Vel Tech
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R&D Institute of Science and Technology
(Deemed to be University Estd. u/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

MINUTES OF THE

28th MEETING OF INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

Date: 13.12.2025

Time: 02.30 p.m.

Venue: International Conference Hall

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Minutes of the 28th Meeting of Internal Quality Assurance Cell

Held on 13.12.2025 at 02.30 p.m.

Venue: International Conference Hall

A. OPENING

28.1 Call to Order

Call to order for the 28th Meeting of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) on December 13, 2025.

The 28th Meeting of the IQAC was formally called to order by the Honourable Vice Chancellor, who extended a warm welcome to all the esteemed members of the IQAC Committee.

In his opening remarks, the Vice Chancellor expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the external members, Prof. S. Muttan, Dr. A.R. Arvind, Mr. Aravind and Mr. J.E. Simon for their physical presence, and Mr. Viswanathan Venkata Subramanian for joining online, acknowledging their continued support and valuable contributions toward the institution's quality enhancement initiatives. He further shared key institutional developments and progress made since the last IQAC meeting.

28.2 To record the leave of absence of the members

Of the 27 members, 26 were present for the meeting.

Please refer to Appendix 1 (Page No. 9) for the members list.

28.3 Approval of Agenda of 28th Meeting of IQAC

The Agenda of the 28th Meeting of IQAC was approved.

Please refer to Appendix 2 (Page No. 11) for the Agenda.

28.4 To review the action taken on the decisions of the 27th Meeting of IQAC held on September 16, 2025

Dr. M. Rajeev Kumar, Dean (QA) has presented the Action Taken Report of the 27th Meeting of IQAC. The observations and action taken is given below:

Item No.	Observation	Action Taken
27.5	To discuss the analysis of observations from the	• All observations and recommendations made during the Academic Audit have been systematically analyzed.

	Academic Audit conducted for AY 2024-25	• The suggested improvements have been implemented wherever applicable, and a consolidated action-taken report will be presented before the Board of Studies (BoS) for approval in the forthcoming meeting.
27.6	To discuss the Rankings Received and status of NBA accreditation	• A comprehensive analysis of the gaps identified was carried out to enhance the institution's parameter-wise scores through a focused, time-bound action plan for future editions of the NIRF India Rankings. • A mock visit was conducted to review and verify documentation related to NBA Criteria 4, 5, 6, and 7 in the departments of Biomedical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science & Engineering, and Electronics & Communication Engineering.
27.7	To discuss strategies and faculty awareness regarding ethical publications and contributions towards quality research	• A series of awareness sessions were organized for faculty across the institution to educate them on journal retraction, delisting of journals from indexing databases, and best practices for publishing quality research articles. • An online application was developed and deployed for faculty to verify the quality and indexing status of journals prior to manuscript submission.

B. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

28.5	**To discuss the gaps identified and enhance the institution parameter-wise scores through a time-bound action plan for future editions of the NIRF India Rankings.** The Committee members deliberated in detail on the gaps identified from the previous editions of the NIRF India Rankings and the formulation of a parameter-wise, time-bound action plan for improving the institution's performance in the future rankings. The Committee was appraised that a comprehensive benchmarking exercise had been undertaken against the top 100 ranked institutions in the Engineering category, covering all five major NIRF parameters and 17 sub-metrics, and further refined through a comparative analysis with institutions ranked between 41 and 50, in line with the institutional objective of attaining a Top-50 position. It was noted that the institution is currently within the Top-50 band in seven sub-metrics, while ten sub-metrics were identified as having scope for improvement, of which eight were prioritized for focused intervention based on feasibility and impact. The Committee reviewed the detailed trend analysis of the past six years, which demonstrated consistent

	improvement across all major parameters, with the overall score improving to 47.43 in 2025 ranking, notwithstanding intensified competition and the impact of negative marking due to publication retractions in earlier cycles. The Committee took note of the corrective measures implemented to address retraction-related penalties, including the constitution of an ethics committee with Vice Chancellor, Dean (R&D), Dean (RS) and Dean (QA), extensive faculty sensitization, and the deployment of an institutional portal to verify the quality of article and authorship details. It was noted that zero retractions reported for the 2024 calendar year to date. The Committee extensively discussed the Financial Resources and Utilisation (FRU) parameter, noting that despite incremental improvements in per-student capital and operational expenditure, this metric remains structurally challenging for private institutions when benchmarked against centrally funded institutions. It was noted that the institution secured a score of 6.6 in FRU and that a calibrated improvement strategy has been proposed, with a realistic short-term target of achieving a score of 10 and a long-term goal of reaching 16 over the next five years, supported by transparent financial reporting aligned strictly with audited statements. In this context, the members suggested examining possible revisions to staff salary structures, research processing charges, and incentive mechanisms, as these have a direct bearing on the FRU parameter, and advised that a detailed scenario analysis outlining financial implications, feasibility, and waterfall effects of incremental improvements across FRU sub-components be prepared for consideration by the Management and Finance Committee. The Committee further reviewed progress of the Research and Professional Practice (RP) parameter, noting significant improvements in publications per faculty and citations per faculty, and the institutional decision to accord strategic priority to both quality and quantity of research output. In this context, the Committee noted the emphasis on Q1 journal publications, the provision of APC support for high-quality journals, and the integration of Q1 publication requirements into performance appraisal and Career Advancement Scheme (CAS). Progression in the Graduation Outcomes (GO) parameter, particularly in full-time PhD graduations, was reviewed, and the members noted with appreciation the increase in the graduation of full-time research scholars, the structured monitoring of PhD progress, and the objective of improving on-time graduation rates through periodic reviews and targeted academic support. The Committee also deliberated on measures to enhance the Outreach and Perception parameters, including the induction of eminent academicians from IITs and NITs into Boards of Studies and academic bodies, increased engagement with distinguished resource persons, and systematic visibility initiatives through academic and professional platforms. Overall, the Committee appreciated the data-driven, ethical, and strategically phased approach adopted for

	NIRF performance improvement, endorsed the proposed short-, medium-, and long-term action framework, and directed that measurable targets with periodic review mechanisms be placed before the Executive Council and Management at regular intervals. **Resolution:** The Committee discussed the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive, parameter-wise, time-bound action plan aimed at improving the institution's performance in forthcoming NIRF India Rankings. The plan shall be aligned with the institutional target of achieving a Top-50 position, supported by benchmarking against the top 100 institutions and further comparative analysis with institutions ranked 41–50. In addition, it is resolved to adopt the strategy to enhance the FRU score, with a short-term target of reaching a score of 10 and a long-term target of 16 within five years.
28.6	**To deliberate on existing and proposed initiatives aimed at enhancing publications, research projects, and patents.** **Discussion:** The committee members deliberated in detail on the initiatives undertaken by the Office of Research & Development to enhance the quality of research publications with emphasis on Q1 journals, strengthen ethical publishing practices, improve citation impact, integrate UG&PG students along with industry collaboration into research, innovation, and product development. The members were appraised of the steady and significant growth in publication count, with Scopus-indexed publications increasing from 1,190 in 2022 to 1,641 in 2023 and 2,946 in 2024, reaching over 3,043 publications as on date in 2025. It was further noted that Q1 publications have increased to 628 in Scopus and 248 in Web of Science, reflecting a clear shift towards quality-focused research output. The members noted with appreciation the upward trend and the institutional emphasis on improving citation impact and publication quality. The committee took note of the Publication Acceleration Program (PAP) launched in June 2025, which exclusively targets Q1 publications and is supported by external subject experts who mentor the faculty in manuscript preparation, journal identification, and ethical publication practices. Approximately 850 faculty members are covered under category-wise publication targets, and within a span of four months, 243 Q1 manuscripts have been planned to submit, 117 unique Q1 journals have been identified, and 73 Q1 papers have been submitted through expert-supported processes. The Committee approved the continuation and strengthening of this program as a strategic initiative to enhance institutional research quality.

	It was further noted that the implementation of a structured mechanism for verification and submission of articles to journals has been implemented through an institutional portal managed by the Office of Research & Development and Research Studies. This mechanism incorporates a three-stage review process, continuous monitoring, issuance of "Go/No-Go" recommendations, and proactive identification of predatory or discontinued journals, thereby preventing potential retractions to safeguard the Institution's research credibility. The committee emphasized the importance of fostering a strong student research culture and directed that a greater proportion of UG&PG projects be converted into quality publications or tangible products, with particular emphasis on ensuring that at least one-third of UG&PG projects lead to publishable outcomes. The members suggested that student involvement in publications positively contributes to research culture, graduate employability, median salary outcomes, and overall performance in various rankings. In this context, the committee reviewed the launch of 500 Industrial IoT problem statements for student & faculty, as an initiative focusing on product development, incremental innovation, and selective progression towards publications and patents. It was also advised that these problem statements be systematically classified based on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), application domains, and interdisciplinary relevance. The members were also appraised on the progress in intellectual property creation and startup development, including the filing of 46 patents with the University as Applicant or Co-applicant and the support extended to startups through Vel Tech TBI for IP awareness, product development, and external funding. The committed directed that all projects be aligned with Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) and Product Readiness Levels (PRL), with regulatory and standards awareness (BIS, IEC, medical, automotive, and software standards) introduced from the ideation stage itself. The need for interdisciplinary integration across Engineering and Sciences, Management, and Law disciplines, along with strengthened industry engagement, semester-long internships, and integration of AI, data analytics, cybersecurity, and digital skills across curricula, was strongly emphasized. The members emphasized the usage of AI tools in the teaching–learning process shall be made mandatory for all courses from the upcoming semester. The committee noted the current ongoing research funding of approximately ₹1.43 Crores and the implementation of a structured tracking mechanism covering the entire research and innovation lifecycle from idea generation to funding realization. Faculty were encouraged to maintain continuous proposal readiness aligned with eligibility norms of funding agencies. Overall, the external members appreciated the systematic, quality-driven, and ethically

	grounded approach adopted by the institution and directed that periodic reviews be conducted to monitor the progress and outcomes. **Resolution:** The committee resolved to ensure increased participation of UG and PG students projects into quality publications, patents, or tangible products and further recommends to make the students aware about the regulatory and standards awareness (BIS, IEC, medical, automotive, and software standards) from the ideation stage itself. In addition, the committee resolved to integrate interdisciplinary programs and industry engagement in research and product development, and mandates the compulsory usage of AI tools in the teaching–learning process for all courses with effect from the upcoming semester.
28.7	**To discuss the placement strategy aimed at improving both the quantity and quality of placements through targeted industry-readiness training** **Discussion:** The Committee was appraised of the proposed placement enhancement strategy formulated by the Office of Campus to Corporate for the 2027 graduating batch. The overarching objective is to improve both the quantity and quality of student placements through systematic and continuous monitoring, and outcome-driven interventions. The Committee reviewed the current status wherein the institution's GPH score is 22 and the Median Salary score is 8.58. In this context, a comprehensive semester-wise Career Competency Training (CCT) framework is designed to be implemented across all the departments to strengthen employability through continuous, outcome-driven student engagement. The shift from final-year-only preparation to a longitudinal developmental mechanism was acknowledged as a key reform to strengthen student readiness for placement activities. To achieve improvements in placement quantity, the proposal includes large-scale training coverage for 600+ students targeting Dream and Super Dream roles. To strengthen placement quality, members emphasized incrementally enhancing the median salary by at least ₹1 lakh every year. Further, advanced preparation is recommended for 200+ high-performing students, involving 800+ structured programming problems to target Marquee and Pinnacle companies offering 20–50+ LPA salary packages. Considering the immediate placement needs of the final-year cohort, the Committee also reviewed accelerated short-term training interventions with extended daily engagement hours. For non-computing and core engineering disciplines, a differentiated model blending communication skills, aptitude, and multi-technology training was proposed to broaden employability across IT-enabled and core engineering domains.

	The members further highlighted the importance of early career mapping, responsible use of AI tools, awareness of prompt engineering, research literacy, and strengthening students' professional digital portfolios to improve placement outcomes and institutional visibility. Overall, the Committee reiterated that a sustained, structured, and measurable industry-readiness framework is essential to improving placement performance and reinforcing the institution's long-term reputation. **Resolution:** It was resolved that the institution shall adopt and implement a structured, continuous, semester-wise Career Competency Training (CCT) framework aimed at improving both placement quantity and quality. The strategy shall focus on a minimum two-hours-per-day engagement model, large-scale training of 600+ students for Dream and Super Dream roles, advanced preparation for 200+ students for high-paying roles through 800+ programming problem sets, and a targeted year-on-year increase of ₹1 lakh in median salary.
C. <u>Closing</u>	
28.8	**Any other item(s) with the permission of the Chair** With the permission of the Chair, the committee was appraised with Semester long internship was introduced in the fifth semester of all UG engineering programmes. 507 students completing their internships and earning up to 14 credits based on industry learning outcomes. Additionally, 18 final-year students completed their intensive semester and continued long-term industry internships, while 25 more were allotted internships through the Office of Industry Relations. The Committee appreciated the faculty's active involvement as evaluators and jury members across various inter-institutional competitions and reviewed the strong participation in interdisciplinary project initiatives, including 500 IoT projects floated by industry experts, 36 IFQM projects, and extensive motivation sessions aimed at promoting Smart India Hackathon and VISAI 2026 participation. The Committee further reviewed the outcomes of student project-based research, noting 48 journal publications and 11 patents, and recommended the early finalization of the SOP to institutionalize the project-to-publication and patent pipeline. The integration of Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) across departments was also examined, with emphasis on structured project development, enhanced industry collaboration, and the incorporation of GATE/GMAT model questions from the first semester. Updates on gamified e-learning content development were presented, indicating that 12 out of 86 identified models had been completed. The Committee also deliberated on the Five-

	Year Research Plan (2025–2030), focusing on enhancing research quality, increasing WoS and Scopus publications, strengthening departmental research culture, progressively improving the first/corresponding author ratio from 60% to 80% over the next five years, promoting publications in Q1/Q2 journals, and expanding national and international research collaborations. The meeting concluded with action points that included finalizing the project-to-publication SoP, initiating the establishment of the institutional journal, further expanding automation modules based on stakeholder inputs, completing the pending e-learning models, operationalizing TRL-based curriculum mapping, and consolidating the Five-Year Research Plan.
28.9	**To consider and approve the date for conducting the next IQAC meeting** The next meeting of IQAC is proposed to conduct during the second week of March 2025. The date will be finalized in consultation with the chairman of the committee and notified to all members well in advance to ensure maximum participation.
28.10	**To conclude with the Vote of Thanks by Dean (QA)** Dr. M. Rajeev Kumar Dean (QA) proposed the vote of thanks.

Member Secretary **Chairman**

Appendix 1 **Members Present**

1.	Prof. Rajat Gupta Vice Chancellor	**Chairperson**
2.	Mrs. Rangarajan Mahalakshmi K. Chairperson and Managing Trustee	**Member (Management Representation)**
3.	Dr. S. Muttan Professor of Eminence, Centre of Medical Electronics, Department of ECE, College of Engineering, Anna University Guindy	**Member (Academic Expert)**
4.	Dr. A. R. Arvind DGM-Engine machining & EV projects, Project Planning, Ashok Leyland Limited, Chennai	**Member (Industry representation)**
5.	Mr. J. E. Simon, Station Manager Railways (Retired).	**Member (Local Nominee)**
6.	Mr. Ranjith A (VT No. 071), Partner Cloud Solution Architect, Microsoft Corporation.	**Member (Alumni Representation)**

Senior Administrator

7.	Dr. R. Sivaraman Processor & Pro-Vice Chancellor	11.	Dr. P. Chandrakumar, Professor, Dean (R&D and Industry Relations & TBI)
8.	Dr. E. Kannan Professor & Registrar	12.	Dr. P. Suresh, Professor & Dean (International Relations & HRDC)
9.	Dr. S. Ramesh Professor & Controller of Examination	13.	Dr. P. Vijayaraman, Dean (Campus to Corporate)
10.	Dr. S. Raju Professor & Dean (Academics)	14.	Dr. K. Jagajjanani Rao Dean (Research Studies)

Senior Faculty

15.	Dr. S.P. Chokkalingam Professor & Dean (SoC)	19.	Dr. K. Ravishankar, Professor & Dean (SoM)
16.	Dr. R. S. Valarmathi, Professor & Dean (SoEC)	20.	Dr. E. Suresh Paul Professor & Dean (SoMTC)
17.	Dr. M.S. Murali Dhar Professor & Dean (FME)	21.	Dr. A. Jayabal Professor & Dean (SCoM)
18.	Dr. B. Venugopal Professor & Dean (SoL)	22.	Dr. Mathew Alphonse Associate Professor (Mech.)

Student Representative

23. Mr. Shaik Sattar (VTU24523)
3rd Year, B.Tech. - ECE ., Vel Tech

Special Invitee

24. Ms. Eskandhaa K Vel
Assistant Director, Vel Tech

Member Secretary

25. Dr. M. Rajeev Kumar,
Dean (Quality Assurance)

Appendix 1	Members Absent
1.	Mr. Viswanathan Venkata Subramanian, Senior Manager, Talent Acquisition, Wipro Limited, Chennai
2.	Mr. Syed Shamsudeen (VTA3475) 2nd Year, B.Com., Vel Tech

Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala

R&D Institute of Science and Technology

Office of Quality Assurance

28th MEETING OF INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

Date & Time: 13.12.2025 & 02.30 pm **Venue: International Conference Hall**

Agenda

A. Opening

Item No.		Presenter
28.1	Call to Order	Chair
28.2	To record the leave of absence of the members	Chair
28.3	Approval of the Agenda for the 28th Meeting of IQAC	Chair
28.4	To review the action taken on the decisions of the 27th Meeting of IQAC held on September 16, 2025	Chair

B. Items for Discussion and Consideration

Item No.		Presenter
28.5	To discuss the gaps identified and enhance the institution parameter-wise scores through a time-bound action plan for future editions of the NIRF India Rankings.	DQA
28.6	To deliberate on existing and proposed initiatives aimed at enhancing publications, research projects, and patents.	DRD
28.7	To discuss the placement strategy aimed at improving both the quantity and quality of placements through targeted industry-readiness training.	DCC

C. Closing

Item No.		Presenter
28.8	Any other item(s) with the permission of the Chair	
28.9	To consider and approve the date for conducting the next IQAC meeting	
28.10	To conclude with the Vote of Thanks by Dean (QA)	