

Benchmarking Research Process in Higher Education- Opportunities.

Andhra Loyola Institute of Engineering and Technology organized a Faculty Orientation Programme on the 10th and 11th of August 2024. The resource person, Dr. Manimozhi Theodore , an Outstanding Scientist and Emeritus Chief Coordinator of the ISRO-DRDO Gaganyaan Programme, and former Director of CAIR (Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics) and DEBEL (Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory) at the Defence Research and Development Organisation, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, enlightened the gathering with her insights on various aspects of benchmarking.

She explicitly stated that 21st-century research should focus on multidisciplinary approaches to solving high-impact societal problems. She emphasized the need for both immediate short-term solutions and long-term strategies to address issues systematically. Dr. Theodore further expressed that the benchmarking process and setting targets can be misunderstood due to its quantitative nature, stressing that Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) should be established for the process.

In the interactive session with the faculty members, she encouraged them to take up research on unsolved problems and patiently answered all related questions concerning quality and the role of academics.

She also elucidated the importance of teamwork and its connection with both faculty and students, drawing from her personal experience at DRDO and DEBEL. The event was coordinated by Rev. Fr. Dr. P.R. John, Rector of Andhra Loyola Institutions, Rev. Fr. Dr. B. Joji Reddy, S.J., Director and Secretary, Rev. Fr. Balaswamy, S.J., Assistant Director, Dr. O. Mahesh, Principal, and Dr. Sr. Candy D’Cunha, IQAC Coordinator, and the faculty of ALIET were all present for the orientation programme.