MALLA REDDY VISHWAVIDYAPEETH
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

Recognised Under Section 3 of The UGC Act, 1956, Vide Notification No.9-4/2024-U.3(A) by Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Ref. No: MRV/Policies/032 **Date: 05.10.2026**

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance of the resolution passed by the Executive Council at its meeting held on 03/10/2026 **vide Resolution No. EC-08-07 as adopted on 3rd October 2026.**

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that **Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth**, has published the **"Research Policy"** for information to all concerned. The **Research Policy Document** mainly comprises the following parts:

- **Research Administration & Scholarly Standards**
- **Funding, Infrastructure & Researcher Support**
- **Rewards, PhD Programme & Consultancy**
- **Innovation, IPR, Publications & Monitoring**

The **Research Policy Document** will serve as detailed guidelines and will be useful to all concerned. It will come into force with immediate effect.

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Registrar

Copy to

1. Hon'ble Chancellor, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth
2. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth
3. Pro Vice Chancellor, Academics & Accreditation, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth
4. Pro Vice Chancellor, MRTC, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth
5. Deans/ Principals/ Directors/ of all Constituent Colleges/Schools of Eminence, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth
6. Director (Research), Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth
7. Controller of Examinations, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth
8. Finance Officer, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth
9. IQAC Coordinator, Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth
10. Web master for uploading on the Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth Website.



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MRV RESEARCH POLICY

RESEARCH POLICY

MALLA REDDY VISHWAVIDYAPEETH
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Chapter 1: Research Policy Framework

1.1 About Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth

The Ministry of Education, Government of India, upon the recommendation of the UGC, conferred Deemed to be University status on Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth (MRV), recognised under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, vide notification no. 9-4/2024-U.3(A) dated 07.09.2024. The Chandramma Educational Society comprises seven constituent units spanning Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Engineering. MRV also has seven distinct schools of eminence offering new-age interdisciplinary programmes with state-of-the-art infrastructure and qualified, experienced faculty. All programmes offered in the constituent units are duly recognised by the respective statutory bodies.

1.2 Vision for Research

To establish MRV as a nationally and internationally recognised hub of high-quality, ethical, and socially relevant research and innovation, where discovery translates into publications, intellectual property, enterprise, and societal benefit.

1.3 Scope

MRV encourages its faculty members, research scholars, interns, and students to undertake research in their respective domains. This policy applies to all constituent colleges, schools, and centres of MRV, and to faculty and students on campus under exchange programmes, faculty appointed on contract, visiting scientists, scientific officers, and other relevant stakeholders. It provides a comprehensive framework for all research activities and for the intramural and extramural funding, ethics, incentive, doctoral, consultancy, innovation, and intellectual-property provisions detailed in the subsequent chapters.

1.4 Objectives

a. Ensure that all researchers are familiar with and adhere to the research policies and guidelines of the University.

b. Identify and prioritise key research areas for MRV, including interdisciplinary and translational themes aligned with national missions and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

c. Provide the necessary infrastructure, funding, and administrative support for research activities.

CME forums, seminars, and national/international conferences. In line with the practice of leading deemed universities, demonstrable research capability shall be a criterion in faculty recruitment, and faculty promotions, annual increments, and research incentives shall be linked to the quality of research output, particularly publications and research grants. Support provided for research includes:

a. Seed grants for innovative, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research to permanent faculty members, sanctioned in the range of one to ten lakh rupees per project subject to merit (Chapter 4).

b. Reimbursement of registration fees and travel for paper presentation at conferences, up to ₹30,000 for national/international conferences within India and up to ₹50,000 for international conferences outside India, limited to one paper per faculty per conference per year (Chapter 5). No DA is paid; academic full-pay duty leave is granted.

c. Research incentives for distinguished accomplishments, including publications, books, book chapters, patents, collaborations, research funding, and additional qualifications (Chapter 6).

d. Support for article processing charges (APC) for manuscripts accepted in quality indexed journals, scrutinised by a committee appointed by the Vice-Chancellor.

e. Endowed research chairs and professorships, instituted from University and donor corpus funds, to recognise and retain outstanding researchers.

1.9 Student Support

MRV provides research assistance for undergraduates, postgraduates, and doctoral students undertaking research beyond mandatory requirements. A structured Undergraduate/Short-Term Research Programme (Chapter 11) offers mentored studentships. PhD fellowships are offered based on funding availability. Recipients of research support must acknowledge MRV in related publications. Exceptional candidates may receive additional funding for research in advanced areas, and student research mentorship programmes are encouraged.

1.10 Training and Supervision – Role of Research Supervisors/PhD Guides

Research Supervisors/PhD guides are expected to mentor students effectively, ensuring excellence, integrity, and adherence to ethical research practices. Their responsibilities include:

a. Informing students about academic integrity and ethical conduct requirements.

b. Providing access to relevant regulatory frameworks and research documents.

c. Ensuring proper data handling and publication ethics.

d. Adhering to guidelines on authorship and intellectual property rights.

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d. Maintain the highest standards of integrity, ethics, and honesty in research in conformity with national and international standards.

e. Ensure high-quality publications in journals indexed in Scopus/Web of Science, generation of intellectual property with potential for commercialisation, and socially useful research outcomes.

f. Forge interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships, nationally and globally, and establish centres of excellence within the University.

1.5 Governance and Custodianship

The implementation and updating of this Research Policy shall be carried out by the Directorate of Research (DoR), MRV. A Research Advisory Board shall operate under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Research. The University Research Committee shall provide administrative support, guidance, and advice on research matters. Research activities of each constituent institution shall be coordinated by its Head of Institution or nominee, who shall report research output to the DoR on a quarterly basis for assessment and corrective action. This policy shall be amended from time to time on a need basis.

1.6 Ethics in Research

All researchers are required to uphold the highest levels of honesty, integrity, and ethical standards. Research must be approved by the Scientific Review Committee (SRC) and the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) to ensure adherence to ethical norms, including the welfare and safety of participants. No research may commence without proper ethical clearance from the IEC or Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC). All approved projects must be reported to the DoR through the heads of the constituent colleges or centres. Compliance with the Code of Ethics for Research (Chapter 2) is mandatory.

1.7 Trial Registration

All clinical trials must be registered prospectively with the Clinical Trials Registry of India (CTRI) before enrolling the first participant. The principal investigator and corresponding author are responsible for maintaining compliance with documentation standards. Investigator-initiated studies must also keep their CTRI records updated.

1.8 Faculty Support, Recruitment, and Promotions

Faculty members are required to engage in high-quality research demonstrated by impactful publications in reputed Scopus or Web of Science-indexed journals/book series, conference proceedings, and trade publications, and are encouraged to present their findings in the University's

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e. Maintaining compliance with safety protocols for hazardous research activities.

Visiting scholars and interns from other organisations may pursue research at MRV, subject to departmental resources and infrastructure availability.

1.11 Doctoral Research

Doctoral programmes are offered across all departments in compliance with UGC regulations (Chapter 7). Research Supervisors are responsible for: (a) production of high-quality theses and publications meeting academic and ethical standards; (b) proper attribution of all research outcomes and publications to MRV; (c) filing of patents through MRV for innovations resulting from doctoral research; and (d) allotting innovative thesis topics and bringing out at least four research papers.

1.12 Collaborative Research (Inter-Institutional)

Collaborative research involving multiple departments or institutions must designate a Principal Coordinator to oversee responsibilities. Collaborating institutions must comply with MRV's research policy and regulatory guidelines. Roles, financial terms, and intellectual property rights must be agreed upon and documented before project initiation.

1.13 Research Funds

MRV supports securing research funds through external grants from governmental agencies (ICMR, DBT, DST, DSIR, etc.) and non-governmental agencies (private funders, industries, trusts, and societies). Principal Investigators (PIs) must ensure that research funds are used in accordance with the policies of the funding agency and MRV. All publications arising from funded research, including MRV seed grants, must acknowledge the funding source. MRV maintains a dedicated research corpus to strengthen institutional research capacity, support interdisciplinary innovation, and promote sustainable scientific advancement.

1.13.1 Extramural Funds

Eligible researchers shall apply for external funding through the proper channel, with proposals recommended by the department head, the institutional SRC, and the Head of Institution. Travel for presenting proposals to funding agencies is supported by MRV; travel for progress reports must be met from the project budget. PIs must categorise budgets into non-recurring expenses (equipment and accessories) and recurring expenses (consumables, manpower, travel, contingencies, overheads). Equipment purchased through a project becomes MRV's property on completion and shall be accessible to other researchers.

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1.13.2 Fund Management

MRV is responsible for the financial and administrative management of research grants. Funds are maintained in the University's bank account unless the granting agency requires a separate account. The Finance Office manages audited statements and utilisation certificates. All agreements with funding agencies must explicitly name MRV and the respective PIs. A final grant completion report detailing outcomes, milestones, and a utilisation certificate is required. All research fund allocations shall be disbursed only upon the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

1.14 Conflict of Interest

Researchers must disclose any conflicts of interest that could influence decisions or judgments related to their research. Failure to declare conflicts, whether intentional or accidental, will result in disciplinary action, and a corrigendum may be required for affected publications.

1.15 Publication Guidelines

1.15.1 Choosing a Journal

a. Ensure the journal aligns with the research topic and methodology, and supports interdisciplinary research where needed.

b. Prefer well-known publishers or journals with a credible track record; avoid predatory journals that charge exorbitant fees without genuine peer review.

c. Ensure the journal is indexed in reputable databases such as Scopus or Web of Science, and consider its impact factor or equivalent metrics.

d. Confirm the journal uses a robust peer-review system; avoid journals with suspiciously fast review processes.

e. Check article processing charges for reasonableness and verify open-access compliance with funder requirements.

f. Ensure adherence to ethical guidelines such as COPE, and transparency in editorial practices and conflict-of-interest disclosures.

g. Watch for red flags of predatory journals (aggressive solicitations, absent indexing, missing editorial boards); consult the DoR in case of doubt.

1.15.2 General Guidelines for Publishing Research Outputs

a. Obtain consent from all authors before submission, ensuring their agreement to be listed and that contributions are original and plagiarism-free.

b. Arrange author names in the order of contribution, giving credit appropriately.

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c. For manuscripts arising from student research, the student researcher shall be listed as first author and the PI/Guide as corresponding author.

d. Provide a copy of the final published work to the office of the DoR.

e. Publications from any constituent college must include "Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth" as institutional affiliation along with the institute's name.

f. All publications shall be mapped to the relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals at the time of reporting to the DoR.

1.16 Research Misconduct

The following constitute research misconduct and will attract investigation and disciplinary action by a University committee led by the Registrar and the Director of Research:

a. **Simultaneous submission:** submitting the same manuscript to multiple journals simultaneously. Manuscripts must be documented with the MRV Publication Cell before submission.

b. **Duplicate publication:** monitored by the Publication Cell; guilty authors must withdraw the duplicate paper and face disciplinary action.

c. **Lack of originality:** submitted work must be original and unpublished; reuse of material must be transparently disclosed to avoid self-plagiarism or text recycling.

d. **Salami-slicing:** dividing a single study into multiple smaller papers to inflate publication counts.

e. **Data manipulation:** fabricating or manipulating data, including image manipulation. PIs must securely store raw data and research records for an extended period after publication.

f. **Improper citation:** excessive or coordinated self-citation is strongly discouraged; claims must be supported by appropriate literature.

g. **Missing or incomplete acknowledgements:** use of others' data, text, or theories without proper acknowledgement constitutes intellectual theft; citations, quotation marks, and permissions for copyrighted material are mandatory.

h. **Improper study design or reporting:** research must adhere to discipline-specific standards for acquiring, selecting, and processing data; justified deviations must be disclosed.

1.16.1 Ethics of Authorship

MRV adheres to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) criteria for authorship: (a) significant contribution to design, data acquisition, analysis, or interpretation; (b) involvement in drafting or critically revising the manuscript; (c) final approval of the version to be

published; and (d) accountability for all aspects of the work. Ghost, guest, and gifted authorship are prohibited. Reports of unethical authorship may be confidentially submitted to the DoR for investigation. An Academic Dishonesty and Disciplinary Committee shall be constituted on the instruction of the Vice-Chancellor to inquire into reported cases, and suitable disciplinary action shall be initiated where guilt is established.

1.17 Plagiarism Policy

MRV follows the UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018. Faculty and students have access to iThenticate (or equivalent) software for similarity checking. All documents must undergo a plagiarism check before submission; the similarity percentage in theses shall not exceed 10%.

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Chapter 2: Code of Ethics for Research

2.1 Preamble

MRV is committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, ethics, and professionalism in research. This Code aligns with global best practices while incorporating institutional values and national regulatory guidelines, and serves as the guiding framework for all research activities within MRV.

2.2 Scope and Definitions

a. **Research:** any systematic scientific activity conducted to answer research questions using human participants, biological samples, data, or animals, to generate or disseminate new knowledge.

b. **Researcher:** any faculty member, scholar, student, or research assistant conducting research at MRV or its affiliated institutions.

c. **Human participants:** any individual voluntarily participating in research, including patients and caregivers.

d. **Animal research subjects:** animals used in research under regulated ethical guidelines.

e. **Biological samples:** human and non-human biological materials used for research, requiring ethical clearance.

Committees governing research ethics: the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) approves and monitors human research; the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) reviews research involving animals; the Scientific Review Committee (SRC) evaluates the scientific merit of proposals.

2.3 Human Biomedical and Healthcare Research

a. Research involving human participants must comply with the ICMR National Ethical Guidelines and Good Clinical Practice guidelines.

b. Ethical clearance from the IEC is mandatory before initiating research; all research must first be approved by the SRC.

c. Participants' safety is paramount at every stage – conception, design, implementation, and dissemination – and shall never be compromised in the interest of science.

d. Informed consent must be voluntary, documented, and transparent.

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e. Researchers must maintain confidentiality and protect participant data; adverse events or ethical violations must be reported immediately.

f. Stem cell research must comply with national and institutional guidelines and requires approval from the ISCRC and IEC.

g. Research must be conducted by qualified and trained personnel; research outside MRV requires institutional permissions and adherence to ethical regulations.

h. Human tissues, samples, data, or records obtained in the course of healthcare shall not be used for research without Ethics Committee approval and, wherever required, informed consent; sharing with outside laboratories requires the requisite regulatory permissions.

i. Manuscripts must be checked for plagiarism (similarity not exceeding 10%) and must duly acknowledge affiliation with the University.

j. Authorship must satisfy ICMJE and COPE criteria, with author placement decided at protocol writing; conflicts of interest (financial and non-financial) must be declared.

k. Research documents must be kept confidential and stored as per applicable regulations; researchers shall minimise environmental burden through responsible use and disposal of biological materials.

2.4 Research Involving Animals

a. Animal research must be conducted in accordance with the Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CCSEA) requirements.

b. Research involving animals, directly or indirectly, must be pre-approved by the IAEC and conducted as per the approved protocol.

c. MRV requires researchers to conduct animal research only where no alternative model exists, observing the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle, and rehabilitate.

2.5 Code of Ethics for Ethics Committees

a. This code applies to both the IEC and the IAEC.

b. Ethics Committees must review and approve research protocols keeping participant protection foremost, and maintain the highest standards for review and post-approval activities.

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c. Committees must monitor each study until completion, follow applicable guidelines and regulations, and review protocols independently in adherence to their Standard Operating Procedures.

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Chapter 3: Research Finance & Infrastructure Cell (RFIC)

3.1 About RFIC and Scope

The RFIC functions under the Directorate of Research to provide a comprehensive framework for the financial, infrastructural, and administrative management of institutional research. It governs financial management, seed grant implementation, infrastructure support, and monitoring of research outcomes for all research and development activities funded through intramural schemes across the constituent colleges and centres, ensuring transparency, accountability, and efficiency.

3.2 Objectives

a. Provide a structured and transparent framework for managing institutional research funds and infrastructure.

b. Strengthen research governance through efficient monitoring, evaluation, and compliance mechanisms.

c. Ensure accountability in the utilisation of financial and infrastructural resources.

d. Support investigators with timely access to calls for proposals, institutional funding, and shared infrastructure.

e. Align institutional research operations with funding agencies and their governance.

3.3 Organisational Structure

The RFIC operates through an interconnected governance workflow comprising four core units:

a. **Grant Management Office (GMO):** administers grant calls, processes submissions, issues Letters of Approval, and coordinates fund disbursement and compliance. It is headed by a Grant Officer (Member Secretary) supported by research administration staff, maintains the funded-project database, and coordinates utilisation certificates (UCs) and audit reports.

b. **Finance & Infrastructure Committee (FIC):** oversees financial scrutiny, infrastructure planning, and approval of resource allocation. Composition: Chairperson – Director of Research; Co-Chairperson – Finance Officer; Members – Chief Innovation Officer, Audit Officer, Accounts Officer; Member Secretary – Grant Officer. Quorum: three members including the Chairperson. It meets at least once every six months and reports to the DoR with copies to the Finance Cell and the Vice-Chancellor's office.

c. **Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC):** conducts scientific, technical, and merit-based evaluation of proposals. Composition: Chairperson – Director of Research; Members – Chief Innovation Officer and two senior professors (domain experts); Member Secretary – Grant

Officer. Quorum: three members including the Chairperson. It convenes at least twice per academic year and submits recommendations, via the GMO, to the DoR and the Vice-Chancellor for final approval.

d. **Local Project Monitoring Committee (LPMC):** the monitoring arm for funded projects; tracks progress milestones, flags delays, endorses ethics clearance case-by-case, and recommends continuation or termination in coordination with the GEC and FIC.

3.4 Financial Management, Audit, Reporting, and Review

a. All intramural funds and infrastructure expenditure are subject to institutional financial rules, internal audit, and external audit where applicable.

b. UCs shall be submitted at the end of each financial year to the FIC via the GMO and archived in the DoR; unspent funds shall be returned as per University policy with the approval of the FIC and the Vice-Chancellor.

c. Conflict of interest, misuse of funds, asset mismanagement, or research misconduct shall be investigated in line with this Research Policy.

d. The GEC and FIC shall maintain minutes, decision records, and action-taken reports. The GMO shall prepare an annual RFIC report (proposals received and sanctioned, funds released, progress, infrastructure additions, audit outcomes) for the Vice-Chancellor and Executive Council through the Director of Research.

e. This framework shall be reviewed periodically; amendments are recommended by the Director of Research, approved by the Vice-Chancellor, and notified to all stakeholders.



Chapter 4: Seed Grant Scheme

4.1 Preamble and Objectives

The Seed Grant Scheme nurtures a culture of research among faculty by supporting novel, innovative, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary projects. Its objectives are to cultivate a supportive research ecosystem; support projects aligned with societal needs and the SDGs with commercialisation potential; enable preliminary results for attracting extramural funding; test novel concepts in preparation for larger grants; foster interdepartmental collaboration; and stimulate product or process development leading to intellectual property.

4.2 Eligibility

a. Permanent faculty members of MRV holding the positions of Professor, Associate Professor, or Assistant Professor.

b. Applicants must have at least two publications in Scopus/Web of Science-indexed journals in the last five years as first, second, or corresponding author.

c. Early-career faculty (within five years of first appointment) who do not yet meet the publication criterion may apply under the Young Faculty Intramural Grant track (Section 11.4), modelled on peer-institution practice.

4.3 Guidelines and Regulations

a. Proposals must be original and innovative, with clearly defined objectives.

b. All IPR arising from the project shall be the property of the University, with the investigators recognised as inventors.

c. Proposals shall first be scrutinised by the institutional SRC and then submitted in the prescribed format, with the SRC approval letter, to the GMO through the Head of Department and Dean.

d. All Seed Grant operations are governed under the RFIC and administered through the GMO, FIC, GEC, and LPMC (Chapter 3).

e. A faculty member may serve as PI on only one project and as Co-PI on not more than three proposals; each proposal must include at least one PI and one Co-PI.

f. Funding for individual projects will be sanctioned within one to ten lakh rupees, subject to merit, and released periodically; a Letter of Approval is issued to the PI on selection.

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g. Approved projects are monitored by the LPMC through bi-annual performance reports; the GEC reviews technical progress and the DoR authorises continuation, modification, or discontinuation. Subsequent disbursement depends on satisfactory performance.

h. **Workflow:** Call for proposal → Proposal submission → SRC screening → LPMC preliminary review → GEC technical evaluation → DoR/VC approval → GMO issues LOA → FIC sanction and fund release → LPMC progress assessment → GEC final review → Project completion and closure.

i. No project involving human/animal subjects, biosafety-level work, or sensitive data may commence without institutional ethics approval.

j. All members involved in evaluation or monitoring must declare conflicts of interest and withdraw from related decisions.

k. Investigators must present progress reports and utilisation certificates every six months.

l. Project duration is limited to 18 months, with an optional six-month no-cost extension in exceptional circumstances; a completion certificate is issued on successful closure.

m. A recipient may not submit another seed proposal until the previously approved project is completed.

n. A PI leaving the University must inform the DoR in advance, transfer data and remaining funds to the Co-PI, and obtain a No Objection Certificate from the DoR.

o. Grants must be used only for the sanctioned project; unutilised funds are surrendered to the DoR; all procurement must comply with FIC financial regulations and audit.

p. The GMO shall publish an annual Seed Grant Report covering sanctioned projects, funds released, progress, outcomes, UCs, and infrastructure utilisation.

4.4 Expected Outcomes

Seed projects are expected to deliver at least two of the following: high-quality Scopus/WoS-indexed publications; creation of intellectual property; technologies or processes with transfer/commercialisation potential; startups based on the research; or extramural funding for further research.

4.5 Utilisation of Funds and Accountability

a. Funds must be used exclusively for research-related expenses (consumables, minor equipment, travel, outsourcing, analysis costs).

b. Funds cannot be used for salaries, fellowships, incentives, or electronic items such as laptops, desktops, tablets, mobiles, or hard disks.

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c. Projects related to the PhD work of faculty are not eligible for seed funding.

d. Investigators must maintain detailed expenditure records and provide financial reports; misuse of funds will result in suspension of the project, recovery of the amount from the PI, and ineligibility for future funding.

Sd/-

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Chapter 5: Faculty Development Fund (FDF)

5.1 Purpose, Objectives, and Scope

The FDF supports the academic and professional growth of permanent faculty members by funding participation in speciality conferences and workshops with strategic outcomes, encouraging continuous professional development, fostering collaboration and networking, and ensuring that knowledge gained is used to enhance curriculum delivery, clinical standards, research culture, and student outcomes. Support is limited to reputable, non-predatory events. The fund is available once per academic year per faculty member, as reimbursement.

5.2 Eligibility

Permanent faculty members and scientific officers of MRV presenting a paper/poster at national or international conferences organised by their respective professional associations.

5.3 Application and Sanction Process

a. Submit a formal request with conference details and relevance to the respective Dean for initial approval.

b. After the call for reimbursement applications, submit the prescribed application form with conference details, incurred expenses, and the approval letter, routed through the HOD and Dean.

c. Reimbursement is processed on submission of supporting documents: registration fee receipts, travel invoices, participation certificates, and proof of presentation.

5.4 Financial Assistance

a. **Maximum reimbursement:** up to ₹30,000 for national/international conferences within India and up to ₹50,000 for international conferences outside India, limited to one paper per faculty for one conference per academic year.

b. For local conferences (within Telangana), only registration fees are reimbursed.

c. The extent of assistance for registration fees is determined case-by-case within budgetary provisions; exceptions for additional funding are considered case-by-case.

5.5 General Guidelines and Compliance

a. Participation without prior approval of the HOD and Dean is ineligible for reimbursement.

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b. Only recognised academic events organised by reputable universities, statutory councils, professional bodies, or accredited institutions are eligible; predatory events are strictly ineligible, and faculty should verify authenticity with the DoR in case of doubt.

c. Only actual expenses supported by original bills/receipts are reimbursed; incomplete claims are not processed.

d. After the event, faculty must submit a participation certificate, receipts, and a brief report, and share the knowledge gained through CMEs, departmental presentations, reports, and newsletters.

e. Misrepresentation or falsification leads to withdrawal of sanction and disciplinary action; the Vice-Chancellor's decision is final in all matters; the policy is reviewed annually.

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Chapter 6: Research Incentive Structure

Incentives recognize and reward academic and research excellence in the form of publications, books, book chapters, conference proceedings, research projects and collaborations, patents, additional qualifications, e-content development, start-up incorporation, and awards and fellowships. Publication incentives apply to publications carrying MRV affiliation, and are payable as applicable to the first/corresponding author and other authors. The detailed incentive structures and amounts for the constituent units shall be notified separately by the competent authority and revised from time to time. Any other incentives will be decided from time to time by the competent authority.

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Chapter 7: PhD Programme Regulations

7.1 Title and Commencement

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme at MRV is governed by the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of PhD Degree) Regulations, 2022, and aims to promote high-quality multidisciplinary research. Admission is based on merit and UGC guidelines. PhD regulations of other statutory bodies (NMC, DCI, PCI, etc.) may be considered and implemented as required.

7.2 Eligibility for Admission

a. A 1-year/2-semester master's degree after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree, or a 2-year/4-semester master's degree after a 3-year bachelor's degree, or an equivalent qualification recognised by the corresponding statutory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or an equivalent grade.

b. Candidates seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree require a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or equivalent grade.

c. MPhil holders with at least 55% marks, or equivalent foreign qualifications from duly accredited institutions, are eligible.

d. **Faculty-wise eligibility:** Medicine – MD/MS (NMC-recognised); Dentistry – MDS; Allied and Health Sciences, Public Health, Digital Health, Management – master's degree in a relevant discipline; Pharmaceutical Sciences – MPharm/PharmD; Engineering and Technology – ME/MTech; each with a minimum of 55% marks.

7.3 Duration

a. **Full-time PhD:** minimum three years, maximum six years including coursework, from the date of registration.

b. An extension of up to two further years may be granted through re-registration with proper joint justification; total duration shall not exceed eight years from admission.

c. **Part-time PhD:** minimum four years, maximum eight years including coursework.

d. Female scholars may be granted maternity or childcare leave as per MRV norms; relocation provisions for women scholars follow UGC Regulations.

7.4 Selection and Admission

a. Applications are made in the prescribed form following public notification, with attested certificates and a summary of the proposed research.

b. Admission is through a two-stage process: an entrance examination (50% research methodology and current affairs, 50% subject-specific) followed by an interview; a minimum of 50% marks in the entrance test qualifies a candidate for interview.

c. UGC-NET/UGC-CSIR NET/GATE/CEED and similar national fellowship qualifiers are exempt from the entrance examination.

d. A 5% relaxation in the entrance examination applies to SC/ST/OBC, differently-abled, EWS, and other notified categories.

e. A University committee evaluates applications, entrance and interview outcomes, and research proposals, and recommends admission; the list of supervisors and admitted scholars is published on the MRV website.

7.5 Research Supervisors

a. Professors/Associate Professors with at least five research publications in peer-reviewed journals, and Assistant Professors with a PhD and at least three such publications, may be recognised as Research Supervisors with Board of Studies approval.

b. A Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor may guide up to 8/6/4 PhD scholars respectively at any given time, inclusive of national and international candidates; each supervisor may additionally guide up to two international scholars on a supernumerary basis within the cadre ceiling.

c. PG-department professors without a doctorate may be recognised as supervisors with 10 years of post-master's teaching experience (five at PG level) and at least four original indexed publications.

d. Co-supervisors may be appointed for interdisciplinary research from other departments, institutions, industry, or R&D organisations; adjunct faculty may serve only as co-supervisors.

e. Change of supervisor is permitted only in exceptional cases with NOC from the current supervisor and endorsement of the Head of the Institution, following due committee process.

f. Faculty with less than three years to superannuation shall not take new scholars; they may continue existing scholars until superannuation and serve as co-supervisor thereafter, but not beyond age 70.

7.6 Coursework

PhD scholars must complete a minimum of 12 credits of coursework within 12–18 months of registration, including a Research and Publication Ethics course (as notified by UGC) and a research

methodology course, securing at least 55% (or equivalent grade on the UGC 10-point scale) to continue in the programme:

S. No.	Course	Credits	Mode of evaluation
1	Research & Publication Ethics	2	Online (SWAYAM); Satisfactory/Not satisfactory
2	Research Methodology and Statistics	4	Written test and seminar/presentation; Satisfactory/Not satisfactory
3	Theoretical Foundation & Core Subject	3/4	Online/offline, MOOC/SWAYAM/Coursera, approved by RAC
4	Literature Review and Research Proposal	3/4	Online/offline, MOOC/SWAYAM/Coursera, approved by RAC

All scholars shall train in teaching/education/pedagogy/writing related to their PhD subject and may be assigned 4–6 hours per week of teaching/research assistantship.

7.7 Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

An RAC is formed for each candidate, consisting of the Head of the Department/Institution, the Guide (Convenor), Co-Guide(s), and one or two external experts. The RAC evaluates and approves the research proposal; reviews progress every six months with a presentation and written report by the scholar; records reasons and corrective measures where progress is unsatisfactory (and may recommend cancellation of registration if corrective measures are not implemented); evaluates the pre-submission synopsis; and approves the final thesis for submission.

7.8 Evaluation, Thesis Submission, and Award

a. Before submission, the scholar makes an open synopsis presentation before the RAC; feedback is incorporated in consultation with RAC members.

b. Scholars must publish at least two original research papers as first author in Scopus/WoS-indexed journals and make at least two conference presentations before thesis submission, with documentary evidence.

c. The application and final summary, signed by supervisor and co-supervisor(s), must reach the Controller of Examinations (COE) through the Dean at least three months before thesis submission.

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d. A plagiarism-check certificate endorsed by the supervisor(s) accompanies the final thesis; similarity shall not exceed 10%.

e. Three hard copies and a soft copy of the thesis, with no-due certificates, are submitted to the COE; the thesis is evaluated by at least two external examiners (one from outside India).

f. The viva voce board comprises the supervisor and at least one external examiner; the defence is open and may be conducted online. The entire evaluation, including declaration of the viva result, shall be completed within six months of submission.

g. Part-time candidates require a No Objection Certificate from their employer confirming permission, adequate time for research, and relief for coursework if required.

h. A provisional certificate shall be issued stating that the degree is awarded in accordance with UGC Regulations, and an electronic copy of the thesis shall be deposited with INFLIBNET before the award is announced.

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Chapter 8: Consultancy Policy

8.1 Introduction, Objectives, and Scope

MRV encourages faculty and staff to engage in consultancy activities aligned with its mission and expertise, fostering collaboration between academia and industry, addressing societal and industrial needs, enhancing institutional reputation, and generating additional revenue. The policy applies to all faculty members, technical staff, and administrative personnel and covers advisory consultancy, research-based consultancy, technical and clinical services, and training and capacity-building programmes. Its objectives are to facilitate consultancy aligned with MRV's mission, promote academia–industry collaboration, provide a management framework, and ensure that consultancy does not compromise academic responsibilities or ethical standards.

8.2 Eligibility and Approval

a. Full-time faculty and staff are eligible; consultancy must align with the individual's domain expertise and MRV's resources.

b. Proposals are routed through the HOD and Dean; final approval is granted by MRV's Consultancy Cell/Committee in coordination with the Directorate of Research and the Industry–Academia Cell.

c. A formal agreement covering scope, timeline, financial details, and IPR terms must be signed before commencement.

8.3 Revenue Sharing and IPR

a. **Individual consultancy:** 30% to the consultant(s) and 70% retained by the University for administrative and infrastructure support.

b. **Departmental consultancy:** 70% to the department and 30% retained by the University.

c. IPR arising from consultancy is shared as per the terms of the consultancy contract; MRV retains a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence for non-commercial academic purposes. IP arising from consultancy routed through MRV channels shall be assigned to MRV, with a first-refusal licensing option to the consulting firm (Chapter 10).

8.4 Conflict of Interest, Monitoring, Compliance, and Disputes

a. Consultancy must not interfere with academic responsibilities; full disclosure of potential conflicts of interest is mandatory at proposal submission.

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b. Consultants must provide periodic updates to the Consultancy Cell and a final report with financial reconciliation on completion.

c. Activities must comply with MRV regulations, professional ethics, and applicable laws; clinical and research consultancies must adhere to the relevant regulatory standards.

d. Disputes are resolved by MRV's designated arbitration panel. The policy is reviewed biennially.

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Chapter 9: Innovation, Startup & Incubation Policy

9.1 Preamble and Vision

MRV recognises the vital role of higher-education institutions in converting research, innovation, and applied learning into products, services, and social impact. This chapter lays down an enabling framework to support students, faculty, researchers, and staff in ideation, pre-incubation, incubation, and commercialisation, while protecting stakeholders' rights and the University's long-term interests. MRV envisions becoming a hub of transformative ideas that evolve into impactful enterprises, empowering young innovators, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, promoting technology-driven entrepreneurship, and contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat and global sustainability goals. Incubation and mentorship facilities are also extended to startups, individuals, companies, LLPs, and researchers from outside MRV.

9.2 Key Goals

a. Provide robust physical and virtual infrastructure for ideation, prototyping, and incubation.

b. Integrate entrepreneurship into academic curricula and outcomes.

c. Establish a fair, transparent IP and technology-transfer framework that rewards inventors and enables commercialisation.

d. Mobilise institutional and external resources to support seed-stage projects and early startups.

e. Build lasting partnerships with industry, investors, alumni, and national programmes.

f. Track impact using measurable KPIs (startups formed, patents filed/licensed, jobs created, revenue, funds raised).

9.3 Governance

a. **Innovation Advisory Board (IAB):** Chair – Vice-Chancellor (or nominee); Co-Chair – Pro-Vice-Chancellor/Director (Research); Convener – Incubator CEO; Members – 2–3 senior faculty, two industry/startup ecosystem experts, one legal/IP expert, the CFO (or nominee), one alumni entrepreneur, and one student representative. The IAB oversees implementation, approves strategy, reviews KPIs, and meets at least twice a year; members serve renewable two-year terms.

b. **MRV Incubation Centre (MIC):** day-to-day operations for pre-incubation/incubation, co-working, mentorship, and investor connect.

c. **IP & Technology Transfer Cell (IPTC):** invention disclosures, patent filings, IP management, licensing negotiations, and legal coordination.

d. NISP Coordinator / Institution's Innovation Council (IIC): coordinates pedagogy, outreach, and student activities.

e. **Policy period:** three years from approval, subject to periodic IAB review; amendments are approved by the Competent Authority.

9.4 Policy Pillars and Financial Resources

The framework rests on pillars of academics (credit-bearing entrepreneurship modules), infrastructure (maker spaces, design labs, wet labs, co-working spaces), resources (institutional seed funding, mentorship, legal and business advisory), programmes (pre-incubation of 3–6 months, incubation of 6–36 months, accelerators, hackathons, demo days), events, supporting policies, collaboration and outreach, research-based entrepreneurship, and impact measurement. MRV shall allocate a minimum portion of its annual budget for innovation and startup activities, pursue external grants (DST, DBT, BIRAC, MeitY, Startup India, MSME, AICTE), CSR funds, alumni contributions, and sponsorships. Seed fund disbursement is milestone-based through a transparent committee.

9.5 Norms for Faculty Startups

a. **Disclosure and approval:** faculty wishing to found or join a startup must disclose their intent to the Head of Department and the MRV Incubation Centre; no faculty startup may operate under the MRV banner or use institutional facilities without formal application, evaluation, and approval.

b. **Modes of engagement:** passive investment (financial declaration only); mentor/advisory role (with disclosure, subject to time commitments); founder/full-time commitment (with permission of the competent authority, and options such as leave, sabbatical, or reduced load per HR rules).

c. Faculty incubatees may devote up to eight hours per week of institutional time to startup activities without compromising teaching, supervision, or administrative duties; conflicts must be declared and managed via a Conflict-of-Interest plan.

d. Substantial use of MRV funds, facilities, staff, or students requires prior written approval and may entitle MRV to a stake, licence, or right of first negotiation under the IP provisions.

e. **Incubation models:** Model A – independent faculty startup (full faculty ownership; IP developed using MRV infrastructure shared 70:30 in favour of the inventor or as per the IPR Policy; nominal 1–2% equity to the institution); Model B – collaborative startup of faculty, students, and institution (institutional equity of 5–10%; IP typically 50% faculty, 30% institution, 20% students, or as per the IPR Policy); Model C – research spin-off/consultancy-

based startup (technology-transfer model of the host institute, typically a 60:40 sharing subject to negotiation).

f. Entrepreneurial leave of up to six months may be granted for high-impact milestones, with a detailed plan endorsed by the Department Head, administration, and incubation leadership; sabbatical provisions may be leveraged for deep-tech, IP-heavy ventures.

g. Incubated ventures undergo quarterly reviews (technical milestones, IP status, financial utilisation, compliance, manpower) and submit monthly progress reports; persistent non-performance or non-compliance may lead to warnings or discontinuation.

h. Graduated startups obtain alumni status with subsidised access to facilities, continued mentorship, and priority in investor showcases, CSR opportunities, and grant nominations.

9.6 Norms for Student Startups

a. Students may work on startup ideas while enrolled and are encouraged to register with the MRV Incubation Centre for mentorship, workspace, and seed support; eligibility requires good academic standing and a viable idea within MRV's thematic areas.

b. **Academic considerations:** deferred placements, credit transfers, independent study, thesis credit for startup work, attendance flexibility (up to 10–15%), and a Startup/Gap Semester or Gap Year may be provided under defined terms and approvals; minimum academic performance must be maintained.

c. Students using MRV infrastructure must follow lab safety, IP disclosure, and resource-usage policies; if startup work uses MRV funds or significant infrastructure, joint IP ownership/licensing clauses apply.

d. **IP sharing:** independently created student IP is 100% student-owned (with mandatory disclosure); IP involving MRV labs/infrastructure is typically shared 70% student : 30% institution; collaborative IP with faculty typically 50% student : 30% institution : 20% faculty; the institution may take a nominal 1–2% equity stake in supported startups.

e. Startups formed after graduation that seek MRV IP or facility access follow the Institute's technology-transfer route; graduated student ventures join the startup alumni network with subsidised continued support.

f. Non-teaching staff may invest in or mentor startups subject to disclosure and HR rules; use of MRV resources requires prior approval.



9.7 Fees, Manpower, and Resource Access

a. **One-time incubation fees:** faculty-led independent startups ₹5,000; faculty–student collaborative ventures ₹2,500; external faculty startups ₹10,000; internal student teams ₹1,500; student–faculty collaborative teams ₹1,000; external student teams ₹5,000.

b. Up to two co-working desks are free for the first 12 months; laboratory and testing services are available at 50% subsidised rates; basic labs are free for student teams.

c. Incubatees may engage student interns, research scholars, and project assistants with documented, transparently routed roles; cross-disciplinary teams are encouraged.

d. Resource access includes co-working and meeting spaces, advanced laboratories, fabrication and prototyping tools, clinical validation support through Malla Reddy Group Hospitals, dedicated mentorship, and investor-connect programmes.

e. All consultancy, testing, procurement, and external collaborations linked to an incubated startup must be routed through the incubation administration for compliance and audit.

9.8 IP, Technology Transfer, and Dispute Resolution

a. IP created using MRV funds, substantial facilities, significant staff time, or as part of academic programmes shall be jointly owned by the inventors and MRV; inventions developed entirely independently remain inventor-owned, subject to mandatory disclosure (Chapter 10).

b. Inventors submit an Invention Disclosure Form to the IPTC, which evaluates commercial potential and prior art and recommends protection within defined timelines; where MRV bears filing costs it obtains a share in IP or licensing rights.

c. Commercialisation pathways include licensing (upfront fees, milestones, royalties, and/or equity), revenue sharing, spin-off formation, or assignment; equity arrangements must be documented in shareholder agreements approved by MRV; sponsor IP obligations under external funding govern where applicable.

d. Disputes are resolved first internally by the IPTC, then by an Expert Committee constituted by the IAB, then by arbitration under the Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 (venue: Hyderabad), with judicial recourse in Hyderabad courts.

e. **Pedagogy:** entrepreneurship is embedded through credit-based modules, workshops (business models, regulatory affairs, fundraising, IPR, leadership), faculty development programmes, and industry/alumni mentorship.

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f. **Monitoring:** annual KPIs (startups incubated, patents filed and commercialised, funds raised, employment generated, collaborations, participation, courses conducted) are reviewed by the IAB every six months, with a published annual report; the policy is revised every three years or earlier.

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10.1 Preamble and Purpose

MRV seeks to promote research quality by encouraging creative and innovative ideas and the effective transfer of knowledge, technology, and best practice. This IPR Policy enables a conducive environment for IP development; protects the legitimate interests of employees, students, consultants, and retainers; provides a transparent administrative system for ownership, control, and transfer of IP; establishes management and procedural guidelines for utilising knowledge generated at MRV; empowers the University to use developed IP for the maximum benefit of creators, MRV, and the nation; and promotes fair use of traditional knowledge with benefit sharing.

10.2 Types of IP and Key Definitions

Recognised IP includes patents, copyrights, trade/service marks, industrial designs, software programs, IC layout designs, biotechnology/bioinformatics inventions, traditional knowledge, and geographical indications. "First Party" means MRV; "Second Party" means employees, students, consultants, and retainers of MRV; "Third Party" means any external organisation interacting with the First or Second Party. An "Inventor" is a person or group responsible for creating IP (with a Lead Inventor from MRV where there are several). "Work for hire" and "commissioned work" denote work produced for MRV's specific purposes by employees or contracted parties.

10.3 IPR Standing Committee (SC)

The IPR SC is the leading administrative body responsible for formulating procedures and implementing the IPR policy, subject to the approval of the Vice-Chancellor. Members: Chairperson – Director of Research; Member – Director, Coordination & Strategy; Member (technical) – Chief Innovation Officer; Member-Secretary (legal background); special invitees as required. Its functions include forming expert groups to assess potential IP; creating implementation procedures; maintaining records of filed IP; drafting IP clauses in agreements; conducting IP awareness programmes; mobilising external funds; collaborating for filing, licensing, and commercialisation; releasing IPR to inventors or third parties consistent with policy; and resolving disputes and violations. Appeals lie to the Grievance Committee of MRV and thereafter to the Vice-Chancellor, whose decision is final.

10.4 Ownership of IP

10.4.1 Patent, Software Copyright, Industrial Design, and IC Layout Design

IP is owned wholly or exclusively by MRV if it has been developed:

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a. solely with MRV funds/facilities, or with a mix of MRV and external funds/facilities without any formal associated agreement;

b. with external funds/facilities, including sponsored research and consultancy projects, without any associated agreement;

c. under a contract arrangement, including work for hire and work commissioned or outsourced by MRV;

d. pursuant to a written agreement transferring ownership to MRV; or

e. in a manner not assignable to identifiable contributors (e.g., software or processes developed over time with contributions from many individuals).

IP may be owned by third parties, exclusively or jointly with MRV, where it is developed under sponsored research, consultancy, or collaborative activity with a formal associated agreement; under collaborations without external funding but with associated agreements; or during an MRV employee's formal visit to a third-party institution. For government-funded projects, ownership follows the funding agency's clauses; for non-government funders, ownership may be shared considering relative contributions and background IP. Multi-country/multi-institutional projects require an explicit ownership agreement, and collaborations involving indigenous biological material must respect the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. IP may be owned by the inventor(s) where none of the above applies, the IP is unrelated to the inventor's engagement with MRV, and the work was pursued outside normal working hours.

10.4.2 Copyright Other than Software

Copyright in textbooks, research books, articles, monographs, teaching-learning resources, and other scholarly publications vests in the authors unless restricted by an associated agreement; MRV should be kept informed and revenue reported per prevailing rules. Copyright vests in MRV for works created under contract, and works normally assignable to MRV may be reassigned to authors on request where no third-party agreement is violated. Trade and service marks involving MRV are owned by MRV.

10.4.3 Other Provisions

a. **Biodiversity and traditional knowledge:** national laws must not be violated in securing IP protection or using such knowledge.

b. **Waiver:** MRV may waive its rights in favour of the inventor to enable commercialisation or where MRV does not favour protection; a decision to pursue or not pursue protection must be communicated within three months of complete disclosure. MRV normally retains a perpetual, royalty-free licence for research and educational purposes.

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c. **Trade secrets and know-how:** protected through NDAs with reasonable time limits; work at MRV is not generally considered proprietary.

d. **Third-party software and copyrighted material:** licence restrictions must be settled before IP creation or commercial use; copyrighted material may be used only as permitted by law and with prior permission where required.

10.5 Evaluation and Commercialisation

The IPR Committee evaluates each Invention Disclosure Form and communicates within 90 days whether MRV wishes to own and commercialise the IP, is unwilling to commercialise it, or considers ownership to be in doubt (in which case the matter is referred to the Vice-Chancellor, who decides within one month). Where MRV commercialises, all statutory costs are borne by MRV. The commercialisation schedule runs from disclosure (date zero): filing or confidentiality-based commercialisation within three months; review at five years (costs met from licensee receipts, or one further year of protection where commercialisation is imminent); and reversion of all rights and responsibilities to the inventor after six years if not commercialised, subject to sponsor agreements. Where rights are reverted and the property is later commercialised, the inventor pays MRV a royalty on the first slab of net profit in the proportion 60% creator : 40% MRV. Licensing through third parties (exclusive, sole, non-exclusive, or sub-licensing) must safeguard MRV's interests, avoid conflicts of interest, demonstrate the licensee's capability, and may be revoked if not commercialised within one year. MRV maintains transparency with creators at all stages.

10.6 Revenue Sharing

Net revenue from commercialisation of MRV-owned IP, after deduction of agreed costs, is shared in slabs (with "X" initially fixed at ₹100 lakhs):

Case	Net earnings	Inventor(s) share	MRV share
1	For the first slab of amount "X"	65%	35%
2	For the next slab of amount "X"	55%	45%
3	For amounts beyond "2X"	50%	50%

Where MRV reassigns IP rights to creators for any country, the creators reimburse MRV's protection, maintenance, and marketing costs from cumulative earnings as follows:

Case	Cumulative earnings	Inventor(s) share	MRV share
A	Up to twice the cost incurred by MRV for protection, marketing, and associated costs	25%	75%
B	Beyond Case A	75%	25%

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Co-creators sign a Distribution of IP Earnings Agreement at disclosure, revisable by mutual consent. The creator's share continues to be paid to the person or nominee irrespective of continued employment or demise. Where a third party (e.g., a funding agency) has a share, MRV and creator shares are calculated on net receipts after deducting that share. A fixed percentage of royalty revenue, as decided by the IP Committee, is directed to promotion and upgradation of the invention, IP protection, and commercialisation.

10.7 Transfer and Use of IP

a. Material Transfer Agreements govern transfer of materials (e.g., biotechnology inventions) where not covered by an NDA.

b. Transfer of biological resources and associated knowledge complies with the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, including National Biodiversity Authority approvals.

c. **Licensing guidelines:** exclusivity only for limited periods; sub-licensing terms clearly stated; MRV and its donors indemnified; licensing must not restrict research/publication rights or student thesis content; MRV's freedom to conduct independent R&D in the same area is preserved.

d. Use of MRV's name and trademarks by licensees/assignees requires a signed agreement, responsible use, truthful claims, no liability to MRV for misuse, and prior approval of the manner of use in any media; in no case shall IP be used against the interests of India.

e. **Handling of theses:** copyright of the thesis vests jointly in the supervising teacher and student, who grant MRV a non-exclusive, non-transferable, royalty-free licence for non-commercial academic use; additional commercialisable IP generated using MRV-supported resources is assigned to MRV, with confidentiality maintained until statutory protection is secured.

f. **Foreign filings:** MRV decides on foreign protection within six months of the complete Indian filing, subject to Section 39 of the Patents Act, 1970; where MRV opts out for a requested country, rights in that country are assigned to the creator(s). Foreign commercialisation proceeds through MRV's global partners.

g. All commitments, agreements, and MoUs for commercialisation of MRV-owned IP are executed in the name of MRV by the IP Committee, which also approves all NDAs, licence agreements, and MTAs, and provides templates.

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10.8 Infringement, Conflict of Interest, Disputes, Jurisdiction, and Amendment

a. MRV shall seek indemnity in licence contracts from legal proceedings (manufacturing defects, production problems, design guarantees, upgradation and debugging obligations) and retains the right to engage or not engage in litigation concerning patents and licence infringements.

b. Employees must disclose any stake they or their immediate family hold in a licensee or potential licensee; such licences/assignments require the approval of MRV management.

c. Disputes on implementation of this policy may be appealed to the Vice-Chancellor; the decision at the apex level is final and binding.

d. All agreements signed by MRV are subject to the jurisdiction of the courts in Hyderabad, Telangana, and governed by the laws of India.

e. MRV reserves the right to amend or modify this policy, in whole or in part, at any time.

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Chapter 11: New Provisions and Benchmarked Enhancements

The following provisions have been adopted or strengthened in this consolidated policy after benchmarking against the research policy frameworks and best practices of leading Indian deemed-to-be universities. These provisions take effect from the date of approval of this compendium.

11.1 Research Output in Recruitment, Promotion, and Review

a. Demonstrable research capability shall be a criterion in faculty recruitment, and faculty promotion shall significantly consider research undertaken, assessed on established yardsticks (quartile, impact factor, citations) revised from time to time.

b. Each constituent institution shall review its research output and report it to the DoR quarterly for assessment and corrective action.

c. An Academic Dishonesty and Disciplinary Committee shall be constituted by the Vice-Chancellor to inquire into reported cases of dishonesty in research.

11.2 Publication Charge (APC) Support and Endowed Chairs

a. MRV shall support article processing charges for manuscripts accepted in quality journals indexed in Scopus/Web of Science, scrutinised by a committee appointed by the Vice-Chancellor.

b. Endowed research chairs and professorships shall be instituted from University and donor corpus funds, on the model of endowment chairs at peer universities, to attract and retain outstanding researchers.

c. Departments with higher research intensity and output may be provided additional research manpower on justified requirement, subject to statutory norms.

11.3 Undergraduate Research Promotion, Research Awards, and SDG Mapping

a. An Undergraduate/Short-Term Research Programme shall be operated by the DoR, offering mentored short-term studentships (on the model of ICMR-STS) with a certificate and priority access to laboratories; students receive training in research ethics and responsible conduct of research, with faculty serving as mentors.

b. An annual scheme of Research Awards shall recognise outstanding contributions of faculty and scholars in research (best publication, best funded project, best patent/translation, and best young researcher), announced on Foundation Day.

c. All MRV publications shall be mapped to the UN Sustainable Development Goals at the time of reporting, and an SDG-mapped publication dashboard shall be maintained by the DoR.

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d. MRV may establish peer-reviewed University research journals and shall prescribe norms and standards for research project proposals, published on the University website.

11.4 Fellowships and Young Faculty Intramural Grants

a. MRV Chancellor's Research Fellowships shall be offered to meritorious full-time PhD scholars, subject to funding availability and annual notification of number and value.

b. A Young Faculty Intramural Grant track shall operate within the Seed Grant Scheme for early-career faculty (within five years of first appointment), with relaxed publication criteria, smaller grant sizes, and mandatory mentorship by a senior researcher.

c. Prospective CTRI registration, IEC/IAEC oversight, and Good Clinical Practice compliance (Chapters 1 and 2) shall be audited annually for all clinical research, in line with the compliance culture of peer health-sciences universities.

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Chapter 12: Annexures, Review, and Interpretation

12.1 Prescribed Formats

The following prescribed formats form part of this policy and are available from the Directorate of Research and on the University intranet:

a. **Seed Grant:** proposal format (Annexure I), Letter of Approval (Annexure II), progress report (Annexure III), utilisation certificate (Annexure IV), project transfer format (Annexure V), and No Objection Certificate (Annexure VI).

b. **Faculty Development Fund:** application form for reimbursement of conference expenditure, including faculty, conference, purpose, expenditure, attachment, and declaration sections.

c. **PhD Programme:** application forms, No Objection Certificate for part-time candidates, and plagiarism-check certificate formats.

d. **Innovation and Incubation:** Invention Disclosure Form, Incubation Application Form, Conflict-of-Interest Declaration, IP Licensing Agreement template, Mentorship Agreement, Startup Progress Report, and Seed Fund Request Form.

e. **IPR:** Invention Disclosure Form, Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreement, Software Licence Agreement (research/educational), and Material Transfer Agreement.

12.2 Review and Amendment

This consolidated policy shall be reviewed periodically by the Directorate of Research, with amendments recommended by the Director of Research, approved by the Vice-Chancellor, and notified to all stakeholders. Individual chapters retain their specific review cycles (e.g., annual review of the FDF, biennial review of the Consultancy Policy, and triennial review of the Innovation Policy).

12.3 Interpretation

In case of doubt or dispute regarding the interpretation of any provision of this compendium, the matter shall be referred to the Directorate of Research; the decision of the Vice-Chancellor shall be final and binding. In the event of any conflict between this compendium and a statutory or regulatory requirement (UGC, NMC, DCI, PCI, ICMR, AICTE, or other bodies), the statutory requirement shall prevail. All agreements executed under this policy are subject to the jurisdiction of the courts at Hyderabad, Telangana, and the laws of India.

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12.4 References

- UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of PhD Degree) Regulations, 2022.
- UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018.
- UGC D.O. No. F.1-1/2018 (Journal/CARE), December 2019 – Research and Publication Ethics.
- ICMR National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research Involving Human Participants.
- National Innovation and Startup Policy (NISP) for Students and Faculty, MoE/AICTE.
- Publicly available research policies and best practices of leading Indian deemed-to-be universities.

Sd/-

Registrar

