

NOVEMBER 25, 2025

VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE

REIMAGINING TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Innovation Driven Learning

In a rapidly changing world shaped by Artificial Intelligence, automation, and emerging technologies, the Indian Council for Technical Research & Development (ICTRD) has taken strides to be at the forefront of India's education transformation.

On 25th November 2025, ICTRD convened a high-impact Virtual Round Table on "Reimagining Technical Education: From Classrooms to Innovation Labs," bringing together policymakers, academics, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and students for a powerful dialogue on reshaping India's learning ecosystem. The event reaffirmed ICTRD's role as a premier national think tank committed to bridging policy, academia, and industry to build an innovation-based economy.

Shifting from Traditional Classrooms to Experiential Innovation Ecosystems

Opening the session, ICTRD Chairman **Dr. A. B. Ashish Sasankar** set the tone by underscoring the urgent need to shift from theoretical teaching models to experiential, creative, and hands-on learning environments.

He emphasized that India's future depends on producing innovators, inventors, and problem-solvers who can thrive in a world driven by AI, robotics, and digital tools. He noted that traditional classrooms must evolve into innovation labs and makerspaces that give students the freedom to explore, experiment, and build solutions.

His remarks framed the round table as a collective mission to modernize India's education landscape and create future-ready learning ecosystems.

Advancing Skill-Based Learning Through Collaboration and Innovation

ICTRD Member Secretary **Dr. Ketan Mohitkar** reinforced this vision by highlighting the organisation's long-term commitment to integrating technology, research, and practical learning into technical education. He called for a decisive shift from rote memorization to meaningful, skill-based learning that bridges the gap between industry expectations and academic training. Stressing ICTRD's role as a connector between technology and innovation, he reaffirmed the need for collaborative responsibility among educators, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to shape a technologically empowered India.



Bridging Gaps, Advancing Learning

Dr. Sarang Javkhedkar brought attention to the significant infrastructural gaps in rural institutions, where limited resources, insufficient labs, and scarce industry partnerships restrict students' access to real-world exposure. He stressed the need for decentralized internship systems and stronger institutional support to ensure equitable access to opportunities.

Dr. Abhishek Venkateshwar presented his LAL (Lecture–Application–Lab) approach, emphasizing clear outcomes, application-based teaching, and AI-driven personalized learning, noting that theory-heavy assessments often don't reflect students' real skills.

Voices from the Round Table

Dr. Rahul Banerjee, Vice Chairman (Mallabhum Group of Institutes) emphasized the growing dominance of India's startup ecosystem and the rising demand for students with practical discipline, critical thinking, and exposure to AI-enabled tools. He argued that innovation labs, rapid prototyping capabilities, and design thinking are now essential for producing industry-ready graduates.



Balancing Implementation Challenges in Skill-Based Education Transformation

Offering a macro view of implementation challenges, **Prof. Arup Barman** pointed out the contradictions institutions face while shifting to skill-based models, reduced theoretical depth, inconsistent teaching standards, equipment shortages, and student-faculty fatigue due to continuous evaluation. He called for a balanced, sustainable transformation model that protects academic integrity while enabling innovation.

INNOVATION THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The open discussion highlighted the need for AI integration in curricula, real-world relevance in research, and hands-on learning for

students, along with responsible use of technology. Industry leaders, students, researchers, and academicians collectively emphasized that practical experience and applied understanding are essential for meaningful learning.

The dialogue reinforced that the future of education in India will depend on innovation-driven teaching, stronger academia-industry collaboration, improved infrastructure, and experiential learning models. The round table concluded with a shared commitment to developing future-ready institutions supported by innovation labs, mentorship, interdisciplinary curricula, and industry alignment.

Through this initiative, ICTRD reaffirmed its role as a key contributor in shaping education reform and promoting a shift from knowledge consumption to innovation creation.



Meet the Speakers

Dr. Rahul Banerjee, Vice Chairman

Prof Arup Barman, Professor

Dr. Abhishek Venkateshwar, Associate Professor

Dr. Sarang Javkhedkar, HOD – Assistant Professor

VOICES THAT SHAPED THE SESSION: OUR PARTICIPANTS

| Sr. No | Name | Designation | Organization |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Mr. Viral Patel | Chief Executive Officer | Radha Lifescape LLP |
| 2 | Mr. Vijayanand | App Development Specialist | Accenture Software Solutions Pvt Ltd |
| 3 | Mr. Vijay Kumar | Director | Edugaon Education And Innovation Labs Private Limited |
| 4 | Mr. Vaibhav Late | Electrical Engineer | Volt-age Energy Pvt Ltd Pune |
| 5 | Mr Shreekant Patil | Founder, Entrepreneur | PARENTNashik |
| 6 | Mr.Shivam Kumar | Student | Indian Institue of Technology, Patna |
| 7 | Mr.Shajan Kumar | Dean | Mathrubhumi Media School |
| 8 | Dr.Sarang Javkhedkar | HoD - Assistant Professor | Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Management Studies and Research |
| 9 | Mr.Sam Saymon Siryon | Student BALLB Honors | Apeejay Styu University (School of Legal Studies) |
| 10 | Dr. Ravikiran Kumar | Director | WellMax Oilfield Technologies Pvt Ltd |
| 11 | Mr. Rishov Chatterjee | Associate IT Consultant | ITC Infotech |
| 12 | Mr. Rajdeep Bhattacharya | Chief Project Officer | Leap India Foods And Logistics |
| 13 | Dr. Rahul Banerjee | Vice-Chairman | Mallabhum Group Of Institutes |
| 14 | Prof.Arup Barman | Professor | Assam University, Silchar |
| 15 | Mr. Nehru B | Infrastructure Specialist Manager | Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company |
| 16 | Mr. Narendra Parekar | Operations Project Manager | Project Management Professional |
| 17 | Mr.Naman Kamra | Student | Sri Guru Gobind Singh college of Commerce |
| 18 | Mr.Md Faiyaz | M Pharm (Pharmacology) Student | Faculty Of Pharmacy , Upums, Saifai Etawah,U.P. |

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| Sr. No | Name | Designation | Organization |
|--------|---------------------------|--|--|
| 19 | Dr. Manimekalai Narayanan | Assistant Professor | Sri Ramachandra Universtiy Of Higher Education And Research |
| 20 | Ms. Kritika Koundal | Process Associate - Physician Assistant | IDS INFOTECH LTD |
| 21 | Mr.Krishna Prasad Nagaraj | CEO | The Skill Bridge |
| 22 | Mr. Kanishka Khatri | Chief Information Security Officer | Aseem Infrastructure Finance Limited |
| 23 | Mr.Kamlesh Patel | M.Pharm (Pharmaceutics) | Faculty Of Pharmacy,Upums,Saifai,Etawah Uttar Pradesh |
| 24 | Dr.Ranjit Kumar Puse | Associate Professor | Sri Satya Sai University of Technology & Medical Science |
| 25 | Dr. Sreekumar Krishnan | Managing Partner | Yantra Holdings |
| 26 | Dr.Arulraj Ramalingam | Professor | Sri Manakula Vinayagar Engineering College, Puducherry |
| 27 | Dr.P.periasamy | Associate Professor | saveetha Engineering college |
| 28 | Dr.Manisha Anand Patil | Professor and Head | Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu College, affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur |
| 29 | Mr. Mahesh Prasad Mishra | Project Director-Technical | Om Construction Companies India Private Limited |
| 30 | Dr. Murari Lal Gaur | Vice Chancellor Dean Principal HOD Professor Principal Scientist | ICAR DARE Govt of India |
| 31 | Dr.Nunna Venkata Ramana | Lecturer in Botany | Government Degree College |
| 32 | Mr.Divish | Student | Central University of Jammu |
| 33 | Mr.Deepak D. Sondankar | Executive Engineer | Water Resourses Deptt. Govt.Of Mah. |
| 34 | Mr. Harjeet Singh | Founder and CEO | Flatout Way Consultancy |
| 35 | Ms.Jyoti Sharma | Assistant Professor | Chandigarh University |

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| Sr. No | Name | Designation | Organization |
|--------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 36 | Mr. Jothi Senthil Kannan | Founder/Grand Master. | Jothi Silambam Kshakthiriya Gurukulam |
| 36 | Dr. Jayajit Dash | Senior Manager, Corporate Communications | CSM Technologies Ltd |
| 37 | Mr. Mohammad Faizal Imtiaz | Chief Executive Officer | Oakwood Agri Tech Private Limited |
| 38 | Mr. Ayush Rikhar | Senior Executive HR and Admin | - |
| 39 | Mr. Avisek Pal | Partner | Ascentrek Consultants |
| 40 | Mr. Ateequr Rahman | Asst Executive Engineer (Electrical) | Oil And Natural Gas Corporation |
| 41 | Mr.Ashutosh Subhashchandra Rajput | Student | Nettur Technical Training Foundation |
| 42 | Dr. Ashutosh Gholap | Vice President | Virtual Galaxy Infotech Ltd |
| 43 | Mr. Arindam Sinha | PGT Commerce | Aditya Academy Senior Secondary Dum Dum |
| 44 | Dr.Aravind Krishna | Founder, Director | Global Entrepreneurship Team (G.E.T) Solutions |
| 45 | Mr. Amit Bansal | Chief Executive Officer | K&R Rail Engineering Limited |
| 46 | Mr.Ajay Kumar | Final-Year Student (B.E. CSE) | Christian College Of Engineering And Technology |