

Outlook

Read • Think • Understand

Dr Anoop Gupta



Dr (HC) AVS Murthy



Dr Ananya Mukherjee



Dr Davish Jain



Dr UB Desai



Leading with Vision, Shaping the Future



Transformation of Higher Education in Global India

As India steps into its role as a global knowledge economy, its universities must lead the charge by producing future-ready professionals who are not only intellectually strong but also industry-ready, adaptable, and globally competent. The transformation toward AI/ML-driven, job-orientated, and academically excellent education is well underway. At the helm of this transformation are visionary Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors, who are redefining what it means to lead a university in the 21st century.

Their leadership will be the cornerstone of India's aspiration to become a Vishwa Guru—not only in philosophy, but also in science, technology, and innovation.

Academic Excellence Redefined

India is undergoing a seismic shift in its higher education landscape, driven by the twin imperatives of global competitiveness and domestic employability. Historically, Indian universities have emphasised theoretical knowledge. However, with rapid changes in technology, industry expectations have evolved significantly. Employers now seek

graduates who are digitally fluent, analytically sharp, and capable of problem-solving in real-world contexts. This has necessitated a fundamental rethinking of how academic excellence is defined and delivered in Indian institutions.

Furthermore, the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has laid out a bold vision for transforming Indian higher education by promoting multidisciplinary, flexible, and skill-integrated learning. This policy environment provides fertile ground for universities to align themselves with both global benchmarks and local aspirations.

Fostering Forward-Thinking Talents

Shiv Nadar University equipping the next gen for a dynamic India and an interconnected global workplace



Dr Ananya Mukherjee
Vice-Chancellor, Shiv Nadar University, Delhi-NCR

Q A growing economy leads to more job openings across various sectors, including technology, finance, manufacturing, and infrastructure. How is Shiv Nadar University preparing its students to cope with a competitive job market?

In the current scenario, universities currently find themselves in a highly dynamic situation. At Shiv Nadar University, recognized as an Institution of Eminence (IoE) by the Government of India, we remain laser-focused on our core mission. Our first objective is to prepare our graduates for an increasingly complex and volatile world. First, we are strengthening our already well-known interdisciplinary curriculum, encouraging students to break silos and develop future-focused capacities. Second, we are continuously expanding partnerships with industry and a wide range of enterprises including non-profits and social enterprises which help the professional development of our graduates. We have recently launched an exciting new initiative – the Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence RapidLab – which will bring us together with external partners to solve challenges through co-innovation, consulting, and co-creation—

executed in 30-60-90-day sprints. Our students will become problem-solvers right on here on campus. We also have a strong focus on the SDGs for which our faculty use the campus as a living lab.

Q How are you fostering research and innovation?

Building towards the vision of 2047, we are aggressively growing our already impactful research. One of our faculty, Prof Subhabrata Sen recently became the first Indian to receive the prestigious Horizon Prize in Chemistry; historian and archaeologist Dr Hemanth Kadambi and his international collaborators have uncovered evidence of a 4000-year old site in Karnataka. Faculty from all our four Schools are continuously winning accolades for their work. With such a talented faculty pool across all disciplines, our research will continue to generate significant social impact. We are amongst the very few private universities which undertake basic, applied and translational research which is also interdisciplinary. We are keen to engage with the national missions in AI, Quantum, Semiconductors, BioE3 and others.

Q What are the initiatives of Shiv Nadar University towards including AI/ML for a fast-evolving world?

Our 'AI Center of Excellence' has just begun its work. As we see it, as 'artificial' intelligence makes its advances, the power of 'real' human agency and 'real' human hope must assert itself, ensuring that the benefits of AI are harnessed responsibly and ethically. We have accordingly chosen three areas of focus at our university: Responsible AI; curriculum, pedagogy and governance of higher education; and AI/ML application for major societal needs such as health. We are building AI-infused curriculum in various areas such as the humanities and social sciences, business decision intelligence; life sciences, economics and engineering – and beyond.

I am deeply optimistic about India's future. At Shiv Nadar University, we see this potential every day. However, optimism alone is never enough. Much stronger collaborations are required. The aspirations of India's youth in relation to education are very high, and it is our endeavour to hone them effectively and efficiently.

Continued on page 96 >>

The Role of Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors

In this dynamic landscape, the role of Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors is pivotal. No longer just academic administrators, they are now expected to be strategists, innovators, and ecosystem builders. These leaders craft and execute a compelling vision that aligns the university's goals with national priorities and global standards. This includes prioritising new-age education, research excellence, and employability outcomes.

They play a crucial role in implementing policies like NEP 2020, especially in promoting multidisciplinary learning, flexible credit systems, and the Academic Bank of Credits.

Chancellors and VCs are increasingly forging industry collaborations, setting up innovation hubs, and supporting startups through incubators and accelerators, driving cultural and academic change.

Setting Academic Benchmark

Today, education is about fostering a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, and global engagement. Leading Indian institutions are working toward international accreditations and rankings; improvement in NAAC, NBA, and global rankings (QS, THE) is being strategically pursued.

Interdisciplinary research is shifting focus toward solving real-world problems through cross-disciplinary collaboration, particularly in AI-led innovation. Indian universities are forming alliances with international institutions to offer dual degrees, student exchange programmes, and joint research projects.

Faculty and Infrastructure Development

Institutions are investing in state-of-the-art labs, faculty development programmes to upskill educators in



emerging technologies, smart classrooms and hybrid learning platforms, industry linkages and innovation ecosystems.

Mastering Tech Skills

As the nation aspires to become a \$5 trillion economy and a global innovation hub, Indian universities have the responsibility of producing graduates who are not only academically sound but also industry-ready, especially in emerging fields like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). These are no longer niche domains; they are becoming foundational technologies across sectors—from agriculture and healthcare to finance and manufacturing. Recognising this, Indian universities are now embedding AI/ML across various programmes. New-age curricula that include courses in AI, ML, data science, and cloud computing are

FURTHERMORE, THE NEW EDUCATION POLICY (NEP) 2020 HAS LAID OUT A BOLD VISION FOR TRANSFORMING INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION BY PROMOTING MULTIDISCIPLINARY, FLEXIBLE, AND SKILL-INTEGRATED LEARNING

being introduced across engineering, management, and even humanities streams.

Shift Toward Industry-Centric Learning

Institutions are emphasising project-based learning, capstone projects, and real-world simulations to ensure practical skill acquisition. Collaborations with tech giants like Google, IBM, TCS, and Microsoft are bringing certified programmes, labs, and internships directly to campuses. The result is a growing ecosystem of job-orientated, technology-driven education that prepares students for careers in India's rapidly evolving digital economy and beyond.

Perhaps most importantly, they are tasked with leading a cultural shift within academia—one that rewards innovation, encourages risk-taking, and places students at the centre of the educational experience. While the direction is promising, challenges persist. Many institutions still struggle with faculty shortages, bureaucratic inertia, and funding limitations. The digital divide remains a concern, especially in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. There is a need for greater autonomy, transparency, and accountability in governance.

However, with proactive leadership from Chancellors and VCs and sustained policy support from the government, Indian universities are well poised to become globally respected centres of excellence.

Shaping Technocrats and Leaders

A visionary leader, forward thinker and educationist, Dr Anoop Gupta, speaks on preparing students for the future to match pace with India's economic, social and global growth story



Dr Anoop Gupta
Vice-Chancellor, GLA University, Mathura

Q With expanding opportunities in diverse sectors, what initiatives has GLA implemented to help students navigate and succeed in a rapidly evolving and competitive job market?

At GLA University, we recognise that India's ascent as a global economic powerhouse brings both immense opportunities and increased competition. To equip our students for this dynamic market, we have implemented a multi-pronged strategy. This includes industry-aligned curricula, mandatory internships, hands-on projects, and strong collaborations with industry leaders. Our Career Development Centre actively conducts placement training, soft skills workshops, and mock interviews. We also offer specialised programmes in emerging fields like data science, AI, and fintech to ensure our students are future-ready.

Q What steps are being taken to foster innovation and inspire more students to explore entrepreneurship?

Innovation and entrepreneurship are at the heart of our academic philosophy. We have established a dedicated Innovation &

Incubation Centre (IIC) that supports student startups with mentorship, funding guidance, and workspace. Through regular hackathons, startup weekends, and collaborations with industry mentors and successful entrepreneurs, we foster a culture where students are encouraged to solve real-world problems and create scalable business models. Additionally, our entrepreneurship development programmes introduce students to the practical aspects of launching and sustaining startups.

Q How has GLA University, Mathura, undertaken to integrate technology and prepare students for a rapidly evolving world?

Technological integration is a cornerstone of our academic delivery. We've adopted smart classrooms, AI-driven learning platforms, virtual labs, and online certification partnerships with platforms like Coursera, AWS Academy, and Microsoft. Our faculty members undergo regular training to keep up with tech trends, and we invest in state-of-the-art infrastructure, including

advanced research labs and high-performance computing facilities. Moreover, emerging technologies like blockchain, IoT, robotics, and cybersecurity are integrated into our courses, ensuring students are not only aware of but also proficient in technologies shaping the future.

Q What initiatives are you undertaking to instill the values of global citizenship and advance inclusive growth?

At GLA University, Mathura, we embed global citizenship in our curriculum by promoting diversity, ethical leadership, sustainability, and social responsibility. Programmes like international student exchange, foreign language learning, and global case studies expose our students to global perspectives. Our community engagement initiatives also focus on inclusive development—students actively participate in rural education drives, skill development for underprivileged communities, and social innovation projects. As India takes its place on the world stage, we want our students to think beyond borders.

Redefining Future Education

RV University stands as a beacon of modern education, combining academic rigour, industry relevance, and a global outlook to prepare students for the challenges of tomorrow



A Rich Legacy

In a rapidly evolving global landscape, RV University (RVU), Bengaluru, has emerged as a game-changer in higher education. Established in 2021 by the prestigious Rashtreeya Sikshana Samithi Trust (RSST)—an educational institution with over 85 years of legacy recognised for value-based education imparting quality

education to all strata of society—RV University brings together academic rigour, creativity, and industry relevance in a way few others do. At its core lies a bold vision with a purpose: “Go, change the world.” Its mission, “excellence in education with societal commitment”, is reflected in its philosophy to become a world-class, tech driven global university



Beyond the conventional curricula, RV University offers 27+ programmes across nine innovative schools:

| School | Sample Programmes |
|---|--|
| Liberal Arts & Sciences | BSc (Hons.) Psychology, Environmental Science, BA (Hons.) Philosophy, Politics and International Relations |
| Business | BBA (Hons), BCom (Hons), MBA |
| Design & Innovation | BDes. (Hons), User Experience, Product, Communication and New Media, Interior Environments; MDes User Experience, Product, Communication |
| Film, Media & Creative Arts | BSc (Hons) Filmmaking, Animation, Visual FX & Gaming, BA (Hons) Media & Journalism; BA Acting, MSc Filmmaking |
| Computer Science & Engineering | BTech (Hons)(AI/ML, DS), BSc (Hons), BCA (Hons) MTech |
| Law | BA LLB, BBA LLB, BSc in Criminology, Cyber Law and Forensic Sciences, LLM |
| Continuing Education & Professional Studies | Executive MBA |
| Economics & Public Policy | BSc (Hons.) Economics, MSc Economics, MA Public Policy and e-Governance |
| Allied & Healthcare Professions | BSc (Hons) Medical Laboratory Technology, Cardiac Care Technology, Anaesthesia and Operation Theater Technology |

And more..

with a liberal education ethos, empowering tomorrow’s citizens through an interdisciplinary curriculum infusing innovation, inclusivity, and social impact into every facet of learning.

New Age Learning Paradigm

RV University believes that education is not about silos—it’s about synergy. It offers over 27 undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD programmes and multiple specialisations across nine multidisciplinary schools, including Liberal Arts & Sciences, Design & Innovation, Business, Economics & Public Policy, Film, Media & Creative Arts, Computer Science & Engineering, Law, Allied & Healthcare Professions, Executive Education & more.

A blended curriculum that offers a mix of majors and minors across schools is structured on the pedagogy that implements experiential learning through flipped classrooms, labs, workshops, field projects and hands on research initiatives within early semesters. The students engage in real-world research as early as their 2nd semester. All programmes are interdisciplinary and industry-aligned—preparing students for jobs that may not even exist yet.

Industry-academia partnership provides great exposure for young minds to learn from industry leaders, entrepreneurs, business leaders and global faculty. Students are not just learners—they are thinkers, makers, and changemakers.



Dr (HC) AVS Murthy
Chancellor, RV University

Nurturing Global Leaders

Rooted in purpose, with an innovation-first attitude, visionary leader Dr (HC) AVS Murthy is shaping the collective vision, strategic thinking and holistic framework of learning

Dr (HC) AVS Murthy has been at the helm of educational leadership at Rashtreeya Sikshana Samithi Trust (RSST) since 1984, guiding one of Karnataka’s most respected educational ecosystems with vision, dedication, and foresight. As a trailblazer in both academia and industry, his contributions have left an indelible mark on countless students, educators, and professionals who have benefited from his progressive ideas and principled leadership.

An alumnus of the prestigious Bishop Cotton Boys’ School,

Dr Murthy pursued engineering at BMS College of Engineering, where he emerged as a rank holder and was honoured as the best outgoing

AS CHANCELLOR OF RV UNIVERSITY AND A THOUGHT LEADER, DR MURTHY CONTINUES TO PLAY A TRANSFORMATIVE ROLE IN PREPARING STUDENTS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF A GLOBALISED WORLD AND THE OPPORTUNITIES OF AN EMERGING INDIA

student in Mechanical Engineering. He furthered his academic journey with a master’s degree from Kansas State University, USA, specialising in flour milling and animal feed manufacturing. “This unique blend of technical expertise and global exposure has helped me understand the possibilities and outcomes of multidisciplinary learning, which has greatly influenced my approach to education.” explained Dr (HC) AVS Murthy.

In 2003, Dr Murthy was appointed as the Honorary Secretary of the Rashtreeya Sikshana Samithi Trust (RSST), a pivotal moment that accelerated the growth of RV Educational Institutions (RVEI). Under his stewardship, RVEI expanded its reach and impact by establishing several renowned institutions focused on technology, management, and health sciences — aligning academic offerings with the evolving needs of a 21st-century India.

As Chancellor of RV University and a thought leader, Dr Murthy continues to play a transformative role in preparing students to meet the challenges of a globalised world and the opportunities of an emerging India.

“At RV University, we are nurturing an environment that promotes interdisciplinary development, value-driven learning, and intellectual curiosity.” Dr Murthy emphasised. “We are committed to nurturing future-ready professionals through forward-thinking programmes that blend academic excellence with global perspectives and strong ethical values. Our mission is to empower students to lead with purpose, innovate with integrity, and contribute meaningfully to nation-building.”

In recognition of his long service to education and society, the Government of Karnataka conferred upon him the prestigious Rajyotsava Award in 2018 — a fitting tribute to a man whose life work continues to shape future generations.

Bengaluru's Newest Powerhouse of Innovation, Imagination and Impact

Modern campus with world-class infrastructure

Focused on sustainability, the sprawling 25-acre campus deploys eco-friendly measures such as smart lighting, composting and rainwater harvesting. With 1.5 million sq ft of academic infrastructure, the campus features state-of-the-art facilities comprising ICT-enabled smart classrooms, seminar halls, boardrooms, discussion rooms with modern furniture, multimedia-enabled lecture facilities, and exclusive facilities for workshops. A major attraction is the 60,000 sq ft library with maker spaces, study pods and digital archives. Excellent hostel facilities with modern amenities, along with gyms, Wi-Fi, and 24x7 security. The students enjoy the campus café, food court, banking facilities, and metro access nearby.

Stellar Faculty

The faculty exhibit adept in-depth knowledge of their domains and extensive research experience in their

area of expertise. All faculty members have notable industry or research experience, and some have international experience in teaching or research.

RV University also hosts a diverse range of professors of practice and visiting industry experts alongside regular faculty, offering students invaluable insights into real-world market and industry requirements.



World-class learning environment with the latest modern facilities

Global Perspective

International collaborations are at the heart of RV University. Tie-ups for student exchange programmes with top global institutions provide exposure to students for semester exchange programmes, global internships, and dual-degree opportunities. The university has signed MOUs with Arizona State University, USA; Bryant University, USA; Teesside University, UK; Seattle University, USA; and UpGrad, India (for online-hybrid degrees).

Future Innovators & Entrepreneurs

The Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE) is the cornerstone of RV University's innovation ecosystem. It offers structured courses in innovation, patent drafting, entrepreneurial mindset development, and a minor in innovation and product development. The centre of excellence is emerging as a think tank of academics, industry experts, and member companies that augments knowledge and industry practices in the areas of expertise.

CIE emerges as a platform supporting entrepreneurship by connecting founders with investors and mentors. In just two years, the CIE has mentored 450+ students, supported 90+ student-led projects, filed patents, developed 50+ socially meaningful games and GI-branded products, and launched real-world apps. Students are encouraged to create jobs—not just seek them.

Creating a launchpad for young changemakers, CIE provides multiple skilling platforms through design thinking and innovative solutions on social innovation and sustainable development. Frequent bootcamps train students to be potent enough to come up with innovative and incredible innovations that can uplift the face of entrepreneurship in the country.



A Rising Star in Indian Higher Education

Accelerating Achievements

Despite being a relatively young institution, RV University has rapidly established itself as a frontrunner in the landscape of Indian higher education. It was recently ranked the #1 Emerging State Private University in India by Outlook-ICARE Rankings 2025, a testament to its commitment to academic excellence and innovation.

In the realm of business education, RV University was ranked 8th in The Times of India B-School Survey 2024 among the top emerging BBA institutes for placements, further highlighting its growing reputation for career-focused education.

RV University is accredited by the University Grants Commission (UGC), recognised by the Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC),

and its law programmes are approved by the Bar Council of India. The university is also forging strong global connections, with international tie-ups with renowned institutions in the United States and the United Kingdom.

The university has expanded its academic horizons by establishing new schools such as the School of Film, Media, and Creative Arts (SoFMCA) and by launching innovative new programmes that reflect emerging industry trends. The Film School is equipped with advanced studios for sound, editing, production, and post-production, alongside screening rooms and creative labs that support hands-on learning and professional-grade output. It continues to actively pursue international collaborations and industry partnerships,

positioning itself as a dynamic and forward-thinking institution.

Building Careers That Matter

At RV University, a lot of emphasis is placed on making students industry-ready while focusing on high academic standards. Placement in reputable organisations has seen sharp growth due to the ambitious and continuously evolving placement team. The team engages in facilitating key partnerships and internships across sectors for students to find their spots as per their specialisation and inclination.

RV University honoured its top-performing students with merit scholarships, recognising their academic excellence and future potential. This initiative underscores the university's commitment to nurturing both intellectual growth and creative expression, offering new students a well-rounded and enriching educational experience.

Future-Ready Global Outreach

RV University is set to significantly expand its footprint with the launch of its new Mysore campus in 2026. Envisioned as a vibrant hub for academic excellence and innovation, the campus will span over 2 million sq. ft. of constructed area dedicated to academic blocks, student housing, laboratories, research centres, sports complexes, and collaborative spaces. Designed to accommodate up to 15,000 students within its first three years, the Mysore campus will offer a diverse range of programmes across business, engineering, sciences, and pharmacy. Keeping up with its future-ready education mandate, the university launched a world-class 'Career Opportunity Centre' in June 2025, with tech-enabled labs to facilitate 350+ students. The university is also making significant strides in achieving gender parity, with female students now accounting for over 20% of the student population.



A Hub for New-Age Learning

Anurag University emerging as a leading private institution in India, honing future achievers, leaders and forward thinkers

Founded in 1998 as Lalitha Degree and PG College, Anurag University has grown into a multidisciplinary institution committed to excellence in education, research, and innovation. The journey expanded with the establishment of CVSR College of Engineering in 2002 and Lalitha

College of Pharmacy in 2005, culminating in the formation of Anurag Group of Institutions in 2010. In 2020, the institution transformed into Anurag University, one of the top private institutions in the state, offering multidisciplinary programmes in engineering, agriculture, pharmacy, management, medical sciences, and more. Recognised by UGC and

accredited with NAAC A grade and NBA, the university holds approvals from leading bodies like AICTE, PCI, MCI, and TCS. It ranks among India's NIRF top 150.

The university offers a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes, with specialisations in emerging areas like AI, cybersecurity, data science, and business analytics. Focused on outcome-based education, students are equipped with technical skills, ethical values, and lifelong learning capabilities.

Anurag University fosters industry readiness through Centres of Excellence, placement drives, internships, soft skills training, and hackathons. Its collaboration with international institutions offers students global exposure and a cost-effective global education pathway.

Research is a cornerstone of the university's mission. The university promotes interdisciplinary research and several publications in globally recognised journals. Through its innovative curriculum, industry integration, and global partnerships, Anurag University is preparing students to become future-ready professionals and responsible leaders.



Dr P Rajeshwar Reddy
Chairman, Anurag University
Member of Legislative Assembly,
Jangaon, Telangana



Our university is restructuring learning systems to align with evolving industry needs, enhancing student skills through interactive methods like guest lectures, workshops, and seminars. Our goal is to support students' professional growth and provide strong academic and career guidance.

Dr P Rajeshwar Reddy is a distinguished academician, educationist, and political leader. Holding a PhD in Physics from Osmania University, his passion and zeal for education was instrumental in institutions of educational excellence. In 1998, he founded the Anurag Group of Institutions, now a multidisciplinary university serving over 20,000 students. As a politician, he blends education with public service. Under his leadership, the university emphasises innovation, infrastructure, and skill-based learning. Dr Reddy envisions producing industry-ready graduates with strong ethics, research orientation, and practical skills to contribute meaningfully to national development.



Dr UB Desai
Chancellor
Anurag University



At Anurag University, every dream is nurtured, every ambition has a plan, and learning is built on agility and adaptability. We are building a future where students are equipped with both depth in their discipline and breadth in perspective.

Dr UB Desai brings over 40 years of global experience in teaching, research, and academic leadership. He was the founding director of IIT Hyderabad and currently its Professor Emeritus. He holds a BTech from IIT Kanpur, an MS from the State University of New York, USA, and a PhD from Johns Hopkins University, USA. With 300+ publications, 25 PhD scholars, and 9 monographs to his credit, he brings academic depth, global perspective, and strategic vision to Anurag University—driving innovation, adaptability, and excellence in education.

Inspiring Future Generations

Dr Archana Mantri, with a strong background in engineering and innovation, emphasises education excellence through technology, a culture of research, entrepreneurship, and skill-based learning

Q How do you envision the role of higher education evolving over the next decade in India and globally?

The higher education landscape in India is looking increasingly optimistic, largely driven by the National Education Policy (NEP), which provides greater autonomy and flexibility to institutions. There's also a growing emphasis on leveraging technology in teaching and learning. Earlier, leadership in higher education was quite traditional, but now we're seeing a shift towards innovation, adaptability and flexibility.

Globally, however, the situation is more complex. Geopolitical tensions are impacting education, student mobility and international collaborations. While some traditional partnerships with institutions in the US, Europe and Australia are becoming uncertain, new opportunities are emerging, particularly in Southeast Asia. It's a dynamic scenario, and institutions must stay alert and adaptive.

Q How is Anurag University preparing future-ready students in a tech-driven and evolving job market?

AI and digital transformation are reshaping education, and at Anurag University, we view AI not just as a tool but as an enabler. We are incorporating AI/ML into curriculum, administration, and assessments—ethically and purposefully. However, technology can't replace the value of real-world, experience-based learning. So, we're integrating more experiential components into our

curriculum to build skills that go beyond the classroom 'with the AI-driven education and AI-interlaced education'.

Q How do you see interdisciplinary education influencing the traditional models of teaching and learning?

Higher education institutions are integrating interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches in the programme delivery. At Anurag, we are introducing a new multidisciplinary approach and add-ons through our programmes and pedagogy. For instance, our "Joy of Engineering" course and "Integrated Projects" emphasise cross-disciplinary learning and system thinking. Even at the PhD level, we admit students from diverse backgrounds, encouraging research that bridges multiple domains. This shift aligns with the evolving nature of knowledge and workforce demands.

Q How does Anurag University ensure industry-aligned curricula and internships for practical exposure?

Industry integration is central to our academic approach. We've moved from offering industry-orientated courses as optional add-ons to embedding them within the core curriculum. Our programmes are increasingly industry-led, industry-taught, and industry-assessed. This ensures students gain skills relevant to emerging job markets, and their internships and certifications are meaningful and credit-based.



Dr Archana Mantri
Vice Chancellor
Anurag University, Telangana

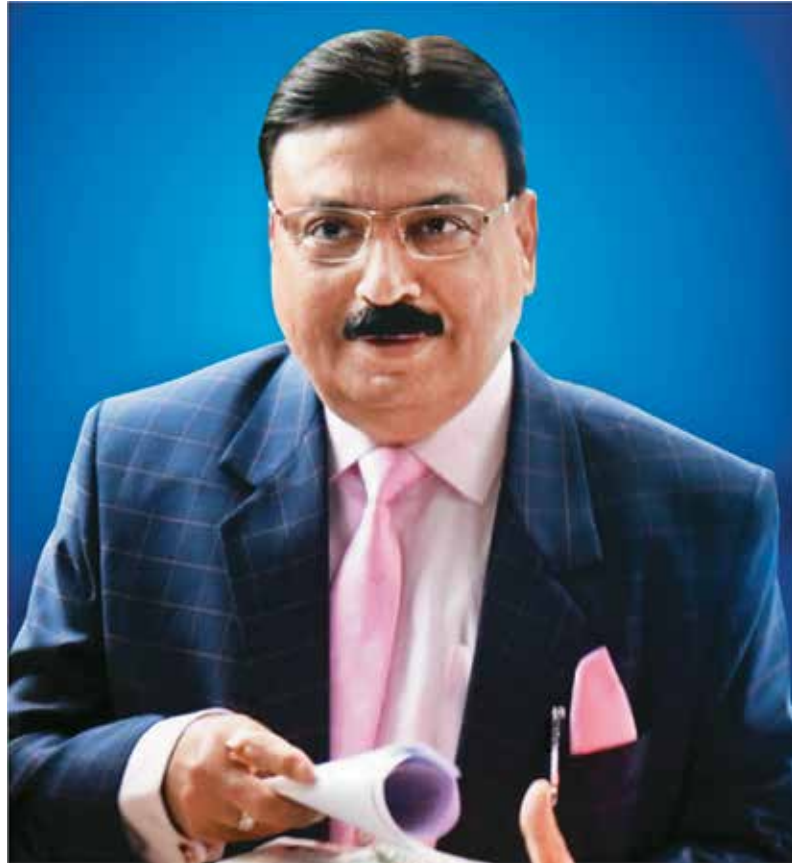
Q What are your strategic goals for Anurag University in the next 5 years?

Goals keep shifting based on market demands and disruptive learning environments, but strategic transformation is continuous. We want to build our brand value and visibility rooted in value-based education. We are continuously boosting our innovation and research index. Being known as a "hackathon university", we hosted over 100 hackathons last year, to cultivate innovation, system thinking, and 21st-century skills. In the next two years, we're investing in advanced research infrastructure to become a research-resource-rich university

Lastly, we're prioritising high-quality assessment systems. In my opinion, better assessments drive better learning, so if we can increase the quality of assessments, the learning quality will by automatically increase. Therefore, we're training faculty to design effective evaluation methods. These transformations are core to our short and long-term strategy. We want to nurture life-long learners and want to be the guiding light for our students – not controlling or driving them but helping them to make right choices to achieve their goals.

Shaping Leaders for a Rising India

Dr Davish Jain shares insights on the impact of technology led new age learning, in-depth research and collaboration on the future generation of professionals



As India stands on the threshold of becoming the world's fourth-largest economy by 2025, the nation's youth are at the center of a transformative journey. In this exclusive Independence Day conversation, Outlook speaks with Dr. Davish Jain, Chancellor of Prestige University, a leading institution in Central India committed to academic excellence and nation-building. Dr. Jain shares his bold vision for preparing students for the evolving economic landscape—nurturing innovation, encouraging entrepreneurship, fostering global citizenship, and integrating future technologies, such as AI and ML, into the fabric of higher education.

Q A growing economy generally leads to more job openings across various sectors, including technology, finance, manufacturing, and infrastructure. How is Prestige University preparing its students to cope with a competitive job market?

Dr. Davish Jain: At Prestige University and other PIMR institutions, we recognize that India's growing economy is not just creating jobs—it is redefining them. We aim to prepare students not merely for employment but for leadership. We've realigned our curriculum to match industry needs, global benchmarks, and emerging trends. Each program is co-created with industry professionals and academic

experts to ensure relevance. From the first year, students engage in live projects, capstone assignments, and sector-specific internships.

In addition, we provide intensive training in soft skills, business communication, data interpretation, financial analysis, and digital tools—skills that are non-negotiable today. Our Industry-Academia Conclaves and Career Readiness Boot Camps are now benchmarks for industry exposure in Central India. Crucially, we emphasize a 'job creation mindset' alongside job readiness. Through mentoring, case-based learning, and peer collaboration, we foster adaptability and confidence—two essential traits in today's marketplace.

Q How are you fostering innovation and inspiring more students to pursue entrepreneurship as India's economic rise provides opportunities across various sectors?

Dr. Davish Jain:

Entrepreneurship is the bedrock of any rising economy. We believe innovation is not optional—it is a responsibility. We have set up the Atal Incubation Centre in collaboration with the NITI Aayog, which incubates student-led startups. The center provides seed funding, mentorship from successful entrepreneurs and VCs, as well as legal and financial support to transform ideas into ventures. Through AIC, we provide students a platform to pitch ideas to real investors. Industry experts from fintech, agritech, and healthtech sectors regularly interact with students—not only to share their journeys but to co-create ideas with them. Today, many of our students are already running successful startups at the national level. We don't just teach entrepreneurship—we live, support, and scale it.

Q How are you inculcating the values of global citizenship and promoting inclusive growth?

Dr. Davish Jain: In a globalized world, being a citizen of the world is as important as being a proud Indian. At Prestige University, we believe global citizenship begins with empathy, ethics, and equity. We ensure equal access to opportunities through generous scholarships, academic support, and inclusive campus engagement. Our students come from diverse socio-economic backgrounds,

"India's journey to becoming the world's fourth-largest economy is not just about GDP—it's about human potential. At Prestige University, our mission is clear: to create change-makers, not just degree-holders. We stand committed to nurturing intellect, character, and innovation—because that is the true celebration of freedom and progress."

Dr. Davish Jain, Chancellor, Prestige University, Indore

and this diversity is celebrated. We've established academic partnerships with top universities in Europe and the United States, giving our students exposure to global learning cultures, joint research, and international internships.

To promote inclusive growth, our institutions, through their various social arms like Prestige Literacy Mission, Bhoomika, Samvedna project, and e-shakti Abhiyan, are educating slum children, empowering girls, and women digitally and otherwise. We aim to build value-driven leaders who can navigate global boardrooms while staying rooted in India's pluralistic ethos.

Q What are the initiatives of Prestige University towards including AI/ML for a fast-evolving world?

Dr. Davish Jain: AI and ML are not just future skills—they are current necessities. We've taken proactive steps to integrate AI/ML across all disciplines.

We offer industry-certified courses delivered by our faculty

and industry professionals.

Students take on real-world AI projects—like chat bots for local businesses, predictive tools for agriculture, and translation software for rural schools.

Through collaborations with industries, our students gain hands-on experience, earn certifications, and even receive pre-placement offers.

Importantly, we promote AI literacy for all—including management, law, public policy, and entrepreneurship students—so they can ethically leverage AI in their fields. Our goal is to nurture AI-empowered leaders who use technology to solve human-centric challenges.

Q How is India evolving in the global job market?

As Chancellor, I observe India's growing influence in the global job market with optimism. The nation is transitioning from a talent exporter to a strategic innovation hub. Our young, skilled workforce is increasingly sought after in emerging sectors like AI, cybersecurity, green tech, and digital finance. With robust investments in education, digital infrastructure, and start-up ecosystems, India is not only fulfilling global demand but also shaping it. Government initiatives like Skill India and Startup India are enhancing employability and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, collaborations between academia and industry are aligning curricula with global standards. As institutions, our responsibility is to nurture globally competent professionals while promoting ethical, inclusive growth. India's ascent is not just economic—it's intellectual, and we are proud to be at the forefront of this transformation.