Anveshan-2026

International Student Research Convention

Rules & Guidelines

ANVESHAN

THE INTER-UNIVERSITY STUDENT COMPETITION ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

BASIC SCIENCE | AGRICULTURE SCIENCE | HEALTH SCIENCE | SOCIAL SCIENCE | ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY | INTERDISCIPLINARY | AI AND ROBOTICS

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

Research Division

Association of Indian Universities

16, Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg, New Delhi - 110002

Anveshan: International Student Research Convention

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Preamble

Spirit of inquiry, creativity and innovativeness are some of the natural endowments bestowed upon human beings, which are the keys to transformation of life. These factors, when manifested in the form of research, open new frontiers of knowledge, which is instrumental for all forms of development. Perhaps, this is the reason for which research is recognized as one of the core functions of the universities/institutions of higher learning and the universities have been rendering this responsibility with utmost diligence. India's noteworthy progress in the field of Science, Information Technology, Energy and Space, etc., are the outcome of consistent endeavors of our intellectual resources. India, currently producing a solid core of knowledge workers in tertiary and scientific and technical education and its economy and industrial sector set for an unparalleled growth is poised to become the future global knowledge hub. However, the onus lies largely on our Higher Education System and particularly on our universities. But, of late, research has become a subservient component in the university functioning. Resource constraints, lack of commitment, proper incentive, etc., are the impediments that are affecting the quality of research in our institutions of higher education. Other important factors for the deterioration of the quality of research are the absence of adequate training and other capacity building measures in our system, which have restricted students' creativity only to rote learning. On the contrary, their potential should be nurtured and harnessed for the benefit of the society. The current boom in Indian economy signaling an era of transformation should provide ample opportunity for success to innovative young brains to become trend setters and role models of a vibrant India.

With a view to inculcating research culture in our higher education institutions and strengthening the Research Ecosystem in higher education, the Research Division of the Association of Indian Universities has been organizing Student Research Conventions for aspiring researchers throughout the country. These Conventions aim at identifying the young and rising talents who would be promoted through proper encouragement and incentives. Also, an attempt shall be made to commercialize their research projects with industrial collaboration. The endeavour may accelerate scientific research and innovation and their application towards community development percolating to the grass root level. ***Anveshan***: The Student Research Convention was applauded across the country for providing an innovative platform for students and generating a great deal of enthusiasm among the young and emerging breed of researchers in the country. Nevertheless, the initiative is an attempt to inculcate and strengthen a culture of research in the universities and other institutions of Higher Learning.

Launched in 2007, ***Anveshan***: Student Research Convention is an annual activity of the Research Division which is organized at zonal and national level. Although, one

of its original mandates was to internationalize *Anveshan*, due to certain limitations in the initial years the scope of ***Anveshan*** was confined to zonal and national level. With the experience of organizing the conventions in more than one and half decades, this major activity has been institutionalized and has received accolades from the member universities and the academic stakeholders not only nationally, but internationally too.

With the growing interest of the researchers, institutions, and other stakeholders, the scope of *Anveshan* was expanded to the international level in 2023 during which the newer/upgraded version of the ***Anveshan*** was introduced reaching out to international students and inviting them to participate in ***Anveshan*** so that exchange of knowledge and submission of joint and collaborative projects can be promoted. Earlier, ***Anveshan*** was being organized in a conventional mode wherein most of the activities were being manually done. For making the process more efficient the newer version of Anveshan has been completely digitalized. At present, the entire process is being executed in hybrid mode, giving opportunity to researchers from remote places of the country to participate in the convention and also reach out to international researchers for network and collaboration. The objective is to expand its scope and provide a pathway to Indian researchers to network and collaborate with international students. As such the mandate of NEP 2020 and its recommendations on promoting internationalization has necessitated expanding the scope and reach of *Anveshan* to the International level.

Anveshan: Background

Anveshan, as the name signifies, is a platform launched by the Association of Indian Universities in the direction of identifying and nurturing the Research aptitudes of young and upcoming researchers. The principal objective of Anveshan is to strengthen the Research Ecosystem in Higher Education by capacity building and catalyzing the talents of young researchers. It is a competition wherein young researchers are invited to present their innovative research projects and showcase their talents. The competition is held in Seven areas/fields namely – ***(i) Basic Science, (ii) Engineering and Technology, (iii) Health Science & Allied Fields, (iv) Agricultural Sciences and Allied subjects, (v) Social Science; Humanities, Business Management, commerce; Law, (vi) Interdisciplinary Research and (vii) Artificial Intelligence & Robotics.*** The organization of Anveshan follows a structured procedure and is conducted by following the guidelines.

Procedure

The process begins with the preparation of the Anveshan calendar for the particular year. The member universities are advised to organize a competition of Research projects in the **Seven fields/areas/tracks** mentioned above and select the **best project** in each field/area/track (total Seven) and send/forward them to the Zonal level Convention.

AIU Notifies the member universities inviting expression of interest (EoI) for hosting the conventions in their campuses. **One university in each zone** is identified as the Host University. The Zonal level conventions are organized in four Zones – East, West, North and South. Each University can send maximum 07 Projects to the zonal level convention wherein the research projects pass through rigorous evaluation. The projects are assessed by a panel of three Experts in each field on well-laid criteria mentioned in the Anveshan Guidelines. The Selected projects are finally given entry at the final Convention i.e. **International Research Convention**. The research projects selected in the First, Second, and Third positions in each category/field in the final (International Convention) will be recognized and incentivized with cash awards, certificates and mementos. The objective and detailed procedure of participating in the

Anveshan International Research Convention is as follows:

Objectives

- To identify young talent with research aptitude and interest to take up research as a career option.
- To promote the talent in research throughout the country.
- To nurture talent through specialized training and education in some of the nationally and internationally reputed premier institutions of higher learning in the country.
- To augment financial and physical resources through collaboration with different sponsors to support education and training of young researchers.
- To provide proper incentives to enhance the skills of potential students.
- To initiate an intensive research culture in a selected group of institutions.
- To promote collaboration at the National & International levels.
- To promote Interdisciplinary Research.
- To promote entrepreneurship and encourage students to establish their startups.

Areas/Fields /Categories

The areas/fields/ categories in which Projects (**Individual and collaborative Projects***) are invited:

1. **Basic Sciences**
2. **Engineering & Technology**
3. **Health Sciences and Allied Subjects, Pharmacy, Nutrition, etc.**
4. **Agriculture**
5. **Social Sciences, Humanities, Commerce and Law**
6. **Interdisciplinary Research Projects**
7. **Artificial Intelligence and Robotics**

- In the case of collaborative **projects,** a maximum of four members [one lead presenter and up to three major contributors] are allowed to participate in the zonal/ International convention.
- For participating both in Zonal and International *Anveshan*, the student has to apply online on the portal either individually or as a team for collaborative projects.

For collaborative, three types of collaborations are allowed:

- Teams of students from Indian and foreign universities (for International Anveshan) – Researchers from Indian Universities can collaborate with any international student (s) and can take part in International *Anveshan* Teams of Indian and foreign students studying in India (Zonal Anveshan)- Individual Researchers or Teams of Researchers of Indian universities including Foreign Students Studying in Indian Universities have to participate at Zonal Level Anveshan
- Teams of Indian students: Individual Researchers or Teams of Researchers from Indian Universities shall have to participate at Zonal Level Anveshan

The students need to register directly in the portal, but the project will be accepted for competition only if it is endorsed on the portal by the *Anveshan* coordinator /Competent Authority of their respective universities/Institutions. Both Zonal and International Conventions shall be organized in hybrid mode. The result of competitions would be uploaded on the *Anveshan* Portal of AIU.

Competition Phases and Duration

- The convention will be held in three phases.

i. In the **First Phase**, all universities in the country will be requested to organize a competition/ exhibition of research projects at the university level in which students from Affiliated/Constituent Colleges, Research Institutions, and University Postgraduate Departments will be invited to participate. The exhibited projects will be scrutinized by a team of experts nominated by the university in the respective areas. The best Project in each of the seven areas/fields shall be selected and sent/forwarded by the University to the Zonal Level Convention, as per the dates mentioned for each zone in the Anveshan Calendar prepared for the Session 2026.

ii. In the **Second Phase**, the Convention will be held at the Zonal level for which four universities, one in each zone, will be identified by AIU to host the Convention. The evaluation of the Research Projects at the Zonal Level Convention shall be conducted through a podium presentation. The Research projects will be assessed by a panel of three experts in each area/field. From each zone, best **21** projects (1st, 2nd and 3rd in each of the **07** fields/tracks) will be selected and be given entry to compete at the international level. The Zonal convention for each zone will be held for two days on a staggered scheduled across the four zones.

iii. In the **Third Phase**, Convention will be held at the **International level**. The winners of the zonal competitions will be eligible to participate in the international level competition. A total of **84** selected projects will participate at the International Level through the Zonal conventions. The international convention will be held over three days.

iv. The Best Project across all **seven** categories adjudged by the experts (in all areas/fields) in consensus shall be awarded **Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Gold Medal** (2026-27).

University set-up:

- Each participating university will need to nominate a Coordinator who will verify, steer and guide the participating students and teams from the university.
- Each university is allowed to send a maximum number of 07 projects for the zonal level Student Research Convention, a maximum 01 from each category.
- The students have to apply online on the portal for the projects duly endorsed by

the competent authority of the university by a stipulated date every year as mentioned in *Anveshan* Calendar and uploaded on AIU Website: http://www.aiu.ac.in

- The projects will be assessed by a panel of experts drawn from various disciplines based on laid down criteria for assessment. The students whose projects will be selected in the final stage at the International Convention will be given all prizes. All efforts will be made to promote them for career development in research.

- There will be an additional route for participating in International Convention. This will comprise of International Students studying in foreign universities who can apply as individual or in collaboration with an Indian University.

Criteria for Assessment of Projects

All the projects will be assessed based on the following criteria. Each criterion is assigned some weightage. The final selection of projects will be based on the cumulative weightage given on all criteria.

Criteria and Weightage

• Scientific Thoughts and Principles	20
• Creativity	20
• Clarity of Thought	20
• Relevance to the society	20
• Cost Effectiveness	10
• Scope for Commercialization	10

In case of the projects having scored equal cumulative weightage points the scalability of the project shall be the additional evaluation for making the final decision.

Eligibility for Participation

Entries of the research projects will be purely **INSTITUTIONAL** and only **BONAFIDE full-time** Students/Research Scholars from Undergraduate to Doctoral Degree level are eligible to take part in the convention. **Those who are below 30 years of age are only eligible to take part in the Convention.** The age of the participating student will be calculated till the date of the Registration.

Entry/Registration Fee for Zonal level Convention

- Registration/Entry for **Indian Students** - Rs. 800/- (**Per Student**)
- Registration/ Entry Fee for International **Students - $10 (Per student)**
- The Registration/Entry Fee shall be paid online to the Host University
- Entry fee will be accepted only one time. The students who have paid at the Zonal level need not pay again for participating in the International Anveshan for the same project.

Board and Lodging

At zonal level, the host university will make the arrangements for Accommodation, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, and Session Tea (twice) for the participants including their escorts **without any charge during the two days of the event.**

Those requiring such facilities may contact the coordinator of the host university in advance. **The name and contact details of the *Anveshan* Coordinators shall be available on *Anveshan* Portal.**

Responsibility of Organizers

(A) Association of Indian Universities (AIU)

- Association of Indian Universities shall have Exclusive Right on the *Anveshan* – Research Convention.
- The Convention shall be organized under the banner of Association of Indian Universities.
- AIU will identify the Host Universities at the Zonal/International level for organizing the Conventions.
- **Financial support to the host university:** AIU will pay **Rs 3.00 (Three Lakhs only)** as financial support to each University for conducting the Convention at the **Zonal level** and Rs. **5.00 (Five Lakhs)** to the University for hosting **International** Level Convention).
- The Host Universities are free to take sponsorship for hosting the events.
- AIU Shall Promote the Event through rigorous outreach/campaign.
- Reaching out to International Organizations for inviting their Member University Students to take part in the Convention.
- Coordinating the convention and post-convention activities.
- Compiling and bringing out the Compendium of Presented Research Projects.
- In the event of unsatisfactory arrangements or no-compliance of rules of Anveshan, AIU reserves the right to withdraw or cancel or reschedule the Research Convention at zonal or international level.

• Host University

- The Host University shall develop a separate short brochure for promoting the Event. The Name of the Association of Indian Universities shall appear at the **Top in the Brochure**. The name and logo of AIU shall be mentioned in all promotional materials developed for the purpose. The Logo of AIU shall be placed on top left side of the promotional Materials.

- The Host University shall abide by the Rules and Guidelines of **Anveshan**. No change or modification is allowed without the approval of AIU.

- The Host University shall reach out to universities in their respective zone to encourage participation from the students.

- Providing Boarding, lodging **(without any charge during the two/three days of the event)** and other logistics for participants, experts, observers, Local Coordination in organizing the program.

- **Selection of experts**: The Host University Shall consult AIU in inviting the Experts for assessment of Projects. The panel of experts (preferably retired or serving academicians from the adjoining institutions, personnel from local

industries) shall be invited to assess the projects. **Three experts** in each area/ field will constitute the panel in each area/field. In order to avoid the conflict of interest, **NO Expert shall be engaged from the host university and the institutions from where the students are participating in the Convention.**

- TA and token honorarium of around Rs 2000/- (per day) to each expert will be covered from the seed money paid by AIU.

- Arrangement of adequate space and auditorium or seminar hall for podium presentation with reasonably good facilities with required electronic gadgets shall be done by the host university

- The Host University shall submit the Utilization Certificate for the Financial Assistance provided by AIU within two weeks of the execution of the Convention.

- The Host University Shall submit a **complete report** (English version with editable content) with photographs to AIU within two weeks of the completion of the Event. The Report shall be submitted to AIU along with the Utilization Certificate.
- All correspondence and coordination shall be done with **Joint Director & Head of Research Division of AIU** who shall be the Chief Convenor of the Anveshan.

• Participating Universities:

- Appoint *Anveshan* coordinator who will be the Single Point of Contact **(SPOC)** for coordination of Anveshan from the respective university

- Holding competition at university level within the university Teaching/Research Department and also inviting projects from constituent/ affiliated colleges/institutes to participate in university level Convention.

- Endorsement of Selected Projects through competent authority

- Facilitating the participation of selected projects and related researchers in International Convention

Step by Step Guideline for Participating in Anveshan and Submission of Projects.

1. Go **to https://projectset.com/anveshan;**
2. Select the track you wish to participate in;
3. Select your Country and university name;
4. [*A new page opens for registrations from your university*] Enter your email id
5. Enter the password of your ProjectSet account (*or enter details to sign up for a free account on ProjectSet*)
6. [*Proceed to form your team*] Enter your team's name (*we strongly recommend that you enter the project title as the team name*);
7. To participate **solo**, turn the radio button to **Private** and **you're done**!

8. To participate in a **team**, select any **ONE** of the following options:
    - Select "**Create a team**" to form a new team and invite your friends to join in by adding their email ids; it will trigger an email instructing them to join your team (you may invite students from other AIU-member universities in your zone only, including your own university). You can send out invites any time from the ProjectStudio by clicking **View Team Members** and the + button to enter their email ids. Keep the radio button on **Public** mode to allow other participants to join your team.
    - OR select **Join a Team** to review the project title and members of existing (public) teams and select any one to join
    - OR select **Be Assigned** to be assigned to a team with other students from the same zone and track. With this option, you may change your preference to form or join a team anytime till you are assigned to a team on the registration deadline day.
9. You are now all set to participate in AIU Anveshan 2024. Please email support@projectset.com if you have any question.

Guidelines for Participants

1. Registration is compulsory and all participants are required to register online on the nominated ***Anveshan*** **portal in ProjectSet**. Students who do not register online prior to the stipulated deadline will not be eligible to participate in the competition.

2. Entries of the research projects will be purely **INSTITUTIONAL** and only **BONAFIDE** fulltime Students/Research Scholars from Undergraduate to Doctoral Degree level are eligible to take part in the convention.

3. Projects should be original and based on new/innovative ideas and must have undergone some exploration and ground-work to prove its feasibility and show impact.

4. The Projects are invited in Following **Seven Categories/areas:**

   (i) Basic Science,

   (ii) Engineering & Technology,

   (iii) Health Sciences and Allied Subjects,

   (iv) Agriculture Science & Allied Fields,

   (v) Social Science, Humanities, Commerce & Business Management, Law

   (vi) Inter-disciplinary Research

   (vii) Artificial Intelligence and Robotics

5. In case of a Group project, up to **maximum Four members** (the principal investigator and three major contributors) are allowed to participate – and only **one member** will be allowed to lead the presentation in the zonal/ International convention. The team should confirm the name of Lead Presenter to the convention organiser in advance. In case of any need other members can assist in presentation

6. The Projects can be presented in the form Podium Presentation (with PPT) in any aforementioned areas/ fields. **The presentation includes** live demonstration models, protypes as well as (if required)

   a. **The Presentation (PPTs) are NOT have any identification mark such as name of the student/ presenter, affiliating institutions, names of supervisor/mentors, etc.**

   b. Clearly mention of the problem statement, objective (s), methodology employed, a brief summary of major findings.

   c. The project should not have been submitted to any agency for funding or received any funding for its execurion

7. Each university is allowed to send a maximum number of **seven projects** for the **zonal level** Student Research Convention.

8. All registered participants will progress through the competition in three phases. In the **First Phase**, you will participate in a competition/ exhibition of your research projects with those from other students in affiliated Colleges, Research

Institutions, and Departments in your university. A team of experts nominated by the university will then select the best one (1) Projects in each of the six (7) areas/fields (total 07) to represent the University at the Zonal Level Convention. The date and details of this phase will be announced by your respective universities.

9. In the **Second Phase**, up to 07 teams nominated by each university will be invited to participate in the Zonal Convention for your zone. The host universities for the zonal convention in each zone will be identified by AIU.

10. The **Zonal rounds** in the **Second Phase** will:

    a. Require all participating teams to be **duly endorsed by a competent authority** of the university prior to the stipulated date mentioned in Anveshan Calendar and uploaded on AIU **Website: http://www.aiu.ac.in.** Teams without such endorsement will not be allowed to participate in the zonal round. Please contact your university coordinator for such approval.

    b. Require participants to present their projects in poster presentations before a panel of judges.

    c. The total time allowed for oral/ podium presentation is **10 minutes** including **Seven Minutes** for presentation and **Three Minutes** for question-answer. The Specifications of Podium presentation (PPTs) are as stipulated in point-6 above.

    d. Involve evaluation by a panel of three experts in each area/field. From each zone, best 21 projects (1st, 2nd and 3rd in each of the 07 categories) will be selected to compete at the international convention in phase 3.

    e. Offer all participants the required infrastructural facilities like Display/Mounting Boards, space for display, LCD/ overhead projector, etc., required for presentation. In case any special assistance is required the participants may request the coordinator of the host university for the same at least three days before the Convention starts.

    f. Be held for two days on a staggered scheduled across the four zones. The details of the Zonal conventions will be communicated to the nominated teams from each university closer to the date.

    g. Require a nominal **Participation Fee of Rs. 800/- per student**. Participants can pay this in the form of **RTGS/ NEFT/ Online to Host University** and the **Registration form** should be sent to the coordinator of the **Organizing University** under intimation to **AIU** (the details of the Host/ Organizing University will be announced soon). **There is no registration fee for international level convention for the participants who have already registered at the University and Zonal level.**

    h. Offer all participants and their mentor (one for Each Team), accommodation, Breakfast, working lunch and dinner at the host university **free of cost**.

11. In the **Third Phase**, the winners from all Zonal Conventions will be invited to participate in the International Convention. A total of **84** Projects from the FOUR zones will participate at the International Convention along with teams from international universities. The international convention will be held over Two days. In case need arises, it may extend to the third day. But efforts will be made to complete it in two days.

days. The details of the international convention will be communicated to the winning teams from each zone closer to the date.

12. **The Third Phase**:

    a. Include, in addition, entries from **International Students** studying in foreign universities. These teams may include participants from an Indian University.

    b. Require participants to present in **two rounds**. In the **first round** the participants will display their projects in poster presentations before a panel of judges. If selected in the first round, the project will be allowed for podium and oral presentation before the panel of Judges in the **second round**. The total time allowed for oral/ podium presentation is 10 minutes including **Seven Minutes** for presentation and **Three Minutes** for question-answer. The Specifications of Poster presentation are as stipulated in point-6 above.

    c. Involve evaluation by a panel of three experts in each area/field based on laid down criteria for assessment. From each zone, best 21 projects (1st, 2nd and 3rd in each of the 07 fields/areas/tracks will be selected to compete at the international convention.

    d. Arrange the required infrastructural facilities like Display/Mounting Boards, space for display, LCD/ overhead projector, etc., required for presentation. In case any special assistance is required the participants may request the Coordinator of the host university for the same at least three days before the Convention starts.

    e. Be held for two days (Refer Point no. 11) in a host university to be selected by AIU. The details of the International Convention will be communicated to the relevant teams closer to the date.

    f. Offer all participants accommodation, Breakfast, working lunch and dinner at the host university **free of cost**.

13. The students whose projects will be selected in the final stage at the International Convention will be given Certificates, mementoes and Cash Awards. All efforts will be made to promote them for career development in research.

14. Certification of Participation and mementoes with endorsement of both AIU and Host University will be issued to all the participants.

15. Unless extraordinary circumstance so warrants the results of the competitions will be declared in the last day of the Convention preferably in the valediction.

16. The dates and venues for Zonal and International Conventions will be announced in due course. All participants should monitor announcements in the online portal for updates.

17. Winning Projects will be invited for **International Student Research Conventions** as per the schedule decided by Association of Indian Universities.

18. Winners in the **International Student Research Convention** will be awarded Cash Prizes along with Certificates and Mementos. The amount of Cash Prize for **First position holders is Rs 75,000**, **Second Position Rs. 50,000 and Third position Rs 25,000**.

19. The Best Project across all seven categories adjudged by the experts (in all areas/fields) in consensus shall be awarded **Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Gold Medal (2026-27)**, along with the cash Prize and certificate.

20. All these rules shall be strictly adhered to by the students while registering and participating in Anveshan, failing which the participant shall be disqualified and debar from participation in the Convention.

21. The decision of judges will be final and binding on all participants.

22. In case of any dispute relating to selection and assessment of Projects the appellate authority is the Secretary General, AIU.

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