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Memorandum of Understanding

between Jawaharlal Nehru University, Berhampur University, Central University of Punjab, Cotton University, Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University and Tezpur University

Anusandhan National Research Foundation Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (ANRF PAIR) Network titled "JNU-PAIR network on Science for Sustainable Future" envisions developing academic and research collaboration for advancing research contributions for solving the problems at the local, regional, national and global levels and enhancing skill development among students and faculty members. This MoU seeks to foster academic partnerships, promote innovation, and strengthen translational research in alignment with national priorities.

I - Introduction of Institutions

- 1. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU):** Jawaharlal Nehru University is the foremost University in India, and a world-renowned centre for teaching and research. Ranked number one in India by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with A++ Grade, JNU is ranked #2 in the "University" category and #9 in the "Overall" category in 2025 by the National Institutional Ranking Framework, Government of India. JNU also received the Best University Award from the President of India in 2017. Coming into being in 1969, three years after its establishment by Parliament, JNU brought frontier disciplines and newer perspectives for old disciplines to the Indian university system.

Still a young university, established by 'The Jawaharlal Nehru University Act 1966 (53 of 1966)', the strength, energy, and reputation of Jawaharlal Nehru University result from the vision that ideas are a field for adventure, experimentation and unceasing quest, and that diversity of opinions is the basis for intellectual exploration. The educational philosophy of the university gets translated into its somewhat unorthodox academic structure. Grounded in a faith in the unity of knowledge, JNU has sought to avoid the narrowly conceived Department structure of conventional universities, preferring instead to bring allied disciplines within a few broad entities called Schools, under whose interactive ambit are placed the more specialized units, called Centres, There are also Special Centres that are outside even the broad structures of School but may grow further. Then there are Research

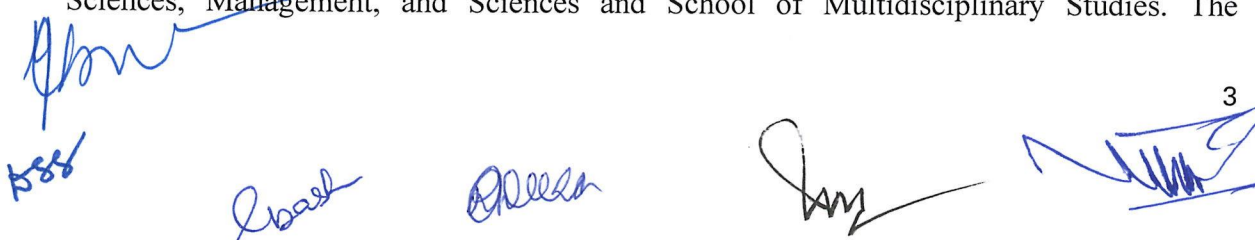
Clusters that cut across Schools and Centres as well as some programmes, which are placed within specific schools but are built on the interests of faculty across the university. At present, there are thirteen Schools and eight Special Centres in the University.

Several academic Centres of the university have been declared by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to be 'Centres of Excellence'. These are the Centre for Historical Studies, the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, the Centre for Political Studies, the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, and Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, all in the School of Social Sciences. In addition, three Science Schools – School of Physical Sciences, School of Life Sciences and School of Environmental Sciences – have also received UGC's recognition as Centres for Excellence. The Centre for English Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, has also been identified for Departmental Research Support under the Special Assistance Programme of the UGC. JNU itself has been given the status of the 'University of Excellence' by the UGC.

2. **Berhampur University (BU):** BU came into existence on 2nd January 1967. It was inaugurated by Dr. A.N. Khosla, the then Governor of Orissa and the first Chancellor of the University. The University was later shifted to the present site, known as Bhanja Bihar, named after the celebrated poet of Orissa, Kabisamrat Upendra Bhanja. Spreading over an area of about 250 acres. Berhampur University is one of the oldest public universities of Odisha, established in 1967 as a non-profit public higher education institute located in the rural setting of the city of Ganjam. The University is committed to developing as a value- and need-based quality education provider in the state of Odisha, in general, and in South Odisha, in particular. Berhampur University has twenty-eight departments, including pharmacy, offering a multitude of basic and applied courses, as well as well-established departments. Currently, postgraduate and doctoral programs are offered in all departments. The teaching and research faculties of the departments have highly qualified professionals trained in specialized areas of Sciences, Humanities and Management. It has two centers of excellence, including innovation-cum-incubation center. The University's excellence has been duly recognized with an 'A' Grade accreditation, placement in the 51-100 band of NIRF (state university) and recognized as a Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MERU).
3. **Central University of Punjab (CUP):** CUP was established in 2009 under the Act of Parliament in educationally backward areas throughout the country. It has 31 departments with 06 UG, 44 Masters' and 40 Ph.D. programs. The University has more than 2800 students in different academic programmes including international students from various parts of the world. The University is accredited with 'A⁺' grade from NAAC in its second cycle. The University has secured a place in the top 100 in the NIRF rankings for six consecutive years, with 77th Rank in the University category in the 2025 NIRF Ranking. The University also secured 20th rank in Pharmacy. The University is ranked 601-800 band in 2026 Times Higher Education World Ranking. The University takes pride in its exceptionally qualified and committed faculty and staff. The University has a state-of-the-

art Central Instrumentation Facility. Nine Departments of the University are DST-FIST supported. The University participates in IIC, ARIIA and MSME activities to foster the culture of innovation in the University. It also focuses on promoting and supporting student innovations and sustainable start-ups. The university has established DST's Nidhi i-TBI incubation centre for incubating business ideas leading to start-ups. Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has recognized CU Punjab as a Deemed Awarding Body (Dual category) for imparting and certifying skill training as per NEP & NCeF. Additionally, Department of Biotechnology supported E-YUVA centre, and AICTE sponsored Idea Lab are being established in the University. The University is poised to emerge as a premier educational institution with state-of-the-art infrastructure, providing quality education and research in science and technology, as well as the humanities and social sciences.

4. **Cotton University (CU):** Cotton University is a public state university situated in the heart of Guwahati, Assam. It was established in 2017 under the provisions of the Cotton University Act by merging the historic Cotton College and Cotton College State University. Cotton College, since its inception in 1901, has played a pivotal role in shaping the intellectual, cultural and socio-political landscape of Assam and the broader Northeast India. Today, Cotton University offers a wide range of academic programs across 31 departments and five specialized centres, spanning disciplines such as arts, sciences, literature, humanities and social sciences. The university provides undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma and doctoral degree programs, catering to a diverse student community. In recognition of its academic excellence, the university was awarded an "A" grade accreditation by NAAC in 2024 and figured in the 150-200 band of the NIRF ranking in 2020.
5. **Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU):** Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU), established in 2015 by the Government of NCT of Delhi, is India's first dedicated pharmaceutical sciences university. Recognized for academic and research excellence, DPSRU ranks 19th nationally in the 2025 NIRF (Pharmacy category) and comprises 14 departments, over 90 faculty members, and approximately 2,600 students. The university is actively engaged in interdisciplinary research, particularly in pharmacology, pharmaceutical chemistry, molecular biology, and translational medicine. It has published over 600 research papers in the past five years, secured ₹20 crore in research funding, and holds seven national patents. DPSRU maintains advanced laboratory facilities and supports collaborative research through faculty and student exchange programs, shared instrumentation, and joint grant applications. Faculty members are internationally recognized, including those listed in the top 2% global scientists (Stanford University) and fellows of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS).
6. **Tezpur University (TU):** TU is one of the Premier Higher Education Institutions of India, established on January 21, 1994, as per the Tezpur University Act, 1993. The University, which is fully residential and unitary in nature, is currently offering 85 academic programmes through 28 departments under the Schools of Engineering, Humanities & Social Sciences, Management, and Sciences and School of Multidisciplinary Studies. The



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University also offers 06 programmes in open and distance mode under its Centre for Distance and Online Education.

The 262-acre, meticulously planned campus of the University provides an excellent ambience for the pursuit of education and research. Apart from the state-of-the-art laboratories at the departments, the University has a Sophisticated & Analytical Instrumentation facility, which currently houses a number of sophisticated instruments. The Central Library serves as the hub of information services apart from being a knowledge centre with more than one lakh documents comprising books, theses, journals/e-journals, conference proceedings, etc. The library is equipped with RFID system. With over 5,000 students, the University is a diverse academic community. The academic and administrative functions are supported by a substantial staff, including 312 sanctioned teaching positions and 287 sanctioned non-teaching staff. To accommodate its students, the university provides extensive on-campus housing, featuring a total of 18 hostels, with nine dedicated to men and nine for women. This robust infrastructure supports a thriving educational environment.

II. Purpose of Agreement

- a. All the participating institutions will enhance academic and research output through collaboration.
- b. Joint responsibilities:
- c. To offer joint degree/diploma/certificate courses to advance the field of education, research and promote cutting-edge 21st century research.
- d. To provide a forum for collaboration in academics, research, and to share infrastructure, equipment, library and other resources.
- e. To supervise jointly PhD programs, M Sc research, internships, and the dissemination of work of graduate and postgraduate students.
- f. To conduct joint training programs, workshops, seminars, webinars, and conferences to promote knowledge and enhance research and other 21st century skills.
- g. To conduct joint research projects for attracting extramural funding.
- h. To perform collaborative activities to address the issues related to environment, agriculture, health and technology.
- i. To promote faculty and student exchange.
- j. To promote skill development & entrepreneurial activities.
- k. To publish in high-quality journals.
- l. To enhance research facilities and infrastructure.
- m. To enhance research culture.



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III. Period and its extension

This network will come into effect from the date of signing the MoU by the Head of all participating institutions and will be effective till the completion of the ANRF PAIR project. The set objectives will be periodically reviewed, preferably twice a year in joint meetings, to assess the progress.

IV. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

1. General clauses:

- Each party shall provide proper protection of Intellectual Property Rights arising from collaboration under this network in accordance with their respective Acts, Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations, Rules and Policies.
- The parties shall not assign any rights or liabilities deriving from IPR created by inventions/activities carried out under the network to any third party without the approval of the concerned stakeholders.

2. Commercialization:

- In the case of research results in any product or technology with a potential for commercialization via collaborative efforts, the rights to commercialize the technology will lie with the contributory participants.
- Publication(s): Any publication, document, and/or research paper from the parties' collaborative effort under this network shall be jointly owned. The use of the parties' names, logos, and/or official emblems in any publication, document, or paper shall require prior authorization from all the parties.
- In the case of joint degree programmes, revenue will be decided based on the resource utilization of the partnering institutions.

3. Confidential Information

- All information and documents exchanged pursuant to this network will be kept confidential and used only under the conditions specified by each party. Without the prior written approval of the other party, a party will not use the information for purposes other than those indicated.
- The disclosing party retains exclusive ownership of any sensitive information. The parties agree that the disclosure of sensitive information does not provide or suggest to the recipient any license, interest, or right in any intellectual property right of the other party.
- Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, unpublished information found or conceived by the scientists or technicians and exchanged under the provisions of this consortium will not be transferred to a third party.



V. Disclosure Information

- a. All the parties agree that, except for a court order requiring disclosure, they shall not disclose any documents or information in the public domain.
- b. All data generated through this network shall be subject to explicit written approval signed by the concerned parties.

VI. Amendments

No amendments or alterations shall be valid unless agreed upon by all the participating institutions after proper discussion and valid documentation. The modifications/changes will be effective as of the day they are made or introduced.

VII. Joint Working Committee & Financial Obligations

A joint working group will be established with representatives from all parties to facilitate the execution of the network activities. Every organization will nominate representatives for discussion and working with the network. Financial obligations will be discussed separately whenever required.

VIII. Arbitration

- a. In the event of any dispute or difference relating to the interpretation and application of the provisions of the agreement, such disputes or differences shall be resolved amicably through negotiation and consultation among the relevant parties. Any unresolved disputes arising from the interpretation or implementation of the network activities shall be referred to the Vice Chancellor, JNU who shall constitute a committee to resolve the dispute. However, any party aggrieved by the decision may be referred for Arbitration to the sole Arbitrator as per the provision of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The award of the Arbitrator shall be binding upon the parties finally and conclusively. The parties to the dispute will share equally the cost of arbitration as intimated by the Arbitrator.
- b. The venue of the Arbitration shall be New Delhi and language of the Arbitration shall be English.
- c. Whereas for the purpose of enforcing the award given by Arbitrator or for any other related matter of this Agreement only the Courts at Delhi/New Delhi shall have the jurisdiction.

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IX. Termination

The termination of this network shall not affect the validity or duration of specific collaborative programmes already being undertaken thereunder, unless decided otherwise by the parties by mutual consent.

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, all the parties herein to have signed the ANRF PAIR network MOU on the dates indicated below.

Signed by



Vice Chancellor
Jawaharlal Nehru University,
New Delhi-110067

Date 12/11/2025



Vice Chancellor
Berhampur University,
Odisha-760007

Date _____



Vice Chancellor
Central University of Punjab,
Punjab -151401

Date 12th NOV, 2025



Vice Chancellor
Cotton University,
Assam – 781001

Date 12/11/2025



Vice Chancellor
Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and
Research University, New Delhi - 110017

Date _____



Vice Chancellor
Tezpur University,
Assam-784 028

Date _____