

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

Between



**International Institute of Parliamentary
Studies, Research and Training (IIPSRT)**
(Promoted by Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha)

And



Swami Rama Himalayan University

**Swami Rama Himalayan University
(SRHU)**

HEM PANT
Deputy Secretary (Acc.)
For Secretary
Vidhan Sabha Uttarakhand



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made and entered into on this Tuesday, 8th July, Two Thousand and Twenty Five (2025).

Between

International Institute of Parliamentary Studies, Research and Training (IIPSRT), Vidhan Bhavan, Defense Colony Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand and the campus & executive offices of the Institute at Bhararisain, Gairsain, Distt-Chamoli, hereinafter referred to as the "IIPSRT" or the "First Party"

And

Swami Rama Himalayan University (SRHU), a University established under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 vide Uttarakhand State Act, having its registered office at Swami Ram Nagar, Jolly Grant, Dehradun – 248016, Uttarakhand, hereinafter referred to as the "SRHU" or the "Second Party"

Unless repugnant to the context, the terms "First Party" or "IIPSRT" and "Second Party" or "SRHU" shall include their respective legal representatives, successors-in-interest, nominees, and permitted assigns. The IIPSRT and SRHU may be collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party".

WHEREAS

International Institute of Parliamentary Studies, Research and Training (IIPSRT), established within the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly premises at Bhararisain, Gairsain is an autonomous and policy-driven institution registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It promotes advanced research, legislative studies, and capacity-building in the domains of democratic governance, sustainable development, disaster resilience, and climate adaptation. As a knowledge platform, IIPSRT engages legislators, policymakers, and civil society stakeholders to foster participatory and evidence-based governance.

The institute also aims to enhance democratic awareness through regular training programs and workshops, and plans to initiate collaborative exchanges with international parliamentary institutions to share curricula and global best practices. Its establishment is envisioned as a catalyst for the development of the Uttarakhand and particularly Gairsain region, promoting sustainable development and local empowerment.

WHEREAS

Swami Rama Himalayan University (SRHU) was established under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 vide Uttarakhand State Act No. 12 of 2013, and is now re-incorporated under the Uttarakhand Private University Act, 2023 (Uttarakhand Act No. 02 of 2024), as notified through Gazette Notification No. 02/XXXVI(3)/2024/58(1)/2023, dated 03/01/2024. SRHU is a NAAC A+ accredited (Oct 18, 2024 to 17 Oct 2029), not-for-profit University, promoted by the Himalayan Institute Hospital Trust (HIHT), founded by H.H. Dr. Swami Rama. Over more than three decades, the Institute has undertaken evidence-based interventions and research across the domains of public health, water and sanitation, education, environment, and rural livelihoods; reaching 31 States/UTs and over 2000 villages in hilly and tribal areas of Uttarakhand and neighboring regions. The University's outreach is rooted in scientific rigor, community participation, and policy relevance.

Recognizing that the Indian Himalayan Region, especially Uttarakhand, is facing several connected challenges such as drying springs, fragile ecosystems, forest degradation, climate vulnerability, mismanagement of natural resources, inadequate hygiene and sanitation services, gender-based disparities, poor access to holistic healthcare, and increasing rural outmigration—both Parties agree that there is a strong need for a planned and joint effort that combines legislative support, scientific understanding, and community-based work to find sustainable, inclusive, and long-term solutions.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Purpose

The primary purpose of this MoU is to forge a strategic, academic, and policy-oriented collaboration between IIPSRT and SRHU in the realms of integrated water resource management, springshed management, environment, sustainability, disaster resilience, climate change action, forest and natural resources management, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), rain water harvesting, holistic health, renewable energy, gender equity, inclusive rural development and governance. The partnership aims to align its initiatives with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), national priorities such as Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS), and internationally recognized frameworks including those supported by ICIMOD and other multilateral organizations, to bring about tangible impact through research, demonstration, and policy reform.

2. Areas of Cooperation

The Parties shall jointly undertake activities in the following areas, including but not limited to:

- 2.1 Joint formulation and execution of research projects, field studies & implementation, and policy papers
- 2.2 Capacity-building programs for Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), representatives from Panchayati Raj Institutions and its sub committees, field engineers, Government line department officials and community workers
- 2.3 Design and deployment of environment & climate change actions, springshed rejuvenation models, nature-based solutions, rain water harvesting and decentralized water & sanitation infrastructure
- 2.4 Generation of policy briefs, toolkits, guidelines, and dissemination material for use by legislators and practitioners
- 2.5 Faculty, expert, and student exchange for joint research, internships, and thematic workshops
- 2.6 Collaborative development of monitoring, evaluation, learning (MEL) frameworks and indicators for water and environmental projects
- 2.7 Development of integrated community water security plans and participatory governance protocols
- 2.8 Technical handholding support for institutional planning, legislative research, and stakeholder consultations
- 2.9 Advocacy, documentation, and digital resource creation for mainstreaming successful models
- 2.10 Joint proposal writing and liaison with funding institutions, government missions, CSR partners and technical agencies
- 2.11 Joint development and implementation of hygiene, sanitation, and menstrual health programs in underserved communities
- 2.12 Research and community engagement on gender equality, women's empowerment, and socially inclusive planning
- 2.13 Initiatives to promote holistic health approaches through integration of modern and traditional systems
- 2.14 Capacity-building for policymakers and field staff on climate adaptation, gender mainstreaming, and inclusive governance

3. Aim and Objectives

3.1 Aim:

To establish a robust and impactful institutional partnership at the national and international levels that integrates policy engagement, cutting-edge scientific research, and community-based implementation to effectively address environmental, sustainable development, and governance challenges in ecologically fragile and climate-vulnerable regions across borders.

3.2 Objectives:

- 3.2.1 **Conduct joint interdisciplinary research and policy studies** on integrated water resource management, springshed rejuvenation, climate adaptation, forest, environment and governance, WASH, renewable energy, rain water harvesting and inclusive development.
- 3.2.2 **Design and deliver targeted capacity-building programs** for legislators, PRI members, field Engineers, and community leaders to enhance grassroots governance and service delivery.
- 3.2.3 **Develop and implement scalable field models** for decentralized water supply, sanitation, nature-based solutions, and climate-resilient infrastructure in ecologically sensitive areas.
- 3.2.4 **Generate policy briefs, operational toolkits, and communication materials** to inform legislative processes, public discourse, and practitioner-level interventions.
- 3.2.5 **Facilitate exchange programs** involving faculty, students, and technical experts for collaborative research, internships, field visits, and thematic workshops.
- 3.2.6 **Establish robust Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) frameworks** with context-relevant indicators to assess the impact of water, environment, and governance initiatives.
- 3.2.7 **Formulate community-led integrated water security and springshed development plans**, ensuring participatory governance and long-term sustainability.
- 3.2.8 **Provide technical support and institutional handholding** to parliamentary institutions, departments, and committees for strategic planning, legislative research, and program implementation.
- 3.2.9 **Document and disseminate successful practices and innovations** through knowledge products, digital platforms, and advocacy campaigns to support scale-up and policy uptake.
- 3.2.10 **Collaborate on fundraising, proposal development, and liaison** with government missions, donor agencies, multilateral organizations, and CSR partners.
- 3.2.11 **Co-develop and implement comprehensive hygiene, sanitation, and menstrual health initiatives** tailored for underserved and rural communities.
- 3.2.12 **Undertake research and field engagement** on gender equity, women's empowerment, and inclusion in environmental planning and governance frameworks.
- 3.2.13 **Integrate holistic health approaches** by bridging modern medical science with traditional knowledge systems such as Ayurveda and Yoga, particularly in rural outreach.
- 3.2.14 **Enhance capacities of policymakers and field personnel** on climate change adaptation, disaster resilience, gender mainstreaming, and inclusive governance through certified learning modules and policy dialogues.

4. General Terms

- 4.1 This MoU reflects a shared institutional intent and commitment, without creating any enforceable legal obligations.
- 4.2 Modifications to the MoU, if any, shall be incorporated through a mutually signed written agreement.
- 4.3 Each Party shall bear responsibility for their respective operations and shall indemnify the other Party for liabilities arising from their own acts or omissions.
- 4.4 If any provision herein is held unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain valid and binding.

5. Financial Terms

- 5.1 This MoU does not impose any financial obligations or commitments on either Party at the time of signing. However, subject to the availability of resources and funding, each Party may undertake activities aligned with the roles and responsibilities outlined herein.
- 5.2 Any financial obligations or budgetary allocations required shall be worked out jointly on a project-specific or proposal-driven basis.
- 5.3 Joint applications to relevant state, national, and international funding agencies and missions shall be explored collaboratively.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 First Party – IIPSRT:

- 6.1.1 Act as the principal liaison and linkage with state and national legislators, governance bodies, state & national missions, parliamentary institutions, and international legislative counterparts.
- 6.1.2 Design, curate, and host high-level policy dialogues, thematic workshops, capacity-building programs, and inter-institutional symposia.
- 6.1.3 Ensure validation, translation, and mainstreaming of research outcomes into actionable legislative processes, rules, and standing committee discussions.
- 6.1.4 Provide strategic and thematic guidance in the areas of public policy, democratic governance, sustainable development and climate resilience.
- 6.1.5 Promote gender-inclusive legislation and advocate for women's representation in policy dialogues and governance structures
- 6.1.6 Facilitate cross-learning with international parliamentary study centres and promote evidence-based policy formulation.
- 6.1.7 Enable legislative advocacy for natural resources management, public health systems, and forest and climate-related policies in Himalayan states.
- 6.1.8 Provide infrastructural support in implementing research, capacity building and developmental activities.
- 6.1.9 Explore funding opportunities to undertake research & developmental activities.

6.2 Second Party – SRHU:

- 6.2.1 Provide expertise in undertaking capacity building, research & developmental activities
- 6.2.2 Lead the design, technical planning, field execution, and scientific documentation of interventions in springshed management, forest regeneration, WASH, and climate-adaptive models.
- 6.2.3 Develop scalable prototypes for decentralized water supply, sustainable sanitation, eco-health solutions, and climate-resilient village infrastructure.
- 6.2.4 Conduct community-based trainings, exposure visits, and knowledge exchange platforms for field functionaries, elected representatives, women groups, and youth.
- 6.2.5 Generate participatory research, gender-sensitive impact assessments, and case-based evidence to inform policy and program design.
- 6.2.6 Integrate traditional ecological knowledge and modern science to promote holistic health and environmental sustainability.
- 6.2.7 Build a repository of toolkits, learning modules, and audio-visual resources for use across Himalayan states and national missions.
- 6.2.8 Lead social inclusion initiatives, especially empowering women and marginalized communities through leadership development, WASH access, and income generation models.
- 6.2.9 Strengthen women's leadership in water, sanitation, health, and climate initiatives at the grassroots level.

HEM PANT
Deputy Secretary (Acc.),
For Secretary
Uttarakhand Sahba Uttarakhand



7. Duration, Amendment, Termination and Dispute Resolution

- 7.1 The MoU shall be valid initially for a period of two (2) years from the date of signing, unless terminated earlier.
- 7.2 Extensions or amendments shall be undertaken through mutual consent and recorded in writing.
- 7.3 Either Party may terminate this MoU by providing one (1) month prior written notice.
- 7.4 All ongoing programs and deliverables shall be allowed to continue to their logical conclusion despite termination.
- 7.5 Any disputes or differences arising from this MoU shall be resolved through mutual discussions and consultations between authorized representatives of both Parties.

8. Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

- 8.1 All intellectual property and data resulting from jointly executed programs shall be co-owned, unless otherwise specified in writing.
- 8.2 Sensitive data and proprietary content shall not be disclosed or used for unintended purposes without explicit mutual consent.
- 8.3 Both Parties shall ensure confidentiality, data integrity, and responsible data sharing protocols in all joint activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this MoU on the date first written above and agree to abide by its terms in letter and spirit.

**For International Institute of Parliamentary
Studies, Research and Training (IIPSRT)**

Signature:



Name: Mr. Hem Chandra Pant
Designation: Secretary In-Charge
Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha &
Secretary, IIPSRT

Date: 08 July 2025
HEM PANT
Deputy Secretary (Acc.)
For Secretary
Vidhan Sabha Uttarakhand

Witnesses:

1.



**For Swami Rama Himalayan University (SRHU)
Swami Ram Nagar, Jolly Grant, Dehradun**

Signature:



Name: Commander Challa Venkateswar (Retd.)
Designation: Registrar
SRHU

Date: 08 July 2025



1.



(Nitesh Kaushik)
Dy. Director - SRHU