

**MAHARSHI KARVE STREE SHIKSHAN SAMTSHA'S
SMT. BAKUL TAMBAT INSTITUTE OF NURSING EDUCATION,
KARVENAGAR, PUNE-52**

REPORT
ON
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
FORUM



Venue: KB Joshi IT Hall, MKSSS's Cummins Engineering College Campus, Gate No. 5,
Karvenagar, Pune

MKSSS Interdisciplinary Forum
Program Schedule on 3 September 2026 (2:00-5:00 pm)

Time	Event
2:00-2:05 pm	Welcome song
2:05-2:10 pm	Welcome address / Introduction to the theme
2:10-2:15 pm	Introduction of the Guest of Honor and the Chief Guest
2:15-3:05 pm	Presentations by the Ph.D. Graduates (5 presentations)
3:05-3:10 pm	Break
3:10-4:00 pm	Presentations by the Ph.D. Graduates (5 presentations)
4:00-4:15 pm	Speech by the Guest of Honor
4:15-4:45 pm	Speech by the Chief Guest
4:45-4:50 pm	Distribution of certificates and Best Presenter award
4:50- 4:55 pm	Feedback from presenter and audience
4:55- 5:00 pm	Vote of thanks
5:00 pm onwards	Tea and snacks

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Organized by: MKSSS's Smt. Bakul Tambat Institute of Nursing Education, Karvenagar, Pune

Under: MKSSS Interdisciplinary Research Cell

Theme

“Bridging Disciplines, Inspiring Innovation, and Building Knowledge for Societal Impact”

Introduction

The MKSSS Interdisciplinary Research Forum was organized on 3 September 2026 by the Interdisciplinary Research Cell of Maharshi Karve Stree Shikshan Samstha (MKSSS). The forum aimed to bring researchers and academicians from different disciplines onto a common platform to share their research, understand different areas of work, and explore possibilities for future collaboration.

The forum focused on the importance of interdisciplinary research in addressing complex problems that cannot be effectively solved through a single discipline. It provided an opportunity for Ph.D. graduates from nursing, engineering, architecture, commerce and management to present their research work before an audience from different academic backgrounds.

The Interdisciplinary Research Cell was established with the vision of developing a collaborative research culture where faculty and students from different disciplines could come together to address real-world problems and contribute to quality research, publications, funded projects, patents and community-based innovations.

Inaugural Session

The programme began with a welcome song presented by the students. The gathering included dignitaries, principals, heads of departments, faculty members, Ph.D. graduates, researchers and delegates.

The forum was formally opened by **Dr. Anand Yashwant Lele, Vice Chairman, MKSSS, Pune**. In his address, Dr. Anand Lele emphasized the need for researchers from different disciplines to come together and develop a common research mindset. He highlighted that researchers should not remain restricted to their individual subjects but should work together to understand problems from different perspectives. He stressed the importance of research that is focused on problem-solving and addressing the needs of society. He encouraged researchers to look beyond disciplinary boundaries, share their knowledge and create a platform for meaningful research that can contribute to a changing world. He also encouraged the participants to work across disciplines and develop research ideas that can create practical and social impact.

The theme of the forum was introduced by **Dr. Meena Ganapathy, Principal, MKSSS's Smt. Bakul Tambat Institute of Nursing Education, Pune, and Organizing Chairperson**. She highlighted the importance of bringing researchers from different disciplines together on a common platform to share knowledge and understand diverse research perspectives. She explained that many societal problems require knowledge and expertise from more than one discipline and therefore encouraged collaborative research. She emphasized that the forum was not only for presenting research but also for exchanging ideas, identifying common problems, and initiating new research collaborations. She encouraged the participants to focus on research that goes beyond publications and contributes to practical solutions and societal development. Her vision and efforts played an important role in shaping the forum and creating a collaborative research environment. She motivated all researchers to actively participate, learn from one another, and explore opportunities for future interdisciplinary work.

Felicitation of Dignitaries

The felicitation ceremony followed the inaugural session.

Shri. Ravindra Gajanan Deo, Chairman, MKSSS, Pune, felicitated the Chief Guest, **Mr. Vivek Sawant, Nominee Director, MKCL**, with a memento, certificate and plant.

The **Guest of Honor, Mr. Amit Ranade, Nominee Director, MKCL**, was felicitated by **Dr. Anand Yashwant Lele, Vice Chairman, MKSSS**.

The felicitation acknowledged the presence and contribution of the distinguished guests and set the stage for the academic sessions of the forum. The brochure identifies Shri.

Ravindra Gajanan Deo as Chairman, Dr. Anand Yashwant Lele as Vice Chairman and Dr. P.V.S. Shastry as Secretary of MKSSS.

Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Research Presentations

The main session of the forum consisted of research presentations by Ph.D. graduates from different disciplines. The programme schedule allocated two presentation sessions, with five presentations in each session, followed by a short break.

Before the presentations, the presenters were briefed to keep their presentations simple, clear and understandable to an interdisciplinary audience. The presentation format focused on the research background, need for the study, objectives and methodology, major findings, contribution and future scope. The guidelines also emphasized avoiding excessive technical terminology so that participants from other disciplines could understand the research.

The presentations covered a wide range of research areas:

1. **Dr. L. Bijayalakshmi Devi**, Professor, MKSSS BTINE, Pune
Topic: *RCT on effectiveness of psychological skills training and motivational counseling on the levels of anxiety, self-efficacy, self-regulation, and skill performance among nursing students.*
2. **Mrs. Amruta Pohare**, Matron, Government Medical Hospital, Latur
Topic: *Effectiveness of Positive Self-affirmations, Pranayama and Progressive Muscle Relaxation on Occupational Stress of Nurses in Selected Hospitals of an Urban Area.*
3. **Dr. Bhakti Deepak Kadam**, Assistant Professor, SCTR's Pune Institute of Computer Technology, Pune
Topic: *Content-based Video Summarization using Deep Learning Techniques.*
4. **Dr. Ganesh Ravindra Padalkar**, Assistant Professor, Department of ETE, MKSSS's Cummins College of Engineering for Women, Pune
Topic: *Semantic Segmentation of Natural Images based on Semantic Boundaries and Regions.*

After the first four presentations, a short five-minute break was given.

The second session continued with presentations from architecture and management-related areas:

5. **Dr. Minakshee Patil**, K. J. College of Engineering and Management Research, Pune
Topic: *Depression Detection and Analysis of Adolescents with a Multimodal Approach using Machine Learning.*
6. **Dr. Asmita Joshi**, Associate Professor, Dr. Bhanuben Nanavati College of Architecture for Women, Pune
Topic: *Exploring the Relationship between Socio-cultural Values and Designed Landscapes: A Case of Integrated Townships, Pune.*
7. **Dr. Sudhir Deshpande**, Associate Professor, SMEF's Brick School of Architecture, Pune
Topic: *Investigating Cost Effectiveness of Architectural Design and Construction Features in Affordable Housing: Case Pune.*
8. **Dr. Nupur Chichkhede**, Assistant Professor, Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Architecture, Akurdi, Pune
Topic: *Investigating Landscape Services Rendered by Open Spaces in Higher Education Institute Campuses.*
9. **Dr. Sachin Bhanudas Deokate**, Financial Consultant, FINSMART Financial Services
Topic: *A Study of Driving Determinants in the Insurance Sector for Sustainability.*
10. **Dr. Swapnil Sonkamble**, PCET's S. B. Patil Institute of Management, Nigdi, Pune
Topic: *A Comprehensive Analysis of Permission Marketing with Respect to New Media in Pune.*

The range of topics clearly demonstrated the interdisciplinary nature of the forum, covering nursing, artificial intelligence and machine learning, engineering, architecture, finance and management. The research topics and presenter details are listed in the official forum brochure.

Question and Answer Session

Each presentation was followed by an interactive question-and-answer session. The participants and presenters engaged in meaningful discussion regarding the research problems, methods, findings and possible applications of the research.

The interaction helped participants understand research outside their own areas of specialization. It also created opportunities to identify common research interests and consider how different disciplines could contribute to the same problem.

The presentations were completed smoothly and the faculty members contributed actively throughout the session. The diversity of research topics made the discussions informative and relevant to the interdisciplinary purpose of the forum.

Address by the Guest of Honor – Mr. Amit Ranade

Following the research presentations, **Mr. Amit Ranade, Nominee Director, Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL)**, addressed the gathering and appreciated the diverse research ideas presented by the participants. He described the presentations as “seriously amazing,” this term he recalled by Smithsonian exhibition in the USA acknowledging the efforts and potential of the researchers. He also shared an emotional connection between MKSSS and MKCL. He encouraged researchers to think beyond the immediate completion of their work and consider the larger potential and impact their ideas could create.

A major focus of his address was the question of what constitutes good research. He emphasized that research should not be undertaken merely as an academic requirement or for the sake of publication. Researchers should begin by observing the world around them, identifying genuine problems, asking meaningful questions, and working towards results that can make a difference. To explain the importance of developing this research sensitivity, he gave the example of a vessel filled with water. While an ordinary observer may simply see water in a vessel, a researcher should begin to ask questions: how much water should it contain, what is its level, what is its temperature, does the level change, what factors influence it, and how can these observations be measured and explained? Through this simple example, he emphasized that research begins when ordinary observation is transformed into curiosity, questioning, measurement, and investigation. Researchers, therefore, need to develop the ability to see what others may overlook and recognize research possibilities in everyday situations.

Mr. Ranade strongly emphasized the importance of data, using the memorable expression “Data is Fuel.” He highlighted that data is the foundation that can drive research, innovation, technology, and informed decision-making. Researchers should therefore learn to collect, understand, analyse, and use data meaningfully rather than treating it merely as a statistical requirement. He also discussed the growing role of Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT, encouraging researchers to think about how AI could be developed and applied

to address the problems people face in their everyday lives. He urged researchers to focus on results, asking how research knowledge, data, and technology could ultimately be converted into useful products, services, processes, or solutions. In this context, he encouraged participants to move from problem identification to knowledge generation and finally to practical application and measurable impact.

Another important aspect of his address was the need for collective and interdisciplinary research. He emphasized that complex real-world problems cannot always be solved within the boundaries of a single discipline. Researchers should therefore be willing to work collectively, share expertise, and combine different methodologies and perspectives. He encouraged participants to think about how one researcher's problem could be addressed through another researcher's method, technology, or expertise. He also highlighted the importance of considering the human and environmental dimensions of research so that technological or scientific solutions remain relevant, sustainable, and beneficial to society. His emphasis was on connecting knowledge with practical outcomes rather than allowing research findings to remain confined to academic documents.

Mr. Ranade further encouraged researchers to develop a mindset of continuous questioning, observation, innovation, and problem-solving. He emphasized that a small everyday difficulty can become the starting point for meaningful research if it is observed carefully and investigated systematically. He encouraged researchers to use emerging technologies such as AI while retaining human curiosity and critical thinking at the centre of the research process. His message was not simply to ask "*What can we research?*" but to ask "What problem are we solving, what result can we create, and how can our research make a difference?" This perspective encouraged participants to look at research as a journey from curiosity and observation to data, knowledge, innovation, application, and societal impact.

Overall, Mr. Ranade's address added an important practical dimension to the forum. His appreciation of the presentations as "seriously amazing," his memorable statement that "Data is Fuel," his reflections on MKSSS and MKCL, his emphasis on AI and ChatGPT for everyday problems, and his example of the water-filled vessel collectively reinforced the idea that good research starts with the ability to observe, question, and identify meaningful problems. His address motivated researchers to move beyond research as an

academic obligation and towards research that produces evidence, innovation, practical solutions, and measurable social impact, thereby strengthening the connection between knowledge and the needs of society.

Address by the Chief Guest – Mr. Vivek Sawant

The Chief Guest, Mr. Vivek Sawant, Nominee Director and Chief Mentor, Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL), delivered an insightful and thought-provoking address on developing a strong interdisciplinary research ecosystem within institutions. He emphasized that a classical university connects “Students, Scholars and Subjects,” whereas a 21st-century university must connect “Students, Scholars, Subjects and Society.” Research, therefore, should not remain confined to academic requirements or rigid disciplinary boundaries, but should challenge existing knowledge, create new knowledge and address real problems of society. He explained that universities are traditionally organized vertically through departments such as medicine, engineering, psychology, agriculture, economics and computer science, while contemporary societal problems are horizontal in nature, including climate change, AI in education, ageing, public health, mental health, cyber-security, sustainable agriculture, urban mobility and energy transition. Such complex problems require people from diverse disciplines to come together and work collaboratively.

Mr. Sawant highlighted that building interdisciplinary research requires a cultural change and cannot be achieved merely through strategies, administrative procedures or formal directives. Referring to the principle “Culture eats strategy for breakfast,” he explained that strategy defines what an organization intends to do, whereas culture determines what people actually do every day. Management should therefore act as an enabler by gradually creating an environment of trust, intellectual stimulation and informal interaction in which researchers from different disciplines can meet, sit, converse and exchange ideas. He connected this idea with Rabindranath Tagore’s metaphor of the lotus and the sun. In Tagore’s writings, the lotus bud unfolds naturally in the presence of the sun; similarly, researchers should not be forcibly pushed into interdisciplinary research. Instead, the institution should provide the enabling conditions that allow their latent potential to unfold. Thus, interdisciplinary research should be viewed not merely as an output that

management demands, but as an outcome that emerges from a carefully cultivated research ecosystem or “Serendipity Ecosystem.”

To illustrate how unexpected encounters can generate transformative ideas, Mr. Sawant shared several examples. He described Curitiba, Brazil, where Mayor Jaime Lerner introduced an unconventional approach to addressing the city’s garbage problem by encouraging citizens to bring waste to designated places in exchange for value. As the city became cleaner, attention shifted towards beautification, and ideas from different parts of the world contributed to the development of the city’s distinctive Japanese Garden. He also narrated the story of the Scottish Café in Lwów, where mathematicians informally discussed difficult mathematical problems and recorded them on the café’s marble tables, eventually contributing to the famous Scottish Book. Another example was Oak Ridge, Tennessee, during the Manhattan Project, where many young women operated Calutron machines without initially knowing the larger purpose of their work. The example demonstrated the importance of helping individuals understand the larger purpose and significance of their contribution. These stories reinforced his message that innovation can emerge from unexpected places when people, knowledge and purpose are brought together.

Mr. Sawant further referred to the remarkable collaboration between biochemist Katalin Karikó and immunologist and physician Drew Weissman, who happened to meet while waiting to photocopy scientific papers. Their complementary expertise in mRNA and immunology eventually contributed to discoveries that became a critical foundation for mRNA vaccines and earned them the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. He used this example to emphasize that the most productive interdisciplinary infrastructure may sometimes be the space between two laboratories rather than another formal laboratory. He stressed that institutions should not merely fund interdisciplinary research but deliberately create opportunities for interdisciplinary “accidents” and unexpected encounters. This led to the concept of “physical collision spaces,” such as shared cafeterias, faculty lounges, libraries, common instrumentation centres and other spaces located between departments. He also referred to the “Nobel Parking Lot” concept, illustrating how physical proximity between accomplished researchers can create opportunities for valuable intellectual exchanges.

Building on this concept of serendipity, Mr. Sawant proposed several practical institutional initiatives. These included an Unsolved Problem Café or Unsolved Problems Club, where researchers from different disciplines meet over tea or lunch and present problems they cannot solve rather than achievements; Random Researcher Coffee, where faculty members from unrelated disciplines are randomly paired for informal conversations; and My Problem–Your Method sessions, where one researcher presents a problem and another identifies a methodology, technology or perspective from a different discipline that may help solve it. He suggested a University Problem Wall, both physical and digital, where researchers can post unanswered questions and others can indicate that they may have a method to help. He also proposed five-day multidisciplinary Research Camps in which researchers could temporarily leave their routine workplaces, explore major societal problems, form and reform teams, and allow research proposals to emerge organically. Cross-departmental sabbaticals were suggested as another mechanism through which faculty could spend time in another department without a predetermined project, initially focusing on understanding the problems and perspectives of that discipline.

He further proposed Rs. 2–5 lakh Serendipity or Unexpected Collaboration Grants with a simple application and rapid decision-making process to support promising early-stage collaborations between researchers from substantially different disciplines. Student participation was strongly emphasized through Serendipity or Free Radical Fellowships and Scholarships, where students from different fields could work together on social problems and act as bridges between departments. He proposed an annual Festival of Unlikely Ideas or Interdisciplinary Festival where researchers and students could present unconventional ideas that may appear unusual initially but could become significant in the future. The Data Science Forum was presented as a means of making data science a common language across disciplines, while AI was described not simply as a technological tool but as an “Other Discipline Buddy” that could help researchers identify connections between their own expertise and problems in other fields. AI could also function as a “Challenger Buddy,” helping researcher’s question, test and sharpen their ideas.

Another important theme of the address was the value of constructive irreverence, digital detox and interdisciplinary retreats, where researchers could temporarily step away from routine digital distractions, question existing assumptions respectfully and engage in

deeper reflection and brainstorming. Mr. Sawant emphasized the principle of “Local to Global,” encouraging researchers to begin with problems affecting their own communities while considering how locally developed solutions could have wider national or global relevance. Across all these initiatives, the central objective was not to artificially plan collaborations but to increase the frequency of meaningful and unexpected encounters around problems, methods and ideas. The Unsolved Problems Club, Common Launch, Data Science Forum, Common Research Lounge, My Problem–Your Method platform, Problem Wall, Research Camps, Serendipity and Free Radical Fellowships, Interdepartmental Sabbaticals, Unexpected Collaboration Grants, Interdisciplinary Festival, student scholarships, AI-enabled research support and informal research spaces collectively provide a practical framework for developing such an ecosystem. The session concluded with a strong message that research should become a collective institutional culture in which curiosity is encouraged, disciplinary compartments are softened, conversations happen naturally and serendipitous connections are deliberately enabled. In such an environment, interdisciplinary research can emerge as a natural outcome and become a powerful means of addressing complex real-world problems.

Distribution of Certificates and Mementos

Following the guest addresses, certificates and mementos were presented to the participating Ph.D. graduates in recognition of their contribution to the forum.

The distribution was conducted by the dignitaries and organizing committee members. The presenters from nursing, engineering, architecture, and management were felicitated for sharing their research work and contributing to the interdisciplinary platform.

The programme also included recognition of the **Best Presenter**, which was evaluated by the invited research experts. The award recognized the presenter who effectively communicated the research in a clear and meaningful manner to an interdisciplinary audience. The programme schedule included the distribution of certificates and the Best Presenter Award as an important part of the closing session.

Feedback and Interaction

A brief feedback session was conducted towards the end of the programme. A presenter and an audience member shared their experiences of the forum.

The feedback reflected the value of listening to research from different fields and understanding how different disciplines can contribute to solving common problems. The interactive nature of the forum provided an opportunity to learn from each other's experiences and encouraged participants to think about future collaborative research.

Vote of Thanks

The formal programme concluded with the **vote of thanks proposed by Dr. P.V.S. Shastry, Secretary, MKSSS**. He congratulated and appreciated **Dr. Meena Ganapathy** for taking the responsibility of organizing the forum and for her efforts in bringing researchers from different disciplines together. He also appreciated the organizing team and all the presenters for their valuable contribution. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the **Guest of Honour, Mr. Amit Ranade, and the Chief Guest, Mr. Vivek Sawant**, for graciously joining the programme and spending their valuable time with the participants. He thanked them for their insightful addresses, encouragement, and guidance, which added significant value to the forum. He also acknowledged their support in motivating the researchers towards solution-oriented and interdisciplinary research. Finally, he thanked all faculty members, students, and participants who contributed to the successful conduct of the programme.

The programme concluded successfully with a group photograph, followed by tea and snacks for all participants. The programme concluded successfully with a group photograph of the dignitaries and presenters, followed by tea and snacks for the participants.

Conclusion

The MKSSS Interdisciplinary Research Forum 2026 successfully brought researchers from diverse disciplines together to share knowledge, ideas and experiences. The forum encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration and solution-oriented research for real-world and societal challenges. Overall, the programme was conducted smoothly and provided a strong platform for inspiring innovation and future collaborative research

Photos











