

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Between

Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir), Ganderbal

National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar

University of Kashmir (UoK), Srinagar

Cluster University of Srinagar, (CUS), Srinagar

Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science & Technology (SKAUST-K), Srinagar

University of Ladakh (UoL), Ladakh

Preamble

This **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** is entered into on this **2nd day of August, 2025**, among the following institutions:

- Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir), Ganderbal
 - Website: <https://www.cukashmir.ac.in>
- National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar
 - Website: <https://nitsri.ac.in/>
- University of Kashmir (UoK), Srinagar
 - Website: <https://www.kashmiruniversity.net/>
- Cluster University of Srinagar, (CUS), Srinagar
 - Website: <https://www.cusrinagar.edu.in/>
- Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora
 - Website: <https://www.iust.ac.in/>
- Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science & Technology (SKAUST-K), Srinagar
 - Website: <https://skuastkashmir.ac.in/>
- University of Ladakh (UoL), Ladakh
 - Website: <https://uol.ac.in/>

(hereinafter referred to collectively as the 'Partner Institutions' and/ or 'Confederation of Higher Education Institutions of Kashmir Valley and Ladakh')

Recognizing their shared vision and mandate for nation-building through excellence in education, research, innovation, and community engagement, and in alignment with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Partner Institutions and/ or Confederation of HEIs of Kashmir Valley & Ladakh agree to collaborate for holistic development of higher education and socio-economic transformation in Kashmir & Ladakh and India. Where Centrally Funded Institutions (CFIs) should handhold and co-ordinate with State Universities on effective implementation of **NEP-2020** in spirit and action as per **ANNEXURES**.

1. Objectives of the MoU

- Promote multi/inter disciplinary learning and research as envisioned under **NEP 2020**
- Strengthen academic and research collaborations across institutions
- Facilitate resource sharing, internship provision, credit transfer, faculty exchange, and joint projects
- Support regional development with a focus on rural empowerment, innovation, sustainability and inclusive growth through community engagement projects.
- Build institutional capacities to enhance digital education, skill education, and entrepreneurship.
- Collectively contribute to the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) and ensure quality benchmarks.
- Establish such Higher Education System that endowed with appropriate **Ecosystem** and effective **Functions** for fostering economy, transforming societies and promoting leadership.

2. Scope of Collaboration

2.1 Academic Cooperation

- Design and offer joint degree/dual degree/twinning of degree, diploma, or certificate programs
- Enable student mobility and credit transfer under **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)**
- Organize joint FDPs, curriculum development workshops, and policy dialogues
- Promote MOOCs, **SWAYAM**, **SWAYAM Plus** and blended learning strategies
- Facilitate admissions under **Multiple Entry-Multiple Exit** option.
- Design and organize Faculty and Student Exchange Programs
- Promote integration of emerging technology like AI, ML, DL etc. in various disciplines

2.2 Research and Innovation

- Undertake collaborative research projects on themes of national and regional importance
- Establish centers of excellence, interdisciplinary research clusters, and innovation hubs
- Share access to laboratories, libraries, datasets, and infrastructure
- Facilitate joint publications, patents, and technology transfer

2.3 Community and Regional Engagement

- Conduct outreach and extension activities for rural and tribal development
- Support local entrepreneurship, skill-building, and capacity development in Kashmir Valley & Ladakh
- Engage with state & local govts for evidence-based policy advocacy & implementation support

2.4 Cultural and Linguistic Integration

- Promote classical languages, regional heritage, and Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)
- Collaborate on indigenous knowledge integration into higher education

3. Governance Mechanism

- A Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) shall be constituted with one representative from each partner institution and/ or Confederation of HEIs of Kashmir Valley & Ladakh.
- The JCC shall meet biannually to review progress, set priorities, and facilitate implementation
- The JCC may establish thematic working groups for specific domains (e.g., IKS, technology, rural innovation, skill development etc.)
- Facilitate Joint Academic Partnerships for a creation, knowledge-driven society based on human values and universal peace.

4. Duration and Review

- This MoU shall remain in force for a period of five years from the date of signing and may be renewed upon mutual agreement.
- The MoU shall be reviewed annually by the JCC for assessing outcomes and accomplishments.

5. Miscellaneous

- Each institution shall bear its own costs unless otherwise agreed for joint initiatives.
- This MoU does not create any legal binding obligations but serves as a framework for collaboration.
- Disputes, if any, shall be resolved amicably through mutual consultation.

Signed on this day, the 2nd of AUGUST, 2025 at CUKashmir, Tulmulla, Ganderbal, J & K.

Institution: CUKashmir, Ganderbal

Name:

Designation:

Signature:

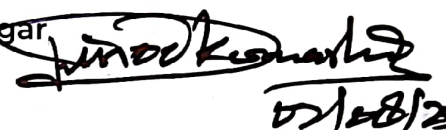


Institution: (NIT), Srinagar

Name:

Designation:

Signature:

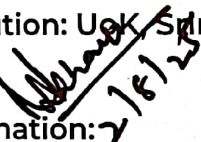


Institution: UoK, Srinagar

Name:

Designation:

Signature:

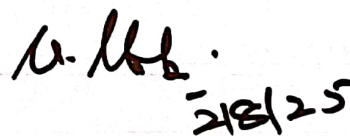


Institution: CUS, Srinagar

Name:

Designation:

Signature:



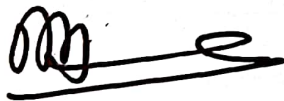
Institution: IUST, Awantipora

Name:

Designation:

Signature:

Prof. A. H. MOON
DAA



Institution: SKUAST-K, Srinagar

Name:

Designation:

Signature:

Mohd Akber Bhat
Director Education



Institution: University of Ladakh (UoL) Ladakh

Name:

Designation:

Signature:



Illustrative list of 25 Key Theme Areas of National Education Policy 2020

The quality higher education aims to develop human resources who are good, thoughtful, well-rounded, creative and financially accountable besides being independent, confident and socially responsible individual. Higher Education System is endowed with its Ecosystem and Functions for fostering economy, transforming societies and promoting leadership. The higher education has a mandate for creation, dissemination and application of knowledge to empower the citizens for fostering a vibrant society with strong economic growth. The illustrative 25 themes envisaged by **Ministry of Education** for implementation of **NEP-2020** through **UTSAH Portal** and **IDP Guidelines** tentatively arranged under **Higher Education Ecosystem** and **Higher Education Functions**. The list of Key Themes is not Exhaustive or Limited and other similar themes can also be included by HEIs.

Higher Education Ecosystem:	Higher Education Functions:
1. Processes - Policies and Compliances (8) - Decentralized Governance - Access to Higher Education - Equity and Inclusive Education - Adoption of NHEQF and NCrF - Multiple Entry & Exit with Flexibility – Credit Transfer System (CTS) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). - Quality Assurance - Accreditation and Ranking - Networking - Industry-Academia Linkage - Partnerships in Education - Internationalization of Higher Education 2. Provisions - Infrastructure & Finance (2) - Funding and Resource Allocation - Leveraging Educational Technologies 3. Persons - Human Resources (2) - Gender Sensitivity and Equality in HE - Capacity Building of Faculty of HE General Definition of Ecosystem: The Interactions (Processes) takes place between Living (Persons) and Non-Living (Provisions) things.	1. Academic: (5) - Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education - Vocational and Professional Education - Curriculum & Assessment Reforms - Collaborative Learning on Digital Platforms - Open & Distance Learning (ODL) 2. Research: (2) - Academic Research & Innovation - Promoting Research on Indian Languages & Linguistics 3. Outreach: (6) - National Mission Mandate - Inclusion of Arts, Culture and Heritage in HE - Embedding Indian Knowledge System in HE - Use of regional languages in teaching & learning in HE - Student Empowerment - Student Support Services - Mental Health Resources - Scholarship, Loans and Philanthropy - Student Progression Measures - Academic Advising - Career Counselling - Community Empowerment - Community Engagement - Continuous Professional Development

NEP Implementation - CFIs and State Universities Mapping:

No	State	District	CFI	Type	State Univ. 1	SU - 2	SU - 3	SU - 4	SU - 5
28	Jammu & Kashmir	Ganderbal Srinagar	CUKashmir NIT	PIC INI	Cluster University of Srinagar	University of Kashmir, Srinagar	SKUAST- K Srinagar	IUST, Awantipora, Pulwama	University of Ladakh, Ladakh

Concept Note

Monitoring and Outreach – Implementation of NEP, 2020

1. Background

- 1.1 National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) aims to transform India's education system to make it more inclusive, holistic and flexible. It is founded on the 5 guiding pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability.
- 1.2 After announcement of NEP 2020, a number of transformative changes have taken place both in school and higher education. In HE, various initiatives / reforms have been carried out such as National Credit Framework (NCrF) and National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF) in conjunction with guidelines / regulations like Curriculum and Credit Framework for UG Program; Multiple Entry and Exit in Academic Program offered by HEIs; Transforming HEIs into multi-disciplinary Institutions; pursuing two Academic Program simultaneously; Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR ID) of individual student which will act as lifelong identity to track their educational journey and achievements from, pre-primary to higher education; revised regulation of ODL / Online Education; permitting up to 40% credits in regular courses using SWAYAM platform; launch of new SWAYAM Plus portal with aim to enhance skill and upskilling and reskilling of existing manpower employed in different sectors; Integration of technology in administration of HEIs from admission to grant of degree through SAMARTH; guidelines on Professor of Practice to enable HEIs to work with industry experts; guidelines for supernumerary seats for admitting students from abroad in Indian HEIs and permitting HEIs for two admission cycles in an academic year; enhanced reputation of the Indian HEIs in international ranking; embedding of Indian Knowledge system in the education etc.
- 1.3 The Ministry of Education organizes Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) every year. The Samagam provides a platform for all stakeholders to come together for effective, smooth and timely implementation of the NEP 2020 and to share best practices in the field of education. In the Samagam, Vice Chancellors of Central/State/Deemed/Private Universities, Directors/Heads of Higher Education Institutions, Principals/Faculties of Colleges, Educationists, Industry Experts, Policy-makers, Teachers, Students and others participate. Additionally, various educational institutions conduct their own awareness programs tailored to their specific environments.
- 1.4. It would be prudent to collaborate with Centrally Funded Higher Education Institutions and State / UT Governments to create awareness of NEP 2020 at ground level by organizing Seminars, Conferences or Conclaves and sharing of effective models for implementing different facets of the policy and measuring the outcomes at the Ministry level.

2. Need for the Activity

- 2.1 *Increased adoption of NEP 2020:*
- 2.2 *Enhanced awareness of implementable models for NEP implementation:*
- 2.3 *A centralized mechanism to monitor progress of NEP 2020:*
- 2.4 *Optimize Awareness of NEP 2020:*
- 2.5 *Emphasis on Important and Focus Areas of NEP 2020:*

3. Objectives of the proposed Activity

National Education Policy 2020 inter-alia stipulates that institutional leaders will aim to create a culture of excellence that will motivate and incentivize outstanding and innovative teaching, research, institutional service, and community outreach from faculty members and all HEI leaders.

4. Envisaged benefits

- (i) Strategy development for identified areas of improvement
- (ii) Development of interventions to address areas of improvement
- (iii) Facilitation of stakeholder consultations
- (iv) Communication, Outreach and Awareness about the NEP 2020 different communication channels-website, social media platforms and provide recommendations for improving engagement.

5. Implementation methodology

5.1 Centrally Funded Higher Education Institution have been identified for organizing outreach, seminars, conferences or conclaves on National Education Policy 2020 regularly in collaboration with State Universities. On an average each CFI has been mapped with the 5-6 State Universities located in the nearby geographies for ease of carrying out the activities for its propagation at ground level as well as to deliberate on challenges, strategies and monitoring for its policy launching and implementation.

6. List of CFIs and mapped State Universities of Jammu & Kashmir

No	State	District	CFI	Type	State Univ. 1	SU - 2	SU - 3	SU - 4	SU - 5
28	Jammu & Kashmir	Ganderbal Srinagar	CUKashmir NIT	PIC INI	Cluster University of Srinagar	University of Kashmir, Srinagar	SKUAST-K Srinagar	IUST, Awantipora, Pulwama	University of Ladakh, Ladakh

7. Joint Responsibilities

- To focus on the creation of effective HE Ecosystem and provision of efficient HE Functions.
- To offer immersion programs (Language, Culture, Social, Academic and Skill Areas) aimed at advancing knowledge, skills, competencies, values, and attitudes through blended mode of learning.
- To promote cutting-edge 21st-century research, innovation and incubation activities.
- To provide a forum for collaboration to share infrastructure, facilities, and other resources.
- To jointly supervise PhD programs, internships and dissertation work of UG and PG students.
- To conduct
 - Joint trainings, seminars, webinars, & conferences to enhance knowledge and 21st-century skills.
 - Joint research projects for attracting extramural funding and also offer joint consultancy work.
 - Capacity-building and leadership programs for human resources of the participating universities.
- To initiate collaborative efforts to address environmental and health issues in the region.
- To promote faculty and student exchanges for capacity building activities and programs.
- To foster skill development and entrepreneurship and also organize joint placement drives.
- To work jointly on the 25 Key Theme Areas for Outreach & Awareness in implementing NEP-2020.