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**INSTITUTION'S
INNOVATION
COUNCIL**
(Ministry of HRD Initiative)



Sarvajani Education Society

Sarvajani College of Engineering & Technology

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Report for a Session on

**Strengthening Research and
Innovation Ecosystems in HEIs:
Leveraging MANTHAN and UTTHAN
for Institutional Transformation**

Speakers

**Experts from the Strategic Alliance
Division**

Date: 24th July 2026

Venue: Online Mode

In association with

Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), SCET

Introduction

The session on “Strengthening Research and Innovation Ecosystems in HEIs: Leveraging MANTHAN and UTTHAN for Institutional Transformation” was organized by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell (MIC) in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. The session aimed to strengthen the research and innovation ecosystem in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by promoting strategic initiatives like Manthan and Utthan. It was organized to help Institutions Bridge the gap between industry and academia, providing them with the necessary tools for institutional transformation, capability building, and effective industry collaboration.

The session commenced with an insightful welcome address by Dr. Dipan Sahu, emphasizing the critical need for industry validation in innovation projects. Experts from the Strategic Alliance Division then provided a comprehensive overview of Manthan, a digital platform designed to connect industry needs with academic expertise, and Utthan, a capacity-building program specifically aimed at upscaling Tier 2 and Tier 3 institutions.

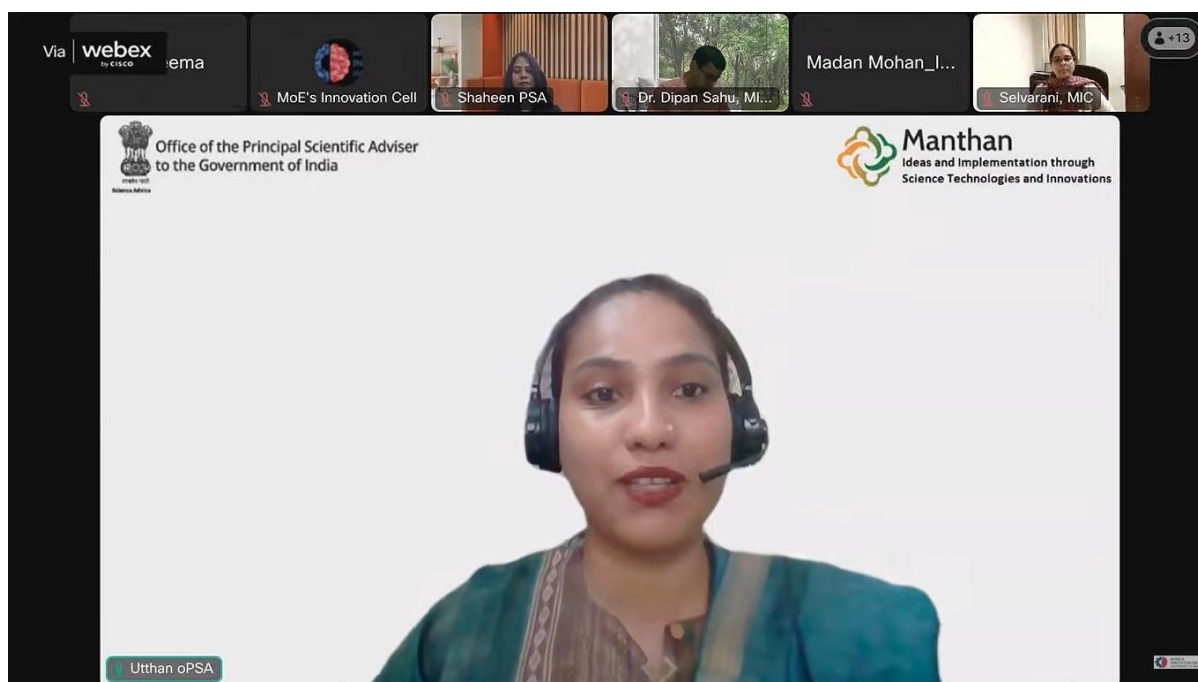
Key topics covered included the four pillars of Manthan-(opportunities, showcase, segments, and science communication) and the "LEAP" - (Learn, Engage, Accelerate, Perform) framework for institutional transformation. The interaction phase was particularly engaging, where participants clarified concerns regarding financial support, the integration of non-technical institutions, and the process of joining the Utthan cohort. The session concluded by guiding institutions on how to leverage the integrated tools available on the IIC portal, ensuring a seamless transition from learning to active participation in the national innovation movement.



Session Highlights and Key Insights:

The session provided a clear roadmap for strengthening the innovation ecosystem within higher education institutions through two primary initiatives:

- **Introduction to Strategic Platforms:** Participants were introduced to Manthan and Utthan, key initiatives by the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to bridge industry-academia gaps.
- **Digital Ecosystem:** Exploration of the Manthan platform, which facilitates connections between industry problem statements and academic solution providers at no cost.
- **Utthan LEAP Framework:** The introduction of the Utthan *LEAP* (Learn, Engage, Accelerate, and Perform) model provided a structured path for Tier 2 and Tier 3 institutions to improve their research maturity.
- **Data-Driven Assessment:** Insights into the 'Dimension Scan,' a tool used to map an institution's maturity level across seven key areas, including governance, research, and infrastructure.
- **Practical Integration:** Demonstration of how institutions can access these resources directly via the IIC portal under the 'convergence' menu.
- **Collaborative Focus:** The session emphasized that successful outcomes are measured by tangible industry-academia collaborations and the societal impact of research.
- **Empowering Inclusivity:** Clarification that Manthan is open to all stakeholders, including non-technical institutions, fostering a diverse innovation ecosystem.



Key outcomes for participants:

Participants in this session gained a strategic roadmap to enhance their institutional research and innovation ecosystems, directly contributing to key performance indicators (KPIs) tracked on the *IIC portal*.

- **Industry-Linked R&D and Collaboration:** By onboarding onto the Manthan platform, institutions can now actively engage with industry-provided problem statements, directly improving metrics related to 'Industry-Linked R&D' and 'Consultancy'.
- **Innovation Pipeline Development:** The session provided clarity on how to showcase R&D projects and innovations through the Manthan pillars, helping institutions build a more robust and visible pipeline for technology transfer.
- **Capacity Building for Tier 2/3 Institutions:** Participants from emerging institutions learned how to utilize the Utthan LEAP framework to identify their maturity level ('Dimension Scan') and undergo necessary interventions, aligning with KPIs focused on 'Faculty and Student Innovation Capability'.
- **Strategic Resource Access:** Through the 'convergence' integration on the IIC portal, institutions gained a simplified, direct channel to access national-level innovation opportunities, reducing the barrier to entry for securing grants and partnerships.
- **Measurable Societal Impact:** The focus on documenting project outcomes - such as the number of lives impacted and economic value created - empowers institutions to report more effectively on their contribution to the national innovation agenda, a critical KPI for institutional ranking.

Via **webex** by CISCO

Manthan – India's platform for Research and Development

Four Pillars of Manthan

- Pillar 1: Opportunities**
Connecting industry challenges with academic solutions through structured demand-supply matching.
- Pillar 2: Showcase**
Amplifying innovations aligned with UN SDGs and emerging technologies to attract investment.
- Pillar 3: Segments**
Focus on International Partnerships, Government, Women in STEM & School Innovation
- Pillar 4: Science Communication**
Amplification of Innovation & Research of India through OTT and other media channels

Utthan oPSA



Conclusion

The session concluded by summarizing the strategic importance of the Manthan and Utthan initiatives in strengthening the national innovation ecosystem. Institutions were reminded that they can access the Manthan platform directly through the convergence menu on the IIC portal. It was emphasized that institutions should actively monitor their email for new industry challenges and opportunities posted on Manthan. Participants were encouraged to complete the assessment via the link provided in the video description to join the upcoming Utthan cohort, which focuses on upscaling institutional capabilities. The organizers expressed their commitment to future collaborations with AICT to continue onboarding more institutions into this national effort.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Provost, Principal, faculty members, and all the participants and students for making this event a truly memorable and meaningful. As we look forward to the coming years, we aspire to continue this tradition of spreading knowledge on various domains of the nation with enthusiasm and dedication.
