VEERMATA JIJABAI TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

MATUNGA, MUMBAI 400 019

Minutes of 3rd Meeting of

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH COMMITTEE (ARC) MEETING

Held on

Saturday, 27th June, 2026 AT 10 AM

at

Board Room,

VJTI Mumbai, 400019

VEERMATA JIJABAI TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

AGENDA OF

3rd ACADEMIC & RESEARCH COMMITTEE (ARC) MEETING

Item No.	Item Description
1.0	**Confirmation of minutes of 2nd ARC meeting held on 10th December 2024** • **Action taken report on 1st and 2nd ARC.**
Decision	ARC deferred the confirmation of minutes of last meeting since the minutes and the action taken report were not circulated to the members well in advance. ARC members expressed concern over the huge gap between the last ARC meeting (held in December 2024) and the next meeting (27th June 2026). It was decided that VJTI will circulate the minutes of last meeting within next two days and seek feedback from current ARC members. It was decided to conduct at least 3 meetings in a year and circulate the minutes of meetings in a week after the ARC meeting. It was decided to conduct the next ARC meeting in the last week of August 2026.
2.0	**Discussion Items**
2.1	**Discussion on data/ information requested by Chairman ARC** 1. Department wise Resource Utilization (Faculty) 2. Department wise Resource Utilization (Labs/CoE/Workshop, etc) 3. Faculty contribution to revenue generation (IRG) through Testing/Consultancy/Training/etc 4. Intellectual output (Research papers/Patents/Books/etc) during last 03 years 5. Availability of Faculty on campus for Teaching and research 6. Placement Record for past three years 7. IQAC Meetings conducted during past 03 years and Action Taken Report 8. Academic Audit Reports for past 03 years for all the programs (Diploma/UG/PG/MCA) 9. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for faculty members exists? If Yes, pl give details? 10. Details of available Scholarships/Awards for students, eligibility criteria, sponsor organization (if any) 11. Details of available Awards for faculty members (if any) 12. Institute wide ERP exists? 13. Digitization of documents (Academic /Finance /Infrastructure /hostel, etc.) completed?

Decision	The Academic & Research Committee (ARC) deferred the discussion on the agenda item as the complete, verified & certified (by Director) data was not circulated to the members. The Committee expressed concern over the responsiveness of VJTI administration and advised that the certified data shall be submitted to the Hon Chairman BoG within one week to enable a comprehensive SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis and facilitate informed deliberations in the subsequent meeting.
2.2	**Introduction of subject entitled 'Artificial Intelligence (AI), Agentic AI and Generative AI -** Introduction of Compulsory subject entitled 'Artificial Intelligence (AI), Agentic AI and Generative AI' for all branches preferably in Third year BTech. Flexibility of pedagogy, evaluation may be debated in the appropriate forum as soon as possible.
Decision	The Academic & Research Committee (ARC) recommended the introduction of courses on **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Agentic AI, and Generative AI** for students of all branches from the Academic Year 2026–27 at appropriate levels in the curriculum. The Committee observed that these courses would significantly enhance students' employability, improve their placement prospects, and equip them with the knowledge and skills required to undertake interdisciplinary projects and address emerging technological challenges. The ARC further recommended that these courses may be offered through online platforms (such as NPTEL, Coursera, etc) and/or offline mode, as appropriate. For offline delivery, the Institute may leverage its strong alumni network to identify and engage suitable industry experts as visiting faculty members. A mandatory course on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Agentic AI and Generative AI for all branches shall be introduced in Third year BTech for all the branches from the academic year 2026-27. The Committee also suggested exploring the possibility of offering these courses to the current final-year students, wherever feasible, so that they may also benefit from the initiative. The ARC further recommended that the Academic Council should deliberate on and finalize the course structure, curriculum content, credit scheme, and implementation framework before introducing these courses in the Institute.
2.3	**Status Review of Centers of Excellence (CoEs)** **a)** Progress review of established Centers of Excellence. **b)** Infrastructure, industry partnerships, research outputs, and future plans
Decision	The Academic & Research Committee (ARC) deferred the discussion on the agenda item, since the institute has not made available the requisite data about utilization of these CoEs

	and revenue generated, research outcome, etc. from it.
2.4	**Strategies for Improvement in NIRF Ranking: - discussion and suggestions** Review of current NIRF performance. Identification of gaps and formulation of action plans. Department-wise responsibilities and measurable targets.
Decision	The Director, VJTI, presented an analysis of the Institute's performance in the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** and highlighted the key parameters requiring focused improvement to enhance the Institute's overall ranking. The Director also briefed the Committee on the initiatives currently being undertaken and identified areas that require further strengthening. After detailed deliberations, the Academic & Research Committee (ARC) made the following recommendations: 1. Academic excellence shall remain the Institute's highest priority. Infrastructure facilities, including campus cleanliness and maintenance, should be further improved to enhance the Institute's overall environment and peer perception. Special attention should be given to strengthen the academic foundation of first-year students. Evaluation of students shall be conducted in transparent manner in all the subjects. 2. The Institute shall formulate a comprehensive strategy to significantly enhance sponsored research projects, high-quality publications, patents, technology transfers, consultancy, and other research and innovation outcomes, thereby improving its performance on research-related NIRF parameters. 3. The ARC expressed concern over the deteriorating teaching-learning atmosphere in the institute, based on the deteriorating NIRF ranking, the feedback from the students and research publications data available in public mode (Scopus, Google Scholar, etc). The teaching–learning process must be strengthened through effective involvement of all the faculty members on roll (including senior faculty members like Director, Dy Director, Deans, Associate Deans, etc) and strict monitoring of student attendance and the faculty absence from duties. Appropriate action shall be initiated, wherever necessary, against students with unsatisfactory attendance in accordance with the Institute's rules and against defaulting faculty members (if any after providing adequate opportunity to improve) in cases of academic negligence or non-compliance with prescribed academic responsibilities. Director VJTI is expected to monitor and fix the accountability and submit the action taken report to ARC/BoG from time to time. 4. Faculty members shall obtain the prior approval of the competent authority before rescheduling any scheduled lecture or academic activity, except under exceptional circumstances. Rescheduling of classes should be discouraged in normal circumstances,

maximum 10% lectures may be rescheduled with the permission of the competent authority and such records shall be presented to ARC from time to time.

5. The ARC expressed concern over the deteriorating performance of placement section (particularly Civil, Mechanical, Production, Textile). It has been observed that VJTI website is not updated since long time about placement /internship statistics. It is recommended to improve the VJTI webpage and update it from time to time. Also, transparency shall be maintained while displaying true placement statistics on the website. Students placed through VJTI placement cell shall only be displayed while calculating placement statistics. Other modes of placement may be displayed separately. Comprehensive & rigorous efforts for enhancing placement of students from all the branches is expected. Placement cell shall make efforts for nurturing requisite skills sought by the prospective employers amongst the aspiring students right from their first year with the help of VJTI alumni and other renowned corporate experts. This should be treated as 'TOP PRIORITY'.
6. All the faculty members of the institute need to be encouraged to refresh/acquire new skills in emerging technologies/behavioral practices from time to time. The ARC recommends to give an opportunity to faculty members to undergo trainings/certifications/industry visits, etc. through corporate experts/VJTI alumni/other agencies without adversely impacting teaching-learning at VJTI in a staggering pattern. The quality of training/certifications must be monitored by the HOD/Dean/Director.
7. Rigorous Monitoring of 'Academic discipline and transparency in evaluation' is essential for achieving academic excellence and the Director is entrusted to ensure it for improving perception of the institute.
8. For achieving academic excellence and marching towards 'International University', it is recommended to develop KPI for the faculty members by forming an external expert committee (preferably IIT/IIM experienced veteran Experts). Few recommendations are: Prof Prem Vrat (former Director IIT Delhi and VC-UPTU), Prof S.P. Sukhatme (former Director IITB), Prof Karuna Jain (former Director NITIE/IIM Mumbai).
9. Academic audit shall be conducted from time to time by involving external experts as per norms and action taken report to be submitted to the ARC.
10. Industry-Academia interaction needs to be strengthened for achieving academic excellence through the involvement of VJTI's strong and vibrant alumni network.

The action report based on above points shall be submitted to the ARC from time to time.

2.5	**NBA Accreditation Improvements (UG & PG Programs)** **a)** Discussion on NBA requirements for UG and PG programs. **b)** Measures to improve Student-Faculty Ratio in line with IIT/NIT benchmarks. **c)** Faculty recruitment and capacity enhancement strategies.
Decision	The Academic & Research Committee (ARC) noted with concern that, although most undergraduate and postgraduate programmes satisfy most of the essential pre-qualification criteria for NBA accreditation, the Institute is presently unable to apply for accreditation for several programmes, primarily due to non-compliance with the mandatory requirement regarding the minimum number of Professors and Associate Professors prescribed under the NBA accreditation norms. After detailed deliberations, the Committee made the following recommendations: 1. Considering the prolonged delay in the implementation of the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) by the Government of Maharashtra, and the fact that CAS promotions of eligible faculty members have remained pending for more than a decade, the Board of Governors (BoG) may consider implementing CAS promotions for all eligible faculty members in accordance with the applicable Government Resolutions. 2. The ARC members understood the constraints of VJTI regarding accreditation of PG programs, including shortage of regular faculty members on roll explicitly for such programs, research contribution, etc. To enable eligible postgraduate programmes to apply for accreditation from NBA at the earliest, the Institute shall identify well-performing postgraduate programmes and, based on the detailed analysis of the utilization of existing faculty members and the prescribed Student–Faculty Ratio (SFR), ARC recommends to recruit additional faculty members (on tenure track basis), wherever required in line with AICTE norms, to satisfy the minimum NBA faculty requirements and thereby facilitate accreditation of such programmes. However, above is subjected to BoG approval only after presentation of detailed analysis of utilization of existing faculty members and provision of financial resources for proposed additional faculty members (Cost-Benefit Analysis) by the Director VJTI. 3. The ARC should be apprised of the Institute's financial position, including the resources generated, the budget available for manpower recruitment, and the long-term financial sustainability of the proposed appointments. This information will enable the ARC to make informed and balanced recommendations to BoG which can address both the Institute's operational needs and its financial constraints

2.6	**Strengthening Laboratory Support Infrastructure** a) Review of current manpower availability for laboratory courses. b) Proposal for appointment of skilled non-teaching laboratory assistants/technicians with ITI/Diploma qualifications. c) Engagement through tenure-based, contractual, ad-hoc, or outsourcing arrangements
Decision	The ARC expressed concern over the deteriorating status of laboratory engagements/Practicals/Tutorials/hands on experience in relevant softwares based on the students' feedback. They also noted the shortage of skilled technical manpower required for the effective conduct of laboratory courses across various academic departments based on the feedback given by the Director. Since the Institute has limited financial resources, any increase in staff should be based on a careful department-wise review of the current staff, their workload, and how effectively they are being used. Generally, increase in support staff is not financially affordable or administratively justified. After deliberations, the Committee agreed that adequate qualified technical and supporting staff are indispensable for laboratory-based teaching and recommended that the Institute submit a comprehensive report on the existing technical and non-teaching manpower, including their department-wise deployment, possibilities for redeployment, qualifications, roles and responsibilities, workload, and actual utilization. The Committee further recommended that the report identify the gap between the existing and required manpower to facilitate informed decisions regarding future staffing requirements. ARC also recommended to give an adequate opportunity to existing staff members for improving their skills with the help of various ITIs, Polytechnics, IDEMI, industry, etc. Relevant open source softwares/Licensed softwares should be made available to students for adequate skill nurturing. Faculty members need to be trained on relevant softwares on TOP PRIORITY. This will help to improve placement chances.
2.7	**Appointment of Post-Doctoral Fellows:-** **a.** Proposal for institute-funded positions for: **i)** Post-Doctoral Fellows **ii)** Annual budgetary provisions and recruitment framework.
Decision	ARC suggested to discuss this agenda in the Academic council.
2.8	**Teaching Load Relaxation for Research-Active Faculty** **a)** Proposal to reduce teaching workload for faculty members actively engaged in sponsored research projects. **b)** Consideration of exemption from one laboratory course or one theory course per

	semester.
Decision	The Academic & Research Committee deliberated on the proposal for relaxation of teaching workload for research-intensive faculty members. After detailed discussions, the Committee did not recommend the proposed relaxation and resolved that the existing teaching workload norms prescribed by the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) shall continue to be applicable uniformly to all faculty members of the Institute. *Director-VJTI to ensure full time availability of employees in the institute during the office hours for effective teaching-learning and achieving academic excellence.* The Committee further emphasized that any future proposal for deviation from the prescribed AICTE workload norms may be considered only after due justification and approval by the competent statutory authorities.
2.9	**Fellowship Support for M.Tech Students** **a)** Review of fellowship provisions for M.Tech. students. **b)** Utilization of M.Tech. scholars as Teaching Assistants (TAs) for laboratory courses and academic support activities. **c)** Framework for duties, workload, and remuneration.
Decision	The Academic & Research Committee (ARC) suggested that the Institute submit detailed data on the existing Gate qualified PG Students, along with their department-wise deployment and utilization as TA, for the Committee's consideration. However, the Committee recommended in principle (on pilot basis) the proposal to provide a stipend (of Rs 5000/- per month) to maximum two number of non-GATE postgraduate students **(if found eligible through written test and interview and acceptable outcome oriented detailed proposal for research contribution in coordination with faculty member)** per MTech programme (only for those MTech programs which are struggling to fill 50% intake), subject to the submission of the detailed analysis of utilization of existing faculty members, existing GATE qualified students' utilization (TA), the requirement of additional manpower, and the provision for financial expenditure. The Cost-Benefit analysis must be presented to ARC/BoG before implementation of above scheme. The outcome of such scheme should be monitored by the Director and presented to ARC/BoG from time to time before its renewal for the next year.

2.10	**Course Work Requirements for Sponsored Candidates** **a)** Consideration of online NPTEL/MOOC-based course work exclusively for industry-sponsored Ph.D. candidates. **b)** Credit transfer and assessment mechanisms
Decision	ARC agreed in principle but suggested to discuss this agenda in the Academic Council meeting and ensure compliance of affiliated university norms.
3	**Any Other Matter with the Permission of the Chair**
	1) Implementation of Micro Credit Courses The Academic & Research Committee recommended introducing various micro-credit courses in the Institute's curriculum to promote flexible learning, skill development, and multidisciplinary education in line with emerging academic /industry requirements. **2) Recovery of Outstanding Fees** The Academic & Research Committee recommended that the Institute shall make all possible efforts to recover all admissible outstanding fees from students in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations. The Committee further emphasized that systematic and timely measures should be adopted to strengthen the fee recovery process while ensuring compliance with the Institute's policies and statutory provisions. *An internal/external audit may be conducted to know the last 03 years fee recovery status and presented in next ARC/BoG meeting. This is to be considered as 'TOP PRIORITY'.* **3) IKS implementation** The ARC understood the MoM of Dr Subramaniam Chidambaram (Hon. Member BoG) meeting with VJTI authorities dated 18.06.2026 and recommended to introduce a foundation course on IKS and faculty recruitment from IKS domain expertise (on contract).

Dean Academic Programme
Member Secretary,
Academic Research Committee

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23/07/2026
Chairman,
Academic Research Committee