MALWANCHAL UNIVERSITY, INDORE

Report on the Collaborative Activity with Oriental University, Indore on 28th February 2024

On **28th February 2024**, a significant collaborative event took place between **Malwanchal University** and **Oriental University, Indore**, marking the beginning of a fruitful partnership aimed at enhancing academic and research excellence. The event was inaugurated by the **Vice Chancellor of Malvanchal University, Dr. Sanjeev Narang**, and the **Vice Chancellor of Oriental University, Professor Sunil K. Somani**, who both acknowledged the importance of the event for fostering academic collaboration. The formal signing of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between the **Registrar of Malvanchal University, Dr. Lokeshwar Singh Jodhana**, and the **Registrar of Oriental University, Dr. Pradyumna Yadav** symbolized the institutional commitment to a long-term partnership. Following the MoU signing, the workshop commenced, with a focus on the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**, an essential tool for evaluating and improving the quality of higher education institutions in India.

The workshop began with an **Introduction to NIRF**, where participants were introduced to the framework's history, purpose, and scope. The session emphasized the importance of NIRF rankings in shaping the academic environment of India. The Vice Chancellors stressed that NIRF rankings not only reflect an institution's academic quality but also influence funding, collaborations, and its overall reputation. The session also highlighted how NIRF rankings guide students, faculty, and other stakeholders in making informed decisions about institutional choices. Furthermore, the speakers elaborated on the critical role that the rankings play in helping institutions secure better funding and forge international collaborations.

Following the introduction, the next module covered a detailed analysis of the **NIRF Ranking Criteria**. The key focus here was on the five main parameters that form the foundation of NIRF evaluations: **Teaching, Learning, and Resources (TLR)**, **Research and Professional Practices (RP)**, **Graduation Outcomes (GO)**, **Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)**, and **Perception (PR)**. Each parameter was discussed in depth, with a focus on the sub-parameters that contribute to the overall score. The session also highlighted the weightage assigned to each parameter, offering a comprehensive understanding of how rankings are determined. Notably, there was a discussion on the evolving nature of the ranking criteria, and how institutions need to continuously adapt to these changes to remain competitive. Case studies of top-ranked institutions like the **IITs**, **IIMs**, and **IISc** were shared, illustrating how these institutions excelled in specific parameters through strategic initiatives.

A critical part of the workshop focused on the **Data Collection and Submission Process**, which is central to the NIRF ranking. The participants were introduced to the **NIRF Data Submission Portal**, where institutions are required to submit their data. The session was designed to guide participants through the steps involved in data entry, highlighting the importance of accuracy and consistency. It emphasized the need for institutions to maintain thorough documentation and provide supporting evidence for each parameter. Common mistakes in data submission, such as missing data or incorrect reporting, were discussed, along with best practices to avoid these pitfalls. The importance of aligning data collection processes with NIRF criteria to ensure accurate and fair evaluations was underscored throughout this module.

The next module focused on **Improving Institutional Performance on NIRF Parameters**. This session aimed to equip participants with practical strategies to improve their institutions' performance across the five key NIRF parameters. For **Teaching, Learning, and Resources (TLR)**, strategies to enhance teaching quality, faculty qualifications, and infrastructure development were discussed. In the **Research and Professional Practices (RP)** parameter, the focus was on increasing research output, fostering industry-academic collaborations, and encouraging patents. Regarding **Graduation Outcomes (GO)**, the session shared approaches to improve student success rates, employability, and skill development initiatives. The **Outreach and Inclusivity (OI)** parameter involved discussions on promoting diversity, inclusivity, and community engagement through outreach programs. The **Perception (PR)** parameter highlighted how institutions can enhance their reputation through media campaigns, alumni networks, and building industry partnerships.

In the following session, participants were introduced to the **Best Practices from Top-Ranked Institutions**. The session examined case studies of leading institutions that consistently perform well in the NIRF rankings. The best practices discussed included fostering a robust research culture, investing in faculty development, and prioritizing infrastructure improvements. Successful institutions also emphasized the importance of **collaborative partnerships** with both industry and international academic institutions. This session not only showcased how these institutions attained top rankings but also provided actionable insights for other universities aiming to enhance their performance.

Another essential module focused on **Data Analysis and Benchmarking**, which aimed to help institutions understand and analyze their NIRF scores. Participants learned how to interpret NIRF reports, identify areas where they were underperforming, and use this information to set institutional benchmarks for improvement. The session also introduced tools for data analytics, which could help institutions track their progress, measure performance gaps, and implement strategies for continuous improvement.

To enhance practical learning, the workshop included an **Interactive Q&A Session**, where participants could ask questions about the NIRF ranking process, data submission, and strategies for improvement. This session allowed participants to clarify any doubts, share their experiences, and gain insights from experts on specific challenges they faced.

Additionally, a **Hands-On Session** was conducted to provide participants with practical experience in navigating the NIRF portal and understanding the data collection process. This

session was designed to help participants better understand the technical aspects of data submission, ensuring they were prepared to submit accurate and consistent data when the time comes.

The event concluded with a summary of key takeaways and a discussion on the **way forward**. Both universities reiterated their commitment to enhancing academic standards, research outputs, and NIRF rankings through continuous collaboration. The signing of the MoU between Malvanchal University and Oriental University signifies a promising start to a long-term partnership, one that will foster academic growth and institutional improvement. The workshop successfully equipped participants with the knowledge and tools required to improve their NIRF rankings, setting the stage for future progress and collaboration between the two institutions.
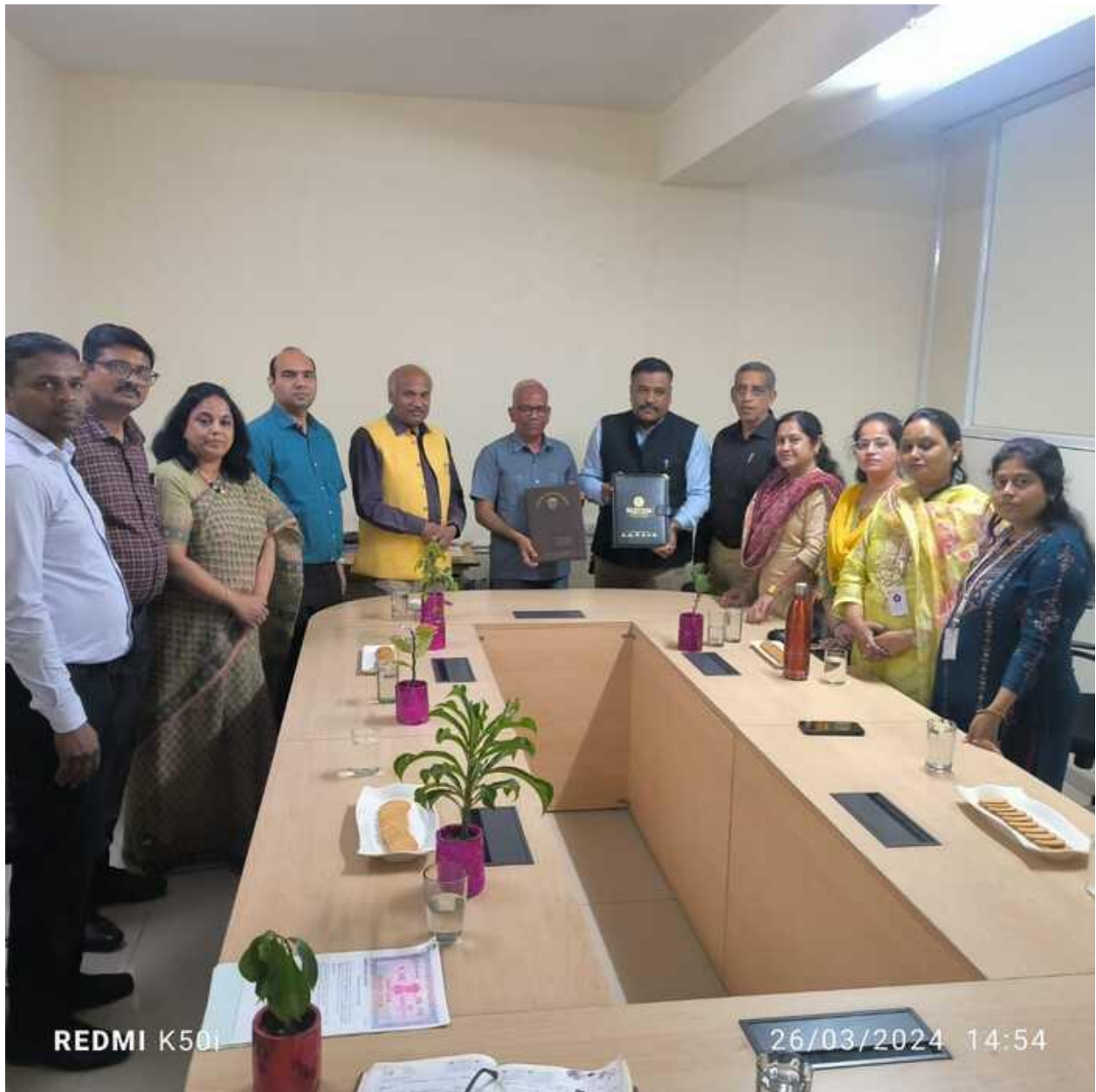
Overall, the event not only provided valuable insights into the NIRF ranking process but also laid the foundation for a mutually beneficial collaboration between Malvanchal University and Oriental University. The joint efforts will contribute to improving institutional performance, fostering research excellence, and achieving higher positions in national and global rankings.

Registrar
Malwanchal University
Indore (M.P.)

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