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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, MANDI

ANRF CEO Visits IIT Mandi; Strengthens Research and Innovation Collaborations | April 10, 2026 Mandi, Himachal Pradesh:

The Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi hosted Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman, Chief Executive Officer of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), during his visit from April 9 to 12, 2026. The visit marked a significant engagement aimed at advancing research excellence, democratising science and technology and fostering collaborative innovation.



Prof. Laxmidhar Behera, Director, IIT Mandi, welcomed Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman and expressed his appreciation for the visit. He stated that such interactions with national research leadership are instrumental in strengthening institutional research ecosystems and creating new opportunities for strategic collaboration. He further emphasized that IIT Mandi remains committed to contributing to India's research and innovation landscape through high-quality, impactful work.



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During the visit, Dr. Kalyanaraman engaged extensively with the institute's leadership, faculty, young faculty, researchers, and students through a series of interactions focused on strengthening the research and innovation ecosystem. The discussions highlighted IIT Mandi's growing capabilities in interdisciplinary research, advanced infrastructure, and translational innovation. Dr. Kalyanaraman also shared insights on various ANRF schemes and funding opportunities, encouraging participants to actively engage in research initiatives and leverage these programs for generating fundamental, high-impact and translational outcomes.

A key highlight of the visit was the Institute Colloquium delivered by Dr. Kalyanaraman on **"ANRF Vision: Catalyzing India's Rise as a Research and Innovation Powerhouse."** In his address, he outlined the vision, initiatives & strategic directions of ANRF and emphasized the critical role of premier institutions such as IIT Mandi in driving nationally relevant and globally competitive research.



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Comprehensive presentations were made by faculty members showcasing **ANRF-supported projects, major research proposals, and multidisciplinary thrust areas** including green energy, biomedicine, battery storage, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence & Multimodality; Smart agriculture and Environment Sustainability. These sessions underscored the institute's commitment to addressing critical societal and technological challenges through integrated research efforts.

Dr. Shyam Kumar Maskapalli, Dean (SRIC), stated that IIT Mandi is honoured to host ANRF CEO-Faculty interactions, noting that such engagements inspire and significantly strengthen the research ecosystem at IIT Mandi. Further he emphasised it as a unique opportunity to contribute to India's research, development, and innovation ecosystem.



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IIT Mandi also organised a **round table brainstorming session with ANRF CEO and the leadership of several Himachal Institutes**. This facilitated exchange of interactions with representatives from leading institutions across Himachal Pradesh, including Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Una, Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya (CSKHPKV), Palampur, CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT), Palampur, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Kangra, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Hamirpur, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bilaspur, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Govt. Medical College & Hospital (SLBSGMC&H), New Chowk, Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP), Kangra and Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry (YSPUHF), Solan. A round table discussion with academic leaders from these institutions focused on enhancing regional collaboration, strengthening research capacity, and leveraging ANRF initiatives for collective growth and scalable impact.



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Dr. Kalyanaraman also visited key research facilities, laboratories, and innovation hubs at IIT Mandi, gaining insights into ongoing work in cutting-edge domains and the institute's efforts toward technology development and incubation.

The visit reaffirmed the shared vision of IIT Mandi and ANRF to accelerate India's emergence as a global leader in research and innovation through strategic partnerships, capacity building, and impactful scientific contributions.