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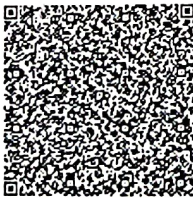
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सहरी नियोजन एवं अभिकल्प में उत्कृष्टता केन्द्र
 Centre of Excellence in Urban Planning and Design
 योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, नई दिल्ली-110002
 School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi-110002

Registrar
 Guru Nanak Dev University
 Amritsar.

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Department of Architecture,
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

and

Centre of Excellence in Urban Planning and Design,
School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

Date : August 20, 2025



School Of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
An Institution of National Importance under an Act of Parliament, Ministry of
Education, Government of India

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Guru Nanak Dev University
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Centre of Excellence in Urban Planning and Design
योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, नई दिल्ली-110002
School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi-110002

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed on this 20th day of August, 2025 at Amritsar by and between:

1. Department of Architecture, Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), has its office at Guru Nanak Dev University, Grand Trunk Road, Off National Highway 1, Amritsar, Punjab-143005.

The University was established on November 24, 1969. Functioning as both a residential and affiliating institution, the University's founding principles, as outlined in the Guru Nanak Dev University Act of 1969, underscore its mandate to provide education and foster research across a spectrum of disciplines, including the humanities, learned professions, sciences—particularly of applied nature—and technology.

AND

2. Centre of Excellence in Urban Planning and Design, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi, (SPA-D), having its office at 4-Block-B, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi 110002 hereinafter referred to as "COE-UPD, SPA-D" (which expression shall unless repugnant to the context, includes its successors and assignee) is a premier institution established in 1941 by the Government of India.

GNDU and the "COE-UPD, SPA-D" are individually referred to as a "Party" and collectively referred to as the "Parties".

WHEREAS

- A. GNDU in its distinguished 55-years of history has emerged as a beacon of educational enlightenment, fostering academic excellence across diverse disciplines such as Science, Arts, Management, Information Technology, Media and Industrial Technology, Environment, Planning, and Architecture. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore in December 2022 re-accredited the University in its 4th cycle with CGPA of 3.85 out of 4-pointscale at "A++" the highest level grade, as per the accreditation framework of NAAC.
- B. COE-UPD, SPA-D has been established under the MOU between SPA-D and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty (MOHUA), the premier institution established in 1941 by the Government of India. It is an autonomous institution and an Institution of National Importance under the SPA Act of Parliament 2014, Ministry of Education, Government of India (Gazette notified dated Dec. 18, 2014). COE-UPD, SPA-D is governed by the said act and the Statutes (Gazette notified dated Dec. 13, 2016). It is a premiere teaching institution in the field of Planning and Architecture.
- C. In the Union Budget 2022-23, Hon'ble Finance Minister announced that "For developing India specific knowledge in urban planning and design, and to deliver certified training in these areas, up to five academic institutions in different regions will be designated as Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Planning and Design. These Centre of Excellence in Urban Planning and Design (COE-UPD) are provided endowment funds of Rs 250 crore each". Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) initiated the exercise to identify top academic institutions in different regions imparting knowledge in urban planning and design for their designation as Centre of Excellence in Urban Planning and Design (COE-UPD). The guidelines for identification of the institute were circulated vide MoHUA O.M. No.1-59/2008/TCPO-MUT (373)/AMRUT-IIA dated 15.09.2022. After following the due process, 4 top academic institutions have been identified to be designated as 'Centre of Excellence in Urban Planning and Design'. SPA-D is one such institute identified as 'Centre of Excellence in Urban Planning and Design' by the MoHUA.
- D. The Parties understand the need and demand of collaborating in various areas of planning and design for efficient project delivery in the state of Punjab:

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School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi-110002.

- B. The Parties recognize the importance of each other in competency & domain knowledge, thus jointly delivering increased contribution to socio-economic development of the state of Punjab.
- C. The Parties wish to collaborate for the above stated purpose and are desirous of recording the broad terms of their understanding and have therefore agreed to execute this MoU.

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES HERETO AS FOLLOWS:

1. OBJECTIVES

The Parties have entered into this MoU in consideration of the mutual covenants set forth hereinafter:

- 1.1. To share knowledge, expertise, experience, and other intellectual resources to enable and equip each other to implement on-ground projects more efficiently in the state of Punjab;
- 1.2. To jointly carry out capacity building for the bureaucrats, public servants and public representatives so that they can positively contribute to the efficient and sustainable planning and management of settlements;
- 1.3. To set the framework for long term partnership;
- 1.4. To strengthen project implementation in Punjab; and
- 1.5. To jointly work to develop meaningful partnership for the development of the state and the nation.

2. UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PARTIES

The Parties hereby agree to collaborate on the terms and condition set out hereunder:

- 2.1. This MoU is intended for facilitating and expediting project implementation in the state of Punjab and carry out capacity building programs along with COE-UPD, SPA-D in the state of Punjab.
- 2.2. Both the Parties shall cooperate with each other which shall be based on principle of mutual benefit, and which may include the following:
 - (a) Share contents such as training manuals, curriculums, content and exchange information and published literature/ journals on the relevant subjects and latest development in the sectors of planning and design, wherever possible;
 - (b) Leverage each other's government and industry connections for project implementation and capacity building programs in the sectors concerned;
 - (c) Extend invitation to each other for attending technical meetings/ conferences/ workshops;
 - (d) Extend support as supporting partners to each other for their respective events/ meetings/ conferences/ workshops/ etc. including logo usage;
 - (e) For the purpose of meeting objectives of the MoU, both Parties will nominate dedicated personnel, as may be required to carry out the work in coordination to meet the objective of this MOU;

3. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARTIES

The Role and responsibility of the Parties shall be as under:

3.1. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GNDU, Amritsar

- (a) To facilitate timely and efficient implementation of on-ground projects of COE-UPD SPA-D in the state of Punjab.
- (b) To jointly build competency, capability and capacity for training/capacity building delivery by helping in developing training curriculum and assessment criteria; identifying experts/resource persons, who would be engaged for the delivery of training/ capacity building sessions.
- (c) Assist in developing Centre of Excellence (COE)/ Labs/ Workshops to serve as best practice demonstrator for projects, training, capacity building.

3.2. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COE-UPD SPA-D

3.2.1 The role and responsibilities of COE-UPD SPA-D which will be in line with the objectives and functions of the Centres of Excellence as per the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) letter No.1-59/2008/TCPO-MUT (373)/AMRUT-IIA 24.01.2024 shall be as follows:

- (a) To facilitate to develop and offer sustainable, resilient, net-zero and low carbon solutions to resolve contextually relevant urban planning and design issues at urban and regional scale as prototypes for replication. This would be made possible by carrying out various activities such as:
 - Hand-holding in project implementation in the state of Punjab
 - Capacity building of the empowered agencies and organizations.
 - Establishing and improvising of procedures.
 - Establishing generic and specific urban management SOPs; and,
 - Any other interventions as may be considered appropriate for developing specific solutions at the urban or regional scale through research.
- (b) To facilitate exchange of ideas and learnings from experiences arising out of this MoU for establishing Best Practice Benchmarks and indices, including those for 'Quality of Life', determinants of success and resilience of urban planning and design within and beyond the specific jurisdiction enshrined under this MoU;
- (c) To undertake scientific articulation of problems of urban and regional planning and design, conduct challenges and competitions inviting solutions, undertaking research in contextual areas through academic partnerships and doctoral and post-doctoral research;
- (d) To establish collaborative arrangements with agencies involved in urban planning and design within India and globally for ideation, sharing experiences for the purpose of this MoU benefitting the State and the country as a whole; and
- (e) To conduct knowledge dissemination activities through all types of media, print, digital, websites, social media, etc. including documentation of relevant urban planning and design.

3.2.2 In addition, the COE-UPD SPA-D will also contribute to the following:

- (a) Academics intervention and support in organizing activities such as training of Government officials and public representatives;
- (b) Providing a vibrant and responsible link between academic and industry, responding to live issues, requiring research and analysis etc.;

4. TERM

This MoU shall be effective from the date of execution and will be valid for 3 (three) years. Either Party may terminate the Agreement by giving 90 (ninety) days' notice to other Party. The term may be extended with mutual agreement between the Parties.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

- 5.1. Neither of the Parties will have any upfront initial financial commitment.
- 5.2. Financial impact, if any will be separately worked out and mutually agreed in writing between the Parties for each of the identified activities provided in this MOU and shall be annexed as an addendum to this MOU, as necessary.

6. CONFIDENTIALITY

Registrar
Guru Nanak Dev University
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शहरी नियोजन एवं अभिकल्प में उत्कृष्टता केन्द्र
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School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi-110002.

- 6.1. Each Party hereby undertakes with the other Party to maintain the Confidential Information in strict confidence and save as provided herein, not to divulge any of the Confidential Information to any third party and in addition not to communicate, indicate or suggest to any third-party of the negotiations under this MoU.

"Confidential information" means any and all information in whatever form, whether disclosed in confidence in writing or whether eye readable, machine readable or in any other form including, without limitation, the method of operation, the various applications, processes, strategies, data, know-how, specifications, literature and any other material made available by one Party to other Party under this MoU and includes the terms of this MoU.

7. FUTURE COOPERATION

The present MoU describes the general condition and arrangements for future cooperation between the Parties. The details of effective implementation of this MoU including consideration shall be jointly worked on mutually acceptable terms and conditions between the Parties.

8. GENERAL TERMS

- 8.1. Nothing in this MoU obligates either Party to commit or transfer any fund, assets, or other resources in support of projects or activities between the Parties unless expressly stated in this MoU.
- 8.2. Any research material developed as part of this MoU shall be the copyright of MoHUA, COE-UPD and GNDU and all intellectual property rights over such research material shall be jointly owned by MoHUA, COE-UPD and GNDU.
- 8.3. Both the Parties have full power and authority to enter into this MoU and take any action or execute any document required by the terms hereof including performing all their obligations in accordance with the terms herein.
- 8.4. The activities of this MoU must be carried out in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.
- 8.5. All notices given pursuant to this MOU, shall be in writing and shall be furnished either by hand, registered post, courier, or email (as may notified by a Party to the other Party) to the address mention at the beginning of this MoU or such other address as may be notified by a Party to the other Party.
- 8.6. No change can be made to this MoU without written consent and duly signed by all the Parties. Additions, deletions and/or alterations to this MoU may be affected with the written agreement of the Parties. Documents containing such additions, deletions and/or alterations and signed by all the Parties shall form addenda to this MoU and be deemed to be part of this MoU.

9. GOVERNING LAW, JURISDICTION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

9.1 This Memorandum of Understanding shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of India. The courts situated in Amritsar shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any and all matters arising out of or in connection with this MoU.

9.2 The Parties hereto agree that they shall, at all times, act in good faith and endeavor to resolve any and all differences, howsoever arising out of or in connection with this MoU, amicably at the first instance. To facilitate such amicable resolution, the Parties shall establish a Joint Committee. This Joint Committee shall comprise an equal number of members from the respective Governing Bodies of each Party. The Parties shall, through mutual understanding, jointly appoint a Chairperson for the said Committee. The decision rendered by such Joint Committee shall be binding upon both Parties.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE,
GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY,
AMRITSAR

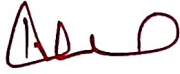
Sign: _____

Signed By: Prof. (Dr.) Karamjit Singh Chahal
Registrar & Dean (Faculty of Physical Planning
and Architecture)

Date: 20/08/2025

Place: Amritsar

Stamp:

Registrar 
Guru Nanak Dev University
Amritsar.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN URBAN
PLANNING AND DESIGN, SCHOOL OF
PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE,
NEW DELHI

Sign: _____

Signed By: Prof. (Dr.) Virendra Kumar Paul
Director SPA-D and Team Leader COE-UPD

Date: 20/08/2025

Place: Amritsar

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