

August 21, 2026

VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE

Reforms in Indian Education System for a Future-Ready Growth Engine



A New Vision for Learning, Skills, and Innovation

India's education system stands at a crucial point of transformation, where traditional approaches must evolve to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world. Recognizing this need, the Indian Council for Technical Research and Development (ICTRD) convened a Virtual Round Table on 21st August 2026, bringing together academicians, education leaders, industry experts, educators, and researchers for a meaningful exchange of perspectives.

The evolving education landscape calls for a decisive shift beyond conventional degrees and examination-driven learning, placing greater emphasis on practical skills, innovation, adaptability, and lifelong learning to prepare learners for the opportunities and challenges of the future.

Building a Skills-First Education Ecosystem

A key theme emerging from the discussion was the need to make skill development, multidisciplinary learning, and practical exposure integral to education.

Experts highlighted that students must be equipped not only with academic knowledge but also with the ability to apply that knowledge in real-world situations. Institutions were encouraged to strengthen industry partnerships, experiential learning, vocational education, entrepreneurship, and exposure to emerging technologies.

The discussion also emphasized that students should be able to move beyond the boundaries of their primary disciplines and develop complementary skills that reflect the increasingly interconnected nature of technology and industry.

From Traditional Education to Future-Ready Learning

Opening the session, **Mr. Siddharth Roy** Director of Communication, ICTRD, highlighted the scale of India's education ecosystem and the need for it to evolve with the changing nature of work. He emphasized the growing importance of artificial intelligence, automation, emerging technologies, entrepreneurship, innovation, and lifelong learning in preparing students for the India and the world of tomorrow.



Building on this, **Dr. Ashish Sasankar** Chairman, ICTRD, stressed the need for capable, innovative, and future-ready individuals through stronger industry-academia collaboration, practical learning, innovation, and value-based education, preparing students to become problem-solvers and contributors to national development.

Dr. Ketan Mohitkar Member Secretary, ICTRD, emphasized the need to move beyond degree-focused education towards flexible, skill-based, and practical learning in emerging fields. He stressed the importance of credible recognition frameworks, quality standards, and student protection for building a future-ready education system.

Perspectives from Participating Experts

Prof. Dr. V. G. Arajpure Principal, Suryodaya College of Engineering and Technology, Nagpur, highlighted NEP 2020's focus on skill development, innovation, entrepreneurship, internships, and vocational education. He emphasized emerging technologies, multidisciplinary and experiential learning, and flexible pathways through Honours, Minors, and additional credits to prepare globally competitive professionals. He also stressed the importance of industry-oriented technical skills and practical exposure for students. Such an approach, he noted, can help bridge the gap between education and evolving industry requirements.

Mr. Ritadrik Chowdhury Assistant Professor, JIS College of Engineering, West Bengal, emphasized moving beyond rote learning towards creativity, problem-solving, interdisciplinary learning, and employability. He highlighted generative AI as a learning enabler, stressing strong fundamentals and its responsible use for research, coding, automation, and innovation.

Mr. B. Vijay Kumar Founder Director, Vikub Academy, Hyderabad, emphasized the vital role of teachers in education reform and the need for continuous training. He highlighted the importance of using technology effectively and developing students' essential skills for career readiness.

Dr. Deepak Sharma Assistant Professor, Amity University Kolkata, emphasized interactive, inclusive, and experiential digital education through AR/VR/XR, gamification, and accessible technologies. He also stressed critical AI thinking, teacher training, creativity, and ethical decision-making for future-ready learning. He highlighted the importance of accessible digital education for all.

Challenges on the Path Ahead

While the opportunities are significant, key challenges included:

- Unequal access to technology and digital infrastructure.
- Gaps between education and industry requirements.
- Limited practical learning and teacher training.
- Regulatory barriers and limited exposure to emerging technologies.
- Risks of excessive AI dependence and digital accessibility gaps.

Participants agreed that addressing these challenges requires collaboration among government, institutions, industry, educators, researchers, and technology providers.

ICTRD and the Role of Collaborative Platforms

The Indian Council for Technical Research and Development (ICTRD) continues to play an important role in creating platforms for dialogue among academia, industry, researchers, educators, and other stakeholders.

Through initiatives such as the Virtual Round Table series, ICTRD facilitates the exchange of ideas and encourages practical discussions around education, research, innovation, technology, and national development.

Such collaborative platforms are essential for moving the conversation from identifying challenges to developing practical, scalable, and implementable reforms. They also strengthen industry-academia collaboration, encourage knowledge sharing, and support innovative approaches to education and skill development.



Meet the Speakers

Prof. Dr. V. G. Arajpure, Principal, Suryodaya College of Engineering and Technology, Nagpur

Mr. Ritadrik Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, JIS College of Engineering, West Bengal

Mr. B. Vijay Kumar, Founder Director, Vikub Academy, Hyderabad

Dr. Deepak Sharma, Assistant Professor, Amity University Kolkata

VOICES THAT SHAPED THE SESSION: OUR PARTICIPANTS

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Dr. Abhay Shukla	Dean Engineering	RAMA University
2	Mr.Abhinav Kumar	Student	Indian Institute of Technology, Patna
3	Mr.Abhishek Pillare	Student	Mohata science college
4	Dr Amol Bhagwat Kasture	Associate Professor	School of Engineering - Ajeenkya DY Patil University
5	Dr Ashish Sasankar	Principal	Indraprastha New Arts Commerce and Science College, Wardha
6	Mr.Ashutosh Subhashchandra Rajput	Student	IIT Patna
7	Dr. Avijit Raha	GLOBAL HEAD SALES & SERVICE DELIVERY	WRIZTO HEALTHCARE PVT LTD
8	Mr.Avinash Vitthalrao Aneraye	Assitant Professor	Mahatma Jyoti Rao Phule University,Jaipur
9	Mr. DHARMENDRA GARDIA	Mail/Express Train Manager	Indian Railways
10	Dr.Deepak Sharma	Assistant Professor	Amity University Kolkata
11	Mr.Deepak D. Sondankar	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER	WATER RESOURCES DEPTT. GOVT.OF MAH.
12	Ms. Mridu Sah	PROPRIETOR	DEEPHOLE DRILLING ENGINEERS
13	Mr.Dharamvir Kumar Tyagi	TGT-Science	Ganga International School

VOICES THAT SHAPED THE SESSION: OUR PARTICIPANTS

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
14	Mr. Avadhuth M Erande	Director	Itekunokuratto Strategic Techventures Private Limited
15	Dr.Nunna Venkata Ramana	Lecturer in Botany	Government Degree College
16	Dr.Rakesh Kumar Karn	Electronics Lab Incharge (Technical)	Jawaharlal Nehu University
17	Dr.Sreerengan V R	Associate Professor and Head of Lean Operations and Systems Management	CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
18	Dr. Sreekumar Krishnan	Managing Partner	Yantra Holdings
19	Dr.Tarun Kumar Das	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	FUTURE INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT
20	Dr.Vijaykumar Arvindbhai Radadiya	Associate Professor – SOB and Director – CDC	AURO University
21	Mr. Girish K Nair	Vice President – IT	MF Utilities India Pvt Ltd.
22	Dr.J Hari Hara Reddy	Life Member	Chemical Research Society Of India
23	Mrs.Hathijathul Ameena Beevi	Assistant Professor	C.K.College of Engineering and Technology
24	Ms.Hina Puri	Coordinator Grade I and II	Choithram School Manik Bagh Indore

VOICES THAT SHAPED THE SESSION: OUR PARTICIPANTS

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
25	Mr.Jainish Mansata	MBA STUDENT	PANDIT DEENDAYAL ENERGY UNIVERSITY
26	Mr. Joackim Raja Newton S	Sr. Technical Expert	Havells India Ltd.
27	Dr. Kanhu Charan Padhy	Managing Director	Kctronics Innovative Consultancy Services Private Limited
28	Ms. Kritika Koundal	Process Associate – Physician Assistant	IDS INFOTECH LTD
29	Mrs.Bangalore Lakshmi Roopa	Assistant Professor	Jerusalem College of Engineering, Chennai
30	Mr.Nagesh	STUDENT	SHARNBASVA UNIVERSITY KALBURGI
31	Mr.Piyush Pratim Satpathy	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	BLACK DIAMOND COLLEGE OF ENGONEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
32	Dr.Priya Dongare Jadhav	Assistant Professor	Symbiosis Institute of Technology (SIT)
33	Mr.Rajeshwarar M	Student	K.L.N.College of Engineering
34	Mr.Ritadrik Chowdhury	Assistant Professor	JIS College of Engineering
35	Mr.Suman Sarkar	Post Graduate	Central University of Karnataka
36	Mr. Sagar Vikas Dolare	Founder Owner	Shri Samartha Engineers

VOICES THAT SHAPED THE SESSION: OUR PARTICIPANTS

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
37	Mr.Sam Saymon Siryon	Student BA.LLB Honors	Apeejay Styra University (School of Legal Studies)
38	Mr. Sankar Paul	Vice President	Barclays
39	Mr.Sasidharan Pallikunnummal	Freelance Trainer- Production/Process	Oil & Gas Industries- Onshore-Offshore and FPSO
40	Mr.Shivam Mishra	IRSS Student	Mumbai University
41	Dr.Sneha Singh	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	ST CLARET COLLEGE AUTONOMOUS
42	Mr.Soumyadeep Roy	Student	Jadavpur University
43	Dr.Sreerengan V R	Associate Professor and Head of Lean Operations and Systems Management	CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
44	Mr. Sriharsha Guda	Associate Director	Cognizant
45	Dr. Suneet Mathur	Adjunct Professor	Dr.Ambedkar Memorial Institute of Management Science
46	Mr.Darvemula Venkata Siva Sai Surya Sasank	Student	Indian Institute Of Technology Patna
47	Ms. Swati Nathany	Senior Director Training	Teleperformance
48	Dr. Teki Nagendra Rao	Technical Consultant	Freelance Consultancy

VOICES THAT SHAPED THE SESSION: OUR PARTICIPANTS

Sr. No	Name	Designation	Organization
49	Mr. Tirumala Varun Polkampally	Platform Reliability Engineer	LSEG
50	Mr. Vijay Kumar	Director	Edugaon Education And Innovation Labs Private Limited
51	Mr. Vikas Oberoi	Director	Brain's Bee
52	Mr. Viral Patel	Chief Executive Officer	Radha Lifescape LLP
53	Mr. Yashkumar Nareshkumar Kevlani	Founder	Qubexcom Platforms.
54	Mr. Ateequr Rahman	Asst Executive Engineer (Electrical)	OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION
55	Mr Piyush Chhatrapati Dhakate	Owner	Tryix
56	Dr. Somnath Thigale	Dean R&D, Professor and Head AI&DS	Fabtech Technical Campus College of Engineering and Research Sangola