

July 18, 2026

VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE

Research to Revenue: How Indian Universities Can Drive Innovation ?



Transforming Research into Opportunity

Research has long been one of the greatest strengths of Indian universities, but its true value lies in how effectively it can be transformed into innovation and societal impact. Recognizing this opportunity, the Indian Council for Technical Research and Development (ICTRD) convened a Virtual Round Table on 18th July 2026 to bring together academicians, researchers, industry leaders, and innovation experts for a meaningful exchange of ideas. The session also highlighted the importance of creating an ecosystem that enables research to translate into real-world solutions.

As India moves towards Viksit Bharat 2047, the session emphasized the important role of universities in advancing research, entrepreneurship, and economic growth.

Universities as Innovation Ecosystems

A key theme emerging from the discussion was the need for universities to become complete innovation ecosystems rather than traditional teaching institutions. Universities must foster research, entrepreneurship, industry collaboration, and technology-driven solutions to transform ideas into impactful innovations. This shift will enable institutions to contribute more effectively.

Experts highlighted that research should begin with solving real-world challenges and focus on creating value for society. Universities were encouraged to strengthen industry partnerships, promote interdisciplinary research, establish incubation centres, support startups, and develop effective technology transfer mechanisms. The focus, participants agreed, should shift from publication-driven success to impact-driven innovation.

From Research to Real-World Impact

Opening the session, Siddharth Roy highlighted that while India produces significant research and academic knowledge, only a limited portion reaches market-ready solutions or creates societal impact. He emphasized the need to strengthen connections between research, industry, entrepreneurship, and innovation.



Building on this, **Dr. Ashish Sasankar**, Chairman, ICTRD, stressed that universities must evolve into centres of innovation and entrepreneurship. Referring to the aspirations of NEP 2020, he noted that research should not be measured solely through publications and citations, but through patents, technology transfer, startups, and measurable contributions to national development.

Dr. Ketan Mohitkar, Member Secretary, ICTRD, further emphasized that the journey from research to revenue is ultimately a journey from knowledge to impact. He encouraged institutions to create innovation ecosystems where research leads to practical solutions, entrepreneurship, and sustainable growth.

Perspectives from Participating Experts

Dr. Murari Lal Gaur emphasized that research must address grassroots challenges and create measurable societal value. He advocated diversified revenue models, stronger industry engagement, and greater collaboration among institutions.

Dr. Samit Mahore highlighted the role of public universities in balancing revenue generation with public welfare, skill development, and community impact. He emphasized the need for sustainable models that promote innovation and societal development.

Mr. Girish K. Nair stressed the need for stronger commercialization mechanisms and better support systems that enable promising research to reach the marketplace.

Dr. Suneet Mathur underlined the importance of industry partnerships, entrepreneurial thinking, and institutional policies that encourage commercialization and innovation.

Dr. Meghana Manohar Jalgaonkar highlighted India's "research translation deficit" and called for greater focus on converting knowledge into innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic value.

Mr. Sankar Paul emphasized that innovation requires a change in mindset and stronger collaboration among universities, researchers, and industries. He highlighted the need for an ecosystem where ideas, research, and expertise come together to create impactful solutions.

Dr. Amol Bhagwat Kasture pointed out that patent generation alone is insufficient unless innovations are successfully commercialized and translated into products, startups, and solutions.

Challenges on the Path Ahead

While the opportunities are immense, the discussion also highlighted several challenges:

- Weak research commercialization frameworks.
- Limited industry-academia collaboration.
- Low awareness of intellectual property and technology transfer.
- Funding gaps during the commercialization stage.
- Institutional incentive systems that prioritize publications over impact.

Participants agreed that overcoming these barriers will be critical for strengthening India's innovation ecosystem.

ICTRD and the Role of Collaborative Platforms

The Indian Council for Technical Research and Development (ICTRD) continues to play an important role in fostering collaboration among academia, industry, researchers, and policymakers. Through initiatives such as the Virtual Round Table series, ICTRD provides a platform for knowledge exchange, practical insights, and actionable recommendations that support India's innovation-driven future.

The round table concluded with a shared understanding that India's future competitiveness depends on transforming research into innovation and enterprise. Universities must drive entrepreneurship, technology transfer, and societal impact by creating value beyond academic publications. Through collaboration and an innovation-focused approach, they can contribute to building a knowledge-driven economy.



Meet the Speakers

Dr. Murari Lal Gaur, Vice Chancellor, Assam Kaziranga University

Dr. Samit Mahore, Director, Department of Lifelong Studies, RTMNU, Nagpur University

Dr. Suneet Mathur, Adjunct Professor, Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Institute of Management Science

Mr. Girish K Nair, Vice President – IT, MF Utilities India Pvt Ltd.

Dr. Meghana Manohar Jalgaonkar, Director, Mxap Financial Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Sankar Paul, Vice President – IT, Barclays.

Dr. Amol Bhagwat Kasture, Associate Professor, School of Engineering – Ajeenkya DY Patil University

VOICES THAT SHAPED THE SESSION: OUR PARTICIPANTS

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Mr. Amitava Dutta	Assistant Teacher	Ichapur Northland High School
2	Mr. Abhinav Kumar	Student	Indian Institute of Technology, Patna
3	Dr Amol Bhagwat Kasture	Associate Professor	School of Engineering – Ajeenkya DY Patil University
4	Ms. Ankita Rastogi	Technical Leader	STMicroelectronics Pvt. Ltd.
5	Mr. Anupam Karan	Digital Marketing Professional & Trainer	Self-Employed
6	Mr Ashish Ajay	CEO & Founder	Career Tech pvt. Ltd
7	Dr Ashish Sasankar	Principal	Indraprastha New Arts Commerce and Science College, Wardha
8	Mr. Ayush Rikhari	Assistant Manager HR&Admin	NA
9	Mr. Bikash Santra	Owner	Bikash Enterprises
10	Mr. Cma Ujjal Datta	Head-Finance, Accounts and Administration	Centre of Excellence for Khadi, National Institute of Fashion Technology, NIFT
11	Mr. DHARMENDRA GARDIA	Mail/Express Train Manager	Indian Railways
12	Mr. Deepak D. Sondankar	Executive Engineer [R-Wrd]	Water Resources Deptt. Govt. Of Mah.
13	Mr. Devashish Sharma	Deputy Manager	Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited

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Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
14	Mr. A. Mohanraj	Civil Engineer (Technical Engineer)	Mirage Leisure And Development
15	Dr.Nunna Venkata Ramana	Lecturer in Botany	Government Degree College
16	Dr.M Devendra	Principal & Professor	The Oxford College Of Hotel Management
17	Dr. Murari Lal Gaur	Vice Chancellor	Assam Kaziranga University
18	Dr.Moumita Mukherjee	Professor and Dean Research and Development	Adamas University
19	Dr. Meghana Manohar Jalgaonkar	Director	Mxap Financial Pvt. Ltd.
20	Dr. Parag Ravikant Kaveri	Deputy Director	Symbiosis Institute of Computer Studies and Research, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune
21	Dr.Arulraj Ramalingam	Professor	Sri Manakula Vinayagar Engineering College, Puducherry
22	Dr.Rakesh Kumar Karn	Electronics Lab Incharge (Technical)	Jawaharlal Nehu University
23	Dr. Vijay Kumar Jha	DGM Quality Assurance	Fortis Healthcare Limited
24	Mr. Girish K Nair	Vice President - IT	MF Utilities India Pvt Ltd.

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Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
25	Dr.J Hari Hara Reddy	Life Member	Chemical Research Society Of India
26	Mr. SACHIN PARIKH	Director	Kalgisoft Technologies Private Limited
27	Mrs. Acharya.kamala Raju Meruga	Founder trustee	Sri Yoga vidya Prana Shakti Foundation
28	Mr.Kamlesh Patel	M.Pharm (Pharmaceutics)	Faculty Of Pharmacy,UPUMS,SAIFAI,ETA WAH,Uttar Pradesh
29	Ms. Kritika Koundal	Process Associate – Physician Assistant	IDS Infotech LTD
30	Dr.Manu Vatsal	Assistant Professor	Lovely Professional University
31	Mr. Paras Grover	Founder and CEO	Unified Mentor Private Limited
32	Mr.Prashant Dupare	Assistant Professor	DAIMSR Nagpur
33	Dr.Priya Dongare Jadhav	Assistant Professor	Symbiosis Institute of Technology (SIT)
34	Dr.Lalita Babulal Malusare	Associate Professor	SN Arts DJM Commerce and BNS Science Autonomous College Sangamner
35	Dr.Sourav Madhur Dey	Professor	The University of Burdwan
36	Mr. Rajat Mondal	Editor (Digital Platforms)	Zee Media Corporation Ltd

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Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
37	Dr.Rajkumar Easwarapillai	Professor	Rajadhani Institute Of Engineering Technology
38	Mr. Rakesh Kumar Chaubey	IT Manager	Aavantika Gas Limited
39	Dr. Ravikiran Kumar	Director	WellMax Oilfield Technologies Pvt Ltd
40	Mr.Suman Sarkar	Post Graduate	Central University of Karnataka
41	Mr.Sam Saymon Siryon	Student BA.LLB Honors	Apeejay Styra University (School of Legal Studies)
42	Mr. Abdul Samad Shaikh	CEO	Samadpro LLP
43	Mr. Sankar Paul	Vice President	Barclays
44	Mr. Saurabh Gupta	Design & Process Control Engineer	United Gears
45	Mr. Shibashish Rudra	Vice President	Bank of America
46	Dr.Smriti Pathak	Associate Professor	Pimpri Chinchwad Education Trust
47	Mr. Sriharsha Guda	Associate Director	Cognizant
48	Mr. Sumit Kumar Ghosh	Freelancer	Digital Marketing
49	Dr. Suneet Mathur	Adjunct Professor	Dr.Ambedkar Memorial Institute of Management Science

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Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
50	Mr. Swagata Sundar Goswami	Manager	Accenture
51	Mr.Thavaraj	Assistant Professor	Rathinam College of Arts and Science
52	Mr.Thiyagarajan K	PhD Scholar	Anna University Chennai
53	Vaibhav Avinash Late	Founder	Anvi Technology
54	Mr. Tirumala Varun Polkampally	Platform Reliability Engineer	LSEG
55	Mr. Vijayanand	Chief Technology Officer	PAB Hardware and Software (OPC) Private Limited
56	Mr. Viral Patel	Chief Executive Officer	Radha Lifescape LLP
57	Mr. Deepak Batta	IT Analyst	Tata Consultancy Services
58	Mr.Sitesh Anand	HOD oF ME & Head oF R&D Cell	Ramgovind Institute of technology koderma jharkhand