

**IIC Activity Report****Academic Year: 2025-26****Quarter: Q4****Semester: II****Strengthening Scientific Research and Innovation in HEIs: ANRF Schemes and Opportunities**

Theme	MIC-Driven Activity
Program Theme	Innovation and Design Thinking
Thrust Area	Start-up Ecosystem & Scale up
Social Media Link (Linkedin/ Facebook/ Instagram)	https://www.instagram.com/p/DbmlioWkq0m/?igsh=MXAzdGQ5d3Q4YmZqbA==
Video Link	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_RoK991xee-viMBRIJPCG3xU-3PtEzZn/view?usp=sharing
Program Driven by	RIT Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) and Department of CSE(AI&ML)
Activity Type	LEVEL -1 : Expert Talk
Date of Activity	31 July 2026
Mode of Conduct	ONLINE
Duration	11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
No.of Student Participants	45
No.of Faculty participants	66
Expenditure Amount (If any)	NIL
Resource Person	Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), an IIT Madras alumnus who assumed the role in March 2025, succeeding Professor Abhay Karandikar. Prior to this, he served as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for the Energy Industry, Asia, at Microsoft, bringing over three decades of experience across research, technology, and



	innovation. He holds several distinguished honors, including Distinguished Alumnus Awardee of IIT Madras and Ohio State University (2021), Fellow of the IEEE (2010), Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (2015), ACM Distinguished Scientist (2010), Microsoft Gold Club recognition (2024), and Technology Review TR100 Young Innovator (1999). As CEO of ANRF, he leads national efforts to seed, grow, and promote research and development across India's universities, colleges, and research institutions, steering the foundation's strategic direction for scientific research in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP), and strengthening India's overall research and innovation ecosystem.
Introduction	The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), established under the ANRF Act 2023, serves as India's apex body for funding, coordinating, and promoting research and innovation across universities, colleges, and research institutions nationwide. Subsuming the earlier Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), ANRF was created to democratize research funding and build a stronger scientific culture across the country, particularly in institutions with limited research capacity. On July 31, 2026, the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell organized a session titled "Strengthening Scientific Research and Innovation in HEIs," where Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman, CEO of ANRF, presented the foundation's vision, priorities, and support framework for higher education institutions.
Objectives	• Preparing a strategic roadmap for short, medium, and long-term research and development across the country. • Strengthening research capacity at universities and colleges where research infrastructure is still nascent, through R&D projects, fellowships, academic chairs, and centers of excellence. • Funding competitive, peer-reviewed research proposals for eligible researchers and institutions across disciplines. • Fostering industry-academia collaboration, forging partnerships among industry, academia, research institutions, and government to ensure research translates into real-world impact.



Benefit in-terms of Learning /skill /knowledge obtained	• Democratized research funding — Extends support beyond top-tier institutes to universities and colleges with limited research infrastructure. • Broader disciplinary coverage — Funds natural sciences, engineering, health, agriculture, and humanities/social sciences, going beyond science-only funding. • Diverse funding avenues — Offers competitive grants, fellowships, academic chairs, and centers of excellence for researchers at every stage. • Capacity building for emerging institutions — Programs like PAIR connect top institutions with smaller colleges to build research capability. • Industry-linked research — Significant industry co-funding pushes research toward real-world, application-oriented outcomes.
Conclusion	The session provided valuable insight into ANRF's vision for transforming India's research ecosystem, particularly its focus on strengthening research capacity in higher education institutions with limited infrastructure. By outlining funding schemes, mission-mode priorities, and collaborative frameworks like PAIR, Dr. Kalyanaraman highlighted concrete pathways for HEIs to access support and contribute to national research priorities. The talk underscored ANRF's broader goal of building an inclusive, industry-aligned research culture across disciplines. Overall, the program equipped participants with clearer understanding of available opportunities and encouraged institutions to actively engage with ANRF's schemes to strengthen their research capabilities and contribute to India's scientific advancement.
Program outcome	• Enhanced awareness of ANRF's funding schemes and fellowship opportunities available for HEIs. • Improved alignment of institutional research with national thrust areas like EV mobility and water security. • Better understanding of the grant application and peer-review process, enabling stronger research proposals. • Increased motivation among institutions to build research capacity through partnerships like PAIR and Centers of Excellence.



RAJEEV INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Plot # 1 (D), Growth Centre, Bangalore-Mangalore Bypass Road, HASSAN- 573 201, KARNATAKA
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Photo Gallery



Rajeev Institute of Technology

Plot 1-D, Growth Center, B-M Bypass Road, Hassan, Karnataka - 573201

Department Of CSE (AI&ML)



Strengthening Scientific Research and Innovation in HEIs:
ANRF's Vision, Priorities, and Support Framework

Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)



FRIDAY
31 July 2026



TIME
11:30 AM



VENUE
Seminar Hall, RIT



/MoEInnovationCell

Coordinators

Head of the Department

Dr. Sharath MN
Head, Dept of CSE (AI & ML)

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Hassan Growth Center, Hassan Growth Center
Hassan, Karnataka 573201, India
Lat 12.990750, Long 76.115348
Friday, 31/07/2026 11:45 AM GMT+05:30
Note: Captured by GPS Map Camera

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Event coordinator

Mr. SANJEEV JADHAV

Event coordinator

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