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This Memorandum of Understanding herein referred to as "MOU"

is signed at New Delhi on

Friday, the 27th Day of March, 2009

By & Between

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU, a Central University established by an Act of Parliament - Act No. 50 of 1985) having its headquarters at Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110 068; represented through its Registrar (Admn.) (henceforth to be referred to as **IGNOU**) which expression shall unless repugnant to the context of meaning thereof include its successors and permitted assignees of the **FIRST PART**.

AND

National Council of Rural Institutes, (NCRI, an autonomous organization established in 1995 under MHRD, Govt. of India) having its headquarters at 5-10-174 Shaikar Bhavan, Ground Floor, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad-500 004 (hereinafter referred to as **NCRI**) represented by its Member Secretary, which expression shall unless repugnant to the context of the meaning thereof include its successors and permitted assignees of the **SECOND PART**.

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Collectively referred to as the "Parties":

WHEREAS, IGNOU is a Central University established by an Act of Parliament as the National Open University with the objective to democratize education, disseminate knowledge for the benefit of large sections of society, specially the weaker and disadvantaged groups and offering a wide range of programmes. IGNOU serves the educational aspirations of more than 2 million students in India and abroad through 21 Schools of Studies, an elaborate network of Regional Centers, Study Centers and overseas centers. Apart from teaching, research, extension and training that form the mainstay of IGNOU's academic activities, IGNOU also acts as a national resource centre and functions as an apex body to promote and maintain standards of distance education.

WHEREAS, NCRI is a autonomous institute with the prime objective to strengthen the rural India in a holistic manner using education as an instrument of social advancement and with the main objective to promote rural higher education on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary ideas on education, so as to take up challenges of micro planning for transformation of rural areas as envisaged in NPE 1986 (as modified in 1992); to consolidate, network and develop institutions engaged in programs of Gandhian Basic Education and Nai Talim; to encourage other educational institutions and voluntary agencies to develop in accordance with Gandhian philosophy of education; to strengthen teacher-training facilities for Gandhian basic education; to design a variety of courses at tertiary level around emerging rural occupation; to strengthen the content of all these institutions with emphasis on science and technology; to encourage field-oriented courses of rural institutes; to promote research as a tool for social and rural development; to promote extension services to the community through micro-level planning; and to advise Government of India on all such matters pertaining to rural institutes as may be referred to it from time to time.

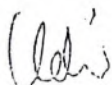
NOW THEREFORE this MOU witnesses as follows:

Common Objectives And Concerns

A. Preamble

1. Appreciating the common goals of higher education, research and training to empower people to participate in peace building efforts, accelerating national development and improving the quality of their life:





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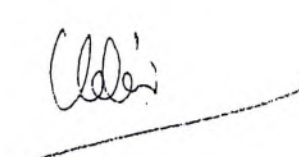
Considering the mutuality of goals of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI) to disseminate knowledge and skills to all those who cannot afford the same through formal educational channels, especially those in the interior areas, and women, poor and dalits through distance education mode;

3. Realizing that the knowledge and understanding of Gandhian philosophy and action in general, and truth, non-violence, sarvodaya, satyagraha and sustainable development in particular, are vital for human survival and peace;
4. Taking into account the mandate, vision and road map of the NCRI to promote Gandhian ideas and its network of Gandhian institutions and Rural Institutes and NGOs located in various nooks and corners of the country and the mission and capabilities of IGNOU in providing higher education to large target groups of learners;
5. Acknowledging that the pooling of experience, expertise and capabilities of IGNOU and the NCRI can produce top quality programmes of education, research and applications based on the Gandhian paradigm, especially in Nai Talim (Basic education), and Peace and Conflict Management;
6. The IGNOU, New Delhi, and NCRI, Hyderabad, hereby agree to sign this Memorandum of Understanding to enable collaborative efforts, pursuit of common interests and joint endeavours to promote the development of education, training, research and extension in Gandhian studies and act as precursors towards the goal of convergence between conventional and distance education in the country in these spheres.

B. Modus Operandi and Strategies :

IGNOU and NCRI would collaborate in the spread of educational programmes leading to Certificate, Diploma, Masters and Ph.D degrees in Gandhian studies, developed by the former.

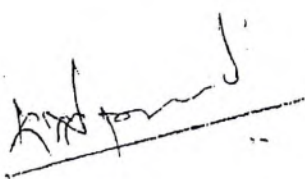




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IGNOU would also develop a course leading to PG Diploma in Peace and Conflict Management, reflecting the Gandhian ethos and ideas – a course in which NCRI is specially interested.

3. IGNOU and NCRI would collaborate in developing a certificate programme of short duration in Nai Talim (Basic Education) for existing and new generation of Nai Talim teachers.
4. NCRI would help in identifying new Study Centres for the above courses and facilitate the use of physical facilities available with the various Gandhian institutions, Rural institutes and reputed Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).
5. The Study Centres thus identified would function as Resource Centres for Gandhian Studies for IGNOU and NCRI.
6. IGNOU will not be charged for the infrastructure of these Study Centres. However, IGNOU and NCRI may assist them from time to time to improve and expand their facilities on mutually agreed basis.
7. IGNOU will provide, under its convergence programme, training to the Principal/Coordinator and teachers of the Study Centres without any charges besides providing course material free of cost to the learners.
8. Maintenance / repair of the premises of the Study Centres, including water, electricity and sanitation facilities of the Study Centres will be the responsibility of the respective parent institutions.
9. NCRI would participate in the promotion of project work in M.A. / PG Diploma on applications interventions / studies on Gandhian ideas by providing in each year ten scholarships of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees five thousand only) each carried out at designated Gandhian institutions, Rural institutes or reputed NGOs.
10. NCRI will coordinate the proposed academic and project work / activities related to Gandhian studies at the selected Study Centres. The expenditure towards this will be borne by the NCRI.






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- Neither IGNOU nor NCRI will be held accountable for any liabilities or legal wrangles/litigation relating to the ownership or matters connected with the parent institutions of the Study Centres or problems and issues with regard to the relations between the parent institutions and the staff of the Study Centres, let alone the day-to-day management of the Study Centres beyond providing guidance in academic matters.
12. NCRI will make a one-time contribution of Rs.25 lakhs to IGNOU towards the expenditure on developing the various programmes. The NCRI's contribution would be acknowledged at an appropriate place in the material produced by IGNOU. However, the copyright for the materials produced for the various programmes rests with IGNOU. Besides the seed money NCRI will allocate a sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs per annum for organizing seminars/conferences/workshops and for research in this regard.
13. This memorandum shall come into effect upon signature of both the parties on the date set forth below and shall remain in force for five years or until either party withdraws by giving three months notice in writing. The memorandum shall automatically stand extended for a further period of five years if neither of the two parties wishes to terminate it.
14. Both parties would jointly develop and devise implementation strategies and time-bound action plans to meet the desired goals. The process of implementation would be assessed and evaluated jointly by a committee headed by the VC of IGNOU as Chairman and Chairman of NCRI as Co-Chairperson and two nominees each of the two institutions.
15. The parties to this agreement shall not be liable to each other for failure or delay in the performance of any of its obligations under this Agreement for the time and to the extent such failure or delay is caused by riots, civil commotion, wars, hostilities between nations, government loss, orders, regulations, embargos, action by the government(s) or any agency thereof, act of God, storms, fires, accidents, strikes, sabotages, explosions, or other





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similar or different categories beyond the reasonable control of the respective parties to this Agreement

in the event that either party is wholly or in part, prevented from or hindered in carrying out or observing any of the terms or conditions of this Agreement for any cause set forth hereinabove, such party shall give written notice to the other party by the most expeditious means as soon as possible after the occurrence of the cause relied on, giving full particulars of the reason for such prevention or hindrances, and the party shall in good faith consult each other and take necessary measures for the resolution of the affairs so prevented or hindered.

16. Each of the parties agree to execute and deliver all such further instruments and to do and perform all such further acts and things, as shall be necessary and required to carry out the provisions of this MOU and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have signed and executed this Memorandum in presence of each other and in presence of attesting witnesses.

For on behalf of IGNOU

(U. S. Tolia)
Registrar.
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi
New Delhi-110068

डॉ. एस. टोलिया / U. S. TOLIA
कुलसचिव (प्रशासन) / Registrar (Admn.)
इन्दिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय
Indira Gandhi National Open University
मैदान गार्ही, नई दिल्ली-110068
Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068

For on behalf of NCRI

(K. SATISH NAMBU DIRIPAD)
Member Secretary
National Council of Rural
Institutes,
Shakar Bhavan, IIInd floor.
Fateh Maidan Road.
Hyderabad - 500004

Witness:

1. KR Pritham
2. H. V. Raghavulu

Witness:

1. S. Jacob
2. G. V. Raghavulu