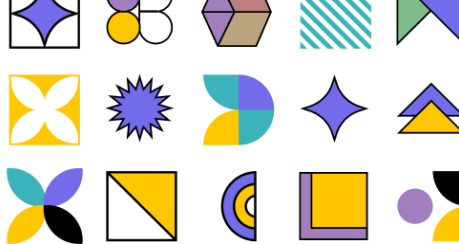


Preamble

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 Information Technology, Energy and Space, etc., are the outcome of consistent endeavour 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 endeavors in our system, which have restricted students' creativity only to rote memory.

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.



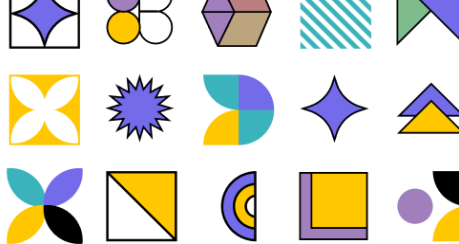
Launched in 2007, Anveshan: Student Research Convention is an annual activity of the Research Division which is organized at zonal and national level. Although, one of its original mandates was to internationalize *Anveshan*, due to certain limitations in the initial years the scope of *Anveshan* was 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. The entire process will be 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.

Background & Procedure:

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 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 Six areas: (i) Basic Science, (ii) Engineering and Technology, (iii) Agricultural Sciences and Allied subjects, (iv) Health Science & Allied Fields, (v) Social Science; Humanities, Business Management, commerce; Law and (vi) Interdisciplinary Research.

Anveshan follows a structured process starting with the preparation of the *Anveshan* calendar for the year. Each university nominates its best three projects in each category to participate in the Zonal Convention. One university in each of the four Zones – East, West, North and South – hosts the Zonal Convention where the research projects pass through two stages of evaluation, namely, poster and podium presentation. 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 are incentivized with cash awards, certificates and mementos.

AIU Anveshan



Objectives:

The objective and detailed procedure of participating in the Anveshan International Research Convention is as follows:

- 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
- To promote entrepreneurship and encourage students to establish their startups.

The Six Tracks of Anveshan:

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

Agriculture

Basic Sciences

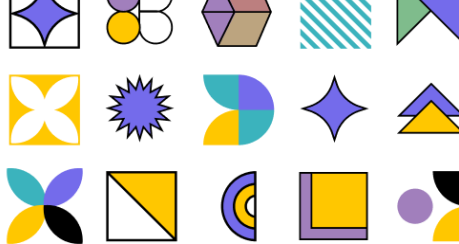
Engineering & Technology

Health Sciences

Social Science, Law
Humanities & Commerce

Interdisciplinary Research
Projects





In the case of collaborative projects, a maximum of three members [one lead presenter and up to two 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:

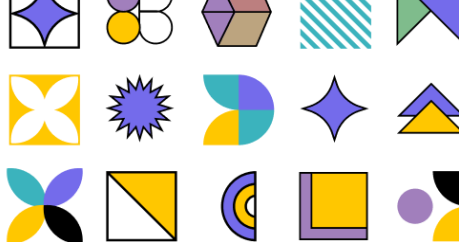
- Teams of students from Indian and foreign universities (for International Anveshan) – Researchers from Indian Universities can collaborate with any International student (s) and can take part in International Anveshan
- Teams of Indian and foreign students studying in India (Zonal Anveshan)- Individual 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 will 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 & Duration:

The convention will be held in three phases.

- In the **First Phase**, all universities in the country will be requested to organize a competition 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 six (6) areas/fields (total 6) shall be selected and sent by the University to the Zonal Level Convention, latest by the stipulated deadline. Universities focused on a single discipline (e.g. Medical Sciences) may nominate up to 6 teams working on the sub-fields of the specific track.
- In the **Second Phase**, a Zonal Convention will be held at a nominated university in each zone. The Zonal Convention shall start with a Poster presentation followed by a podium presentation. The Research projects will be assessed by a panel of three experts in each area/field. From each zone, best 18 projects (1st, 2nd and 3rd in each of the 06 categories) 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.
- In the **Third Phase**, the International Convention will be held where the winners of the four zonal competitions will compete with one another and select international



teams. A total of 72 selected projects will participate at the International Level through the Zonal conventions. The international convention will be held over three days.

The Best Project across all six categories adjudged by the experts (in all areas/fields) in consensus shall be awarded Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan Gold Medal (2024-25).

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.

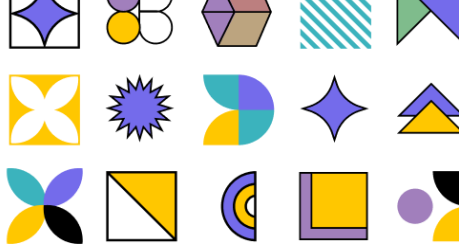
Criteria and	Weightage
• Scientific Thoughts and Principles	20
• Creativity	20
• Thoroughness	10
• Skill	10
• Relevance to the society	20
• Cost Effectiveness	10
• Scope for Commercialization	10

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 as on the date of the International Convention are only eligible to take part in Anveshan.





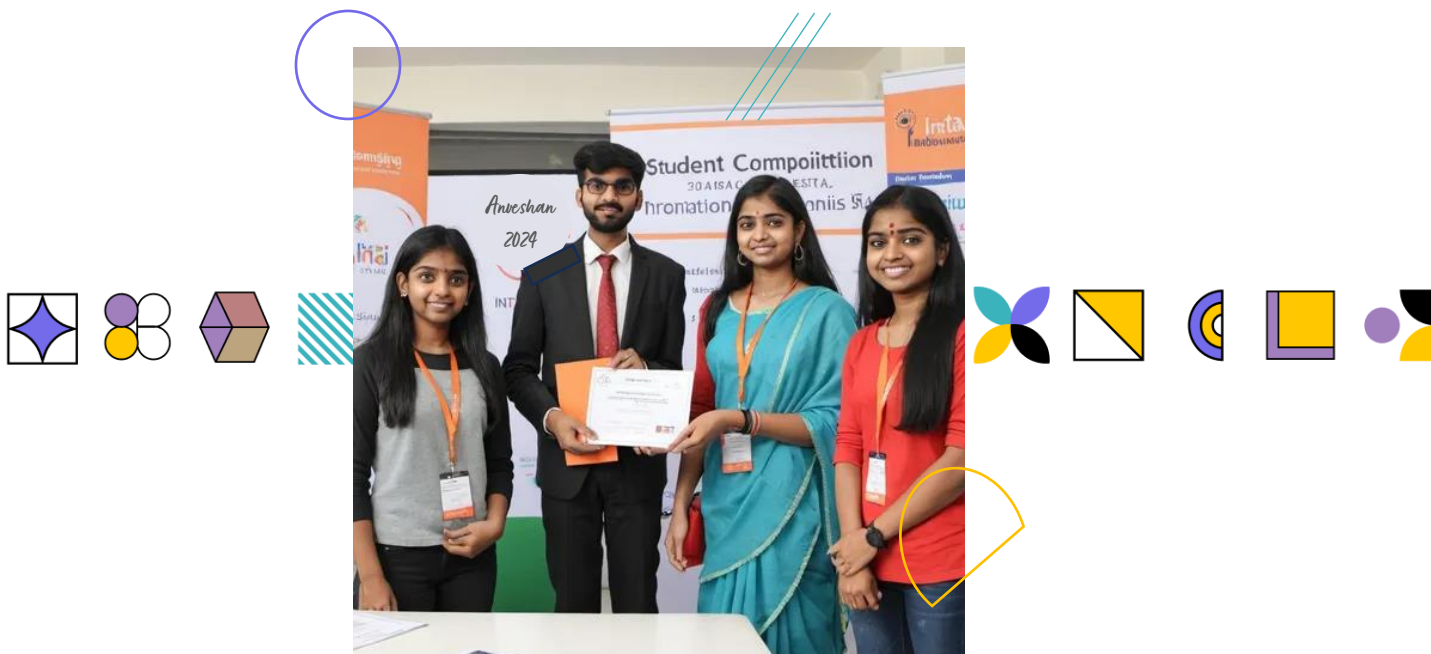
Registration Fees for Zonal Convention:

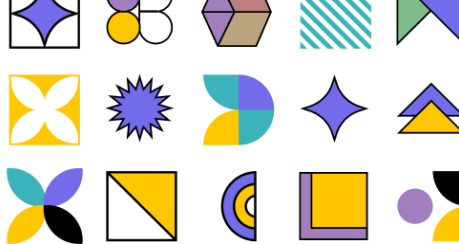
- Registration/Entry for **Indian Students** - Rs. 500/- (**Per Student**)
- Registration/ Entry Fee for International **Students** - \$10 (**Per student**)
- The Registration/Entry Fee shall be paid online on AIU/Anveshan portal.
- Entry fee will be accepted only one time. The students who have paid at the Zonal level need not pay again for participating in the International Anveshan for the same project.

Boarding & 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. **The name and contact details of the *Anveshan* Coordinators shall be available on *Anveshan* Portal.**





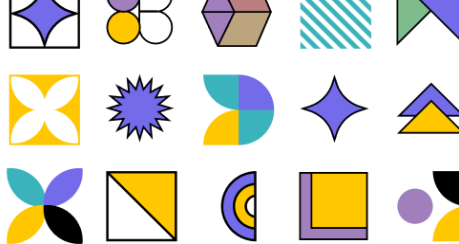
Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders:

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.
- Identifying Universities at the Zonal/International level for organizing the Conventions.
- Financial support to the host university. (AIU will pay **Rs 2.50 (Two Lakhs)** as Financial Assistance to each University for conducting the Convention at the Zonal level and **Rs. 4.00 (Four Lakhs)** to the University for hosting International Level Convention).
- The universities are free to take sponsorship for hosting the events.
- Promoting the Event through rigorous outreach.
- 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 publishing 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 Universities for Conventions

- The Host University shall develop a brochure for promoting the Event. The Name of the Association of Indian Universities shall appear at the top of the brochure and all promotional materials for the event. 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 the 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, observers, Local Coordination in organizing the programme.
- 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.

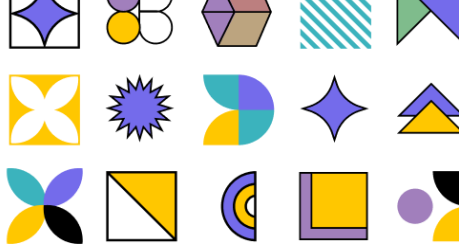


Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders (cont'd.):

- TA and token honorarium of around Rs 3000/- (per day) to each expert will be covered from the seed money paid by AIU.
- Arrangement of adequate space and Mount Boards for poster presentation 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 Convenor of the Anveshan.

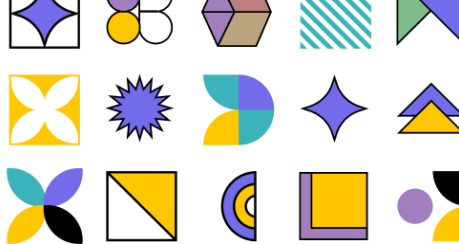
Participating Universities

- Appoint *Anveshan* coordinator to be the single contact point for coordination of Anveshan from the respective university to verify, steer and guide the participating students and teams from the university.
- Hold competition at university level within the university Teaching/ Research Department and also inviting projects from constituent/ affiliated colleges/institutes
- Steer students 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 the *Anveshan* Calendar on AIU Website: <http://www.aiu.ac.in>
- Endorse all participants in Anveshan through competent authority
- Facilitate and support the participation of selected projects and related researchers in International Convention
- Nominate a panel of experts drawn from various disciplines to assess the projects 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.
- Select and confirm a maximum number of 18 projects for the zonal level Student Research Convention, a maximum 3 from each category.
- Participating **universities based outside India** can nominate student teams (or individuals) to participate in the International Convention either on their own or in collaboration with teams from Universities based in India.



Guidelines for Participants

1. The competition is open to bona fide fulltime students and research scholars in undergraduate, post-graduate and doctoral programs of AIU-affiliated universities.
2. Participants must submit original projects based on new/innovative ideas and with requisite exploration and ground-work to demonstrate its feasibility and impact.
3. Participants must submit projects in any one of six categories/areas – **i) Agriculture, ii) Basic Sciences, iii) Engineering & Technology, iv) Health Sciences and Allied Subjects, Pharmacy, Nutrition, etc. v) Social Sciences, Humanities, Commerce and Law, v) Interdisciplinary Research.**
4. In case of a Group project, only **four members** (the principal investigator and three major contributors) are allowed to participate in the zonal/ International convention. But, only **one member** will be allowed for presentation. The Group should inform in advance the name of the Lead Presenter.
5. Registration is compulsory for all participants. The entries for projects in the convention will be accepted only if **approved by the Head of the Institution**.
6. All in-person attendees at the Zonal convention are required to pay a fee of Rs. 500/- (or US\$ 10) per student for boarding and lodging. The fees are payable in the form of RTGS/ NEFT/ Online to the host **university** and the Registration form should be sent to the coordinator of the Organizing University under intimation to AIU (see contact details of host university here). There is no fee for the International convention.
7. The Projects can be presented in the form of live demonstrations /models / posters/ podium (oral) presentation in any aforementioned areas/ fields.
8. The zonal and international conventions are held for a maximum of **three days** each.
 - a. The projects will be presented 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 Specifications of Poster presentation are as follows:
 - b. The Length and Width of the Poster should be **1m X 1m**



Guidelines for Participants

- c. The Poster shall NOT have any identification mark such as name of the student/presenter, affiliating institutions, names of supervisor/mentors, etc.
 - d. The Poster shall be clear mention of the problem statement, objective (s), methodology employed, a brief summary of major findings.
10. The host university provide the necessary 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.
11. Total time allowed for oral/podium presentation is 10 minutes. **Seven Minutes** for presentation and **Three Minutes** for question-answer.
12. The host University will provide accommodation, Breakfast, working lunch and dinner to the participants and their team members **free of cost**.
13. Certification of Participation and mementoes with endorsement of both AIU and Host University will be issued to all the participants.
14. Unless extraordinary circumstance so warrants the results of the competitions will be declared in the last day of the Convention preferably in the valediction.
15. Winning Projects will be invited for **International Student Research Conventions** as per the schedule decided by Association of Indian Universities.
16. 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**. One best project will be selected across all the Five categories which will be awarded a **Gold Medal** along with the cash Prize and certificate.
17. All these rules shall be strictly adhered to by the students failing which the participant shall be disqualified and debar from participation in the Convention.
18. The decision of judges will be final and binding on all participants.
19. In case of any dispute relating to selection and assessment of Projects the appellate authority is the Secretary General, AIU.