

1G/Admn.(G)/Not.2026/ 336
Jan. 15, 2026

NOTIFICATION

Sub: IGNOU Policy document on Promotion of Research

The Board of Management of the University in its 163rd meeting held on 27.11.2025 (vide Res.BM 163.35.2) approved the IGNOU Policy document on Promotion of Research developed by a committee involving teachers, academics and administrative staff to ensure continued compliance with regulatory requirements and to strengthen the institutional framework of the University.

A copy of the aforesaid policy document is enclosed at **Annexure** for reference.



(Jitendra Kumar Srivastava)
Registrar (Admn.)

To:

- (i) All the Directors of Schools/Heads of Divisions/Centres/Units
- (ii) AR, VCO
- (iii) PS to Registrar (Admn.)

POLICY ON PROMOTION OF RESEARCH

**Indira Gandhi National Open University
New Delhi - 110068**

"शिक्षा मानव को बन्धनों से मुक्त करती है आज के युग में तो यह लोकतन्त्र की भावना का आधार भी है। जन्म तथा अन्य कारणों से उत्पन्न जाति एवं वर्गगत विषमताओं को दूर करते हुए मनुष्य को इन सबसे ऊपर उठाती है।"

— इन्दिरा गांधी

"Education is liberating force, and in our age it is also democratising force, cutting across the barriers of caste and class, smoothing out inequalities imposed by birth and other circumstances."

- Indira Gandhi

POLICY ON PROMOTION OF RESEARCH

**Indira Gandhi National Open University
New Delhi - 110068**

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Foreword

It is with immense pleasure and a deep sense of commitment that I present IGNOU's Policy on Promotion of Research. As a pioneering institution in open and distance learning, IGNOU has always strived to make quality education accessible to all. However, our vision extends beyond dissemination of knowledge; we are equally dedicated to its creation and advancement.



As a national university established by an Act of Parliament, IGNOU is committed to advancing knowledge through high-quality research that addresses the educational, social, economic, and developmental challenges of our nation and beyond. In alignment with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, IGNOU recognizes the need to strengthen dynamic and inclusive research ecosystem within IGNOU across disciplines, encouraging a culture of inquiry, critical thinking, and evidence-based policymaking. We aim to foster an environment that encourages interdisciplinary collaborations, promotes ethical research practices, and ensures the dissemination of research outcomes for the benefit of society.

The Policy on Promotion of Research is a significant step towards institutionalizing research practices that are ethical, inclusive, and impactful. It provides a structured framework for fostering individual and collaborative research among teachers, academics, research scholars, and learners, while also encouraging discipline-specific, interdisciplinary, socially relevant, and policy-driven investigations. This policy serves to strengthen the research ecosystem by proposing the creation of Research and Development Centre and clearly delineating roles of the Research Unit and the Project Facilitation Unit, encouraging research collaborations, faculty exchange programmes reinforcing ethics in the research

I commend the Research Unit and all the committee members involved in drafting this important document. I am confident that this policy will help create a vibrant and sustainable research environment that nurtures creativity, rigour, and relevance. I extend my best wishes to all members of the IGNOU community in their pursuit of knowledge and innovation

Prof. Uma Kanjilal
Vice Chancellor
Indira Gandhi National Open University

Acknowledgment



In alignment with the strategic objectives of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), and in view of its continued commitment to institutional excellence, the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) undertook the task of developing a comprehensive calendar of activities to guide and support preparations for the second cycle of NAAC accreditation and the NIRF 2026 ranking process. These activities were designed to address critical domains, including NAAC-related documentation and data validation, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 implementation, data capturing and analysis for the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), and the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), policy documents and best practices to streamline internal processes and ensure compliance with national quality benchmarks.

To accomplish this multifaceted undertaking in a time-bound and systematic manner, the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor constituted a series of committees comprising academic and administrative professionals from across the University. Each committee was entrusted with a specific thematic area, with the responsibility of planning, preparing, and reviewing documentation and institutional practices in accordance with the evolving frameworks of quality assurance and regulatory expectations.

The Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) sincerely acknowledges and appreciates the outstanding commitment, scholarly engagement, and collaborative spirit demonstrated by all committee members. Their meticulous attention to detail, academic rigour, and deep understanding of the institutional processes were critical to the successful preparation of comprehensive and credible documentation in support of the University's goals. The committee members undertook additional responsibilities beyond their regular duties, working diligently to collate data, contribute to narrative reports, validate evidence, and ensure alignment with national quality parameters.

The committees' collective efforts have greatly strengthened the University's internal quality systems and have contributed meaningfully to projecting IGNOU's distinct status as a national resource in the field of open and distance and online education. Their work reflects not only professional excellence but also a shared vision of advancing IGNOU's mission of inclusive and quality higher education across the country and beyond. CIQA acknowledges the contribution of the Research Unit for providing the necessary information and access to its records which helped in completing the document.

CIQA places on record its deep gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor for her support, insightful leadership and guidance. Above all, CIQA extends its heartfelt thanks to each member of the preparation team for their valuable contributions, without which the timely completion of this critical institutional endeavour would not have been possible.

Prof. Vijayakumar, P.
Director, CIQA
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**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY,
MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI – 110068**

Policy on Promotion of Research at IGNOU

(Approved by the Board of Management in its meeting held on..... Vide Resolution....)

(Under Clause (3) of Statute 7 of Statutes of the IGNOU Act, 1985)

In exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 17 of IGNOU Act, 1985 and Clause (3) of Statute 7 of Statutes of the University, the Board of Management of the Indira Gandhi National Open University adopts the following Policy on Promotion of Research at IGNOU, namely:

**PART-I
PRELIMINARY**

1. Short Title, Application And Commencement

- 1.1 This document may be called the '**POLICY ON PROMOTION OF RESEARCH AT IGNOU**'
- 1.2 This document shall apply to all the teachers, academics, research scholars, research fellows, and learners of the University. It is also applicable to the constituent units of the University who would be implementing this research policy, namely Schools of Studies, Divisions, Centres, Regional Centres, Institute, Units, and Cells of the University, including collaborative, contract and inter-institutional projects involving external partners within and outside India.
- 1.3 **Definitions:**

Academic Honesty: Upholding truthfulness and fairness in academic work, avoiding cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation.

Academic Integrity: Commitment to ethical principles such as honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in scholarly work.

Academic Misconduct: Any behaviour violating ethical standards in academia, such as plagiarism, falsification, cheating, or data manipulation.

Academic Research: Systematic investigation aimed at discovering new knowledge, understanding phenomena, or solving academic questions.

Academic Resources: Materials, tools, and services (e.g., libraries, databases, software) that support learning, teaching, and research.

Applied Research: Research aimed at solving practical, real-world problems rather than purely theoretical questions.

Authorship Disputes: Disagreements over credit, order, or inclusion/exclusion of authors in scholarly publications.

Best Practices: Proven, effective methods or techniques widely accepted as superior within a field.

Collaborative Workspaces: Physical or virtual environments designed to facilitate teamwork, brainstorming, and joint projects.

Community Development: Processes that empower communities to improve their social, economic, and environmental well-being.

Conflicts Of Interest: Situations where personal, financial, or professional interests could improperly influence objective judgment.

Consultancy Projects: Professional services offered by experts to organizations for advice, solutions, or specialized knowledge.

Copyrights: Legal rights granting creators exclusive control over the use and distribution of their original works.

Cross-Border Research Collaboration: Joint research activities involving institutions or researchers from different countries.

Cross-Disciplinary: Involving two or more academic disciplines working together to address a topic or problem.

Cutting-Edge Infrastructure: State-of-the-art facilities and equipment that support advanced research and innovation.

Cutting-Edge Research: Research at the forefront of scientific and technological advancement.

Dedicated Workspaces: Specific areas or offices allocated for focused work or specialized activities.

Digital Resources: Online or electronic materials such as e-books, databases, multimedia, and software.

Ethical Approvals: Formal permissions from ethics committees to conduct research involving human participants, animals, or sensitive data.

Ethical Clearances: Verification that research proposals meet established ethical standards before starting.

Ethical Norms: Shared moral principles guiding behaviour in research and academic settings.

Ethical Standards: Specific rules or codes of conduct ensuring responsible and fair academic or research practices.

Field-Based Research: Research conducted outside laboratories, often in natural, community, or real-world settings.

Funding Agency: Organization that provides financial support for research, development, or educational projects.

Funding Mobilization: Efforts to secure and allocate financial resources for research or institutional goals.

High-Impact Research Outputs: Research findings that significantly influence policy, practice, or scholarly discourse.

Inclusivity: Active efforts to include diverse individuals and groups in processes, opportunities, and decision-making.

Indexed Journals: Academic journals included in recognized databases, often indicating higher quality and visibility.

Innovation: Creation and application of new ideas, methods, or products to add value or solve problems.

Intellectual Property Rights: Legal protections for creations of the mind, including patents, copyrights, and trademarks.

Interdisciplinarity: Integration of concepts and methods from different disciplines to address complex issues.

Inter-Institutional Collaboration: Partnerships between different organizations to share resources, expertise, and achieve common goals.

Intra-institutional collaboration: Coordinated efforts and partnerships among different Schools, Divisions, Centres including Regional Centres, or units within the same institution - such as a university or research organization to achieve common goals.

Measurable Outcomes: Clearly defined results or impacts that can be quantified and evaluated.

Mentorship: Guidance provided by experienced individuals to support personal and professional development.

Multidisciplinary: Involving experts from different disciplines working alongside each other on a common project.

Multi-Pronged Strategy: An approach using multiple, coordinated methods to achieve objectives.

Open And Distance Learning: Educational mode allowing flexible study without the need for physical presence.

Open-Access Journals: Scholarly publications freely available to the public without subscription fees.

Patent Development: Process of creating, applying for, and securing patents to protect innovations.

Patents: Exclusive rights granted for inventions, preventing others from making, using, or selling them without permission.

Peer Review: Evaluation of scholarly work by experts in the same field to ensure quality and validity.

Peer-Reviewed Journals: Journals where submitted manuscripts are critically assessed by reviewers before publication.

Plagiarism: Using someone else's work or ideas without proper attribution, presenting them as one's own.

Predatory Or Unethical Publication: Journals or publishers that exploit authors by charging fees without providing standard editorial and peer-review processes.

Problem-Solving Research: Research aimed directly at addressing specific, real-world challenges.

Protocols: Standardized procedures or guidelines to conduct experiments or research.

Regulatory Compliance: Adhering to laws, rules, and standards governing research and institutional activities.

Research Capacity: An institution's or group's ability to conduct effective and high-quality research.

Research Competence: Skills and expertise enabling individuals or teams to design and perform quality research.

Research Ecosystem: Interconnected network of researchers, institutions, funders, policies, and resources supporting research.

Research Integrity: Adherence to ethical principles and professional standards in conducting and reporting research.

Research Practices: Established methods and norms used in planning, conducting, and sharing research.

Risk Assessment: Identifying and analysing potential risks in research projects to minimize harm.

Similarity Index: A metric used in plagiarism detection software indicating how much text matches other sources.

Social Inclusion: Efforts to ensure equal participation and opportunities for all societal groups.

Socially Impactful Research: Research with direct benefits for society, communities, or underprivileged groups.

Stakeholders: Individuals or groups affected by or having an interest in a project, policy, or organization.

Systemic Research: Research that examines complex systems as wholes, rather than isolated parts.

Thematic Research: Research organized around specific themes or areas of focus.

Theoretical and Methodological Framework: Conceptual and procedural foundation guiding research design and analysis.

Transdisciplinary: Integrating academic disciplines with non-academic knowledge to address complex issues.

PART II

PREAMBLE

2. Research activities at the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) are integral to advancing knowledge, catalysing societal transformation, and strengthening national development initiatives. Open and Distance Learning (ODL), by its very nature, calls for innovative and contextually relevant research practices. In alignment with the National

Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the guidelines issued by apex bodies such as the University Grants Commission (UGC), National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), and Ministry of Education (MoE), this Policy on Promotion of Research reaffirms IGNOU's unwavering commitment to fostering a dynamic and socially relevant research environment.

IGNOU envisions research not merely as an academic pursuit but as a robust mechanism to address societal issues, stimulate technological advancement, and contribute to nation-building. Through this policy, the University seeks to strategically align its research endeavours with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), national missions like *Unnat Bharat Abhiyan* (UBA) and Skill India, and global academic standards. The institution recognizes that innovation, inclusivity, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinary must drive all research activities to ensure relevance and impact.

The Policy serves as a blueprint for empowering teachers, academics, research scholars, research associates, research fellows, and learners to undertake cutting-edge research that transcends disciplinary boundaries, promotes social equity, and contributes meaningfully to India's aspiration of becoming a global knowledge leader. It offers a comprehensive framework to build research ecosystem, strengthen research capacity, promote ethical standards, facilitate access to funding, and ensure measurable outcomes.

The Policy on Promotion of Research will be periodically reviewed in order to incorporate the latest developments modified by the Statutory/Apex Bodies.

PART III PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

3. The purpose of IGNOU's research policy is to create an intellectually vibrant and socially impactful research environment that transforms learning, promotes innovation, and addresses pressing challenges in society. IGNOU aspires to emerge as a globally recognised hub for excellence in research in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and allied fields, driving systemic change through evidence-based knowledge generation.

The University's vision is rooted in democratising access to high-quality research opportunities. It seeks to nurture creativity and critical thinking among the teachers, academics and learners. Through strategic collaborations, cutting-edge infrastructure, and interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches, IGNOU aims to shape research initiatives that are nationally significant and globally relevant.

This underscores the supremacy of research in advancing IGNOU's mandate of social inclusion, digital empowerment, rural development, environmental sustainability, and human development, thereby contributing to India's growth as a resilient, inclusive, and knowledge-driven society.

PART IV OBJECTIVES

4. The primary objective of this Policy is to cultivate a dynamic research ecosystem that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, innovation, and social relevance. It also aims to provide an enabling environment that supports high-quality, interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and action-oriented research aligned with local, national, and global development agendas.

Specifically, the Policy seeks to:

- Facilitate research that addresses systemic challenges within the ODL framework and advances the frontiers of knowledge across disciplines (Doctoral Research).
- Promote collaborative research initiatives that transcend traditional academic boundaries and involve partnerships with national research councils, government organization, international organizations, industries, and community-based organizations.
- Strengthen the University's research infrastructure, and enhance research capacities of teachers, academics, research scholars, research associates, research fellows, and learners.
- Streamline research project management and funding mechanisms.
- Encourage research through travel-grant, fellowships, faculty-exchange programme among others.

Additionally, the Policy endeavours to integrate research outcomes into teaching-learning processes, policymaking, curriculum innovation, and societal outreach activities, thereby creating a holistic, multidisciplinary, interconnected academic ecosystem.

PART V RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

5. The Research and Development Centre (RDC) at IGNOU shall function as the coordinating body for creating a sustainable research eco-system that leads to quality research outcomes and enhanced productivity.

It will coordinate all activities pertaining to research and development mentioned in Part IV.

The RDC shall be mandated to:

- Develop and periodically revise the University's research vision and agenda in alignment with global trends, national development priorities, and institutional strengths.
- Serve as the coordinating body for strategic planning, implementing, and monitoring of the Research Policy: namely: encourage research; doctoral research; development of research infrastructure; ethical governance; development of research repository and knowledge dissemination; capacity building; monitoring of research activities and research project management and resource mobilization.

- Act as the principal interface with external funding agencies, national bodies, and international organizations for collaborative research, sponsored projects, and innovation partnerships.
- Formulate and announce Annual Research Themes in consultation with the Research Council, Schools of Studies, and stakeholders to foster a culture of thematic research and purposeful inquiry. These themes shall reflect IGNOU's commitment to addressing critical areas outlined in: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations; National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and Flagship national initiatives such as:
 - *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (Self-Reliant India)
 - Digital India
 - Skill India
 - National Research Foundation (NRF) Mission
 - National Innovation and Startup Policy (NISP)
 - Areas of National and International Importance
 - Areas having Developmental Impact on Society
 - Contributing to Research and Development

These thematic priorities will drive interdisciplinary collaborations, community-engaged research, and policy-relevant studies.

5.1 Operational Framework and Functional Role

The operational framework and its functions are as follows:

5.1.1 Operational Framework

The RDC will function with the help of the following:

A. Research Unit

- The Research Unit (RU) will be responsible for:
- Encouraging Research
- Coordinating Doctoral Research
- Developing Research Infrastructure
- Ensuring Ethical Governance
- Developing Research Repository
- Knowledge Dissemination
- Capacity Building
- Monitoring of Research Activities

B. Project Facilitation Unit

- The Project Facilitation Unit (PFU) will be responsible for:
- Identifying Funding Agencies for Collaboration

- Fostering Multilateral Collaborations and Institutional Synergy
- Mobilizing resources and Fund Management
- Handling external Research Projects
- Monitoring of Project related activities
- Funding internal Research Projects
- Facilitating travel-grant, fellowships, faculty-exchange programme
- Staffing of Research and Development Centre

Headed by a Director (Professor of the University)

Personal Secretary

A. Research Unit

- Deputy Director: 1
- Assistant Director: 1
- Assistant Registrar -1
- Section Officer-1
- Executive Data Processing-1
- Assistant Executive Data Processing-1
- Junior Assistant cum Typist-2
- MTS-1

B. Project Facilitation Unit

- Deputy Director: 1
- Assistant Director: 1
- Assistant Registrar -1
- Section Officer-1
- Executive Data Processing-1
- Assistant Executive Data Processing-1
- Junior Assistant cum Typist-2
- MTS-1

5.1.2 Functional Role

The RDC shall discharge the following core functions:

- Encourage Research
 - Creating a conducive research environment for undertaking systemic and discipline-specific research that motivates teachers, academics, research scholars, research associates, research fellows, and learners to undertake research by providing support, guidance, and

- incentives through institutional research schemes and collaborations.
- Providing financial and logistical support to assist in funding research projects, travel-grant, fellowships and faculty-exchange programme.
- Coordinating Doctoral Research
 - Formulate, implement, and periodically review the institutional policies and guidelines related to doctoral research in accordance with UGC regulations.
 - Coordinate with Schools of Studies to support the admission process, allocation of supervisors, progress monitoring, and timely submission of theses.
 - Conduct workshop for scholars on research and publication ethics.
 - Maintain a comprehensive database of enrolled scholars, awarded PhDs, and ongoing doctoral research projects to support institutional planning, compliance reporting, and academic audit requirements.
 - Manage and disburse the external funds and internal fellowships received for PhD Scholars.
- Development of Research Infrastructure
 - Facilitate the creation and maintenance of advanced research labs, digital resource hubs, data repositories, and discipline-specific research labs.
 - Develop e-research facilities, access to scholarly databases, plagiarism detection tools, data analysis software, virtual labs, and high-speed internet to promote technology-enabled research.
 - Provide shared workspaces, research scholar common rooms, and online platforms that enables interaction, supervision, and collaborative research.
- Ethical Governance
 - Develop and periodically update institutional guidelines on research ethics, in alignment with national and international standards.
 - Ensure ethical standards in research proposals, execution, and reporting through the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC).
 - Ensure ethical standards, academic integrity, and quality benchmarks through initiatives such as plagiarism checks, ethics committee approvals, and research methodology workshops.
 - Organize orientation programmes and workshops on research ethics, publication ethics, data management, and Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) for teachers, academics, research scholars, research fellows, research associates, and learners.
 - Establish mechanisms for reporting, investigating, and resolving cases of research misconduct, including plagiarism, data fabrication, and unethical practices, ensuring due process and fairness.
- Development of Research Repository
 - Develop and maintain a centralized system for capturing, storing, and retrieving comprehensive data on research activities, including publications, projects, patents, collaborations, and fellowships.

- Ensure sharing theses on *Shodhganga* to enhance the visibility and impact of doctoral research.
 - Ensuring sharing of the approved synopsis on *Shodhgangotri* to avoid duplication of the research.
 - Ensure the registration of the teachers and research scholars to register on the *Vidwan* portal.
- Knowledge Dissemination
 - Encourage scholars to publish high-quality research outputs in indexed/reputed journals, policy briefs, edited volumes, and institutional repositories
 - Promote participation of teachers, academics and research scholars in conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.
- Capacity Building
 - Organize research colloquia, Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs), seminars, and knowledge-sharing forums.
- Monitoring of Research Activities
 - Establish a centralized research tracking dashboard to monitor the progress, outputs, and outcomes of ongoing research projects.
 - Conduct annual impact reviews, prepare institutional research reports, and present outcomes to the Research Council and Academic Council for strategic inputs.
- Research Project Management
 - Coordination of the Research Projects funded by Government and Non-government agencies.
 - Database management and documentation of the research projects received by the individual/jointly by teachers, academics, or any constituent unit of the University.
 - Maintain records of the research project, funds sanctioned, installments received from external agency/ies, duration of the project and its outcome.
 - Coordinate with the concerned constituent unit/ teachers, academics with regard to disbursal of funds, judicious utilization as per terms and conditions of the project, and obtaining/preparing the statement of expenditure and utilisation certificate to be submitted to the concerned agency through F & A Division of the University.
 - Liaison with the collaborating agency for timely receipt of funds, and systematic closure of the project on its completion.
- Collaborations, Institutional Synergy and Resource Mobilisation

The RDC shall foster multilateral collaborations with:

 - National research institutions, universities, and regulatory bodies.
 - International academic and research networks, including UNESCO, Commonwealth of Learning (COL), and Open University consortia, etc.
 - Industries, NGOs, and government ministries for real-world research applications and societal innovations.

- Maintain records of collaborative projects, outcomes, and impact, and support the dissemination of research findings through joint publications, policy briefs, monographs, working papers.

PART VI **DOCTORAL RESEARCH**

6. The Research Unit (RU) will oversee the governance, mechanism and procedures for doctoral research programme as given below:

6.1 Doctoral Research Programme Governance and Procedures

The Doctoral Research Programme at IGNOU shall be governed by a robust and transparent administrative framework aimed at ensuring academic integrity, regulatory compliance, and excellence in research outcomes. This framework will be managed and monitored by the Research Unit (RU), which shall function as the central coordinating body and nodal agency for all doctoral programmes conducted across the various Schools of Studies and other affiliated academic divisions of the University under the supervision of Research Council and its standing committee.

The RU shall ensure uniformity, consistency, and accountability in the implementation of doctoral programmes across the institution. It shall oversee and coordinate all procedural aspects related to the Ph.D. programme, ranging from the announcement of admissions to the final award of degrees, through a centralized and standardized system. All activities shall strictly adhere to the University Grants Commission (UGC) (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, including any amendments or notifications issued by the UGC from time to time. These include eligibility criteria, admission procedures, coursework requirements, supervision guidelines, progress assessments, ethical approvals, and the final evaluation and award processes. In alignment with these regulatory expectations, the RU shall undertake the responsibility of revising and updating IGNOU's Research Ordinance, Regulations, and Guidelines on a periodic basis. These revisions shall reflect the latest mandates of the UGC, ensuring that the University remains fully compliant and responsive to evolving national higher education policies and quality standards. By integrating academic rigor with procedural efficiency, the RU's will uphold IGNOU's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of doctoral education, fostering a research culture that is both nationally compliant and globally relevant.

To enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability in doctoral research governance, the University shall implement a fully integrated Research Admission Management System (RAMS) and Student Lifecycle Management System (SLMS). These digital platforms will provide end-to-end support and monitoring of Ph.D. programmes, facilitating seamless and real-time coordination of the entire student journey, from application and admission to coursework completion, supervisor allocation, progress tracking, submission of synopsis and thesis, pre-submission reviews, viva-voce examination, and final degree issuance. The digital systems shall be designed to incorporate features such as automated workflows, document uploads, supervisor dashboards, plagiarism check integrations, progress report submissions, and notification modules. This infrastructure shall

ensure compliance with quality benchmarks, support data-driven decision-making, and promote a research environment grounded in academic rigor and regulatory conformity.

Capacity-building sessions and orientation programmes for teachers, supervisors, and research scholars shall be periodically conducted to ensure that all stakeholders are well-versed with the guidelines, systems, and expectations of doctoral research at IGNOU. By institutionalizing these procedures and leveraging technology-enabled platforms, the University seeks to uphold the highest standards of academic quality, research ethics, and institutional accountability in its doctoral programmes.

6.2 Fellowships and Research Support Mechanisms

In alignment with its commitment to promoting a vibrant and inclusive research ecosystem, IGNOU shall implement a comprehensive framework to support research scholars through fellowships and an array of institutional support mechanisms. These initiatives aim to empower researchers across disciplines by facilitating access to financial aid, academic resources, and skill development opportunities necessary for impactful and socially relevant research.

The Research Unit (RU) shall function as the Nodal Office for all matters pertaining to fellowships and research grants. It will play a proactive role in disseminating information, advising scholars, and providing end-to-end guidance on fellowship applications. This includes identifying relevant opportunities and schemes offered by prestigious funding agencies such as the University Grants Commission (UGC), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), among others.

The RU will assist scholars in drafting compelling research proposals, ensuring alignment with funding agency priorities, and navigating the procedural and documentation requirements. In collaboration with Schools of Studies and subject-specific experts, the RU shall also offer proposal review support and feedback mechanisms to improve success rates in fellowship applications.

To foster a conducive research environment, institutional infrastructure and facilities shall be made accessible to research scholars, including but not limited to:

- Access to research laboratories with advanced instrumentation and technical support
- Comprehensive digital libraries and access to leading academic databases and journals
- Dedicated workspaces and research cubicles for scholars within Schools and Research Centres
- Provision of residential hostel facilities, subject to availability and eligibility

The RU shall organize periodic orientation and capacity-building programmes to enhance research competence among scholars. These sessions will cover critical areas such as:

- Research ethics and integrity, including plagiarism awareness and academic honesty
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and institutional policies on patents, copyrights, and data sharing

- Research data management, including data collection protocols, storage practices, and reproducibility standards

Additionally, scholars shall be encouraged with incentives to participate in interdisciplinary research colloquia, conferences, and academic writing workshops, further contributing to the University's intellectual vibrancy and cross-disciplinary innovation.

6.3 Committees Governing PhD Programme

To ensure transparent, efficient, and accountable governance of its research ecosystem, IGNOU shall institutionalize a multi-tiered committee structure. These committees shall function in accordance with the IGNOU Research Ordinance, Regulations, and Guidelines, and will be periodically updated to comply with the evolving mandates of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other regulatory bodies. Each committee will play a specialized role in supporting, monitoring, and guiding research activities across the University.

Research Council (RC)/Research Council Standing Committee (RCSC): The Research Council (RC) and Research Council Standing Committee (RCSC) shall be constituted as per the Research Ordinance and Regulations of IGNOU and serve as the apex bodies overseeing the entire doctoral research governance framework. These bodies shall supervise all procedural and policy-related aspects of the University's doctoral programmes. They shall function strictly as per the Research Ordinance and Regulations of IGNOU, including any amendments issued from time to time.

Key responsibilities include:

- Approving doctoral programme proposals, research topics, and supervisory assignments
- Reviewing compliance with UGC Regulations and internal quality benchmarks
- Facilitating academic decisions made by the Doctoral Research Committees and School Boards within each School of Studies
- Providing regulatory oversight for research evaluation, ethics, and award processes

All discipline-specific committees at the School level shall operate under the supervision of the RC/RCSC and seek prior approvals where mandated.

Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC): The Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) shall be constituted as per the Research Ordinance and Regulations of IGNOU and shall be entrusted with ensuring that all research activities, especially those involving human subjects, sensitive data, or bioethical implications, are conducted in compliance with national and international ethical standards for internal and external projects/ research work.

The IEC shall:

- Develop and regularly update guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Ensure adherence to protocols in accordance with guidelines of ICMR, WHO, and other relevant regulatory bodies.

- Review and approve research proposals (external and internal) requiring ethical clearance.
- Monitor ongoing research for ethical compliance, integrity, and adherence to approved frameworks.

6.4 Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC)

The Grievance Redressal Committee shall be constituted by the Director RDC with the approval of the Vice Chancellor, and shall provide a structured mechanism for addressing concerns and complaints raised by Ph.D. scholars and supervisors.

The Committee shall:

- Formulate and implement guidelines and SOPs to handle grievances promptly and fairly
- Function in alignment with UGC's directives on student grievance redressal mechanisms
- Ensure that scholars are aware of the process and timeline for grievance resolution
- Maintain confidentiality and neutrality in all proceedings

6.5 Research Fellowship Committee (RFC)

The Research Fellowship Committee (RFC) shall be constituted by the Director RDC with the approval of the Vice Chancellor, and shall be responsible for overseeing all aspects of institutional fellowship schemes and research-related financial incentives.

It shall:

- Implement guidelines for awarding Institutional Research Fellowships to meritorious full-time Ph.D. candidates not covered by external funding.
- Recommend candidates for publication incentives, Article Processing Charges (APCs) reimbursement, and travel support for presenting research at national and international conferences.
- Monitor the utilization of fellowship funds and ensure accountability.
- Periodically evaluate the impact and effectiveness of fellowship and incentive schemes.

6.6 Infrastructure and Facilities Development Committee (IFDC)

The Infrastructure and Facilities Development Committee (IFDC) shall be constituted by the Director RDC with the approval of the Vice Chancellor, and shall ensure that IGNOU's research infrastructure remains dynamic, scalable, and responsive to emerging needs.

The Committee shall:

- Regularly review and assess infrastructural gaps and propose development initiatives.
- Facilitate the establishment of new research labs, digital resources, data centres, collaborative workspaces etc.
- Develop strategies for inter/intra-institutional collaboration, including the drafting and signing

of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with national and international research bodies.

- Explore resource sharing, including co-hosted facilities and collaborative access to specialized equipment and databases.

PART VII RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGEMENT

7. The Project Facilitation Unit (PFU) will facilitate and streamline the externally funded research projects undertaken by teachers, academics, and constituent units of the University. It will ensure effective coordination, financial oversight, compliance with funding guidelines, and timely reporting of outcomes.

7.1 Coordination of Research Projects

- PFU is the nodal point for the management and administration of research projects funded by the national and international government and non-governmental organizations.
- It will facilitate internal approvals and ensure smooth communication between the funding agencies and the concerned investigators or Schools of Studies, Divisions, Centres, Units, Cells and Regional Centres.
- It will provide guidance on submission of proposals, ethical clearances, and compliance with institutional and funding agency norms.

7.2 Database Management and Documentation

- The PFU will develop and maintain a centralised digital and physical database of all the externally funded research projects.
- It will capture and regularly update project-specific data, including:
 - Title and objectives of the project
 - Name(s) of the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigators
 - Schools of Studies, Division, Centre, Unit, Cell or Regional Centre associated with the project
 - Details of the funding agency
 - Project timeline and milestones
- Ensure systematic documentation of project proposals, sanction letters, progress reports, final reports, and related correspondence.

7.3 Financial Monitoring and Record Maintenance

- The PFU will maintain detailed records of:
 - Total funds sanctioned
 - Installments received and their dates
 - Project duration and key deliverables
 - Utilisation of funds and project expenditure

- It will track financial progress and assist in timely resolution of issues related to fund release and expenditure planning.

7.4 Interdepartmental Coordination

- Coordinate with concerned Schools of Studies, Division, Centre, Unit, Cell or Regional Centre associated with the project to:
 - Facilitate the disbursal of sanctioned funds in line with the project schedule and financial rules.
 - Ensure judicious and appropriate utilization of funds as per the terms and conditions of the funding agency.
 - Monitor compliance with institutional financial policies and project-specific obligations.

7.5 Preparation and Submission of Financial Statements

- The PFU will assist Principal Investigators and project staff in:
 - Preparing Statements of Expenditure (SoE)
 - Drafting Utilisation Certificates (UCs)
 - Collating necessary supporting documents as per the guidelines of the funding agencies
- Coordinate with the Finance and Accounts Division of the University to ensure timely submission of SoEs and UCs to funding agencies.

7.6 Liaison with Collaborating and Funding Agencies

- The PFU will liaison between the University and the funding/collaborating agencies to:
 - Ensure timely receipt of funds
 - Respond to queries, provide clarifications, and address concerns raised by the agencies
 - Facilitate mid-term reviews, audits, and compliance checks
- It will ensure systematic and timely closure of projects upon completion, including submission of final reports and financial closure.

7.7 Financial Monitoring Committee (FMC):

- The Financial Monitoring Committee shall be constituted by the Director RDC with the approval of the Vice Chancellor, and shall ensure financial integrity across all research projects and compliance with General Financial Rules (GFR) and rules and regulations of the concerning funding agencies.
- It will ensure conduct of internal audits, monitoring of fund utilization, and recommend protocols for budget planning, procurement, and asset management.
- The committee shall also coordinate the timely submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) and Statement of Expenditure (SoE) to funding agencies

PART VIII

ETHICAL GOVERNANCE

8. All research activities undertaken at IGNOU whether by teacher, doctoral scholars, or academics or consultants shall be governed by a rigorous framework of ethical norms. This framework shall be implemented through the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) of IGNOU, which shall develop and periodically update the University's Research Ethics Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in line with:

- UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018 and its amendments from time to time.
- Guidelines issued by national bodies such as ICMR, CSIR, DBT, DST, ICSSR, ICHR etc.
- International ethical protocols such as the Declaration of Helsinki, Belmont Report, and standards of COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) or as per the requirements of the particular research area.

The IEC shall ensure that research proposals undergo ethical clearance where required, and that research involving human participants, sensitive data, biological samples, or vulnerable communities adheres to established norms of informed consent, confidentiality, and risk minimization.

8.1 Ethical Compliance and Training:

IGNOU shall institutionalize mandatory training modules on Research and Publication Ethics (RPE) for all registered Ph.D. scholars and newly inducted teachers and academics, as per UGC guidelines.

These modules shall cover:

- Plagiarism and academic misconduct
- Research integrity and responsible authorship
- Data fabrication and falsification
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
- Open access publishing ethics
- Peer review and conflicts of interest

Periodic workshops, orientation programmes, and refresher courses should be organized regularly to promote a sustained culture of ethical awareness among the research community.

8.2 Plagiarism Prevention and Detection:

- IGNOU shall adopt robust plagiarism detection mechanisms and ensure that all research outputs, doctoral theses, journal articles, project reports, undergo mandatory scrutiny using UGC-approved anti-plagiarism software.

- A maximum allowable similarity index, as prescribed by the UGC Regulation (2018) and its amendments from time to time shall be strictly enforced before submission for evaluation, publication, or award of degree.
- Violations of research and publication ethics, including plagiarism, authorship disputes, or data misrepresentation, shall be dealt with seriously and in accordance with due process. A Research Misconduct Review Panel (RMRP) under the Research Council may be constituted to investigate and recommend actions on such breaches.

8.3 Ethical Publication Practices:

- IGNOU shall encourage its teachers, academics and research scholars to publish only in reputed, peer-reviewed, and indexed journals, avoiding predatory or unethical publication.
- A regularly updated list of recognized journals (Scopus, WoS, etc.) shall be maintained for reference.
- All publications from IGNOU-sponsored or institutional research must carry appropriate institutional affiliation and acknowledgments, and ensure compliance with open access mandates wherever applicable.

PART IX

COLLABORATIONS, INSTITUTIONAL SYNERGY AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

9. Project Facilitation Unit (PFU) shall institutionalize comprehensive procedures for Research Funding Mobilization and Strategic Collaborations. These efforts shall be driven by the PFU to support and sustain high-quality research that aligns with national development goals and global best practices.

9.1 Identification of Agencies for Research Collaboration:

The PFU shall proactively identify and disseminate funding opportunities from a broad spectrum of national and international agencies, including but not limited to:

- National Agencies: University Grants Commission (UGC), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Department of Science and Technology (DST), and Ministry of Education (MoE), etc.
- International and Multilateral Agencies: World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, UNICEF, and European Union research programmes, etc.
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Funding opportunities from public and private sector enterprises under CSR initiatives.

All proposals shall undergo an internal vetting process to ensure:

- Alignment with institutional research themes and SDG/NEP priorities.
- Feasibility and sustainability of the project.
- Compliance with statutory and financial regulations including UGC, GFR, and other norms of other agencies.

9.2 Development of Strategic Collaborations:

IGNOU shall promote co-funded and collaborative research through formal partnerships, leveraging its national reach and global relevance. The University shall enter into Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Collaborative Agreements with:

- Central and State Universities
- Deemed-to-be Universities and IITs/IIMs/NITs
- National Research Institutions and Think Tanks
- International Universities and Academic Consortia
- Government Ministries and Development Agencies
- Corporate Entities and Industry Partners
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Foundations

The PFU shall periodically review existing MoUs and actively pursue new collaborations aligned with strategic research themes such as:

- Digital Transformation
- Inclusive and Sustainable Development
- Health, Education, and Livelihood Innovation
- Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability
- Areas of R&D having impact on Society

9.3 Proposal Support and Administrative Facilitation:

A dedicated Research Support Team under the PFU shall assist teachers and research teams in:

- Conceptualization and budget planning for grant proposals.
- Drafting of MoUs, Letters of Intent (LoIs), and other contractual documents.
- Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and feasibility studies.
- Ensuring compliance with:
 - General Financial Rules (GFR)
 - Institutional Financial Procedures
 - Ethical and Intellectual Property Guidelines

The team shall also facilitate:

- Coordination with funding agencies.
- Timely submission of utilization certificates and audited statements.
- Liaison with administrative, legal and finance divisions for contract management and fund disbursal.

9.4 Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:

Periodic workshops, webinars, and training sessions shall be conducted for teachers, researchers, and administrative staff to build competencies in:

- Grant proposal writing
- Research budgeting
- Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) techniques
- Cross-border research collaboration norms

IGNOU shall also develop a Research Collaboration Dashboard to showcase ongoing partnerships, active MoUs, funding achievements, and knowledge outputs, fostering transparency and visibility.

PART X

ACADEMIC RESEARCH PROMOTION

10. The Project Facilitation Unit (PFU) will facilitate teachers and academics to undertake research activities that align with national development priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and global best practices in their respective disciplines. Participation in national and international conferences, seminars, symposia, and workshops for presenting original research findings shall be promoted as a key dimension of professional growth and knowledge dissemination. RU will formulate the schemes and guidelines for the implementation of academic research promotion.

The research promotion shall include:

- Grant of financial assistance for conduct of Minor and Major Research projects to teachers and academics of the University.
- Travel grants and registration fee reimbursements for paper presentations at recognized academic forums (Conference/ Seminars/ Workshop) both at National and International Levels, to facilitate teachers and academics.
- Publication support, including coverage of Article Processing Charges (APCs) for publishing in open-access journals, subject to eligibility and review, to facilitate teachers and academics.
- Institutional awards and recognitions, such as Best Researcher Award, Best Paper Award, etc. to acknowledge outstanding contributions of teachers and academics.

10.1 Academic Research Promotion Committee (ARPC)

The Academic Research Promotion Committee (ARPC) shall be constituted by the Director RDC with the approval of the Vice Chancellor and will comprise the following members:

- Pro-Vice Chancellor / Senior Professor – Chairperson
- Director, Research Development Centre (RDC) – Member
- Director, Academic Coordination Division (ACD) – Member
- One Professor (to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor) – Member
- One Academic (to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor) – Member
- Deputy/Assistant Director, PFU, RDC – Convenor

The functions of ARPC shall be:

- Oversee all aspects of academic research to be undertaken by the teachers and academics
- Scrutinize the proposals and award minor and major research projects submitted by teachers and academics, to be funded by the University.
- Recommend candidates for publication incentives, Article Processing Charges (APCs) reimbursement.
- Recommend travel support and registration fee to teachers and academics for presenting research at national and international conferences/seminars/ workshop.
- Monitor the utilization of funds allocated for research projects, financial assistance granted, and ensure procedural accountability.
- Periodically evaluate the impact and effectiveness of the schemes on offer.

10.2 Procedure for Research Projects undertaken by teachers and academics

All interested teachers and academics shall initiate project engagement by submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) or a detailed Research Proposal using the standardized template available on the IGNOU Research Portal.

Project Submission:

Each submission must include the following key components:

- Project Title and Synopsis
- Research Objectives and Scope
- Theoretical and Methodological Framework
- Work Plan with Timelines and Milestones
- Detailed Budget with Justifications
- Expected Deliverables and Outcomes
- Ethical Considerations and Risk Assessment
- Dissemination and Knowledge Transfer Plan

The submission window shall be periodically notified and shall cater to both institutional seed funding proposals and external grant submissions.

Review and Approval Mechanism:

The PFU shall organize the evaluation of proposals through a Project Selection and Evaluation Committee (PSEC) which shall be constituted by Director RDC with the approval of the Vice Chancellor, comprising subject experts, internal reviewers, and external evaluators (as required).

The PSEC shall assess proposals based on:

- Scientific merit and originality
- Relevance to institutional/national priorities
- Feasibility and resource utilization
- Alignment with National and International policies and mission documents

Following peer review and PSEC recommendations, proposals shall be submitted for approval by the Vice Chancellor or the competent authority as per institutional procedures.

Upon approval, the Principal Investigator (PI) shall be issued a formal sanction letter, outlining terms of funding, project duration, budgetary allocations, reporting requirements, and compliance protocols.

Project Implementation and Monitoring:

All approved projects shall be registered and managed through the University's Samarth ERP system to ensure real-time visibility and compliance tracking.

The PI shall be responsible for:

- Mobilizing the research team
- Executing the project as per the approved plan
- Managing funds within budgetary norms and procurement rules
- Ensuring adherence to ethical standards and data protection guidelines

The PFU shall facilitate:

- Periodic progress review meetings
- Mid-term evaluations and site visits
- Advisory support from subject matter experts

Financial operations including budget disbursement, utilization tracking, and procurement processes shall be subject to regular oversight by the Internal Audit Unit and the Finance Division.

Project Closure and Knowledge Dissemination:

Upon completion, each project shall be formally closed through the submission of:

- Final Technical Report (FTR) documenting the research process, findings, and policy relevance
- Utilization Certificate (UC) and Statement of Expenditure (SoE) detailing financial expenditure, endorsed by the Finance Officer
- Asset Inventory Report specifying equipment or resources procured under the project

The PI shall also present key outcomes in a Project Completion Seminar and contribute to:

- Publication in peer-reviewed journals
- Policy briefs or technical manuals
- Knowledge transfer to stakeholders or communities

Best-performing projects shall be recognized through institutional awards and featured in the IGNOU Annual Research Compendium.

10.3 Procedure for the award of Travel grant and registration fee for Conferences/ Seminars/ Workshops

All interested teachers and academics shall submit an application along with research papers at least one month prior to the date of the Conferences/Seminars/ Workshops. The PFU will process the application through its Academic Research Promotion Committee. The award of travel grant will be subject to the terms and conditions prescribed under the prevailing UGC guidelines.

a) Eligibility

- Full-time teachers and academics of IGNOU are eligible to apply.
- The applicant must be presenting a research paper at the Conference/Seminar/Workshop.
- Only events of academic relevance organized by recognized institutions/universities/academic bodies in India or abroad will be considered.

b) Application Procedure

- The applicant shall submit the prescribed application form along with the following documents:
 - Abstract/full text of the research paper accepted for presentation.
 - Letter of acceptance/invitation from the organizers.
 - Detailed information about the Conference/Seminar/Workshop (brochure/announcement).
- The application should be submitted at least one month prior to the commencement of the event.

Processing of Applications

- Applications will be scrutinized by the Academic Research Promotion Committee (ARPC) of IGNOU.

- The Committee will evaluate applications based on academic merit, relevance, and conformity with UGC guidelines.
- Recommendations of the ARPC will be placed before the competent authority for approval.

Financial Assistance

- Financial assistance will include:
 - Travel Grant: Actual airfare/train fare (as per entitlement under Government of India rules).
 - Registration Fee: As charged by the organizers of the event.
- The total amount of financial assistance will be subject to availability of funds and UGC norms.

Terms and Conditions

- The financial support will be granted once in a financial year for National and once in three years for International to an eligible teacher/academic.
- Reimbursement will be made on submission of the following:
 - Certificates of participation and presentation.
 - Original boarding passes/rail tickets/receipts.
 - Original receipts of registration fee.
- Any support received from other funding agencies for the same purpose should be disclosed, and duplication of claims will not be permitted.
- The grant is non-transferable and meant exclusively for the applicant.

Reporting Requirement

- The awardee shall submit a brief report of participation along with a copy of the presented paper/proceedings to the PFU for record.

PART XI KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

11. The aim is to ensure that research findings do not remain confined to academic circles but are translated into actionable insights that inform public policy, enhance pedagogy, and benefit communities. Hence the RU and PFU shall strive to disseminate the knowledge created for the benefit of society.

11.1 Mandatory Dissemination Requirements:

All funded research projects, whether supported internally or externally, shall include a clearly defined dissemination and knowledge translation component as part of their project deliverables.

Principal Investigators (PIs) shall be responsible for disseminating research outcomes through the following channels:

- **Academic Conferences and Symposia:** National and international platforms to present findings to the scholarly community.
- **Peer-Reviewed Publications:** Submission of articles to indexed journals (Scopus, Web of Science) with appropriate acknowledgments to the funding agency and IGNOU.
- **Policy Briefs and Reports:** Concise, evidence-based documents targeting government ministries, policymakers, and civil society organizations.
- **Community Media and Outreach Events:** Dissemination through vernacular language materials, local radio/TV, community newspapers, or digital platforms to enhance grassroots reach.
- **IGNOU Research Seminars and Policy Dialogues:** Integration into the university's own outreach events designed for wider stakeholder engagement.

11.2 Public Research Repository and Open Access Compliance:

RDC (RU and PFU) shall maintain a centralized, open-access Research Repository, aligned with the standards of:

- **Shodhganga** – For the submission and indexing of doctoral theses.
- **Shodhgangotri** – For ensuring sharing of the approved synopsis to avoid duplication of the research.
- **INFLIBNET and NDLI** – For metadata compliance, discoverability, and national visibility.

The Research Repository shall house:

- Project proposals and technical reports (where permissible)
- Final PhD theses, dissertation and project reports
- Research publications, data sets, working papers, and policy briefs

Teachers, academics, research associates, research fellows and research scholars shall be encouraged to adopt open access principles, in line with national policy on open science, to ensure wider accessibility and knowledge equity.

11.3 Integration with Learning, MOOCs, and Field Interventions:

RDC (RU and PFU) shall ensure that research outputs meaningfully inform and enhance:

- **Self-Learning Materials (SLMs):** Course content will be revised or enriched based on contemporary research insights, making teaching-learning processes dynamic and evidence-based.
- **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs):** Relevant findings shall be embedded in MOOCs offered on platforms such as SWAYAM and IGNOU's eGyankosh.
- **Field-Based Interventions and Pilot Studies:** Thematic research—especially that focusing on rural development, social inclusion, environment, and education—shall be translated into community outreach initiatives, action research, and collaborations with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), NGOs, and local governments.

11.4 Strategic Uptake by Policymakers and Stakeholders:

The RDC (RU and PFU) shall play an active role in:

- Identifying opportunities to communicate research evidence to national and state-level ministries and departments.
- Collaborating with think tanks, research consortia, and civil society for joint uptake strategies.
- Mapping research outcomes to national flagship programmes (e.g., *Samagra Shiksha*, National Education Policy 2020, *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, Skill India, etc.).

11.5 Research Dissemination and Public Engagement Committee (RDPEC):

The Research Dissemination and Public Engagement Committee shall be constituted by Director RDC with the approval of the Vice Chancellor, comprising:

Directors of Schools of Studies, Research Supervisors, Director RDC, Director Centre for Online Education, Director Centre for Internal Quality Assurance, Librarian of the University, and Research Scholars

The RDPEC shall supervise outreach activities, media dissemination, public engagement, and knowledge transfer from research outputs.

- It shall facilitate the publication of policy briefs, organization of public lectures, community research forums, popular science/media communication strategies.
- RDPEC will also ensure that research results are translated into usable formats for policymakers, practitioners, and communities.

PART XII

MONITORING OF RESEARCH

12. The monitoring of research activities will be done by the RDC (RU and PFU) which will be responsible for tracking, assessing, and reporting the progress and impact of research projects undertaken across the University. The RDC (RU and PFU) will ensure that all research initiatives are aligned with institutional priorities and national standards, while promoting accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement in the research ecosystem.

12.1 Establishment of a Centralized Research Tracking Dashboard

Design and Implementation

The RDC (RU and PFU) will develop and maintain a centralised digital dashboard to serve as a unified platform for real-time tracking of all ongoing research/ research projects/ collaborations undertaken by individual teachers, academics, research scholars, learners and other constituent units of the University.

- **Data Capture and Integration:**

The RDC (RU and PFU) will capture and consolidate data related to:

- Research Projects (externally and internally funded)
- Collaborations
- Doctoral research
- Dissertations
- Research outputs

- **User Access and Customization**

The RDC (RU and PFU) will enable role-based access to the individuals connected with the review and monitoring of the research activities of the University.

- **Alerts and Notifications**

The RDC (RU and PFU) will integrate automated alerts for key deadlines such as final submissions, fund utilisation certificates, project reviews, and closure timelines.

12.2 Annual Impact Reviews and Institutional Research Reporting

- **Periodic Reviews**

The RDC (RU and PFU) will conduct structured annual reviews of ongoing and completed research projects to assess:

- Research progress against approved objectives and timelines
- Output quality (publications, citations, innovations, etc.)
- Social, academic, and policy impact of the research
- Financial performance and compliance with funder guidelines

- **Institutional Research Reports**

The RDC (RU and PFU) will prepare comprehensive annual research reports capturing:

- Number of research scholars on rolls and doctoral degree awarded
- Number and types of research projects (individual, collaborative, interdisciplinary)
- Funding trends and agency-wise distribution
- Research publications and scholarly output
- Key findings and recommendations for future research directions.

- **Presentation to Statutory Bodies**

- The RDC (RU and PFU) will present research monitoring findings and reports to the Research Council, Academic Council, and other relevant statutory or advisory bodies annually.
- It will facilitate data-driven strategic inputs and policy formulation for enhancing research quality and institutional visibility.

PART XIII

EPILOGUE

13. IGNOU's comprehensive *Policy on Promotion of Research* marks a pivotal step toward deepening its research culture and widening its academic impact. The University envisions unlocking the intellectual and creative potential of its academic community, thereby positioning itself as a global leader in innovation, inclusion, and excellence within the ODL ecosystem.

Backed by strategic funding, advanced infrastructure, unwavering commitment to ethical research practices, and continuous capacity building, IGNOU's research initiatives will support India's emergence as a knowledge-based economy. More importantly, these initiatives will empower marginalized and rural communities through solutions that are inclusive, sustainable, and contextually relevant.



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