

# Research, Development & Consultancy Cell

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**Secretary:** Ms. Kaushiki Sawant

Research Development and Consultancy Cell (RDC)

Annual Activity Report: 2025-26

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Introduction

The Research Development Cell (RDC) at R. A. Podar College is committed to fostering a culture of scientific inquiry, critical thinking, and academic rigor among its student body. Our vision is to bridge the gap between theoretical classroom learning and real-world application, ensuring that our students are equipped to address contemporary societal needs through research.

This report outlines the key initiatives undertaken by the RDC during the academic year, focusing on institutionalizing research participation and supporting student-led inquiry through workshops, mentorship, and competitive exposure.

Aavishkar Awareness Workshop (November 2025)

A flagship initiative for the year was the Aavishkar Awareness Workshop, conducted to orient students toward the prestigious research convention initiated by the Governor of Maharashtra.

Event Overview

•Date: 20-11-2025

•Venue: R A Podar College

•Target Audience: Undergraduate Degree Students

•Objective: To promote, orient, and encourage student participation in the Aavishkar: Inter-Collegiate Research Convention hosted by the University of Mumbai.

The session was facilitated by Teacher Coordinators Dr. Vrushali Kaneri and Mr. AkshayShingare, who provided a comprehensive roadmap for research participation. The workshop witnessed a diverse and enthusiastic turnout from the undergraduate student body. We successfully fostered an inclusive academic environment, with active engagement from students across both the traditional B.Com streams and our various Self-Financed Programs (SFP). This collaboration was vital in ensuring a multidisciplinary approach to research discussions, allowing students from varying academic backgrounds to share insights and foster a cohesive research culture within the college.

SEP



### Key Pedagogical Highlights

The workshop provided students with technical insights into the research ecosystem, including:

- The Structure of Aavishkar: Students were educated on the three levels of competition (UG, PG, PPG) and the three rounds (College, Zonal, Final).
- Research Domains: The presentation covered the six core categories of the convention, ranging from Commerce, Management, & Law to Engineering, Technology, and Humanities.
- Evaluation Framework: The 100-mark evaluation system was detailed, highlighting key metrics such as Innovation & Ideation, Research Methodology, Economic & Social Relevance, and Presentation Skills.

### 3. Mentorship & Support Infrastructure

The RDC ensured that all participating teams received the necessary infrastructural support to excel. This included:

- Mentor Allocation: Connecting student researchers with subject matter experts.
- Resource Access: Providing guidance on topic selection and literature review.
- Rehearsal Sessions: Conducting mock podium presentations to enhance student confidence and presentation quality



### Conclusion:

The academic year 2025-26 has been a significant milestone for the Research Development Cell. The Aavishkar awareness session successfully achieved its goal of sensitizing students to research-oriented learning, evidenced by the enthusiastic response and the number of queries regarding team formation and project timelines.

Moving forward, the RDC aims to:

1. Increase the frequency of interdisciplinary research workshops.
2. Foster deeper collaborations between the SFP cohorts and external industry mentors.
3. Continue providing full academic and infrastructural support to ensure strong student representation at state and national-level events.