

This Memorandum of Understanding is executed on this day of 07-09-2024 at Gandhigram.

**Regional Coordinating Institute (RCI), Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University)** represented by its Registrar having its headquarters at Gandhigram - 624 302, Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu, hereinafter shall be referred to as the "RCI-GRI (DTBU)" which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, be deemed to mean and include the successors and permitted assigns of the **FIRST PARTY**.

**The St. Xavier's Catholic College of Engineering (Autonomous), Chunkankadai,** represented by its Principal having its registered office at Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu hereinafter shall be referred to as the "SXCCE" which expression

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shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, be deemed to mean and include the successors and permitted assigns of the **SECOND PARTY**.

Collectively the above parties shall be referred as "The Parties" and individually as "RCI-GRI (DTBU)" & "SXCCE".


#### **About the Parties**

**Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University) (GRI-DTBU)**, has its foundation in Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary philosophy of NaiTalim, which effectively bridges the cognitive and practical dimensions and focuses on the holistic development of learners, with an emphasis on skill development through value-based education, rooted in indigenous cultures and traditions. GRI (DTBU) adopted the three dimensional approach of education namely teaching, research and extension for rural development, which earned the Institute the status of Deemed to be University in 1976 by UGC. The Institute is controlled by the Ministry of Education, Government of India and fully funded through UGC, New Delhi. Government of India identified Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University) as one of the **Regional Coordinating Institute** to contribute in the implementation of **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** (*Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, GoI*) vide its letter D.O.No.5-1/2016-UBA / dt.8.2.2019).

Whereas:

**St. Xavier's Catholic College of Engineering (Autonomous), Chunkankadai**, affiliated to Anna University, Chennai, is owned, administered and run by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kuzhithurai, under the able leadership of the Bishop, Most. Rev. Dr. Albert Anastas, the present Chairman of the college, from the bifurcation of the Diocese of Kuzhithurai from the Diocese of Kottar in December, 2014. SXCCE was started in 1998 by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kottar and is conferred with Autonomous Status from the academic year 2022-2023 for the next 10 years by UGC. In pursuit of excellence, a quality management system is in place in line with ISO 9001-2000. The college is recognized under 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC act 1956 from 08-06-2018. Accreditations by NAAC and NBA are the testimony for the quality higher educational service of the college. NAAC accredited the college with grade "A" on 12-09-2017 and is now extended up to December, 2027. NBA accredited the UG programmes EEE, ECE and MECHANICAL under tier-II category for the validity period from 2018-2019 to 2020-2021 and currently, the validity is extended up to June, 2025. NBA also accredited the remaining UG programmes CSE, IT and CIVIL under tier-II category for

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the validity period up to June, 2027. Now Anna University has approved our Institution as "Institute Level Research Centre" for a period of three years upto June 2027.


RCI - GRI (DTBU) and SXCCE are hereinafter referred to individually as "Party" or collectively as "Parties".

RCI - GRI (DTBU) and SXCCE are partner Institutions in Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, the flagship programme of the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Hence, RCI-GRI (DTBU) and SXCCE desire and intend to develop cooperation and collaboration in community outreach, research for rural development, training, and other agreed activities that further the aims and objectives of these Institutions and Unnat Bharat Abhiyan as follows:

I) **Objectives and Scope of the Collaboration:** The objective of this MOU is to establish collaboration between both the parties and jointly undertake the following activities:

a) Development and execution of joint projects that support rural, coastal, village and tribal communities in the areas that may include:

- 1) Sustainable Agricultural Development and value chains
- 2) Energy Harvesting Systems
- 3) Agribusiness
- 4) Precision farming including fisheries, cattle and poultry, commercial and food, and spices.
- 5) Craft and Artisans Development & Industrialization and Entrepreneurship Development
- 6) Healthcare and Sanitation
- 7) Degradable and non-degradable Waste Management
- 8) Sustainable Infrastructure
- 9) Water Resource Management
- 10) Capacity Building, Strategy for Convergence and Implementation of Various Government Schemes
- 11) Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Start-ups and Digital Education
- 12) Academic programme support in Curriculum Reforms and Educational Institutions Social Responsibility

  
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- 13) School Education
  - 14) Empowering Women and Youth
  - 15) Climate Change and pollution control
  - 16) Panchayati Raj System
  - 17) Cooperative Institutions
  - 18) Sustainable Development Goals and Industrial revolution
  - 19) Undertaking Research and Research Capacity Building
  - 20) AI assisted technically empowered human society
- b) Organizing Capacity Development Training Programmes / Internships in areas of mutual strength for UBA Coordinators, Students, officials, elected representatives, farmers and entrepreneurs in villages / rural clusters as agreed between both the parties in the theme (s) mentioned above (a)
  - c) Involvement of students in the efforts made w.r.t terms and conditions of this MoU is mandatory.
  - d) Organizing Seminars and Workshops particularly on contemporary Policy related issues of mutual interest on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.
  - e) Undertake Collaborative Evidence based Policy Research on themes mentioned in (a) above or any other mutually agreed theme (s);
  - f) Promoting faculty/researcher exchange, based on mutually agreed norms and related to Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.
  - g) Any other new areas that could be mutually agreed upon keeping in view the expertise available with both the organizations.

II) **The Institutional arrangement for implementations of MoU will be as under**

- a) **RCI-GRI (DTBU) and SXCCE** will have Institutional Link Officers consisting of UBA Regional Coordinator from RCI-GRI (DTBU) and UBA Coordinator from SXCCE. They will discuss, propose and facilitate rolling out collaborative projects.
- b) **Work Plan**: A clear work plan would be shared with timelines, division of responsibilities and details specified for each joint project.
- c) **Review Mechanisms**: A clear cut review mechanism would be in place for addressing issues if any and to review progress and grievance redressal for all engagements between the Parties by the Core Committee.

- d) **Accounts and Audit of Expenditures:** For all specific engagements under this MoU, both parties will enter into a formal and binding separate agreement or agreements with each other which will detail the specific form and content of the activities, budget, timelines, and responsibilities and rights of each party. Such agreements will be negotiated in good faith. As per agreed terms of such arrangements and extent norms of RCI-GRI (DTBU) and SXCCE, shall maintain all relevant records including bills and receipts etc., cost of training, research and other collaborative activities.

III) **Mutual Obligation:** Both parties agree to undertake the following:

- a) Maintain transparency in all its Unnat Bharat Abhiyan related partnerships that may include supporting in reaching out to the field, gathering relevant data, sharing of available data and information and having a proper channel of communication.
- b) Convene meeting at regular intervals to amicably sort out issues, disputes etc., if any.
- c) Each party shall designate a key official as a nodal point of contact to ensure that the collaboration activities is implemented as per the MoU.
- d) The key professional staff of both the parties will be made available for interactions and discussions as and when required in mutual consultation and play an important role in the execution of mutually agreed activities.

IV) **Confidentiality:** Both the parties within the framework established by the MoU, will keep confidential all material exchanged under its terms to the extent permitted by law. Release to the press, public announcements, relating to this MoU may be made jointly or by either party with the consent of the other party. Neither Party will use the other Party's name or logo in any press release or any other purposes without first obtaining the other Party's written consent.

V) The **MoU** in no way restricts the parties from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public and private agencies, organizations, or individuals. Further, the specific terms of this MoU do not preclude the development of future collaborative projects not mentioned in this document.

VI) **Additional Agreements:** With mutual consent of both parties, separate agreements may be executed as per the requirement of the specific projects, if necessary.



VII) **Amendments:** This MoU may be amended by mutual written agreement of the parties. Any amendment will be without prejudice to any rights or obligations incurred under the MoU or supplementary agreement there to reached pursuant prior to the effective date such amendment.

VIII) **Termination:** Either of the parties herein can terminate this MoU by giving one month notice in writing and on such termination, the parties shall settle all agreed activities and accounts payments before the date of termination.

IX) **Intellectual Property Rights:** Under the provisions of this MoU, the parties may jointly produce documents reports, studies, photographs and maps, as well as product-specific documents tangible and intangible information (collectively "Works" or IP) unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties in writing, the copyright and other intellectual property rights in any such joint work/IP will belong to both the parties. All rights in Works and IPs generated/developed independent of this MoU and exclusively by the employee/s of either side shall remain with the Institution concerned who would be free to use them, if any, in any manner consistent with the objectives of the Institution concerned.

X) **Force Majeure:** For the purpose of this MoU, "Force Majeure" means an event which is beyond the reasonable control of a Party, is not foreseeable, is unavoidable and makes a Party's performance of its obligations hereunder impossible or so impractical as reasonably to be considered impossible under the circumstances and subject to these requirements, includes, but is not limited to, war riots, civil disorder, earthquake, fire, explosion, storm, flood or other adverse weather conditions, epidemic, pandemic, strikes, lockouts or other industrial action, confiscation or any other action by Government agencies.

XI) **Dispute Resolution:** The parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably all disputes and differences arising out of or in connection with the MoU.

XII) **Jurisdiction:** This MoU shall be governed by, construed, and enforced in accordance with the prevailing laws of India. It is understood, however, that the provisions of this paragraph shall not constitute nor imply the waiver privileges and immunities of any party, granted under the law.

XIII) **Whereas this Memorandum of Understanding** is executed in duplicate and one copy will remain with each of the party and both will be treated as original.

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XIV) Whereas this Memorandum of Understanding is executed between both the parties for mutual benefit of both the parties without any force, undue influence and coercion.


XV) Duration: The first party has been serving as the Regional Coordinating Institute for UBA since March 6, 2019. The second party has been serving as a Participating Institution of UBA since March 2018 and operates within the UBA Region coordinated by the first party. Since 2019\*, the first party has been guiding and coordinating the community engagement programmes of the second party. To further strengthen the community engagement programmes in this UBA Region, both parties have signed the present MoU. The duration of this MoU is three years from the date of signing by both parties and will remain valid until either party notifies the other of its wish to terminate the MoU. Furthermore, the continuance of this MoU will be subject to a joint agreement and review by both institutions, which will be undertaken prior to the expiry of this MoU.

**Note:\*** Both parties have been undertaking UBA activities and working jointly since July 2019.


For and on behalf of the


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**REGISTRAR** ic  
Signed by: Gandhigram Rural Institute  
Registrar (Deemed to be University)  
Gandhigram - 624 302.  
The Gandhigram Rural Institute,  
(Deemed to be University),  
Gandhigram, Dindigul District,  
Tamil Nadu

  
Signed by:  
Principal  
St. Xavier's Catholic College of  
Engineering, Chunkankadai,  
Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District,  
Tamil Nadu, INDIA, Pin: 629003

**Witness:**

1)   
Director 7/8/24  
Research and Development  
The Gandhigram Rural Institute  
(Deemed to be University),  
Gandhigram-624 302.

2)   
Regional Coordinator 7/8/24  
Unnat Bharat Abhiyan  
Regional Coordinating Institute  
The Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University)  
Gandhigram - 624 302 Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

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