

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made on 06-June-2025 at the University of Ladakh

BETWEEN

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), founded on 15th September 1883, is one of the largest non-governmental organisations in India engaged in conservation and biodiversity research. It supports many research efforts through grants and publishes the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society, represented by its Director, duly authorized to sign this MoU;

AND

University of Ladakh (UOL), an educational institution established under the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh, located at Leh, Ladakh, India (hereinafter referred to as "UOL"), represented by its Registrar, duly authorized to sign this MoU

WHEREAS

- BNHS is engaged in promoting knowledge of natural history, avifauna conservation, and research in related fields and has established academic collaborations, including affiliation with Mumbai University for offering PhD programmes in Zoology with research focus on wildlife and allied topics. BNHS is intended to **University of Ladakh (UOL)**, to offer academic programmes in Wildlife Science (certificate and diploma courses), internship, apprenticeship, dissertations, publications in the Journal of BNHS, digital access to BNHS Natural History Museum, BNHS Newsletters, Hornbill publications, PhD in Zoology with relevant research areas, wildlife management plans and partnership in field

orientation programmes with department of zoology, botany, remote sensing, and artificial intelligence;

- UOL is committed to advancing higher education and research in the region of Ladakh. It is the only trans-Himalayan institute of higher learning and research with campus in Leh and Kargil. The University offers courses focused on Himalayan and trans-Himalayan studies not commonly available elsewhere in India.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. Purpose

The purpose of this MoU is to establish a collaborative framework between BNHS and UOL for offering academic programmes in wildlife and related science (certificate and diploma courses), dissertations, publications in the Journal of BNHS, digital access to BNHS Natural History Museum, BNHS Newsletters, Hornbill publications, PhD in Zoology and Botany and other relevant research areas, and partnership in field orientation programmes.

2. Areas of Collaboration

- Development and delivery of certificate and diploma courses in Wildlife Science and related disciplines in collaboration with BNHS and UOL. These courses cover topics such as wildlife ecology, conservation biology, habitat management, biodiversity monitoring, and related practical skills.
- Facilitation of PhD research programmes, with research topics including but not limited to: Wildlife ecology and behaviour, Avifauna (bird studies), Mammalogy (study of mammals), Conservation biology, Biodiversity and ecosystem studies and Animal behaviour and systematics and biological and non-biological samples for genetic analysis. These PhD programmes will be jointly supervised by BNHS and UOL faculty, following the UGC guidelines established.

- Exchange of academic materials, faculty, and students for mutual enrichment in the fields of Zoology, Botany and related other allied fields. Joint organization of seminars, workshops, internship and training programmes.
- Sharing of research facilities and resources to support academic and research activities in these areas.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- BNHS shall provide academic expertise, course curriculum frameworks, faculty guidance, and supervision for PhD candidates.
- UOL shall facilitate the administrative processes, student enrolment, local infrastructure, and support services necessary for conducting the courses and research programmes.
- Both parties shall jointly approve research topics, supervise students, and ensure adherence to academic standards in these disciplines.
- BNHS will assist UOL in obtaining necessary approvals and eligibility certificates for PhD registrations in various disciplines of wildlife science and management.
- Financial arrangements, including fees and resource sharing, will be mutually agreed upon in separate agreements (case to case basis) as needed.

4. Duration and Termination

- This MoU shall come into effect upon signing by both parties and shall remain valid for five (05) years.
- The MoU may be renewed by mutual written consent.
- Either party may terminate this MoU by providing one (01) year written notice to the other party. However, students already enrolled under this arrangement will be provided all assistance in completion of their Certificate/Degree work.

PROTECTION CLAUSE FOR STUDENT ALREADY ENGAGED IN PhD courses.

- Amendments to this MoU may be made by mutual agreement in writing.

5. General Provisions

- Both parties agree to comply with applicable laws and regulations in the conduct of activities under this MoU.
- This MoU does not create any legal partnership, financial responsibilities, or joint venture between the parties.
- Confidential information exchanged under this MoU shall be kept confidential by both parties.
- Any disputes arising out of this MoU shall be resolved amicably through mutual consultation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representatives of BNHS and UOL have signed this MoU on the day and year first above written.

For Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

Name: KISHOR RITHE

Designation: Director

Signature: Kishor Rith

Date: 06/06/2025

Witness 1. Hansraj

Witness 2. Hansraj

For University of Ladakh (UOL)

Name: Nawang Tenzin

Designation: Registrar

Signature: Nawang Tenzin

Date: 06/06/2025

Witness 1. Sadan

Witness 2. Sadan
6/6/