

सत्यमेव जयते

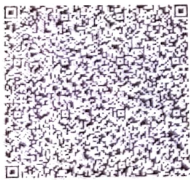
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 Description of Document : Article 5 Agreement or Memorandum of an agreement  
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 First Party : RABINDRANATH TAGORE UNIVERSITY  
 Second Party : RTU  
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Kanak Holey



Please write or type below this line

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)  
BETWEEN  
RABINDRANATH TAGORE UNIVERSITY (RTU), HOJAI, ASSAM  
AND  
FOUNDATION FOR INTEGRATED SUPPORT AND SOLUTION (FISS),  
GUWAHATI, ASSAM**

**This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025, by and between:**

GG 0008493335

*(Signature)*  
Registrar  
Rabindranath Tagore University  
Hojai (Assam)

Statutory Alert:

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SHCIL

**Rabindranath Tagore University (RTU)**, a State Public University established under the Rabindranath Tagore University Act 2017. Government of Assam, committed to promoting academic excellence, research, social responsibility, and community engagement. RTU emphasizes multidisciplinary, experiential, and inclusive learning aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, fostering partnerships with societal actors to bridge academic knowledge with real-world challenges. – **THE FIRST PARTY**

**Foundation for Integrated Support and Solution (FISS)**, a not-for-profit Section 8 company based in Guwahati, Assam, operating across Northeast India, implements integrated development initiatives in public health, education, skilling, climate action, rural enterprise, and social protection. FISS specializes in grassroots mobilisation, capacity building, and livelihood promotion through community-based institutions and incubation platforms such as the Sengya Sambhudhan Phonglo Institute (SSPI), Dima Hasao, Assam – **THE SECOND PARTY**

**THAT** the **SECOND PARTY** has taken Sengya Sambhudhan Phonglo Institute (SSPI) at Dima Hasao, Assam from Dima Hasao Autonomous District Council on lease for 49 years through an agreement for promoting vocational and field-oriented programmes.

**THAT** the **FIRST PARTY** being empowered by **Rabindranath Tagore University Act 2017, Section 6, Clause (ii) and (xiv)** and interested to extend the Horizon of Higher Education to this remote part and with an aim to introduce Professional and Vocational job-oriented courses utilizing the campus and Infrastructure of Sengya Sambhudhan Phonglo Institute (SSPI) at Dima Hasao, Assam agreed to execute MoU with the **SECOND PARTY** as per following objectives, terms and condition etc.

#### **Purpose and Alignment with NEP 2020**

This MoU establishes a framework for collaborative engagement between RTU and FISS to:

- Translate academic learning into real-world impact by engaging students and faculty in field immersion, rural innovation, and practice-based research.
- Promote skill-based and vocational education through incubation and entrepreneurship models rooted in rural and tribal contexts.
- Facilitate the co-creation and dissemination of knowledge related to traditional systems, sustainable development, and social innovation.
- Build scalable community-linked models for social enterprise, inclusive development, and sustainable livelihoods in line with NEP 2020 objectives such as:
  - Integrating vocational education into higher education.
  - Encouraging local and indigenous knowledge.
  - Expanding incubation and innovation ecosystems within academic institutions.

#### **Objectives of the Understanding**

1. Institutionalize experiential learning and field immersion for students through structured engagement with FISS field projects.
2. Promote multidisciplinary research and participatory knowledge production on issues such as tribal health, rural livelihoods, gender equity, public systems, and indigenous innovation.
3. Establish community-based incubation centres for rural micro-entrepreneurship, agro-processing, sustainable crafts, and digital inclusion.
4. Foster traditional knowledge preservation through documentation, validation, and integration into curriculum and outreach.

5. Facilitate joint policy engagement, capacity building, and demonstration pilots for convergence with CSR, ESG, and public sector initiatives.

Conducting vocational and other higher education self-financing courses for imparting higher education to the nearby society and others.

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*[Signature]*  
 Registrar  
 Rabindranath Tagore University  
 Hojai (Assam)



## Scope of Collaboration

### Field-Based Learning and Immersion

- Design and implement RTU credit-bearing student immersion modules hosted at FISS program sites.
- Facilitate exposure to rural governance systems, SHGs, tribal cooperatives, and community institutions.
- Create blended models integrating classroom teaching with field observations and action-oriented learning.

### Research and Knowledge Systems

- Jointly identify research themes and supervise dissertation or action research projects.
- Establish a Field Research Unit to study traditional healing, tribal agro-ecology, community forestry, food systems, etc.
- Co-author toolkits, working papers, and policy notes accessible to local communities, academics, and practitioners.

### Capacity Building and Outreach

- Develop rural curriculum and modules on climate change, digital empowerment, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion.
- Conduct faculty development programs, training-of-trainers (ToT), and community practitioner fellowships.
- Enable students to co-facilitate workshops, campaigns, and participatory rural appraisals (PRA).

### Incubation and Social Enterprise Development

- Establish a dedicated RTU-FISS Rural Incubation Hub in collaboration with SSPI.
- Incubate student and youth-led ideas in:
  - Agri-innovation and food processing
  - Herbal and natural product development
  - Assistive technologies for persons with disabilities
  - Handloom, handicrafts, and heritage-linked enterprises
  - Eco-tourism, waste-to-wealth, and circular economy
- Provide mentorship, infrastructure, seed funding linkages, and market access for incubates.

### Policy Engagement and Advocacy

- Organize state-level consultations, symposiums, and roundtables on inclusive and sustainable development.
- Collaborate on white papers and strategic inputs to government departments on NEP-aligned implementation.
- Leverage incubation pilots and field evidence for influencing policy frameworks and funding priorities.

### Roles and Responsibilities of the Parties

#### RTU Shall (FIRST PARTY's duties, Obligations & Rights):

- Nominate faculty and institutional representatives to co-develop and monitor field-academic activities.
- Provide academic oversight, research methodology support, and curriculum mapping.
- Recognize student participation through academic credits, internships, and awards.
- Run vocational and other Higher Education self-financing courses utilizing the campus and infrastructure of Sengya Sambhudhan Phonglo Institute (SSPI) at Dima Hasao, Assam as an off campus of RTU. The off campus shall be known as Sengya Sambhudhan Phonglo Campus of RTU.
- Regularly maintain the campus from the revenue generated from self-financed courses

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Registrar  
Rabindra Narayan College  
Hojai (Assam)

- Curriculum Designing, Teacher recruitment, conducting examination, timely publishing result of each course shall be the responsibility of RTU.
- Nominate/appoint one in charge of the off campus as DIRECTOR of the courses introduced by RTU.
- For all self-financed courses run by RTU, the financial control will be with RTU authority. All fees shall be deposited to RTU account.
- For all joint Projects with FISS the extramural funds shall be received in and spend from RTU official accounts.
- Put a signboard inside the campus with following writings...

**RABINDRANATH TAGORE UNIVERSITY, HOJAI, ASSAM**  
**Sengya Sambhudhan Phonglo Campus, Dima Hasao, Assam**

- There shall not be any bindings for any financial implications on Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai, if payment instruction is not agreed otherwise.

**FISS Shall (SECOND PARTY's duties, Obligations & Rights):**

- Facilitate access to communities, field infrastructure, resource persons, and existing programs.
- Lead outreach, capacity-building, and grassroots mobilisation across agreed geographies.
- Provide mentoring, monitoring, and documentation support through its incubation and field teams.
- Provide existing campus and infrastructure to RTU for functioning.

**Governance and Monitoring**

- A Joint Steering Committee (JSC) shall be constituted within 30 days of MoU signing to approve and monitor the Annual Work Plan. Vice Chancellor RTU shall be the Chairman of the JSC.
- Each Party shall designate a Nodal Officer for coordination, compliance, and reporting.
- Biannual review meetings will assess progress against agreed deliverables, stakeholder engagement, and impact.

**Financial Arrangements**

- Joint Projects will be undertaken on a project-to-project basis with budgets and deliverables approved by both Parties.
- Funding may be mobilized from:
  - CSR partners and philanthropic agencies
  - Government schemes (e.g., MDoNER, TRIFED, MoTA, DST)
  - International donors (e.g., UNDP, NABARD, BMGF)
- In-kind support such as faculty time, field access, and use of labs or community spaces will be recorded transparently.
- Revenue generation through self-financing courses.

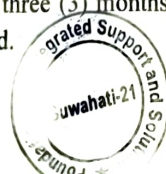
**Data, IP, and Ethical Standards**

- All joint outputs will be co-branded and co-owned unless otherwise agreed.
- Any documentation of Traditional Knowledge (TK) shall follow FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed Consent) protocols and ensure benefit-sharing.
- Compliance with relevant Indian laws including IT Act 2000, Data Protection Bill, and institutional ethics guidelines shall be ensured.

**Duration and Termination**

- This MoU shall remain valid for a period of five (5) years from the date of signing and may be renewed till eternity on mutual agreement.
- Either Party may terminate the MoU with three (3) months' written notice, ensuring all ongoing activities are responsibly concluded.

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 Registrar  
 Rabindranath Tagore University  
 Hojai (Assam)

- In case of termination of MoU, RTU shall have the right to take away all self-financing courses if necessary to other campus of the University.

**Dispute Resolution**

- Any disputes shall be resolved amicably. Failing resolution, they will be referred to arbitration under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.

**Legal Standing**

- This MoU is not legally binding but expresses a strategic intent to collaborate in good faith.
- All legally enforceable agreements (including financials or personnel deployment) shall be executed separately.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**

The undersigned, being duly authorized representatives of the Parties, have executed this MoU on the date first written above.

**For Rabindranath Tagore University (RTU), Hojai, Assam**

Signature: 

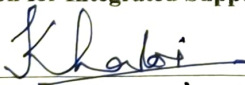
Name: Dr. S. K. Sarkar  
Registrar &  
Rabindranath Tagore University  
Hojai (Assam)

Designation: Registrar (In-Charge)

Official Seal:

Date:

**For Foundation for Integrated Support and Solution (FISS), Guwahati, Assam**

Signature:   
(Kanak Haloi)

Name: Mr. Kanak Haloi


Designation: CMD, FISS

Official Seal:

Date:



**Witnesses**

Signature: 

Name: SAVONIA JEMTHANAKHOL

Designation: Addl. Secretary  
N2HAC, Hojai.  
on behalf of  
Principal Secretary (N2),  
N2HAC, Hojai.