MNR UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH, INNOVATION

AND

EXCELLENCE POLICY FRAME WORK 2025-2047

MNR Nagar, Fasalwadi-502294, Gr Hyderabad, Sangareddy District, Telangana

MNR UNIVERSITY
(Estd. Under the Telangana State Private Universities
(Establishment and Regulation) (Amendment Act No.11 of 2024)
[Recognized by the UGC under Section 2(f)]
MNR Nagar, Fasalwadi – 502294, Gr. Hyderabad, Sangareddy Dist., Telangana

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RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND EXCELLENCE POLICY FRAMEWORK 2025–2047

Building the Knowledge Engine of Viksit Bharat, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Telangana Rising 2047 & Sashakt Bharat

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 30 of the Telangana State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Act 11 of 2018 and in accordance with the Regulations of the University Grants Commission, the Academic Council and the Board of Management hereby frame the following Policy to envision establishing itself as a national and international hub of research, innovation, and translation, contributing to India's emergence as a global knowledge power. The Governing Body in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 20(4)(d) of the above Act approved the **Research, Innovation and Excellence Policy Framework 2025-2047** through the Resolution No.4, dated 12.02.2026 for implementation in the University.

Title of the Policy: Research, Innovation and Excellence Policy Framework 2025-2047

PREAMBLE

MNR University envisions establishing itself as a national and international hub of research, innovation, and translation, contributing to India's emergence as a global knowledge power. This policy framework integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a transformative tool for accelerating discovery, ethical decision-making, and scalable impact across all disciplines, while deeply embedding Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)—drawing from ancient wisdom in Ayurveda, Yoga, Vastu, astronomy, mathematics, Agriculture and sustainable practices—to foster culturally rooted, indigenous innovations. The policy draws from:

- UGC, AICTE, NMC, ICAR, PCI, COA, BCI, NCAHP and NAAC regulations.
- NEP 2020, NISP 2019, and ANRF Act 2023, with emphasis on AI-enabled research ecosystems and IKS revitalization.
- Global research excellence frameworks (QS, THE, ABET, AACSB), adapted to include AI ethics and IKS harmonization with modern science.

1. VISION

To establish MNR University as a National and Global Leader in Multidisciplinary Research, Innovation, and Societal Impact, driving India's transformation toward Viksit Bharat 2047—a self-reliant, knowledge-powered, equitable, and globally competitive Nation. This vision harnesses AI for predictive analytics and intelligent automation in research processes, while

twining IKS to create hybrid models that blend Vedic mathematics with AI algorithms, Ayurvedic principles with regenerative medicine, and traditional ecological knowledge with sustainable technologies.

2. MISSIONS ALIGNMENT

MNR University's research, innovation, and academic ecosystem shall be strategically aligned with national and state missions, infusing AI-driven tools for efficiency and IKS-inspired approaches for cultural relevance and sustainability.

National and State Missions	MNR University Commitment
Viksit Bharat 2047	Build a globally benchmarked innovation-led university contributing to national progress through high-quality interdisciplinary research, leveraging AI for data-driven insights and IKS for indigenous solution design.
Atmanirbhar Bharat	Develop indigenous technologies, intellectual property, and startups that strengthen India's self-reliance in science, health, and industry, integrating AI with IKS (e.g., AI-optimized herbal formulations).
Sashakt Bharat	Empower youth, women, and marginalized communities through inclusive research, translational education, and community innovation, using AI for equitable access and IKS for community-centric empowerment models.
Make-in India	AI based manufacturing for the 4th Industrial Revolution contributing to Swadeshi campaign
Telangana Rising 2047	Empower people to be accessible to higher education and Healthcare, Sustainable Livelihood and Growth, AI driven Smart Cities, Smart Transportation, Smart Agriculture, Infrastructure to contribute to $ 3.0 trillion economy by 2047

3. CORE OBJECTIVES

1. Promote cutting-edge, ethical, and inclusive research across all disciplines, incorporating AI for enhanced analytics and IKS for holistic, value-based inquiry to meet the 21st century national and global requirements
2. Establish a hub-and-spoke model for collaborative research aligned with ANRF's PAIR and MAHA programs, featuring AI-facilitated virtual collaborations and IKS-infused thematic clusters.

3. Create Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in frontier areas integrating science, technology, humanities and Indian Arts with AI-IKS fusion for innovative breakthroughs (e.g., AI modelling of ancient astronomical texts).
4. Enable multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and translational research bridging Engineering, Medicine, Management, Law, Agriculture and Design, where AI tools bridge gaps and IKS provides contextual depth.
5. Align research output with national ranking and accreditation parameters (NIRF, NAAC, QS, THE, ABET, AACSB, etc.), emphasizing AI-enhanced publication metrics and IKS contributions to global indices.
6. Create an innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem for commercialization, consulting, and societal transformation, supported by AI platforms for market prediction and IKS for ethical, sustainable business models.

4. RESEARCH STRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC FOCUS

MNR University's research ecosystem spans academic domains, interlinked through Integrated Research Clusters that mandate AI integration for data processing and IKS incorporation for culturally grounded themes. Each school integrates cross-disciplinary projects under annually reviewed University Research Priority Areas (URPA) by the University Research and Innovation Council (URIC). Research Clusters serve as foundational units, grouping faculty, students, and resources around thematic priorities to foster synergy and scalability.

Discipline	Focus Areas & Translational Research Themes (with AI and IKS Integration)
Engineering & Technology and Artificial Intelligence	Smart manufacturing, AI-ML algorithms fused with Vedic engineering principles, robotics for precision agriculture, IoT based Sensors for natural resources management, clean energy from traditional biomass, sustainable materials inspired by ancient metallurgy, semiconductors with IKS nanotechnology analogs.
Medical & Allied Health Sciences	Genomics enhanced by AI predictive modelling, medical devices drawing from Ayurvedic diagnostics, regenerative medicine blending stem cells with Yoga therapeutics, AI in diagnostics integrated with pulse analysis (Nadi Pariksha), telehealth platforms rooted in Siddha traditions, Robotics for Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation
Dental Sciences	Bio-compatible implants using herbal composites, digital dentistry with AI imaging, oral health innovation via IKS herbal formulations and ancient dental hygiene practices.

Discipline	Focus Areas & Translational Research Themes (with AI and IKS Integration)
Pharmaceutical Sciences	Drug discovery via AI virtual screening of IKS botanicals, nano-formulations for targeted delivery, indigenous pharma innovation harmonizing Unani and Allopathy.
AYUSH & Integrative Medicine	Evidence-based integration of Ayurveda/Yoga/Unani/ Siddha/ Homeopathy with AI for personalized wellness algorithms, nutraceuticals from ancient texts, ethnomedicine digitized via AI knowledge graphs.
Nursing & Public Health	Health data analytics powered by AI, community health interventions inspired by IKS Panchakarma models, epidemic prediction using traditional epidemiology.
Business Management	Innovation management with AI-driven foresight, policy analytics incorporating IKS economic philosophies (e.g., Arthashastra), financial technologies blending blockchain with ancient barter systems for demand and supply chain management
Law	Health law with AI contract automation, Air and Defence Laws, intellectual property for IKS artifacts, data privacy ethics drawing from Dharma Shastra, AI governance frameworks aligned with constitutional values.
Agriculture & Life Sciences	Agri-tech using AI for crop monitoring fused with Vedic farming calendars, natural farming, bioengineering of indigenous seeds, Nano-fertilisers soil–water–climate research via ancient water conservation (e.g., Johads), food security through IKS millet-based nutrition.
Architecture & Planning	Smart cities with AI urban simulation, sustainable habitats inspired by Vastu Shastra, design thinking for resilience drawing from ancient urban planning (e.g., Indus Valley).
Arts, Humanities & Design	Cultural innovation via AI-generated IKS archives, digital media preserving Sanskrit epics, design for social good blending folk arts with modern UX/UI principles.

5. MULTIDISCIPLINARY, INTERDISCIPLINARY & TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

- Establish joint research labs and CoEs linking Medicine with Engineering and Technology (MedTech via AI-IKS diagnostics), Agriculture with AI (AgriTech

optimizing soil and water resources), and Business with Policy (EconoTech using AI for IKS economic modelling).

- Create Interdisciplinary Innovation Studios for ideation and rapid prototyping, equipped with AI tools for simulation and IKS databases for inspiration.
- Encourage Transdisciplinary Ph.D. programs involving two or more faculties, with theses mandating AI methodology and IKS contextualization.
- Promote multidisciplinary clusters aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targeting AI-IKS hybrids for poverty alleviation and climate action.

6. RESEARCH CLUSTERS

Research Clusters form the backbone of MNR University's ecosystem, organizing interdisciplinary teams around URPA themes to drive collaborative inquiry and resource sharing. Each cluster is led by a Cluster Coordinator (senior faculty) and includes 10–20 members from diverse schools, supported by AI platforms for project management and IKS repositories for thematic depth. However, Dean can define the cluster operations as per the availability of resources.

- **Formation and Operation**: Clusters are proposed by Deans of schools and to sought approval from URIC, with seed funding up to ₹10 lakh for setup, focusing on AI-IKS integration (e.g., Climate Resilience Cluster blending Vedic hydrology with AI modelling).
- **Key Features**: Virtual collaboration hubs, shared datasets, joint grant applications, and mandatory cross-cluster symposia.
- **Outcomes Tracking**: Measured via RIMS for publications, patents, and societal pilots, with incentives for high-impact clusters (e.g., 20% additional funding).
- **Examples**: AI-Health Innovation Cluster (MedTech fusion), Sustainable Agri-Systems Cluster (IKS farming + AI precision), Cultural Tech Cluster (digital preservation of epics via AI).

7. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

All committees infuse AI for decision analytics and IKS for ethical oversight, reporting quarterly to the URIC via the Research Information Management System (RIMS) for transparency.

Committee	Mandate (with AI and IKS Integration)
University Research & Innovation Council (URIC)	Apex decision-making body chaired by the Vice-Chancellor; AI dashboards for trend analysis, IKS advisory panels for cultural alignment.

Committee	Mandate (with AI and IKS Integration)
Finance & Infrastructure Committee (FIC)	Budgeting, fund utilization, infrastructure approvals; AI forecasting for resource allocation.
Collaboration & Community Committee (CCC)	National/international partnerships, societal innovation; IKS-focused community engagement.
Product Development & Commercialization Committee (PDCC)	Prototype evaluation, industry partnerships, TRL monitoring; AI for market viability assessment.
IPR, Legal & Ethics Committee (IPR–LEC)	Intellectual property, legal vetting, ethical compliance; AI plagiarism detection, IKS ethics guidelines.
Research Program & Policy Committee (RPPC)	Thematic planning, performance metrics, policy revision; AI impact modeling, IKS integration audits.
Innovation Cell & Incubation Centre (ICIC)	Startups, student innovation, entrepreneurship; AI matchmaking for mentors, IKS-themed accelerators.

8. RESEARCH FUNDING AND FACILITATION

8.1 Seed Fund and Internal Grants

University-supported schemes provide ₹25,000–₹20 lakh for faculty/student initiation, proof-of-concept, prototypes, and patent filing, prioritizing AI-IKS projects within clusters, labs, and CoEs.

8.2 National and International Funding Facilitation

Pursue funding from ANRF, DST, DBT, ICMR, ICSSR, SERB, AICTE, DRDO, UGC, ICAR, DHR, CSR Foundations, Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, NSF, NIH, JSPS, DAAD, UKRI, and World Bank. The Research Facilitation Office (RFO) supports AI-assisted proposal writing and budgeting.

8.3 Application, Selection, and Disbursement Process

1. **Call for Proposals**: Biannual issuance by URIC, prioritizing URPA and national missions (e.g., AI-IKS MedTech, AgriTech).
2. **Proposal Submission**: Format includes objectives, AI/IKS methodology, TRL level, budget, deliverables, ethical declaration.
3. **Evaluation**: Stage 1—Peer review (novelty, feasibility, impact); Stage 2—RPPC alignment check; Stage 3—Vice-Chancellor approval.
4. **Funding Release**: 50% advance; 30% mid-term; 20% final (post-audit, outcomes like AI-IKS publications/patents).

5. **Evaluation Criteria**: Proposal Quality (25%), Feasibility (20%), Researcher Profile (20%), Societal/Industrial Relevance (15%), Commercialization Readiness (10%), Dissemination Plan (10%).

8.4 Permitted Heads of Expenditure

1. Research Materials & Equipment (minor instruments, AI software, IKS archival tools).
2. Human Resources (assistants, AI specialists, IKS experts).
3. Travel & Fieldwork (data collection, collaborations).
4. Publication & Patenting (fees, editing).
5. Workshops & Training (AI-IKS symposia).
6. National and International Conferences
7. Prototype Development (translational materials).
8. Marketing & Commercialization (branding for AI-IKS innovations).
9. Institutional Overheads (up to 10%).

9. COLLABORATION, CONSULTING, AND SPONSORED RESEARCH

- Establish MoUs and joint projects with global universities, industries, hospitals, and R&D organizations, emphasizing AI co-development and IKS cultural exchanges within clusters and labs.
- Undertake consulting/testing/sponsored projects via FIC, with revenue sharing: PI 40%, School 30%, University 30%.
- Undertake consulting/testing/sponsored projects via faculty / research group / COE / Labs, will have a revenue sharing: PI 80%, School 10% and University 10%.
- Encourage CSR/philanthropic partnerships for AI-IKS societal projects, routed through CCC for MoUs and audits.

10. COMMERCIALIZATION, IPR, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

10.1 Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

- IPR Cell manages patents/trademarks/copyrights/transfers; 100% filing support, mandatory disclosure pre-publication.
- Revenue: Inventor(s) 80%, School 10%, University 10%; annual AI-assisted IP audits by IPR–LEC.

10.2 Commercialization Support

- TRL 1–9 progression with university aid for prototyping, testing, branding (up to ₹2-20 lakh Marketing Fund).
- Startup pathway via ICIC: Pre-incubation (AI-IKS hackathons), incubation (funding/mentorship/IP), acceleration (investor links, Startup India convergence).

10.3 Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

Facilitate AI platforms for market linkages and IKS-inspired ventures (e.g., sustainable fashion from traditional weaves), seeded from cluster and lab outputs.

11. PROFESSOR-BASED RESEARCH LABS AND GROUPS

Professor-Based Research Labs (PBRLs) and Groups (PRGs) empower senior faculty to spearhead specialized, autonomous research units, fostering deep dives into AI-IKS themes.

11.1 Professor-Based Research Labs (PBRLs)

- Professors propose and lead dedicated labs with infrastructure support up to ₹15 lakh initial setup, focusing on hands-on experimentation (e.g., AI-IKS Herbal Analytics Lab).
- Features: Dedicated space in CRF, access to HPC/AI tools, IKS material repositories; annual audits for utilization.
- Operation: 5–15 members (faculty, scholars, postdocs, students); quarterly progress to PDCC.

11.2 Professor-Based Research Groups (PRGs)

- Professors lead Thematic Research Groups (TRGs) with ₹5 lakh annual grants, integrating faculty/postdocs/students for AI-IKS autonomy in collaborations.
- Emphasis: Virtual/flexible structures for cross-cluster synergy; mandatory student involvement for skill-building.
- Outcomes: Aligned with TRL progression, feeding into CoEs for scaling.

12. CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (CoEs)

CoEs represent pinnacle hubs for frontier AI-IKS research, scaling lab/group outputs into national/international benchmarks.

- **Establishment Criteria**: Led by eminent professors; requires 1+ funded projects, 3+ indexed publications/year, active collaborations; URIC approval.
- **Funding and Duration**: ₹10–50 lakh per cycle (3 years, renewable); priority for ANRF-aligned themes.
- **Key Examples but not limited to**:

- CoE in AI for Health and Diagnostics (IKS pulse tech fusion with AI imaging).
- CoE in Space and Planetary Sciences (Vedic astronomy + AI simulations).
- CoE in Indigenous Medical Technologies (AYUSH-AI hybrids for drug discovery).
- CoE in Climate, Soil-Water, and AgriTech Systems (ancient hydrology + Vedic Agriculture AI forecasting of weather and agricultural products prices).

- **Governance**: Head of the Department/Dean of the School reports to URIC; integrates with clusters/labs for resource sharing; expected deliverables: Patents (5+/cycle), startups (2+), policy briefs, tech transfers.
- **Impact Metrics**: Contributes 30% to IREI; global partnerships via CCC.

13. SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE AND LABS

- New lab proposals (including PBRLs) up to ₹ 50 lakh partial funding; Shared Central Research Facility (CRF) with AI-HPC and IKS digital libraries.
- Maintenance: 10% annual fund reserve; joint-use with industry for AI-IKS facilities, supporting cluster and CoE needs.

14. WORKLOAD RATIONALIZATION AND APPRAISAL-LINKED INCENTIVES

14.1 Workload Rationalization

Category	Criteria	Load Reduction
Research Active Faculty	≥2 Scopus/WoS Publications or ≥1 Patent (AI/IKS focus) per year	50%
Principal Investigator (PI)	Funded project ≥ ₹10 lakh	40%
Centre of Excellence Head	≥3 active projects or ₹25 lakh funding	50%
Postdoctoral Supervisor	≥2 research fellows (AI/IKS mentoring)	25%
Cluster Coordinator	≥2 cross-disciplinary projects/year	30%
PBRL/PRG Lead	Active lab/group with outputs	40%

14.2 Appraisal-Linked Incentives

- **Monetary Payouts (Direct Rewards)**

Activity	Incentive Type	Norms / Conditions
External Funding (Govt./PSU/International)	5% of funding received for grants from government/PSU/ international agencies.	PI or Co-PI
Revenue from IPR Commercialisation	Inventor(s) 70% (National) / 80% (International) of net revenue.	
Revenue from Consultancy Projects	80% post expenses for self-generated assignments.	PI or Co-PI
Revenue from CSR/SDG/ESG/Capacity Building	5% of funding received.	PI or Co-PI
Publication in Scopus/WoS/UGC-CARE (Q1–Q2 Q4)	Monetary (₹10,000–₹25,000) Q1-25,000/-; Q2-20,000/-; Q3-15,000/-; Q4-10,000/-	Single/lead author from MNR University
Patent Filing	₹15,000 per patent (national) / ₹30,000 (international)	Joint ownership with University
Patent Grant	₹50,000 (national) / ₹1 Lakh (international)	One-time grant
Book Publication with reputed publisher	₹25,000–₹50,000	As approved by Research Council
Citations >3 (Healthcare) & >5 (Engg) in a year	₹10,000	Verified by Research Office
Startups / Technology Licensing	10% profit share	Through MNR Innovation Hub

Performance-Linked Monetary and Career Rewards (Based on Total KRA Score)

Total KRA Score (Max 1000)	% Increment on Gross Pay	Cash Reward
Superior Performance (800–900)	8%	₹50 K
Exemplary Performance (900–950)	10%	₹1 Lakh
Exceptional Performance (950–1000)	12%	₹2 Lakhs
Outstanding (> 1000)	14%	₹5 Lakhs

Career and Infrastructure Incentives:

Sabbatical Option: Available after 3 years of Service for faculty receiving national/international fellowships/financial support.

PBRL/PRG Formation: Faculty with strong KRA-KPI research scores, especially in funded projects and publications, should be prioritized for Professor-Based Research Labs (PBRLs) and Groups (PRGs). High KRA scores serve as the primary proof of excellence required to access the PBRL's ₹15 lakh initial setup or PRG's ₹5 lakh annual grants.

Priority for CoE Leadership: Exemplary KRA-KPI research scores should be the key criteria for leading Centres of Excellence (CoEs).

15. ALIGNMENT WITH ACCREDITATION AND RANKING BODIES

Domain	Accrediting Body	Research Excellence Linkage (AI/IKS)
Engineering and Technology	AICTE, NBA, ABET	Innovation/patents in AI-IKS smart systems.
Medicine	NMC	Translational AI-IKS hospitals.
Dental	DCI	AI-digital IKS oral innovations.
Pharmacy	PCI	Indigenous AI-screened drugs.
AYUSH	NCISM	Evidence-based AI-IKS validation.
Nursing	INC	AI-IKS community telehealth.
Allied Health	MoHFW	MedTech AI-IKS devices.
Management	AICTE, AACSB	AI-IKS policy/consulting.
Law	BCI	AI ethics/IKS IP law.
Agriculture	ICAR	AI-IKS smart biotech farming.
Architecture & Planning	CoA	AI-Vastu sustainable designs.
Arts & Design	NAAC, QS	AI-IKS creative social impact.

Ensures NIRF/QS/THE compliance via AI metrics and IKS contributions from clusters, labs, and CoEs.

16. ETHICAL AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

1. **Ethical Standards**: IEC approval for human/biological/data research; ICMR/ CPCSEA/MoE/UNESCO compliance; AI bias audits, IKS dharma-based integrity; prohibit plagiarism/falsification across all clusters/labs/CoEs.
2. **Legal Compliance**: IPR/Biodiversity/Data Protection/AI Ethics Acts; Legal review for MoUs/NDAs; conflict declarations.

3. **Data Security**: Institutional repositories with AI encryption; GDPR-equivalent for globals, IKS-inspired confidentiality norms.

17. MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND REVIEW

- RIMS tracks AI-enhanced metrics (projects/pubs/IP/funding) for clusters, labs, and CoEs.
- Mid-term (6 months) and annual reviews: Scopus/WoS impact, citations, grants.
- Institutional Research Excellence Index (IREI): Publications (40%), Patents/ Commercialization (25%), Funding (20%), Societal Impact (15%)—weighted for AI-IKS outputs.
- Biennial external peer review; RPPC-led policy updates aligning with UGC/ANRF, global practices, Science–Society–Industry (AI-IKS focus).

18. RECOGNITION AND OUTREACH

1. Annual Awards: Excellence in AI-IKS publications/patents/innovations from clusters/labs/CoEs.
2. Fellowships/Chairs: Endowed MNR AI-IKS Research Chairs; PM Early Career support.
3. Outreach: Open challenges, expos, conclaves; SARAL-inspired AI dissemination in regional languages.
4. Global: ANRF PAIR/MAHA participation; international symposia on AI-IKS.
5. Community: Field deployments for societal translation.

19. TRAVEL, LOGISTICS, AND MARKETING SUPPORT

- Grants: ₹1- 2 lakhs (intl)/₹50,000 (national) conferences annually for each faculty towards registration, TA, DA & Accommodation..
- Visits: Short-term attachments/workshops for cluster/lab/CoE collaborations.
- Showcases: Assistance for expos/fairs/summits.
- Marketing: Brochures/digital content for AI-IKS products.
- Societal: Logistics for community projects.

20. POLICY REVIEW AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Biennial RPPC review to align with UGC/ANRF, integrate global/AI/IKS best practices, and evolve with India's Science–Society–Industry ecosystem, incorporating feedback from clusters, labs, and CoEs.

21. CONCLUSION

Through this integrated policy framework, MNR University positions itself as a catalyst for India's transformation into a research-powered, innovation-driven knowledge nation. By fostering ethics, excellence, commercialization, and collaboration—infused with AI for precision and IKS for wisdom—MNRU contributes to Viksit Bharat 2047, strengthens Atmanirbhar Bharat via indigenous innovations, and empowers Sashakt Bharat with inclusive, human-centric research. As an ANRF-aligned hub, MNRU creates indigenous knowledge/ technology, nurtures innovators/entrepreneurs, and builds a resilient, self-reliant, globally admired India.

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