

# VMRF LEADERSHIP CONCLAVE 2026: ADVANCING DIGITAL, DATA-DRIVEN AND AI-ENABLED ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP FOR FUTURE-READY INSTITUTIONS

**T**he VMRF Leadership Conclave 2026 brought together Heads of Institutions, Heads of Departments, and functional heads from all four campuses for an intensive 2 day programme in the presence of :

- Dr. A. S. Ganesan, Honourable Chancellor, VMRF (DU)
- Mr. N. V. Chandrasekar, Vice President, VMRF (DU)
- Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, Vice President, VMRF (DU)
- Mrs. Aruna Devi, Trustee, VMRF (DU)
- Ms. C. Aavardhini, Executive Director, VMRF (DU)
- Barrister Shri. Gokul Krishnan Sharavanan, Executive Vice President (Campus Development, VMKVMC Campus)
- Ms. Vasundhara Sharavanan, Executive Director (Campus Development, VMKVEC Campus)
- Mr. J. Suresh Samuel, Member, Executive Council





aimed at preparing academic leaders and institutions for the rapidly evolving higher education landscape. The conclave focused on key priorities such as agility in governance, data-driven decision-making, digital transformation, institutional competitiveness, performance management systems, and AI readiness, all of which are essential for building future-ready universities.

The distinguished dignitaries of the university included:

- Prof. Dr. P. K. Sudhir, Vice Chancellor, VMRF (DU)
- Prof. Dr. J. Sabarinathan, Pro Vice Chancellor, VMRF (DU)
- Prof. Dr. A. Nagappan, Registrar, VMRF (DU)

The leadership conclave facilitators were:

- **KPMG:** Mr. Narayanan Ramaswamy (National Leader – Education & Skill Development) and Mr. S. Raghavan (Advisory & Consulting, Education Sector)
- **People Business (HR Consulting):** Dr. Sandeep Krishnan (Partner & CEO), Mr. Nitin Gumber (South Business Head & Associate Director), and Mr. Vinish Soman (Principal Consultant)
- **HCLTech (Technology):** Dr. Kathir Velayutham and Mr. Kamal Prathap Singh J (Technical Specialists)

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Dr. P. K. Sudhir, Vice Chancellor, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by family members, setting an ambience of leadership spirit. The Chancellor, Dr. A. S. Ganesan, delivered the Chief Guest address, followed by a special address by Mr. N. V. Chandrasekar.

This was followed by the felicitation of the management team and the three partner organizations. The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Dr. J. Sabarinathan.

## Day 1 – Session Highlights

### Technology Adoption in Academia, Research Innovation, and Administration (People Business)

#### Facilitators: Dr. Sandeep Krishnan & Mr. Vinish Soman

This session highlighted the strategic role of digital platforms in streamlining academic and administrative processes, reducing manual workloads, and enabling paper-light operations. It also emphasized leadership-driven digital adoption, cross-functional ownership of technology, and the importance of professional platforms such as LinkedIn for institutional visibility and branding.



## Quantitative Performance Management and Future-Ready Leaders (People Business)

**Facilitators: Dr. Sandeep Krishnan & Mr. Nitin Gumber**

This session focused on designing structured performance management systems using KRAs, KPIs, scorecards, and periodic review mechanisms aligned with institutional goals.

Emphasis was placed on data-driven accountability, faculty performance enhancement, student engagement, and continuous institutional improvement.



## Institutional Competitiveness in Higher Education (KPMG)

**Facilitator: Mr. Narayanan Ramaswamy**

Drawing from global and national case studies, this session explored strategies for strengthening institutional



reputation through branding, accreditation and ranking readiness, research visibility, innovation ecosystems, and enhanced digital student experiences. The importance of strategic positioning to attract talent, collaborations, and funding was strongly emphasized.

### **AI Literacy for Educators and Leaders (HCLTech)**

**Facilitators: Dr. Kathir Velayutham & Mr. Kamal Prathap Singh J**

This hands-on session introduced AI tools and their applications in teaching, research, and academic administration. Leaders were encouraged to adopt AI-enabled workflows, integrate AI literacy into faculty development initiatives, and establish responsible AI governance frameworks.



**Day 2 Activities** : The second day featured eight thematic working groups. The conclave concluded with closing remarks and a formal vote of thanks by the Registrar. Participants appreciated the practical frameworks, actionable strategies, and forward-looking roadmap for integrating digital systems, HR interventions, and AI-driven approaches across campuses. Overall, the Leadership Conclave 2026 reaffirmed VMRF's commitment to building agile, digitally empowered, data-driven, and globally competitive institutions, laying a strong foundation for sustained academic transformation.

