

**MET's Institute of Engineering
Bhujbal Knowledge City, Adgaon, Nashik
Department of First Year Engineering**

Name of the program: "Colloquium on Research Funding Schemes and R&D Opportunities by DST"

Date: 09/01/2026

Time: 11:00 to 1.00pm

Day: Friday

Venue: IOE-Conference Room

Coordinator: Prof. Dr V. S. Khairnar

Activity Coordinator: Prof. Dr V. S. Khairnar

Event Coordinator:

Resource Person: Dr Suchita Lokhande

No. of Participants: 10

Objectives of Session:-

1. **To create awareness** among faculty members about various government-funded research and development (R&D) schemes, particularly those offered by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
2. **To provide guidance and clarity** on the process of applying for research funding, including proposal preparation, eligibility criteria, funding limits, documentation, and timelines.
3. **To address common challenges** faced by researchers, such as proposal rejections, funding delays, and project management issues, and suggest practical solutions to overcome them.
4. **To strengthen institutional research capacity** by aligning faculty research interests with national research priorities and government initiatives.
5. **To facilitate direct interaction with funding agencies** through an open forum for questions, clarifications, and expert advice.
6. **To lay the foundation for future research collaborations** between the institute and DST, as well as other government and industry stakeholders.

MET's Institute of Engineering had the privilege of hosting **Dr. Suchita Lokhande**, Scientist and Nodal Officer from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, for an expert, informal interaction session with the faculty members. The colloquium aimed at creating awareness and providing guidance regarding various government funding schemes for research and development (R&D) available to engineering institutions and faculty researchers.

The session was organized as part of the institute's continuous efforts to promote a strong research culture and encourage faculty members to actively participate in funded research projects. Dr. Lokhande was warmly welcomed by Prin. Dr V. P. Wani, Heads of Departments and senior faculty members along with the coordinators of the research and development cell.

During her address, Dr. Lokhande highlighted the role of the Department of Science and Technology in strengthening India's research ecosystem, particularly in higher education institutions. She provided detailed insights into various DST-sponsored funding schemes, including schemes supporting early-career researchers, women scientists, industry-academia collaborative projects, innovation-driven research, and interdisciplinary research initiatives. She emphasized that engineering colleges play a crucial role in translating scientific ideas into practical and socially relevant technological solutions.

The colloquium also focused on common challenges faced by applicants, such as proposal rejection and delays in funding, and Dr. Lokhande offered practical suggestions to overcome these issues. She encouraged faculty members to collaborate with industry, research laboratories and other academic institutions to enhance the quality and applicability of their

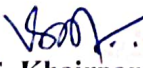
timely reporting and ethical research practices.


An interactive question-and-answer session followed the presentation, during which faculty members sought clarifications on eligibility criteria, funding limits, project duration, and documentation requirements. Dr. Lokhande patiently addressed all queries and motivated the faculty to take advantage of the numerous opportunities provided by the government for advancing research and innovation.

The visit proved to be highly informative and inspiring. Faculty members expressed their appreciation for the valuable guidance received and showed keen interest in applying for DST and other government-funded research schemes. The session significantly contributed to enhancing awareness about research funding opportunities and reinforced the institute's commitment to fostering a vibrant research environment.

Acknowledgments - The Institute of Engineering extends its sincere gratitude to **Dr. Suchita Lokhande** for her valuable time, expertise and encouragement and looks forward to continued engagement with the Department of Science and Technology for future research collaborations.




Dr. V. S. Khairnar
(FE-Coordinator)


Dr. Vijaykumar P. Wani
(Principal-IOE)