSes and admissions CRMs that do not yet talk to each other.

What the roundtable asked of your institution

Three moves the room converged on — how to make an AI-first campus that is responsible, integrated and affordable.

01

Isolated systems are the real blocker — not the absence of AI tools. Audit your ERP, LMS and admissions CRM this quarter for what data actually flows between them — and what does not.

02

Responsible AI is a policy decision, not a technical outcome. Publish one AI usage policy for students and faculty this year that names both what is encouraged and what is off-limits.

03

The gap widens fastest between institutions that share intelligence and those that don't. Join one cross-institution data or ed-tech collaboration this year — even if only as an early observer.

Roundtable

Building Great Institutions.

Developing leaders, faculty and teams for the next decade.



Session chairs

Ms. Nidhi Reddy (Founding Senior Partner, Jetri) · **Dr. V. J. Byra Reddy** (Vice Chancellor, Woxsen University)

India has spent a decade building infrastructure — buildings, campuses, capacity. The next decade's work is building **people**: leadership succession, faculty depth, professional teams treated as invisible, and the culture that binds them.

What the roundtable asked of your institution

Three moves the room converged on — the difference between a good institution and a great one in the next decade.

01

Leadership succession is the deepest under-investment in Indian higher education. Name three internal candidates for your next senior leadership vacancy — before it opens.

02

Support staff are the invisible spine of every institution that endures. Include one career pathway and training budget line specifically for professional staff in your next annual plan.

03

Culture is strategy for breakfast — and culture is set by what leaders reward, not what they announce. Change one internal metric this year so it visibly rewards the culture your institution says it wants.

Roundtable

Beyond Marks and Rankings.

What makes a great student.



Session chairs

Shri Akshay Saxena (Co-Founder & Co-CEO, Avanti Fellows) · **Prof. Chakkalakal V. Tomy** (Dean, SRM University AP) · **Shri Maheshwer Peri** (Founder & Chairman, Careers360)

The room asked three linked questions — what do selection instruments actually measure, what does nurturing talent in an AI era mean, and how are students measuring us now? The tension held in one line: rankings are important, and **rankings are not important — both are true.**

What the roundtable asked of your institution

Three moves surfaced as the working consensus of the room — how to measure what actually matters, and how to be measured back.

01

Marks measure yesterday. Institutions have to measure tomorrow. Add one character or contribution indicator to your student progression record — visible to students, alumni and employers.

02

Selection is a proxy — retention is the real signal. Publish one honest year-one to year-two attrition and satisfaction report on your website by year-end.

03

Students now measure institutions with more data than we measure them. Interview ten current students this quarter with one question — “where does this institution not yet earn your trust?” — and publish the summary.

Valedictory address

Building the next chapter.

The valedictory connected the day's conversations to Andhra Pradesh's long-term vision, outlining how education, industry and government can work together to create talent, strengthen innovation and accelerate economic growth.



Chief Guest · Valedictory

Shri Nara Lokesh

Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications; Human Resources Development; and Real-Time Governance, Government of Andhra Pradesh

“Education and economic development become **inseparable.**”

That is the guiding vision for the next chapter of Andhra Pradesh. As the state prepares for emerging industries, higher education has been placed at the absolute center of economic transformation, not merely to produce graduates, but to build the talent, research, and innovation that future industries will depend on.

Realizing this vision requires partnership in its truest sense. While the government creates the enabling environment through reforms and infrastructure it is the academic and industry leaders who provide the ideas and skills that give those investments lasting value.

Finally, the role of government in this journey is to be a guardrail, not a regulator. By keeping the dialogue open and welcoming the ideas that emerged from this gathering, Andhra Pradesh intends to be the geography that is ready for the next industrial revolution.

This is a beginning worth honoring, and a rhythm worth continuing.

The closing voices

Every voice closed with an ask, and a **commitment**.



Special Guest

Dr. Sangita Reddy

Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited

You have spent the whole day on the pillar of education. For a **Viksit Bharat**, we also need a **Swasth Bharat** — and universities are where the two meet.

The future of healthcare will be shaped long before patients enter hospitals. Universities play a central role in preparing the doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and researchers who will define India's next chapter in healthcare. Strengthening that ecosystem is fundamental to building both a Viksit Bharat and a Swasth Bharat.

Special Guest

Shri Srinu Raju

Chairman, Sri City International University · Chairman, Sri City Pvt. Ltd.

Every university should choose one area — a crop, a fruit, a subject — and become **the keeper of that knowledge for the world**.

World-class institutions are built through depth, not breadth. Developing expertise in a distinct domain, strengthening applied learning and bringing industry into the classroom create institutions recognised not simply for what they teach, but for the knowledge they contribute to the world.



Special Guest

Dr. Narayana Bharath Gupta

Commissioner, Collegiate Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Today, we are not ending a discussion — we are **starting a long journey**.

The conversations reflected the depth of experience represented in the room and the value of bringing diverse perspectives together. As Andhra Pradesh prepares for the industries of the future, continued dialogue between higher education, industry and government will help shape what institutions teach, the skills students develop and the opportunities they go on to create.



The closing voices · continued

Chief Guest · Closing address

Shri Sribharat Mathukumilli

Member of Parliament, Visakhapatnam · President, GITAM (Deemed to be University)

Dream big, and please **question us on how we can do things better**. We'd love to hear from you.

Progress depends on dialogue that continues beyond the convening. By encouraging institutions to question, contribute ideas and work alongside government, the closing address reinforced a shared commitment to building a stronger higher education ecosystem through openness, partnership and sustained collaboration.



Vote of thanks

Dr. Sekar Viswanathan

Vice President, Vellore Institute of Technology

The future of education will be shaped not by institutions in isolation, but by **what we choose to build together**.

The final message returned to the spirit that had carried the day from beginning to end: collaboration. Institutions, government and industry each have a role to play, but meaningful progress is achieved when they learn from one another, build together and remain connected beyond a single gathering.



The Digii100x Journey.

Digii100x is the regional chapter of Digii100—India's invite-only community of higher education, policy, and technology leaders. It brings the same trusted conversations, meaningful exchanges, and collaborative spirit closer to institutions across the country.



The chapters

- 01 Coimbatore**
Tamil Nadu · 28 January, 2026
- 02 Mangalore**
Karnataka · 7 April, 2026
- 03 Madhya Pradesh**
Indore · 1 June, 2026
- 04 Andhra Pradesh**
12 June 2026 · You are here
- 05 Maharashtra**
Pune · 17 July 2026
- 06 East India**
Coming up in September!

The room

Thank you to the leaders who shaped this conversation.

Policy & Government



Shri Nara Lokesh

Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Human Resources Development, and Real-Time Governance, Government of Andhra Pradesh



Dr. Narayana Bharath Gupta

Commissioner, Collegiate Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh



Shri Sribharat Mathukumilli

Member of Parliament (Visakhapatnam) and President, GITAM Deemed to be University



Shri G. P. Raja Sekhar

Vice Chancellor, Andhra University



Prof. G. Vijaya Prakash

Director, RGUKT AP-IIIT RK Valley & HAG Professor, IIT Delhi



Ms. Gayathri

Anandakrishnan

Secretary, KPR Institutions



Dr. Girish J.

Vice Chancellor (Officiating), GMRIT Deemed to be University



Dr. Gurdaman L. Sharma

Vice Chancellor, SRM University Sikkim



Prof. H. Sudarsana Rao

Vice Chancellor, JNTU Anantapur



Prof. J. Kondaiah

Assistant Registrar (Academics), Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University



Shri K. Aditya Vissam

Secretary, Sri Vishnu Educational Society



Dr. K. Chandra Obul Reddy

Managing Director, Kandula Group of Institutions



Prof. K. Srinivasa Rao

Dean, Academic Affairs, Andhra University



Prof. Koona Ramji

Vice Chancellor, Krishna University



Prof. L. C. Mallaiah

Vice Chancellor, Dravidian University



Prof. M. Chandrasekhar

Director, Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam



Prof. M. L. N. Rao

Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT-AP)



Dr. M. P. Shyam

President, Rashtreeya Vidyalaya (RV) Institutions



Dr. Madan A. Sendhil

Chairman, Rathinam Group



Dr. N. V. Ramana Rao

Director, NIT Andhra Pradesh



Dr. Nitin Malik

Registrar, Gujarat National Law University



Dr. P. Arulmozhivarman

Vice Chancellor (I/C), VIT-AP University



Shri P. Madhusudana Rao

Chairman, Lendi Institute of Engineering and Technology



Prof. P. Somaraju

Secretary, Gayatri Vidya Parishad College of Engineering



Prof. P. Venkatramana

Vice Chancellor (I/C), Mohan Babu University



Dr. Parag Diwan

CEO & Chairman, Paradigm Consultants & Founding Vice Chancellor, UPES



Commodore Dr. Pramod R Kulkarni

Pro Vice Chancellor, REVA University



Shri Pravesh Dudani

Founder & Chancellor, Medhavi Skills University



Shri Rahul Singhi

Co-Founder, Poornima University



Shri Raja Shekhar Bellamkonda

Vice Chancellor, Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa



Dr. Rangarajan Mahalakshmi K.

Chairperson & Managing Trustee, Vel Tech Group of Institutions

Higher Education Leadership



Shri Abdul Qadir A. Rahman Buhari

Pro Chancellor, Crescent Institute of Science and Technology



Prof. Allam Srinivasa Rao

Vice Chancellor, Vikrama Simhapuri University



Dr. Ananya Mukherjee

Vice Chancellor, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi NCR



Prof. Arun K. Tangirala

Professor, Dept. of Chemical Engineering & Dean - Competency Development and Outreach, IIT Tirupati



Prof. Atul Khosla

Founder & Vice Chancellor, Shoolini University



Ms. Avnee Khosla

Trustee and Vice President, Shoolini University



Prof. Chakkalakal V. Tomy

Dean, School of Engineering and Sciences, SRM University



Prof. CSRK Prasad

Vice Chancellor, JNTU Kakinada



Dr. Deepesh Chandrasekharan

Principal (I/C), Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts & Science

The room — continued

Higher Education Leadership



Dr. Ranjan Banerjee
Vice Chancellor, Nayanta University



Shri Ravi Kumar Burugupalli
Chairman, SASI Group of Institutes



Shri Ravichandran Rajagopal
Vice Chairman, Sri Vishnu Educational Society



Prof. Rishikesha T. Krishnan
Professor and Former Director, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore



Shri S. Vaitheeswaran
Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Manipal Education & Medical Group



Dr. Sai Prakash Leo Muthu
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Sairam Institutions Group



Dr. Samayamantula Srinivas Kumar
Former Vice Chancellor, JNTU Anantapur



Prof. Sathupati Prasanna Sree
Vice Chancellor, Adikavi Nannaya University



Dr. Satish Reddy Nallamilli
Pro-Chancellor, Aditya University & Vice Chairman, Aditya Educational Institutions



Dr. Saurabh Bhattacharjee
Registrar, National Law School of India University



Dr. Sekar Viswanathan
Vice President, Vellore Institute of Technology



Dr. Senthil Jayavel
Director, Kumaraguru School of Innovation



Dr. Shailesh Kumar
Dean, Jio Institute & Chief Data Scientist, Jio Platforms



Shri Shankar Vanavarayar
President, Kumaraguru Institutions



Dr. Sourabh Rungta
Pro Chancellor, Rungta International Skills University



Dr. Srikant Nandigam
Chief Executive Officer, Vignan Group of Institutions



Dr. Sudipta Dutta
Dean, Academic Affairs & Associate Professor, Physics, IISER Tirupati



Dr. Suresh Ramanathan
Chief Executive Officer, International Management Institute (IMI New Delhi, Kolkata & Bhubaneswar)



Prof. Tata Narasinga Rao
Vice Chancellor, Sri Venkateswara University



Prof. Uma Vennam
Vice Chancellor, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam



Dr. V. J. Byra Reddy
Vice Chancellor, Woxsen University



Ms. Vani Raju
Governing Body Member, Gokaraju Rangaraju Educational Society & Executive Director, Ganges Valley School



Dr. Vinod Bhat
Vice Chancellor, The Apollo University

Also convened virtually



Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao
Group Vice Chancellor, Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) Pilani

Industry & Ecosystem



Shri Ajay Kumar
Chief Investment Officer, Elevate Campuses



Shri Arjun Varadraj
Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Arivupro



Shri Balamurugan S. P.
Co-Founder, HCL GUVI



Shri Jitu Mishra
Chief Administrative Officer, Indian School of Business



Dr. K. M. Suceendran
Head – Academic Alliances Group, Tata Consultancy Services



Shri Karthik Raja
Chief Executive Officer, FACE Prep



Shri Navneeth Bhandari
Vice President, Easebuzz



Shri R. V. Balasubramaniam Iyer
Vice President, Jio Platforms Limited



Shri Raghavan S.
Associate Director, KPMG



Shri Rajesh Kumar
Co-Founder & CEO, Kalvium



Shri Rishab Mehta
Founder, GrayQuest



Shri Sairam Vakkalanka M. S.
Director, Information Technology (IT), GITAM Deemed to be University



Shri Shazil Ahmed
Vice President, Digii



Shri Siddharth Sinha
Associate Vice President, Greenko Group



Shri Srini Raju
Chairman, Sri City International University & Chairman, Sri City Pvt. Ltd.



Shri Sushil Mundada
Co-Founder, ExtraaEdge



Shri Tarun Sharma
National Head, OneBanc



Shri Vignesh Murugesan
Director, KPMG India



Shri Akshay Saxena
Co-Founder & Co-Chief Executive Officer, Avanti Fellows



Prof. Arindam Ghosh
JRD Tata Chair Professor of Physics, IISc; Head – Quantum Materials & Devices Vertical, National Quantum Mission

The room — continued

Industry & Ecosystem



Shri Ashish Munjal
Co-Founder & CEO, Sunstone



Dr. Ashwin Fernandes
Chair, QS India and Vice President,
Strategic and International
Engagement, QS Quacquarelli
Symonds



Dr. Avantika Tomar
Partner and L&D Head,
EY-Parthenon India



Shri Chaitanya Chitta
Senior Vice President, South Asia,
Cintana Education



Prof. D. N. Rao
Co-Founder & Vice President,
Centurion University



Dr. Dilip Kumar Chekuri
CEO, Medi Valley (NITI Aayog
Incubator of AMTZ)



Ms. Gomathi Venkatachalam
Chief Executive Officer, Anaadi
Foundation



Shri Gopal Devanahalli
President, Skilling, Wadhvani
Foundation



Shri Hemant Sahal
Founder & CEO, Digii



Dr. Ibrahim Hafeezur Rehman
Director General & CEO, NAMTECH
Institute of Manufacturing
Innovation



Shri Lokesh Anand
Partner, Jetri



Shri Maheshwer Peri
Founder & Chairman, Careers360



Ms. Meenakshi Kachroo Chatta
Senior Director, South and Central
Asia, The College Board



Shri Narayanan Ramaswamy
Partner & National Leader –
Education and Skill Development,
Government & Public Services, KPMG
India



Ms. Nidhi Reddy
Founding Senior Partner, Jetri



Dr. Nitin Garg
Director & Founding Member,
International School of
Management Excellence



Dr. Prashanth C. Upadhya
Director, Wadhvani Center of
Excellence (WIN-CoE) for Quantum
Technologies, Indian Institute of
Science



Shri Prathap Das
Regional Head, South Asia,
AACSB



Shri Ravin Nair
Managing Director, QS
I-GAUGE



Ms. Richa Bajpai
Founder & CEO, Campus
Fund



Dr. Sangita Reddy
Joint Managing Director,
Apollo Hospitals Enterprise
Limited



Dr. Satya Prakash Dash
Chief Executive Officer,
IKP Knowledge Park



Shri Vivek Shukla
Director & CEO, AFAIRS
Exhibitions & Media

A convening is only as strong as the people who choose to show up for it.

Every conversation captured in this playbook was shaped by the collective experience, generosity and openness of the community that came together in Visakhapatnam. Some voices appear in these pages. Many others shaped them through questions, discussions, reflections and conversations that unfolded throughout the day.

Thank you to every leader who contributed to this chapter. Your presence, your perspectives and your willingness to learn from one another are what gave these conversations their depth and purpose.

Beyond the playbook.

This is not where the conversation ends.

A single day in Visakhapatnam brought together the people who are, in different ways, deciding what Andhra Pradesh's higher education looks like for the next generation. What the room left with was not a set of conclusions, but a shared set of questions worth carrying forward.

Digii100x will carry these threads into its next chapters — in the playbooks, sessions, and insights shared in the weeks ahead, and in the conversations this room continues on its own.



Full launch · August 2026

**Session videos and roundtable playbooks
begin shipping shortly.**

Scan the code, or write to us — and we'll share each recording, playbook, and editorial note as they publish.

Thank you for being part of Digii100x Andhra Pradesh.

A community of India's policy, technology, and higher-education leaders.