MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

DR. BABA SAHEB AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY(BAOU)

And

TRIBAL RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE CENTRE(TRKC)

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And
TRIBAL RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE CENTRE(TRKC)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into on the date 30th September,2026 at Gujarat among:

Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Open University (hereinafter referred to as the "First Party" or "BAOU"), Gujarat's state Open University established in **1994** by an Act of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly and now functioning under the provisions of the **Gujarat Public Universities Act, 2023**. BAOU has emerged as a pioneer in providing **inclusive, affordable, and high-quality higher education** through open, distance, and online learning modes. With the motto *"Education for All,"* the university has enrolled **over 3.5 lakh learners in the last three years** and currently offers **112+ formal academic programmes** along with a rapidly expanding portfolio of micro-credentials. BAOU has earned several national recognitions and distinctions, including:

- **NAAC A++ Accreditation (CGPA 3.55/4 in first cycle)**
- **Category-I status** by UGC under the Graded Autonomy Regulations
- **12B recognition** under the UGC Act, 1956

Entitlement to offer Online Programmes by UGC–DEB

AND

Tribal Research & Knowledge Centre (hereinafter referred to as the "Second Party" or "TRKC"), a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, having its registered office at A-55, Parwana Apartments, Mayur Vihar Phase-1 Extension, New Delhi-110091, represented by the President, TRKC, who is duly authorized to act on its behalf, which expression shall, unless it be repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, include its successors, representatives, and permitted assigns.

WHEREAS:

1. The First Party is responsible for promoting higher education and developing academic programs, research initiatives, and policy formulation to enhance educational opportunities, including for Scheduled Tribes (STs).
2. The Second Party, TRKC, is committed to research, knowledge dissemination, and advocacy on issues pertaining to Scheduled Tribes, focusing on the preservation and promotion of tribal knowledge, culture, and heritage.
3. The Parties recognize the importance of collaboration in advancing education, research, and socio-economic development of tribal communities in India.
4. The Parties are desirous of entering into this MoU to outline their mutual understanding, roles, and responsibilities in order to collaborate effectively on initiatives concerning Scheduled Tribes.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this MoU include but are not limited to:

- Promoting research and academic activities focused on Scheduled Tribes.
- Establishing tribal studies centers across academic institutions in Gujarat.
- Developing and implementing a curriculum incorporating tribal knowledge and heritage.
- Enhancing the capacity of educators, researchers, and tribal leaders.
- Undertaking community development projects for the socio-economic upliftment of tribal populations.

2. SCOPE OF COLLABORATION

The scope of collaboration between the Parties includes:

- Conducting joint research projects on tribal issues.
- Organizing conferences, seminars, and workshops on topics related to Scheduled Tribes.
- Developing educational materials, including textbooks and digital content, on tribal studies.
- Facilitating student and faculty exchanges for tribal research and experiential learning.
- Engaging in community-driven initiatives to preserve and promote tribal culture and heritage.
- Jointly seeking funding and grants from national and international bodies for tribal research and development projects.

3. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIRST PARTY

The First Party hereby agrees to:

1. Act as the primary academic partner to ensure the integration of tribal studies into its educational programs and activities.
2. Establish and provide academic infrastructure and administrative support necessary for the creation and operation of tribal studies centers.
3. Facilitate the adoption and implementation of tribal studies curricula across its affiliated institutions.
4. Publish educational materials, research outputs, and any intellectual property developed under this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with due acknowledgment of contributions from the Second and Third Parties.
5. Bear all costs incurred in activities related to this MoU, as per the mutually agreed terms and financial norms.
6. The prepared study material, in whole or in part, shall remain the intellectual property of the University and shall not be used, reproduced, published, distributed, modified, translated, or shared in any form or by any means without the prior written approval of the University. Any unauthorized use of the study material shall constitute a violation of the terms of this Agreement and may invite appropriate legal action.

4. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECOND PARTY

The Second Party hereby agrees to:

1. Act as the Knowledge Partner, providing intellectual expertise in strategizing, planning, and implementing the initiatives outlined under this MoU.
2. Develop curricula, resource materials, and training modules specifically tailored to tribal studies.
3. Assist in the establishment and operationalization of tribal studies centers, offering technical and academic support as required.
4. Collaborate with academic institutions and the First Party in preparing funding proposals and executing joint research projects aligned with the objectives of this MoU.
5. Identify and engage grassroots-level non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to facilitate fieldwork, experiential learning opportunities, and community-based research.

5. MONITORING, REVIEW, AND RENEWAL

1. This MoU shall remain in effect for three (3) years from the date of signing.
2. The Parties agree to review the progress of activities under this MoU annually and make necessary adjustments.
3. Upon expiration, the MoU may be renewed based on mutual agreement and the outcomes achieved.

7. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Expenses related to workshops, training, and educational material development shall be borne by the respective academic institutions under the jurisdiction of the First Party.
2. Travel, accommodation, and meeting-related expenses shall be borne by the First Party through available government funds or other sources, including World Bank Projects, as per government norms.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

1. Each Party agrees to maintain the confidentiality of all proprietary and sensitive information shared under this MoU.
2. Neither Party shall disclose any confidential information to third parties without the prior written consent of the other Party, except as required by law.

9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

1. Any intellectual property (IP) generated under this MoU shall be jointly owned by the Parties, with appropriate recognition given to the contributors.
2. The use, publication, and commercialization of any IP shall be mutually decided by the Parties in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

10. TERMINATION

1. This MoU may be terminated by any Party with 90 days' written notice, provided it does not affect ongoing projects.

2. In the event of termination, the Parties agree to complete any ongoing work or agree on a plan for the orderly cessation of activities.

11. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. Any disputes arising out of or in connection with this MoU shall be resolved through mutual consultation and negotiation between the Parties.
2. If the dispute remains unresolved, the Parties agree to submit the dispute to arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, in the English/ Hindi language.

12. GOVERNING LAW

1. This MoU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of India.
2. The competent courts at Ahmedabad, Gujarat, shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any disputes arising out of or in connection with this MoU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this MoU as of the day and year first above written.

FOR THE FIRST PARTY:

Name-

Designation-

Signature and Seal:

Place and Date: Dr.BAOU, Ahmedabad

FOR THE SECOND PARTY:

Name-Prof.Vivekkumar

Designation- Secretary

Signature and Seal:

Place and Date: Dr.BAOU, Ahmedabad