

58
1

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

BETWEEN

**Department of Environment and Life Science, Krantiguru
Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh University, Bhuj – 370
001, Kachchh, Gujarat, India**



AND

**Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology
Bhuj – 370 001, Kachchh, Gujarat, India**



**Gujarat Institute
Of Desert Ecology**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made and entered on the **2nd Day of May 2025** ("Effective Date") and agreed upon to establish co-operation and collaboration in academic and research.

Between

The Department of Environment and Life Science of 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 'DELS-KSKVKU', which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, mean and include its successors, and permitted assigns) of the one part.

And

Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology, Bhuj, Kachchh, Gujarat is an Autonomous Institute established under Forests and Environment Department (vide Resolution Dated 10th January 1995) by Government of Gujarat. Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology is Registered as a Society and a Public Trust located in Bhuj, Dist: Kachchh, Gujarat (hereinafter called 'GUIDE, 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 (DELS-KSKVKU), 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. DELS-KSKVKU 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 centre, 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.

Gujarat Ecology Commission set up by Government of Gujarat signed a Memorandum of Understanding, in the gracious presence of the Hon. Chief Minister of Gujarat, with The Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research (BIDR), Israel, on 9th September 1993, for Rehabilitation of degraded soils to increase production of bio-mass,

- To assist in preparing plan for restoration of degraded Eco-systems and
- To assist in planning of a Centre of Desert Ecology in Kachchh.

Subsequently, Prof. Uriel Safriel from Israel visited Kachchh in May 1994. Based on his recommendations, Government of Gujarat, Forests and Environment Department vide Resolution Dated 10th January 1995, accorded Administrative Sanction to establish Institute of Desert Ecology. Thus, Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology was established at Bhuj, Kachchh District as an Autonomous body and was Registered as a Society and a Public Trust.

Thrust areas of GUIDE are:

- Desertification and land degradation process.
- Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and Environmental Audits;
- Biodiversity assessment and its conservation and management.
- Restoration of degraded ecosystems including grassland, forests, wetlands, mangroves, etc.
- Ecological restoration of mining and industrial areas.
- Regional environmental assessment and planning.
- Socio-economic studies for development options.
- Natural resource management in arid and semi-arid zones (rangeland ecology, agro-ecology).
- Impact of invasion by exotic and introduced species.

- Remote sensing & GIS applications for biodiversity conservation and environmental planning.
- Coastal biodiversity and coastal monitoring.
- Seaweed and Polyculture activity.
- Development and conservation options for Rann of Kachchh.
- Watershed development and management.
- Microbial Biotechnology.
- Extension and Training activities including Mushroom cultivation, Hydroponics etc.

Thrust areas of DELS KSKVKU are:

- Environmental Toxicology
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Molecular Biology
- Ecology
 - Desert Ecology
 - Marine Ecology
 - Terrestrial Ecology
- Toxicology
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Phytosociology
- Water purification using various technology
- Nanotechnology
- Waste management
- Wetland Conservation
- Environmental Biotechnology
- Carbon neutrality
- Environmental Audit
- Social Impact Assessment

The Department of Environment and Life Science of Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh University (DELS-KSKVKU) and Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE) are committed to conduct Research and benefit region like Kachchh. Both institutions recognize the importance of this collaboration, given GUIDE's expertise in Ecology and Environment covering Terrestrial ecology, Coastal and Marine ecology, Environmental Monitoring and Audit, Watershed Management and its alignment with DELS-KSKVKU's academic focus,

the centre will not only deepen our understanding of the Ecology and Environment of this region but also provide opportunities for training and education. This collaboration will enhance research capabilities at both institutions and contribute to the Ecology, Environment and Geological aspects of the region.

ARTICLE I: OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

The objectives of the program are:

1. To have an exchange of knowledge, manpower and other resources for the growth of both the parties, as may be agreed upon.
2. To share the publications and study material developed by the two institutions in disciplines of mutual interest in electronic format or otherwise.
3. To discuss and develop programs that may be of employment centric nature or that provide vision for development of the society.
4. To jointly organize seminars, workshops, congresses, conventions, conferences, summits on contemporary issues.
5. To provide local hospitality to the representatives when visiting collaborating institutions, if agreed to in advance.

ARTICLE II: SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM

This program will provide collaborative cooperation through:

- 1. Collaborative Research Program:** DELS-KSKVKU and GUIDE will jointly identify and conduct research in areas of mutual interest, and benefit.
- 2. Faculty Exchange Program:** Exchange programs for DELS-KSKVKU faculty and GUIDE Scientists will be arranged to foster collaboration.
- 3. Data Generation:** Data from sophisticated instruments required for dissertations, doctoral, post-doctoral, and collaborative projects will be provided by both DELS-KSKVKU and GUIDE.
- 4. Ph. D. Supervision:** Scientists from GUIDE may be offered Guideship for Ph. D. and may be allowed to supervise doctoral thesis.

5. Joint Research Projects: Collaborative work between DELS-KSKVKU faculty, GUIDE scientists, and young researchers on Ecological, Environmental Monitoring, geological, seismological, and geophysical projects.

6. Research Guidance and Ph. D. Enrolment: Offering Ph. D. guideship to GUIDE Scientists and facilitating KSKVKU Ph. D. registration for GUIDE researchers.

7. Courses and Certifications: Introduction of certificate, diploma, and degree courses at KSKVU, leveraging GUIDE's expertise and resources.

8. Research Supervision: The recognised as Ph.D. Guides/supervisors of GUIDE Scientists are allotted research scholars with mandatory provision of co-guides from DELS KSKVKU.

9. Dissertation Opportunities: M. Sc. students from KSKVKU's Departments of Geosciences and Environmental and Life Sciences will be allowed to conduct dissertation work at GUIDE.

10. Lectures and Training: Scientists of GUIDE will deliver lectures on Ecology and Environment aspects for Environmental Science students of KSKVKU and also train the students on these aspects.

11. JRF Opportunities: KSKVKU students will be encouraged to apply for Project positions at GUIDE.

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

13. Other Forms of Cooperation: Additional cooperation as agreed between KSKVKU and GUIDE.

ARTICLE III: DURATION OF THE PROGRAM

This MoU will take effect upon signature by both Parties and remain valid for Five (05) 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. K. Karthikeyan, Assistant Director, GUIDE** or any other team member of GUIDE and **Dr. Mrugesh H. Trivedi, Head of the Department of Environment and Life Science, KSKVKU** or any other team member of KSKVKU.
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. Tejal. J. Sheth, Registrar I/c** of the KSKVKU and the **Dr. V. Vijay Kumar** of GUIDE.

Article V: Performance Standards

Both Parties undertake to perform their respective roles and responsibilities with the highest standards of professional and ethical competence and integrity.

Article VI: Study Subject Confidentiality

All individual records and data on the Study shall remain confidential. Any disclosure of publishable findings by scientists or researchers at KSKVKU or GUIDE will remain

confidential regarding any individual study subject's/material's identity and personally identifiable information. Disclosure requirements shall be consistent with those governing the relevant research and ethical review committees at KSKVKU and GUIDE.

Article VII: Confidential Information

VII.1. Each party acknowledges that all information concerning the trade secrets, operations, processes, organization, business, finances, transactions, dealings, or affairs of the other party or any of its subsidiaries or associated companies, suppliers, or customers, that comes to the attention of the receiving party hereunder, is the proprietary information of the other party. Each receiving party shall treat the other party's Information on the joint project as confidential and shall not at any time for any reason disclose the Information on the joint project or allow it to be disclosed to any third party nor shall use it or allow it to be used other than in relation to the purpose of this MOU.

VII.2. "Confidential Information" means all non-public information that is marked as "Confidential Information" and which is disclosed in oral, electronic, written, graphic, photographic, recorded, or any other manner by one Party to the other Party in the course of the performance of this MOU. Such Confidential Information shall be received and maintained by Receiving Party in confidence during the performance of this MOU for joint project and for a period of three (3) years thereafter. Recipient agrees that it will make no use of any of the Confidential Information except in the performance of this MOU, and will prevent disclosure of Confidential Information to third parties. Recipient shall be responsible for any breach of this MOU by its Representatives, which shall be considered a breach by Recipient. Recipient shall use the same care to avoid disclosure, publication or dissemination of confidential information as it uses with its similar confidential information and in no case less than a reasonable amount of care.

VII.3. Confidential information on any joint project shall not include any information disclosed that Recipient can demonstrate (i) was known to, or was previously in its possession, as shown by written records, (ii) was received from a third party who was entitled to disclose it without breaching any confidentiality obligation; (iii) was generally available to the public at the time of disclosure; (iv) becomes available to the public after disclosure,

through no action or inaction of the recipient, (v) was developed by recipient independently of any Confidential Information disclosed under this MOU, or (vi) is required to be disclosed to comply with applicable laws or regulations, or with a court or administrative order, but only to the extent disclosure is required by such order and provided Receiving Party furnishes prompt notice (in no event less than 3 days) to the Disclosing Party to enable it to oppose such disclosure.

Article VIII: Liability and Insurance

Each Party shall be acting as an independent contractor in the performance of their work relating to this MOU and shall be responsible for the payment of claims for loss, personal injury, death, property damage, or otherwise arising out of any act or omission of its employees, officers, directors or agents in connection with the performance of this MOU, for which they may be held liable under applicable law. Each Party shall maintain at its sole expense adequate insurance or self-insurance coverage to satisfy its activities under this MOU.

Article IX: Dispute

Prior to the early termination of this MOU, every effort shall be made to resolve any dispute arising in connection with this MOU amicably and informally. Any dispute that cannot be so settled shall be referred to and finally settled by arbitration in accordance with the then-current local Arbitration Rules.

Article X: Force Majeure

This MOU is subject to Force Majeure, which shall mean any unforeseeable circumstance or circumstances beyond the Parties' control, such as accidents, natural disasters, weather conditions, armed conflicts, strikes, inability to secure labour, restrictions imposed by a government or government agency, or any other delays beyond the control of the Parties. If performance is prevented by any cause of Force Majeure, this MOU shall be void without penalty to either Party for any such performance not delivered.

Article XI: Partnership or Agency

Nothing in this MOU shall create any partnership, joint venture, or relationship of principal and agent between the Parties.

Article XII: Use of Names

Neither Party shall make use of this MOU, or use the name of the other Party, nor that of any member of the other's staff, in any publicity, advertising, or news release without the prior written approval of the other Party. This shall not include internal documents available to the public that identify the existence of this MOU.

Article XIII: Key Personnel

ACCEPTED FOR GUIDE	ACCEPTED FOR KSKVKU:
 Dr. V. Vijaykumar <u>Director, GUIDE</u>	 Dr. Tejal Seth <u>I/C Registrar</u>
Date:	Date:
Coordinated by: 	Coordinated by: 
Name: Dr. K. Karthikeyan Assistant Director, GUIDE Date:	Name: Dr. Mrugesh Trivedi Associate Professor and HoD KSKV Kachchh University - Bhuj Date: