

## Virginia Tech and Virginia Tech India Partner with Mahindra University to Establish an Interdisciplinary Research Center

**Hyderabad, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024** — Mahindra University (MU), a pioneering multidisciplinary institution in India, has signed a landmark framework agreement with **Virginia Tech** and **Virginia Tech India** to establish the **Interdisciplinary Institute for Transformative Technologies (I2T2)**. This initiative will bring a world-class research center to Mahindra University Hyderabad campus, fostering innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and cutting-edge research.

The partnership underscores the strong relationship between Virginia Tech, a globally renowned university, and Virginia Tech India, its regional hub for advancing academic, research, and outreach initiatives in India. This synergy aims to harness global expertise, adapt transformative technologies, and empower students and researchers to tackle critical global challenges.

### A Vision for Innovation and Global Impact

The MU-Virginia Tech Research Center will serve as a dynamic platform for interdisciplinary exploration, converging emerging technologies such as nanotechnology, biotechnology, AI, quantum computing, and frontier materials. The Center will focus on creating tangible solutions to pressing global issues such as climate change, social inequity, and sustainable development, while also advancing fundamental science.

**Dr. Yajulu Medury**, Vice Chancellor of Mahindra University, expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration:

*"This partnership with Virginia Tech reflects our commitment to fostering interdisciplinary research and preparing the next generation of ethical and innovative leaders. The Center will empower students and faculty to create transformative solutions, positioning Mahindra University as a global hub for cutting-edge research and societal impact."*

### Virginia Tech's Commitment to Global Collaboration

Virginia Tech and Virginia Tech India bring their expertise, infrastructure, and global networks to this collaboration. **Dr. Guru Ghosh**, Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs at Virginia Tech, highlighted the significance of the partnership:

*"This collaboration epitomizes the spirit of global academic partnerships. By leveraging the strengths of Virginia Tech, Virginia Tech India, and Mahindra University, we are creating an*

*environment that fosters innovation, cultural exchange, and impactful research that transcends borders."*

### **Joint Programs and Future Endeavours**

The partnership will also explore joint and dual-degree master's programs and cultural exchanges, further solidifying ties between the institutions. An MU Chair Professorship will be established to support the Center's growth and ensure its long-term success.

**Professor Roop Mahajan**, Lewis Hester Chair in Mechanical Engineering at Virginia Tech, emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary research:

"Transformative research is about addressing society's most urgent challenges with innovative, meaningful solutions. This partnership equips future leaders with the skills and vision needed to create a positive impact on humanity."

The MU-Virginia Tech Research Center marks a significant step toward creating a global model for interdisciplinary research and education. By uniting the resources and expertise of Virginia Tech, Virginia Tech India, and Mahindra University, the partnership aims to inspire groundbreaking innovations and empower the next generation of change-makers.

### **About Mahindra University:**

Mahindra University, Hyderabad (India) is a multi-disciplinary university. It works towards educating future citizens for a better world. The private university is envisioned as an institution that significantly drives quality improvement and innovation in higher education. Mahindra University focuses on generating new knowledge through engagement in cutting-edge research, creating a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship, and undertaking collaborative projects with industry and other academic institutions. In 2021, Mahindra University launched the School of Management, the Indira Mahindra School of Education, the School of Law followed by the School of Media in 2023 and the School of Design in 2024. The University is backed by Mahindra Educational Institutions (MEI), a subsidiary of Tech Mahindra Ltd., the flagship IT company of the Mahindra Group, a USD 19.4 billion industrial entity that employs more than 256,000 employees across 100 countries.

### **About Virginia Tech:**

Virginia Tech, founded in 1872, is today one of the largest public universities and leading research institutions in the Commonwealth. Offering over 280 degree programs, the university serves more than 38,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. Virginia Tech manages a research portfolio of more than \$556 million. The university aims to push the boundaries of knowledge and support people in their quests to go beyond limits through its tripartite mission of research, culture, and learning.

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