**Press Backgrounder**

**Rajasthan’s First University**

**MANIPAL UNIVERSITY JAIPUR TO RECEIVE AN A+ RATING FROM NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL**

National Assessment and Accreditation Council has rated Manipal University Jaipur as an A+ with 65% all performance metrics scoring with a perfect 4.0. This singular recognition makes MUJ as the only University in Rajasthan and one of two Private State Universities in India with an A+ rating. Some the perfect scoring performance indicators are shared below.

NAAC rated all key indicators of the Curricular Aspects criteria with a perfect score of 4.0 because MUJ develops its curriculum by involving all stake holders and ensures that courses taught are focused on employability, entrepreneurship and skill development. To complement these courses, a large variety of value-add courses are offered. These value-add courses along withnew courses introduced as per industry and societal needs, fulfil the demand of students to stay abreast with rapid changes in knowledge.The Institution is also recognized with perfect scores for integrating cross cutting issues relevant to Gender, Environment and Sustainability, Human Values and Professional Ethics into the Curriculum.

Additionally, the NAAC Peer Team appreciated that the curriculum is developed keeping in view the relevance to the local, regional, national and global needs. This relevancy has been established by implementing Outcome Based Education (OBE) extensively across all professional and general education programs. They found that there is complete academic flexibility within the university system. It follows participative learning and problem-solving methodologies. The University has conducted a Curriculum Conclave with the involvement of different stake holders to revise and update thesyllabi for all programs.

Keeping in view the needs of students from diverse background and weaker sections of the society, the university makes efforts to identify the students who are advance learners and slow learners based on their performance in qualifying exam and academic records. The University conducts compensatory or flipped courses for slow learners. Individual care is given to them through remedial classes by the senior students and faculty members. University follow students’ centric participative methods of teaching and learning, like Quizzes and Classroom dialogues.

With more than 1400 institutions/industries linkages for internship, project work and sharing of research facilities, MUJ attracts students and faculty from Pan India. Over 60% faculty have PhDs and generously funded to do research and publish or present their work at National and International Conference. Over INR 1 Crore of Seed /Endowment grants have been provided for research over past 5 years. 870 students benefitted with scholarships worth Rs. 6.40 Crores over past 5 years. There are 33 sponsored research projects worth Rs. 6.20 crores

In its 9-year journey, MUJ’s faculty have publications with an extraordinary high number of citations. With over 88 MoUs with national and international institutions/industries, MUJ is recognized for its strong Internationalization initiatives.158 extension and outreach programmes have been conducted in collaboration with industry, community and NGOs over the past 5 years. The Peer Team noted that the University has good research labs with latest instruments and equipment for experimentation necessary to publish SCOPUS Q1 papers.

The NAAC Peer Team noted that all Semester results are declared on time and that the University follows open book exam and e-pad digital answer - books have been introduced for current session 2019-20. Internal assessment is continuous process. Students are using mobile apps in which they can view academic related information online. Students are shown their answer sheets before finalizing their marks to make the internal evaluation/assessment transparent. Thetransparent system of examination reduces complaints and grievances about examination and evaluation was noted as a an effective practice.

Examinations are conducted on time as per academic calendar. The program outcomes are identified as perthe regulatory bodies like UGC, AICTE, keeping in view requirement of employers.

Perfect scores were awarded for learning resources such as Information and communications technology (ICT) enabled classrooms and continuously upgrading its library facilities with latest software, subscription of e-journal/books with a spend of more than 6 crores over the past 5 years. Remote access to library e-resources for students and faculty through an iMobile app is a highlight that was duly recognized in the NAAC report. The University has more than 7000 laptops/computer available for the students along with supercomputing facilities PARAM-SHAVAK.Laboratories are set up in collaboration with corporates like C-DAC, Bosch, Siemens, Rexroth.

Excellent scores were given to MUJ’s Corporate & Placement cell for providing guidance to students, as well as regularly conducting career counselling sessions. Over the past 5 years, 92% of students either qualified in state/ national/ international level examinations and progressed to higher education, were placed in reputed organizations/companies or are self-employed. Over 100+ awards/medals have been won for outstanding performance in sports/cultural activities at national/international level by MUJ students and faculty.Fully funded students’ clubs and AtalIncubation center enable students to innovate and participate in various competitive events. Mentor relationship and students’ feedback for conflict resolution and quality enhancement is followed extensively.

The university has set up Atal Incubation Centre in Rajasthan which is funded by the NITI Ayog. DST of Government of Rajasthan acknowledges the university as Center for Excellence and has designated it as aTechnological and Training Center, University has incubated around 48 start ups out of which many receivesprivate and public funding. University provides several platforms to students to showcase their innovativeideas and market products with facilities like system software and network. Different departments have alsofiled some patents. In order to fulfil its social obligation, the Green Club (Rotract) of the university has adopted 5villages in nearby area under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. The extension work in the adopted villages includes awareness programs andcampaign regarding health, hygiene, sanitation, cleanliness, rainwater harvesting, rural and urban wastemanagement.

The University helps the villages to develop as a model village. The University organizes blood donationcamp and provide regular computer and soft skills training in government schools of adopted villages, besidesmaintaining greenery in Jaipur city.

MUJ’s focus on professional development / administrative training programmes for faculty/staff were found to be excellent with its investment in leadership development programs. Additionally, high ratings were given for the level of financial support that is provided to students/faculty/staff for attending National and International conferences / workshops. The Peer team sent by NAAC for onsite assessment interacted with MUJ’s Student Council members and were delighted to learn from them about their involvement in various academic & administrative bodies/committees and cultural activities of the institution.

The Peer Team were extremely pleased to see that the institution has excellent facilities for sports, games (indoor, outdoor) with a state of art large gymnasium and yoga centre etc. The campus and hostel areas were found to be par excellent with 77% of annual lighting power requirements being met through LED lights and multiple rainwater harvesting structures were being utilized. The Peer Team reported that all roofs of constructed buildings including parking are covered with solar panel which satisfy the 60-70% of required electric power.

Excellent facilities for solid/liquid/electronic waste management were found to be best in class by Peer Team. They highlighted that the University has a DST sponsored water treatment project which was implemented inside the campus as well as that it is operational in one of the model villages.

The Peer Team in its report highlighted that MUJ’s excellent physical infrastructure is being optimally utilized with a well -established system for maintenance and utilization of physical academic and other facilities. Indoor and Outdoor sports facilities are available for students with certified trainers. Finally, they were impressed by the campus as it is clean, green with very good physical infrastructure.

After interacting with MUJs Leadership team led by President, Professor Gopalkrishna Prabhu, Pro President Professor Niti Nipun Sharma and Registrar Professor Ravishankar Kamath and IQAC, theyconcluded that the Governance of the Institution is reflected through open, transparent effective leadership in tune with the vision to be a Global Leader in Higher Education and Human Development. Organizational structure of the University is as per the statue and academic as well as administrative decisions are taken through participative manner was noted as a strength.

**Future Benefits:**

1. MUJ is part of Category – II University as criteria decided by UGC.
2. Eligible for Deemed to be University
3. Universities may start a new course/programme department/school/centre in disciplines that form a part of its existing academic framework without approval of the UGC.
4. Universities may start skill courses, consistent with the National Skills Qualification Framework, without approval of the UGC.
5. Universities, subject to the Rules, Regulations and Guidelines of the Government of India, may hire, without approval of the Commission, foreign faculty having taught at any institution appearing in top five hundred of any of the world renowned ranking frameworks, such as the Times Higher Education World University Rankings or the QS Rankings, up to twenty percent over and above of their total sanctioned faculty strength. Universities will have the freedom to hire foreign faculty on “tenure/contract” basis as per the terms and conditions approved by their Governing Council/Statutory Bodies.
6. Universities shall be free to admit foreign students on merit subject to a maximum of twenty percent, over and above of the strength of their approved domestic students.
7. Universities may offer courses in the Open and Distance Learning mode, with approval of the Commission, provided it satisfies all the conditions laid down under UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and amendments from time to time.