

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

BETWEEN

**KRANTIGURU SHYAMJI KRISHNA VERMA
KACHCHH UNIVERSITY, GUJARAT, INDIA**



AND

**INSTITUTE OF SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH (ISR)
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT
GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT, INDIA**



The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made and entered on the **11th Day of March 2025** ("Effective Date") and agreed upon to establish co-operation and collaboration in academic and research.

Between

The Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh University, GUJARAT, INDIA, recognized by UGC under Section 2(f) and under 12(B), located at Bhuj, Gujarat, India – (hereinafter referred to as 'KU', which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, mean and include its successors, and permitted assigns) of the one part.

And

The Institute of Seismological Research (ISR), is an autonomous institute established by Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat having its registered office at Raysan, Gandhinagar – 382009, Gujarat, India (hereinafter called 'ISR', which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, mean and include its successors, and permitted assigns) of the other part.

Both hereafter referred to as the "Parties" collectively or "Party" individually.

The Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh University (KU), established by the Government of Gujarat, is a prominent educational institution located in the Kachchh region of India. Named after Shri Shyamji Krishna Verma, a notable leader in India's independence movement, the university was founded in 2004 with eight affiliated colleges. Since then, it has grown significantly, now boasting 20 postgraduate departments and over 50 affiliated colleges. It offers diverse programs in disciplines such as Arts, Commerce, Science, Education, Law, and Medicine, attracting over 25,000 students from the Kachchh region and beyond. The university holds recognition under UGC 2(f) and received the prestigious 12(B) certification from the UGC in 2018, placing it on par with esteemed universities across India. It operates under the Gujarat Public University Act, 2023, ensuring compliance with state educational regulations. Additionally, the university has all necessary certifications (12A, 80G, CSR-1) to receive CSR funding. KU is known for its strong governance framework, transparency in fund utilization, and dedication to research and innovation. The university fosters entrepreneurship through its Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP), resulting



in the emergence of numerous startups. Its faculty members actively participate in research and consultancy projects, often filing patents. The university's infrastructure and academic capabilities have been strengthened by funding from the Gujarat Government and Central Government. The university's vibrant research community includes over 250 Ph.D. scholars who publish in renowned journals and earn accolades at various levels. Alumni have achieved success in government, private industries, and social organizations, making significant contributions in their respective fields. Incorporating technology, the university has digitized the student life cycle through an online admission portal and ensures campus safety with CCTV surveillance and Wi-Fi facilities. Facilities include modern academic and administrative blocks, hostels, a guest house, a student utility building, and more. Ongoing projects include an auditorium, an examination convention center, a biogas plant, and sports grounds. Unique initiatives like the Geological Museum and partnerships with over 35 research institutes and universities in India and abroad further highlight the university's commitment to excellence. The university is also set to receive accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in March 2025.

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of Gujarat with funding from the World Bank and Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) established Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) as a centre of excellence in modern seismological research in 2006. The ISR is unique in India being the only institute fully dedicated to Earthquake Studies. The vision of the institute is to understand the science of earthquake occurrences in intra-plate and other regions and use this knowledge to save lives and minimize damage due to earthquakes.

The strategic thrusts of the ISR are:

- Earthquake monitoring through standardized surface observations. The use of modern digital technology in establishment of regional seismic networks including strong motion instruments, data acquisition and dissemination by exchange of catalogues, databases and bulletins from various sources.
- Developing new knowledge-based techniques of probabilistic earthquake forecasting, micro and macro zoning of various vulnerable zones.



- Making recommendations relating to reduction of earthquake losses and using sound disaster mitigation policies and practices.
- Improve seismic safety and performance in built in environment especially in highly vulnerable urban areas.
- Undertaking steps and efforts to communicate earthquake science to engineers and use the knowledge base for creating public awareness by various methods in modern communication and media methodologies in society.
- Using multidisciplinary development in geological, geodetic, archaeological, physical sciences, geo-chronological and paleo-seismic studies for understanding the seismo-tectonic framework under plate tectonics theory and nonlinear dynamics.
- Accurate fault characterization, global and regional forecasting, fault system dynamics, earthquake source physics and ground motion prediction.

The Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh University (KU) and the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) are committed to establish a regional research centre within the campus of KU that will advance research and benefit the seismically active Kachchh region. Both institutions recognize the importance of this collaboration, given ISR's expertise in seismology and its alignment with KU's academic focus, the centre will not only deepen our understanding of earthquakes but also provide opportunities for training and education. The proposed centre will serve as a hub for advanced research in Earth Sciences. This collaboration will enhance research capabilities at both institutions and contribute to the earthquake resilient development of the region.

ARTICLE I: OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

The objectives of the program are:

- To establish a regional research centre in the Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh University campus.
- To provide opportunities for professional collaboration between the professors of Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh University (KU) and scientists of the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR), promoting institutional linkage and exploring avenues for further collaboration.



- To build and maintain a balanced portfolio of scientific and R & D activities to meet the needs of current and future stakeholders.
- To contribute to high-quality research in the field of earthquake studies.

ARTICLE II: SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM

This program will provide collaborative cooperation through:

- 1. Collaborative Research Program:** KU and ISR will jointly identify and conduct research in areas of mutual interest, and benefit.
- 2. Student Exchange Program:** Exchange opportunities for KU and ISR students will be explored for mutual benefit.
- 3. Faculty Exchange Program:** Exchange programs for KU faculty and ISR scientists will be arranged to foster collaboration.
- 4. Data Generation:** Data from sophisticated instruments required for dissertations, doctoral, post-doctoral, and collaborative projects will be provided by both KU and ISR.
- 5. Ph. D. Supervision:** Scientists from ISR may be offered guideship for Ph. D. and may be allowed to supervise doctoral theses, individually or jointly with KU faculty.
- 6. Joint Research Projects:** Collaborative work between KU faculty, ISR scientists, and young researchers on geological, seismological, and geophysical projects.
- 7. Research Guidance and Ph. D. Enrolment:** Offering Ph. D. guideship to ISR scientists and facilitating KU Ph. D. registration for ISR researchers.
- 8. Courses and Certifications:** Introduction of certificate, diploma, and degree courses at KU, leveraging ISR's expertise and resources.
- 9. Research Supervision:** The recognised guides/supervisors of ISR scientists are allotted research scholars without any mandatory provision of co-guides from KU.
- 10. Recognition of Pre-PhD Course Work:** ISR-conducted coursework for Ph. D. scholars may be recognized by KU, allowing for dual certification.
- 11. Residency Requirements:** Residency at ISR will be recognized as fulfilling KU residency requirements for Ph. D. students.
- 12. Periodic Reviews:** Regular progress reviews of research scholars will be conducted at ISR.



13. Dissertation Opportunities: M. Sc. students from KU's Departments of Geosciences and Physics will be allowed to conduct dissertation work at ISR.

14. Lectures and Training: Scientists of ISR will deliver lectures on Geophysics at Department of Geosciences and Physics of KU and also train the students for their geological, seismological and geophysical practices.

15. JRF Opportunities: KU students will be encouraged to apply for Junior Research Fellowships (JRF) at ISR projects.

16. Credit Transfer: Graduate courses conducted at ISR will allow credit transfer for KU students.

17. Joint Events: Seminars, symposia, conferences, and workshops will be jointly organized.

18. Centre Space: Suitable space to establish a regional research centre will be provided by the KU within its campus along with necessary support.

19. Other Forms of Cooperation: Additional cooperation as agreed between KU and ISR.

ARTICLE III: DURATION OF THE PROGRAM

This MoU will take effect upon signature by both Parties and remain valid for ten (10) years. It may be terminated with three months' notice or renewed by mutual consent.

ARTICLE IV: SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. Both the Parties shall exchange the useful information and report the progress to each other on educational, research such other activities.
2. Both the Parties shall do their utmost to ensure the smooth and efficient implementation of the programme.
3. Best efforts shall be taken by both to provide necessary information for mutual consultation whenever requested.
4. Each Party shall pay its own costs and expenses incurred in connection with this MoU.
5. All equipment procured and purchased by both the Parties for carrying out the activity using the funds allocated for the activity or otherwise shall be governed by the rules and regulations of both the Parties and the funding agency.
6. The Parties will not be financially liable to each other for the performance of the agreement and also shall hold each other unconditionally harmless from any possible



claims brought by Third Parties against either Party in connection with the performance of this Agreement.

7. The provision of samples or specimens by either party in connection with this MoU will take place without any guarantees or assurances of specific properties. If assurances of any specific properties are required, then these must be explicitly stated in a written statement. Neither Party will bear any liability for products supplied in connection with the research work.
8. Amendment to this MoU shall be made in written form and mutually agreed.
9. Day to day implementation of this agreement will be coordinated by **Dr. Santosh Kumar, Scientist E, ISR** or any other team member of ISR and **Dr. Gaurav D. Chauhan, Head of the Department of Research and Development and Assistant Professor, Department of Geosciences, KU** or any other team member of KU.
10. All disputes arising during implementation of this programme shall be settled through mutual negotiation.
11. Both the Parties will maintain fruitful communication in order to ensure effective implementation of the programme.

This MoU is prepared in two identical copies; each Party will hold the original copy duly signed by the **Dr. Anil H. Gor** of the KU and the **Dr. Sumer Chopra** of ISR.

For and on behalf of
Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh
University, Bhuj, Gujarat, India

For and on behalf of
Institute of Seismological Research (ISR),
DST, GoG, Gandhinagar



Signature:

Name: **Dr. Anil H. Gor**

Designation: **Registrar**

Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh
University (KU)

Seal: **REGISTRAR**
KSKV Kachchh University
Bhuj-Kachchh-370001

Signature:

Name: **Dr. Sumer Chopra**

Designation: **Director General (I/C),**
Institute of Seismological Research (ISR)

Director General
Seal: **Institute of Seismological Research**
Gandhinagar.

