

VIDYA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Thalakkottukara, Thrissur – 680501, Kerala

“A Unit of Vidya International Charitable Trust”

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

2026–2036

A Ten-Year Roadmap for Academic Excellence,
Research, Innovation and Institutional Growth

Prepared in January 2026

Institutional Development Plan (IDP) 2026–2036: Vidya Academy of Science and Technology, Thrissur : January 2026

1. Executive summary

Vidya Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), Thrissur, will formally apply for Deemed-to-be University status in 2036, marking 33 years of excellence since its inception. This plan sets out the ten-year path to that milestone, as presented during the EC visit in January 2026 and aligned with GOSF.

The path runs through four phases:

Phase	Period	Theme	Focus
01	2026–2027	The Accreditation & Autonomy Sprint	Securing the foundation and regaining academic independence
02	2028–2030	Academic Excellence & Infrastructure	With autonomy secured, internal quality and industry relevance
03	2031–2035	Brand Elevation & Research Focus	Shifting the reputation from a “teaching college” to a “research hub”
04	2035–2036	Transition to Deemed University	Final preparation for the ultimate institutional milestone

The headline commitments are:

- NBA accreditation for all programs and autonomous status, with the first autonomous batch in 2027
- Total intake climbing back toward the 750+ mark, with restored second batches and a new-generation B.Tech branch
- A Ph.D.-qualified faculty, in-house MOOCs and at least three industry-supported labs by 2030
- 90%+ placement in Tier-1 core and IT companies and a consistent place in the NIRF Top 150
- Specialised M.Tech and Ph.D. tracks from 2033 and international exchange partnerships by 2035
- Application for Deemed University status in 2036

2. Introduction

2.1 Background

VAST, Thalakkottukara, Thrissur, is an engineering institution of the Vidya International Charitable Trust, affiliated to APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University (KTU) and approved by AICTE. It offers B.Tech programs in Computer Science (CS), Civil (CE), Electrical (EE), Mechanical (ME) and Electronics (EC) Engineering, among others. By 2036 the institution will complete 33 years since its inception.

2.2 Purpose of this plan

This document records the 10-year timeline for VAST presented at the EC visit in January 2026. It explains the logic of each phase, the milestones to be reached each year, and how progress will be monitored. It is the reference for annual academic plans, budget proposals and statutory applications over the decade.

2.3 Alignment with GOSF

The timeline is aligned with GOSF. Each phase builds the capability the next one needs, so that the institution meets the requirements of the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023 by the time it applies.

2.4 Planning horizon

The plan covers 2026 to 2036. Phase boundaries are 2027, 2030 and 2035; Phases 3 and 4 overlap in 2035 so that final preparation starts while research and brand work is completed.

3. Vision and mission

Vision

To be a premier institution in engineering education and research, nurturing innovative professionals for sustainable societal development.

Mission

1. Provide quality engineering education that empowers students with strong technical competence and analytical problem-solving abilities.
2. Promote research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and industry collaboration to develop sustainable technological solutions.
3. Develop ethical and socially responsible professionals with leadership qualities, lifelong learning abilities, and a commitment to societal well-being.

How the plan serves the mission

Mission	Delivered through
M1 — Quality engineering education	NBA accreditation of all programs, autonomous curriculum, faculty upgrade, in-house MOOCs
M2 — Research, innovation and industry collaboration	Sponsored research and consultancy, industry MoUs and labs, M.Tech and Ph.D. tracks
M3 — Ethical, socially responsible professionals	Industry-integrated learning, placement excellence, global exchange programs

4. Position as of January 2026

At the start of the plan, VAST is preparing for accreditation and autonomy, and its intake needs to be rebuilt.

- **Accreditation:** the NBA team visit for Computer Science (CS) and Civil Engineering (CE) is due in 2026. The Self Assessment Report (SAR) for the remaining eligible branches — Electrical (EE), Mechanical (ME) and Electronics (EC) — is to be submitted in December 2026.
- **Autonomy:** the formal application for autonomous status to UGC / the University is to be submitted in 2026.
- **Intake:** total intake is to climb back toward the 750+ mark, including restoring second batches in EC, CE or ME.
- **Programs:** a new-generation branch, B.Tech in Robotics & AI or similar, is planned.
- **Research:** sponsored research and consultancy are to grow in importance once all programs are NBA accredited.

5. Strategic framework

5.1 Four-phase roadmap

Each phase ends at a gate that must be cleared before the next phase can deliver its results. Autonomy in 2027 is the first and most important gate.

Autonomy by 2027 is the first gate on the road to deemed status in 2036

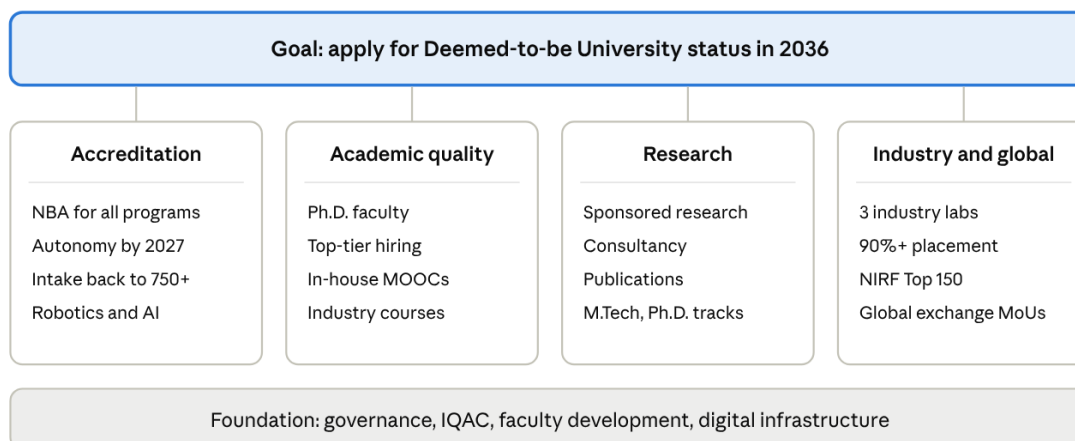


10-year roadmap · 4 phases, 3 gates

5.2 Strategic pillars

The actions in all four phases fall under four pillars, which together carry the goal of Deemed University status.

Four pillars carry VAST to Deemed University status by 2036



strategic pillars · 1 goal, 4 pillars, 1 foundation

1. **Accreditation and autonomy** — NBA for every program and autonomous status, giving VAST control of its curriculum and program mix.
2. **Academic quality** — a Ph.D.-qualified, research-active faculty, digital courses and industry-delivered content.
3. **Research** — sponsored research, consultancy and postgraduate research tracks that meet the research-to-teaching ratio required for deemed status.
4. **Industry and global reach** — industry labs, Tier-1 placement, NIRF ranking and international partnerships that lift the brand.

6. Phase 1 (2026–2027): The Accreditation & Autonomy Sprint

Phase 1 focuses on securing the foundation and regaining academic independence. Every later phase depends on its two outcomes: NBA accreditation for all programs and autonomous status.

6.1 Objectives

- Achieve NBA accreditation for all eligible programs
- Obtain autonomous status and admit the first autonomous batch
- Rebuild total intake toward the 750+ mark
- Introduce a new-generation B.Tech program
- Lay the base for sponsored research and consultancy

6.2 Milestones

Year	Milestone
2026	NBA team visit for Computer Science (CS) and Civil Engineering (CE)
2026	Formal application submission for Autonomous Status to UGC / University
Oct 2026	Submission of SAR for NBA accreditation of the remaining eligible branches: Electrical (EE), Mechanical (ME) and Electronics (EC)
2027	Launch of the first autonomous batch
2027	Strategic intake expansion: total intake climbing back toward the 750+ mark — restore second batches for EC, CE or ME; introduce a new-generation branch, B.Tech in Robotics & AI or similar
2027	NBA accreditation for all programs, leading to increased importance on research, sponsored research and consultancy

6.3 Key actions

- Prepare CS and CE for the NBA visit through criterion-wise readiness reviews and mock visits.
- Complete the SARs for EE, ME and EC and close gaps identified against NBA criteria.
- Prepare the autonomy application with the documentation and governance structures UGC requires.
- Plan the curriculum, Board of Studies and Academic Council needed to run the first autonomous batch.
- Seek approval for restored second batches and the new-generation branch in time for 2027 admissions.

6.4 Expected outcome by end of 2027

All programs NBA accredited, the first autonomous batch admitted, intake back near 750+, and a research and consultancy agenda in place.

7. Phase 2 (2028–2030): Academic Excellence & Infrastructure

With autonomy secured, the focus shifts to internal quality and industry relevance. Phase 2 builds the people, digital content and industry links that research and brand work in Phase 3 will rely on.

7.1 Objectives

- Upgrade human resources and attract top-tier talent
- Build a Ph.D.-qualified, research-publishing faculty
- Transform teaching through in-house digital courses
- Embed industry in the autonomous curriculum

- Establish industry-supported laboratories

7.2 Milestones

Year	Milestone
2028	Human capital upgrade: train and upgrade human resources and attract top-tier talent; mandatory Ph.D. attainment for faculty and increased research publication targets
2028	Digital transformation: launch a suite of in-house MOOC courses developed by VAST faculty, hosted on national platforms like NPTEL or a dedicated VAST-Learn portal
2028	MoUs with major industries; industry-delivered courses and programs in autonomous and other programs
2030	Industry-integrated learning: establish at least three industry-supported labs (e.g. in collaboration with companies like Intel, NVIDIA or Bosch)

7.3 Key actions

- Set a faculty development policy covering Ph.D. attainment, publication targets and recruitment of top-tier talent.
- Create a MOOC production facility and select the first courses for NPTEL or a VAST-Learn portal.
- Sign MoUs with major industries and build industry-delivered courses into autonomous program structures.
- Identify industry partners and lab themes, and plan space and co-funding for three industry-supported labs.

7.4 Expected outcome by end of 2030

A faculty moving to full Ph.D. qualification, a running suite of VAST MOOCs, industry-delivered courses in the curriculum, and at least three industry-supported labs.

8. Phase 3 (2031–2035): Brand Elevation & Research Focus

Phase 3 shifts VAST’s reputation from a “teaching college” to a “research hub”. It turns the autonomy and quality gains of Phases 1 and 2 into visible results: placements, national ranking and research programs.

8.1 Objectives

- Use the autonomous curriculum to deliver placement excellence
- Enter and hold a place in the NIRF Top 150
- Build the postgraduate and doctoral base needed for deemed status

8.2 Milestones

Year	Milestone
2031	Placement excellence: leverage the autonomous curriculum to secure 90%+ placement in Tier-1 core and IT companies, significantly boosting brand value
2031	NIRF goal: work toward entering the Top 150 NIRF rankings consistently

Year	Milestone
2033	Niche Master's programs: introduce specialised M.Tech and Ph.D. tracks to fulfil the research-to-teaching ratio required for Deemed University status

8.3 Key actions

- Align curriculum, training and industry partnerships with Tier-1 core and IT recruiters.
- Strengthen the NIRF parameters: teaching, research output, graduation outcomes, outreach and perception.
- Seek approval for specialised M.Tech programs and Ph.D. tracks in the institution's strongest research areas.

8.4 Expected outcome by 2035

90%+ Tier-1 placement, a consistent NIRF Top 150 position, and running M.Tech and Ph.D. tracks that meet the research-to-teaching ratio.

9. Phase 4 (2035–2036): Transition to Deemed University

Phase 4 is the final preparation for the ultimate institutional milestone: the application for Deemed-to-be University status under the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2023.

9.1 Objectives

- Add a global dimension through international partnerships
- Assemble and submit the Deemed University application

9.2 Milestones

Year	Milestone
2035	Global partnerships: sign MoUs for student and faculty exchange programs with reputed international universities
2036	University status application: formally apply for Deemed University status, marking 33 years of excellence since inception

9.3 Key actions

- Identify reputed international universities and agree exchange terms for students and faculty.
- Audit the institution against the Deemed University Regulations, 2023 and close any remaining gaps.
- Compile evidence from all four phases — accreditation, autonomy, faculty, research, placement, ranking — into the application.

9.4 Expected outcome by 2036

International exchange partnerships in operation and a complete application for Deemed University status submitted.

10. Consolidated milestone schedule

Fifteen milestones run from the 2026 NBA visit to the 2036 application; status is shown as at January 2026.

Year	Phase	Milestone
2026	1	NBA team visit for CS and CE
2026	1	Application for Autonomous Status to UGC / University
DEC 2026	1	SAR submission for NBA accreditation of EE, ME and EC
2027	1	Launch of the first autonomous batch
2027	1	Intake toward 750+: restore second batches in EC, CE or ME; new B.Tech in Robotics & AI or similar
2027	1	NBA accreditation for all programs; greater emphasis on research, sponsored research and consultancy
2028	2	Human capital upgrade: mandatory faculty Ph.D., higher publication targets, top-tier hiring
2028	2	In-house MOOCs on NPTEL or a VAST-Learn portal
2028	2	Industry MoUs; industry-delivered courses and programs
2030	2	At least three industry-supported labs
2031	3	90%+ placement in Tier-1 core and IT companies
2031	3	Consistent entry into NIRF Top 150
2033	3	Specialised M.Tech and Ph.D. tracks
2035	4	International student and faculty exchange MoUs
2036	4	Formal application for Deemed University status

11. Targets and success indicators

The plan is judged against eleven targets, each taken directly from the timeline.

Indicator	Target
NBA-accredited programs	All programs
Autonomous status	First autonomous batch admitted
Total intake	Climbing back toward 750+
New-generation programs	B.Tech in Robotics & AI or similar

Indicator	Target
Faculty qualification	Mandatory Ph.D. attainment; increased publication targets
Industry-supported labs	At least three
Placement	90%+ in Tier-1 core and IT companies
NIRF ranking	Consistently in the Top 150
Postgraduate research	Specialised M.Tech and Ph.D. tracks
International partnerships	Exchange MoUs with reputed international universities
Deemed University	Formal application submitted

12. Implementation, monitoring and review

The Governing Body owns the plan; the Principal leads its delivery, supported by the academic leadership, IQAC and department heads.

12.1 Implementation

- Each year, the milestones in Section 10 are translated into an annual action plan with responsibilities and a budget.
- Departments prepare program-level plans for accreditation, curriculum, faculty development and industry engagement.
- Dedicated working groups handle accreditation and autonomy, research and consultancy, and industry and placement.

12.2 Monitoring

- IQAC tracks progress against the targets in Section 11 and maintains the evidence needed for NBA, autonomy, NIRF and the Deemed University application.
- Progress is reported to the Governing Body at regular intervals.

12.3 Phase-gate reviews

A formal review is held at the end of each phase — 2027, 2030 and 2035 — to confirm the gate has been met and to update the plan for the next phase.

13. Risks and mitigation

The main risk is delay in Phase 1, because autonomy and accreditation underpin every later milestone.

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
NBA visit or SARs for EE, ME and EC do not succeed on schedule	Autonomy and intake expansion are delayed	Criterion-wise readiness reviews, mock visits and external expert review of SARs
Autonomous status is delayed	First autonomous batch and curriculum reforms	Meet all preconditions early; keep the application file complete and current

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
	slip	
Intake does not recover toward 750+	Less capacity to invest in faculty, labs and research	New-generation branch, restored second batches where demand exists, stronger outreach
Faculty Ph.D. and publication targets are not met	Research-to-teaching ratio and NIRF goals are at risk	Faculty development policy, Ph.D. support and research-focused recruitment
Industry partners do not commit to labs or courses	Industry-integrated learning and placement goals slip	Start with MoUs linked to placement; co-funded labs
Deemed University requirements change before 2036	Late changes to the application	Track UGC regulations each year and build to the current norms

14. Conclusion

This ten-year plan takes VAST from accreditation and autonomy in 2026–27, through academic excellence and industry integration, to a research-led institution ready to apply for Deemed University status in 2036. Delivering Phase 1 on time is the priority; with that gate cleared, each subsequent phase builds directly on the one before.