

RISE TOGETHER 2026

From Conversations to Collective Action with Purpose

18 November 2026 | Park Center, Technopark Phase 1, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

The Question

What can we actually build together with the capabilities and opportunities we already have?

India does not lack talent, institutions, industry, technology, communities, government programmes or opportunities.

What we often lack is the ability to connect them into an ecosystem where capabilities, resources and opportunities can flow seamlessly across institutional boundaries.

Industry has problems, expertise and opportunities. Academia has students, faculty and research capacity. The government can enable, connect and scale. Communities and NGOs can reach places formal systems cannot. Young people bring curiosity, energy and ambition.

Rise Together is about connecting these realities, capabilities, opportunities and aspirations.

Starting in Kerala, Rise Together aims to demonstrate a collaboration model that can be adapted across India, connecting existing national and state-level initiatives with industry, academia, and community capabilities.

Not another discussion about the gaps.

Not another set of recommendations waiting for someone else to implement.

It is an invitation to ask:

What can each of us bring, and what can we build for our youth when we bring it together?

From Bridging the Gap to Removing the Gap

AI and other emerging technologies are changing the nature of knowledge, work, entrepreneurship and organisations faster than conventional systems can adapt.

Young people need more than updated curricula. They need opportunities to **learn, experiment, collaborate, build, solve real problems and demonstrate what they can do.**

So instead of repeatedly asking:

“How do we bridge the industry and academia disconnect?”

we should ask:

“Why should they operate as disconnected worlds in the first place?”

Imagine students learning from professors, working with industry mentors, solving real problems, collaborating with communities and demonstrating their capabilities through real work.

Imagine companies sharing problems, mentors, technology and opportunities earlier in the learning journey.

Imagine a government making these connections easier through policy, recognition, infrastructure and coordination.

That is the ecosystem Rise Together wants to build.

Kerala as a Living Laboratory

Rise Together seeks to bring national institutions, state government, universities, industry and communities together to identify and launch practical collaborative pilots. These could include industry-led learning opportunities, faculty-industry immersion, recognition of demonstrated skills, AI-enabled innovation and shared access to expertise and infrastructure.

The ambition is to test what works in Kerala and develop approaches that can be adapted and scaled across India.

From Conversation to Action

On **18 November**, government, industry, academia, startups, communities, NGOs, experts and young people come together—not simply as speakers or an audience, but as **potential collaborators**.

01 | EVOLVE & ADAPT

What is changing?

02 | DECENTRALISE & COLLABORATE

What do we already have?

03 | COLLECTIVE ACTION

What will we build together?

The aim is to identify shared challenges, match them with existing capabilities, and launch collaborative pilots with participating institutions. Each pilot should have a defined objective, contributing partners, a coordinating team, and measurable milestones.

What Should Leave the Room?

Not another conference report.

An interconnected ecosystem of existing institutions and capabilities, with:

Shared Challenges • Shared Capabilities & Opportunities • Institutional Commitments • Collaborative Pilots • Working Coalitions

Participating institutions will be invited to identify initial pilots, nominate coordinating representatives, and establish a follow-up mechanism to review progress at 30, 90, and 180 days.

The success of Rise Together will not be measured by the number of people attending.

It will be measured by what starts happening after November 18.

13 Years of Building an Ecosystem

Rise Together 2026 is convened by The Purple Movement, building on 13 years of sustained ecosystem-building efforts since the launch of [FAYA:80](#) in 2013.

Through Disrupt Kerala (2017), Evolve India (2023), Transcend India (2024) and Beyond FAYA:80 (2025), this journey has connected leaders from **200+ companies** with academia, government, and communities to strengthen Kerala's technology and innovation ecosystem.

Rise Together marks the next step in this 13-year journey: transforming established relationships and shared knowledge into collaborative pilots, bringing national institutions, industry, academia and communities together to create meaningful opportunities for young people.

The Invitation

A company may bring an opportunity.

A professor may bring expertise.

A university may open a laboratory.

A government department may bring a challenge or remove a barrier.

A startup may bring technology.

A community may bring reach.

A student may bring an idea nobody else has considered.

We invite national institutions, government departments, industry leaders, universities and civil society organisations to become active partners in this effort.

Beyond contributing perspectives, we seek their participation in identifying challenges, sharing expertise and resources, and co-designing practical pilots that can create meaningful opportunities for young people.

Individually, each contribution may appear small.

Connected together, they can become the ecosystem we need to build.

We already have more than we realise.

It is time to look towards each other.

RISE TOGETHER

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Deepu S Nath

Chief Volunteer, The Purple Movement

+91 99957 10101