

MAYOOKHA

Q2 2026



FROM THE EDITOR

Institutions Are Not Built in Moments. They Are Shaped in Sequence.

The months from January to May 2026 marked a season of acceleration for India Rising Foundation. Not the frenzied kind — the kind built on deliberate action, structured partnerships, and an expanding community of people who believe that India's research potential is far greater than the infrastructure it has been given.

In these pages, Mayookha documents that unfolding: four Operation Mobilisation Meetups that brought together India's most forward-thinking voices, formal MoUs that have turned conversations into commitments, a prestigious award that celebrated India's research heritage, and the inaugural public launch of our most ambitious initiative yet — Innov8Ability For India.

Each milestone reflects a deeper alignment between intent and execution. We invite you to read, reflect, and, where you feel moved, to act.



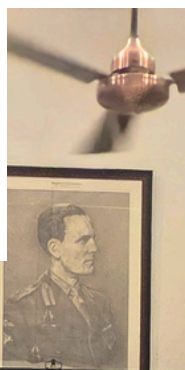
The room where India's R&D future took shape

OPERATION MOBILISATION MEETUPS

JANUARY—MARCH 2026

Between January and March 2026, India Rising Foundation convened four Operation Mobilisation Meetups (OMMs) across Bengaluru — each one a curated, high-stakes dialogue bringing together the nation's foremost researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, and innovation champions around one urgent question: what will it take for India to become a global R&D powerhouse by 2047?

What distinguished the OMMs was not merely the calibre of the room. It was the discipline of the conversation. These were not networking events. They were structured mobilisation sessions — designed to convert aspiration into alignment, and alignment into action.



1st OMM

*11 January 2026
Cosmopolitan Club,
Bengaluru*

Curated by

Deepa Sashindran,
Meena Das Narayan,
Prasanthi Goswami
Dr. Karthiyayini Priya



The first ever OMM was a historic moment — a constitutional beginning of sorts for the Foundation's outreach work. Held at the Cosmopolitan Club, it convened a carefully selected gathering of research visionaries, policy thinkers, and innovation practitioners. The agenda was clear: establish the Foundation's mission in the room, invite challenge, and begin building a network of genuine believers.

The conversations that emerged went beyond pleasantries. Participants engaged directly with the structure of India's RDI ecosystem, its funding architecture, and the cultural barriers that slow the translation of indigenous knowledge into global-standard innovation.

2nd OMM

*24 January 2026
Century Club,
Bengaluru*

Curated by
Shri Madan Gopal Madabhushi



"Sessions blending Indian philosophies with modern strategies, fuelling fundraising and collaborative missions."

The second OMM expanded the circle, drawing India's foremost R&D visionaries, policymakers, and innovators for an evening of what can only be described as unparalleled dialogue. Key sparks from the session included breakthrough insights on healthcare R&D and indigenous knowledge integration, high-profile connections that forged partnerships for lasting impact, and sessions that blended Indian philosophical traditions with modern strategic thinking — fuelling both fundraising ambitions and collaborative missions.

3rd OMM

*25 January 2026
Chancery Pavilion,
Bengaluru*

Curated by
Praddeep Kuupparaju and Libu Mathew Joseph



The third OMM brought the series to a new venue and a new audience configuration, further widening the Foundation's reach into Bengaluru's research and innovation leadership. The discussions reinforced the themes of the earlier sessions while introducing new dimensions of policy innovation and collaborative R&D design.

4th OMM

*7 March 2026
Century Club,
Bengaluru*

Curated by

Rajaram Krishnamurthy, Suresh Ediga, Uttam Hassan Dharanappa and Deepak Sam Varghese



The fourth edition of the OMM series marked a moment of institutional consolidation. By this point, the OMM format had established itself as one of Bengaluru's most substantive closed-room dialogues on research and national development. The conversations reflected a maturation of the network: participants were no longer being introduced to the Foundation's vision — they were beginning to co-own it.

Across all four editions, the OMM series demonstrated that the demand for serious, sustained dialogue on India's innovation future is real, widespread, and ready to be channelled into institutional action.

STRATEGIC
ENGAGEMENTS*In the Room Where
Policy Meets Purpose*

Panel Discussion
at BSSF 2026
IIM Bangalore |
16 January 2026



The India Rising Foundation team took to the stage at the Bangalore Social Sustainability Forum 2026 at IIM Bangalore, contributing to one of the city's most important annual platforms for policy and social innovation dialogue. The participation reinforced the Foundation's commitment to intellectual engagement — not positioning itself as an authority, but contributing to discourse and earning relevance through dialogue, not declaration.



22 January 2026

Meeting with His Highness, the Maharaja of Mysore



A significant meeting that underscored the Foundation's growing presence in India's most storied institutional corridors. The engagement with His Highness reflected the Foundation's belief that national research capability is strengthened by connecting India's civilisational heritage with its innovation ambitions.

22 January 2026

RDI & IKS CoE Collaboration Meeting — Hyderabad



A focused collaboration meeting with a Centre of Excellence on Research, Development & Innovation and Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) in Hyderabad. This engagement advanced the Foundation's work of connecting indigenous knowledge frameworks with contemporary R&D architecture — one of the most strategically significant intersections in India's innovation future.

12 March 2026

Meeting with NCBS-TIFR



A preliminary meeting at the campus of the National Centre for Biological Sciences (TIFR) opened a dialogue on potential collaboration between one of India's premier biological sciences institutions and the India Rising Foundation. The conversation centred on what, how, and where NCBS and India Rising can meaningfully collaborate — a conversation that lays the groundwork for future joint ventures in frontier science.

PARTNERSHIPS & MOUS

Commitments That Cannot Be Undone



17 March 2026

MoU with Param Foundation

In March 2026, India Rising Foundation formalised a series of Memorandums of Understanding with partner institutions whose missions align with the Foundation's core vision. These MoUs are not ceremonial — they represent structured commitments to collaborative growth, shared research agendas, and social impact at scale.

The signing of an MoU with the Param Foundation marked a landmark step in deepening the Foundation's network of aligned institutional partners. Param Foundation brings complementary capabilities that strengthen the Foundation's work across research facilitation and capacity-building.

Additional MoUs: BRHAT, St. John's Research Institute, NEKI & Samarthanam

Partner	Collaboration Focus
BRHAT	Bridging research excellence with traditional knowledge and heritage systems
St. John's Research Institute (SJRI)	Joint R&D in health sciences, clinical research and evidence-based innovation
NEKI	Expanding the Foundation's collaborative reach in knowledge ecosystems
Samarthanam Trust	Building inclusive innovation pathways for differently-abled researchers and entrepreneurs

India Rising Foundation is pleased to announce the successful formalisation of partnerships with four additional organisations. Each MoU reflects a shared conviction that India's research and innovation future is best built through coalition, not competition.

We have signed the Fellowship Program MoUs with Jain University Bengaluru and Geethanjali College of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad.

RECOGNITION & RESEARCH

Honouring the Scientists Who Shaped a Nation



6 February 2026 | St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru

Vishishta Anusandhan Puraskaar

The Dawn of India's R&D Renaissance

On 6 February 2026, India Rising Foundation, in collaboration with St. John's Health Innovation Foundation, hosted an inspiring academic gathering at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences — an evening that celebrated science, innovation, and the enduring wisdom of indigenous knowledge systems.

The event opened with a keynote address by Dr. Tony Raj, Dean of the St. John's Research Institute, setting an intellectually rigorous tone for what followed. A distinguished panel featuring Dr. Sundararaman Swaminathan, Dr. Vallipriya Balijepalli, Mr. Vivek Vasudevan, and Dr. Gaurang Ramesh explored the integration of traditional knowledge, scientific research, and planetary well-being — a conversation that is increasingly urgent as India defines its own R&D identity.

Rev. Fr. Ignacimuthu S.J. was conferred the Vishishta Anusandhan Puraskaar for his life's work on the 'Scientific Validation of Some Traditional Medicinal Plants to Treat Diseases.'

The evening also featured a fireside dialogue on Antimicrobial Resistance: Catalysing India's RDI Revolution Against Superbugs, led by Dr. Maneesh Paul and Dr. Gifty Immanuel — a conversation that sits at the exact intersection of indigenous wisdom, modern science, and national health imperative.

The evening concluded with a vote of thanks by Deepa Sashindran, Vice President of India Rising Foundation. The programme fostered meaningful cross-disciplinary collaboration and reinforced the importance of evidence-based research rooted in traditional knowledge — truly reflecting India's growing commitment to sustainable and inclusive scientific advancement.



FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

Innov8Ability For India: Unlocking Genius Without Barriers

23 May 2026 | Four Seasons Hotel, Embassy One, Bengaluru | 415+ Participants



On 23 May 2026, India Rising Foundation made history. At the Four Seasons Hotel, Bengaluru, before an audience of over 415 of India's most influential decision-makers — UHNIs, government officials, corporate leaders, media personalities, and academic heads — we launched Innov8Ability For India: the nation's first dedicated, fully accessible Research, Development & Innovation ecosystem for differently-abled innovators.

The evening was conceived around three pillars — Cause, Conversations, and Awards — with the singular ambition of positioning India as the world's most inclusive R&D capital by 2047. The name itself carries symbolic weight: the '8' in Innov8Ability represents the infinity symbol (∞), signifying an endless, barrier-free future.

Why Innov8Ability? The Case for Inclusion as Economic Imperative

India is home to approximately 2.68 crore people with disabilities. Fewer than 1% of these individuals ever gain meaningful access to innovation ecosystems, research infrastructure, or enterprise-building capital. Not a single government or private research facility in India has been designed from the ground up for researchers with disabilities. No dedicated funding exists. No IP pathways have been built.

A nation that leaves 2.68 crore minds at the door is not innovating at scale. It is innovating at a fraction of its potential.

Innov8Ability is the Foundation's answer to this deficit. Rooted in the concept of the Purple Economy — where inclusion is not charity but an economic imperative and a driver of national strength — Innov8Ability will build India's first multidisciplinary, fully accessible R&D ecosystem.

Distinguished Guests of Honour

The event was graced by an eminent panel whose presence signalled the seriousness with which Innov8Ability is being pursued at the highest levels of leadership. Chief Guest Mr. Santosh Lad, Minister of Labour, Government of Karnataka, delivered a powerful address calling on civil society and the private sector to step up alongside the State. He affirmed that the ambition of Innov8Ability aligned with India's national development aspirations.

Other distinguished guests included Dr. Manjunath (Additional Commissioner of Labour), Ms. Shalini Saraswati (Para-Athlete), Father George Kannanthanam (Director, The Project Vision), and Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar (Founder, Samarathanam Trust) — each bringing a distinct and essential perspective to the evening's discourse.

India Rising Innov8Ability Awards: Celebrating Unseen Innovators

A centrepiece of the evening was the presentation of the India Rising Innov8Ability Awards — ten awards spanning the full spectrum of human endeavour, celebrating individuals and institutions that have dared to innovate despite, and often because of, the barriers they have faced.

Individual awardees recognised across domains including Food & Agriculture, DeepTech & FutureTech, Healthcare & Medicine, Built Environment, and Arts & Culture. Institutional awardees included Exobots (for engineering affordable bionic prosthetics), Thinkerbell Labs (for Annie, the world's first self-learning Braille device), and WARDS (for decades of dedication to children with autism, cerebral palsy, and multiple disabilities).

Runway Purple: When the Stage Belongs to Everyone

Among the evening's most powerful moments was Runway Purple — an inclusion fashion show in which differently-abled models took to the stage with elegance, confidence, and grace. The show was not a performance. It was a statement: that beauty, poise, and presence are not defined by physical limitation, and that the runway belongs to everyone.

The models commanded the stage, drawing extended applause and visible emotion from the audience. For many attendees, it was the evening's most resonant moment — a living demonstration that when differently-abled individuals are given access and space, they do not merely participate. They shine.



India Rising Innov8Ability Awards (IRIA) 2026

INNOVATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The Open Lab: India's First R&D Space Designed for Every Mind

The most technically substantive segment of the Innov8Ability evening was the presentation of the Open Lab concept, developed and presented by Shefali Sabharanjak and architect Dinesh Rao. It gave the assembled audience a concrete, credible, and investable picture of what India's first accessible R&D facility will look and feel like.

What Is Being Built

The Innov8Ability Inclusive Open Labs will be a 20,000+ sq ft purpose-built, fully accessible, multidisciplinary research facility located approximately 40 km from Tumkur, Karnataka — on approximately 2 acres of land. This is not a retrofitted space. It is a facility designed from the ground up, with universal access as the founding principle of every spatial and technological decision.

The inaugural Open Lab (10,000+ sq ft) will contain universally accessible workstations with adaptive hardware, sensory zones for researchers with visual, auditory, and cognitive differences, domain-specific research bays, a prototyping and fabrication suite, and an IP documentation and filing support centre.

Six Research Domains

The facility will be structured around six high-impact research domains, each selected for alignment with Karnataka's development priorities and national innovation imperatives:

- HealthTech — Assistive devices, affordable diagnostics, wearable health monitoring
- AgriTech — Precision farming, accessible agricultural tools, rural livelihoods technology
- DeepTech — AI, machine learning, robotics, and adaptive systems
- FutureTech — Brain-computer interfaces, haptic systems, next-generation assistive platforms
- STEM — Foundational research with an inclusive pedagogy lens
- Energy & Water Regeneration — Sustainable energy and water purification systems

14 Core Design Principles, 40+ Novel Technologies

The Open Lab's technology framework is governed by 14 Core Design Principles underpinned by 40+ novel technologies mapped for implementation. These include a Campus-Wide Building Intelligence System, VR-Assisted Familiarisation tools enabling researchers to learn the space before arriving physically, AI-powered access modalities (voice control, gesture navigation, eye-tracking), smart corridors with intelligent lighting and wayfinding, fully adaptive workstations, and multimodal knowledge systems supporting visual, auditory, tactile, and digital formats.

The governing principle: when an environment works perfectly for its most constrained user, it works better for every user.

100% Inclusion by Design — not as an afterthought, but as the founding principle of every spatial and technological decision.

The Ambition and the Ask

The Phase 1 fundraising target is ₹10 Crore, allocated across lab infrastructure, researcher grants, IP support, and programme management. The long-term vision: 100+ Open Labs across India, 1 million Research Fellows, and India established as the world's most inclusive R&D capital by 2047.

Sponsors for the launch event included Toyota, JSW, Swiggy, Porter, and Emvee. Strategic partners include the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Samarthanam Trust, TiE Bangalore, and Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), among others.

COMMUNITY

Growing the Circle: New Faces, New Voices

New Honorary Advisors

India Rising Foundation is delighted to welcome four distinguished individuals to its Advisory Board: Their expertise and networks strengthen the Foundation's capacity to translate mission into impact.



MADAN PADAKI



ANKIT CHOUDHARY



MJ CHARMANI

Visionary Champions

Dr. Shivakiran Makam have joined as Visionary Champions — individuals whose belief in the Foundation's mission and whose personal networks will be instrumental in building the coalitions needed for long-term institutional change.



DR. SHIVAKIRAN MAKAM

New Members

The Foundation continues to grow its community of practitioners and thinkers. New members include



JAGANNATH RAJU

Principal Engineer at LAB3



MUKUND RAO

Senior Solutions Architect
Amazon Web Services, Austin, TX



ANITA UDIAVAR RAO

Global Head
of Analytical Science and Technology
Biocon Biologics India



PRADYUMNA A.K.

Author, Playwright, Screenwriter |Co-Founder
Navakshitija Enterprises

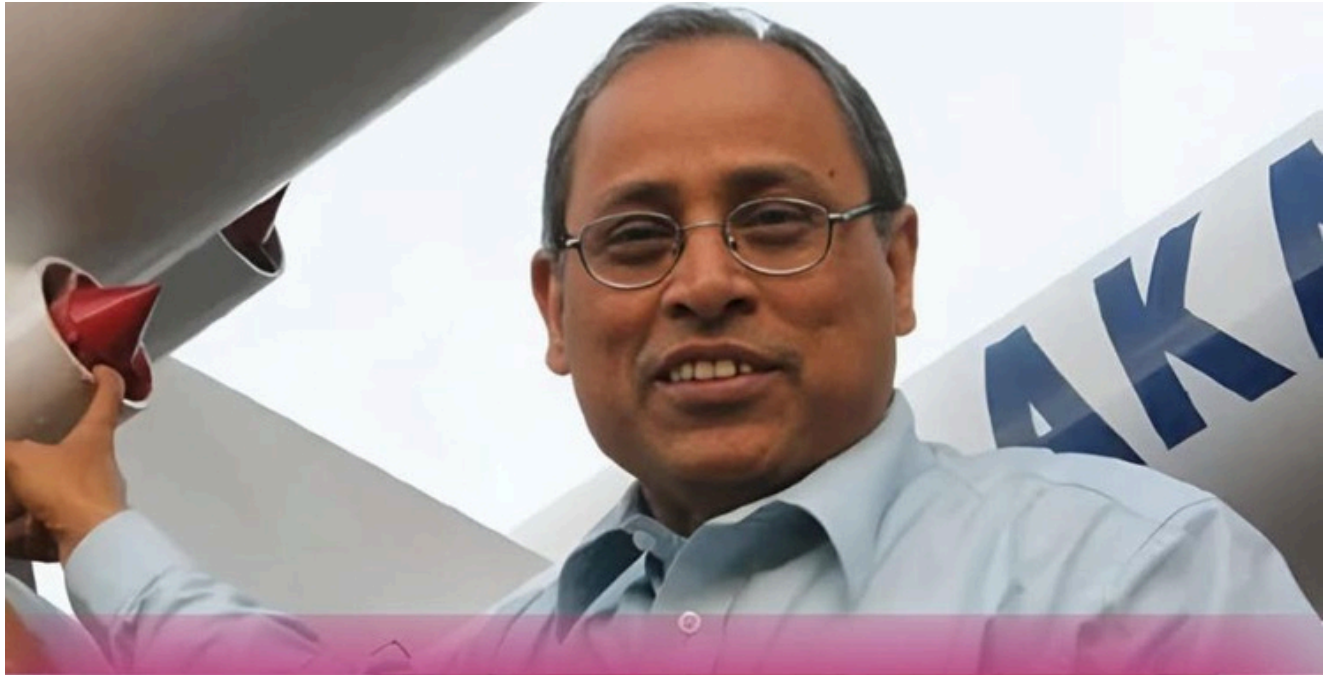


VIJAY RAGHUNATHAN

Co-Founder @ HeartDogs
Tech Visionary Transforming Traditional Industries

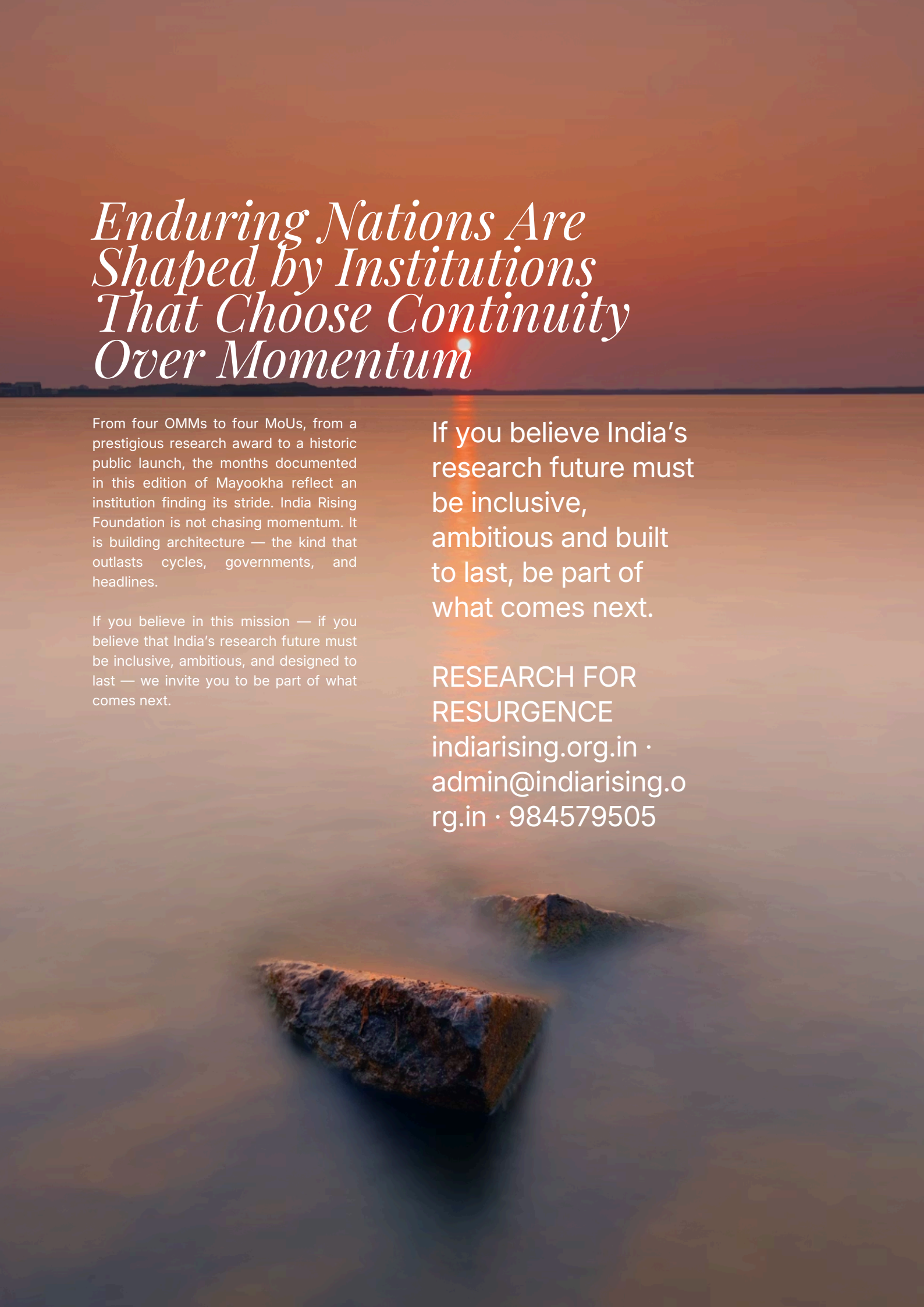
RECOGNITION

A Moment of Immense Pride: Padma Shri Dr. Prahlada Ramarao



Anand Ranganathan ✓
@ARanganathan72

As Israel, UAE, Kuwait, and Bahrain count the losses caused by Iranian missiles and drones, India thanks Dr Ramarao for building the indigenous Akash that tracked 616 Pak missiles and drones (64 simultaneously) before launching interceptors, logging a neutralisation rate of 99.4%

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sky is a gradient of orange and red, with the sun low on the horizon. In the foreground, two large, dark, jagged rocks are partially submerged in the water, which reflects the warm colors of the sky.

Enduring Nations Are Shaped by Institutions That Choose Continuity Over Momentum

From four OMMs to four MoUs, from a prestigious research award to a historic public launch, the months documented in this edition of Mayookha reflect an institution finding its stride. India Rising Foundation is not chasing momentum. It is building architecture — the kind that outlasts cycles, governments, and headlines.

If you believe in this mission — if you believe that India's research future must be inclusive, ambitious, and designed to last — we invite you to be part of what comes next.

If you believe India's
research future must
be inclusive,
ambitious and built
to last, be part of
what comes next.

RESEARCH FOR
RESURGENCE
indiarising.org.in ·
admin@indiarising.org.in · 984579505