

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW
AND
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN SCHEMES AND
POLICIES (CRISP)**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW AND CENTRE
FOR RESEARCH IN SCHEMES AND POLICIES (CRISP)**

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MOU") is executed on 09-04-2025 (hereinafter referred to as "Effective Date") at University of Lucknow

BETWEEN

University of Lucknow (hereinafter referred to as UoL which expression hereof includes its successors, administrators, and assigns), through its authorized signatory Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Lucknow, who is duly authorized to sign and execute this Agreement, known as **First Party**.

AND

Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies (CRISP), a not-for-profit Society registered under the Registration of Societies Act, having its registered office at **B-38 First floor, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-17** (hereinafter called "CRISP" which expression hereof includes its successors, administrators, and assigns), through its authorized signatory Prof. Balraj Chauhan, State Lead, Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies, who is duly authorized to sign and execute this Agreement, known as **Second Party**.

Both UoL and CRISP are hereinafter collectively referred to as "Parties" and individually as "Party".

Whereas CRISP is an initiative by a group of conscientious civil servants worked at the highest levels of policy-making and having put in more than 3 decades in public service, aims to give back to society by working with the State and Central Governments for designing/redesigning/evaluating the schemes/programmes for large public good, to improve at scale, the development impact of programmes and policies being implemented,

Whereas CRISP has been working in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana along with the State Governments for improving the standards in higher education,

Whereas University of Lucknow has invited CRISP to participate in its efforts to strengthen the higher education system in the State of Uttar Pradesh, and in implementing the National Education Policy 2020 in higher education.

Whereas CRISP brings with it experience at the highest levels of governance in social sector, and the members carry with them reputation of having contributed for the social sector schemes and policies,

Whereas both Parties are having commonality of purpose of expanding the public good on scale and to strengthen the social sector of the Country.

NOW THEREFORE BOTH THE PARTIES DO HEREBY AGREE TO HAVE THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) APPLICABLE FROM 09-04-2025 FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS AS PER THE DETAILS BELOW:

1. SCOPE:

The initial scope of this agreement would require CRISP to implement the Project "Centre for Higher Education Quality Upgradation and Excellence (CHEQUE)" working along with University of Lucknow covering the following areas:

- 1. Academic Mentoring:** Work along with reputed academicians as Academic Mentors, who would operate through the College Development Council (CDC) of the Affiliating University. They will focus on non-accredited government/aided/Private colleges with a student strength of 1000 and above, thereby causing improvement in the academic outcomes and employability of students.
- 2. Accreditation:** Promote Accreditation and Institutional Development Plans. 20 unaccredited colleges to achieve quality parameters required for accreditation and/or the standards set by the University of Lucknow for efficiently transacting the academic programs offered at the institution.
- 3. Employability:** Improving employability of students through industry and other Government and non-government agencies, facilitating student internships and apprenticeships and through teaching of soft skills.
- 4. Enhanced completion and retention rates:** Ensuring Minimum Learning and Attainment (MLA) levels of all the students enrolled, focusing on improved student enrolment, retention and graduation rates.
- 5. Improved curriculum:** Improve academic outcomes through inclusion of appropriate Pedagogies and ed-tech solutions for effective transaction of the curriculum. Make suggestions to the University on curriculum revisions and modification processes that align with national and international standards and are responsive to industry and societal needs.
- 6. Faculty and Leadership Development:** Designing and facilitating faculty development programs (FDP)/Continuous Professional Development (CPD) in the use of educational technology and instructional design.
- 7. Embedding innovative teaching-learning practices:** Deliver quality education by applying innovative teaching and learning practices, tools, technologies, and techniques that improve learning outcomes and assessment. Embed online learning into credit framework, establish IIC, and adopt Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.
- 8. Promote vibrant and student-friendly campuses** and guide systematic review and updating of the program provisions and include appropriate activities that uphold academic quality and efforts for continuous improvement.
- 9. Incorporating feedback from diverse stakeholders (Alumni, employers, Community, etc.)** and appropriate data to enhance the quality and relevance of the educational processes.

- Sharing the innovative and best practices and experiences in applying and scaling up these practices.
- Collate, analyze and interpret data to support the Policy and decision-making.'
- Adoption of relevant Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programmes (AEDPs).

2. MODALITIES

2.1. The project will run in Pilot mode in select Affiliating Universities which are early adapters in the nation, of which, University of Lucknow will be one of them.

2.2. The University of Lucknow will cover 20 -25 unaccredited colleges.

2.3. The project will be owned by the CDC of the University, wherein 2 Academic mentors will be placed.

2.4. Each Academic mentor will be guiding and handholding 10 - 15 colleges.

2.5. The Academic mentors and colleges will be selected by the VCs office and CRISP collectively.

2.6. The Academic mentors will work in close coordination with CDCs to achieve the project objectives.

2.7. The University will appoint a nodal officer who will be the link between the University-College-CRISP.

3. Role of CRISP:

In pursuance of the scope of this MoU, CRISP will undertake to do the following, details of which will be finalized after due discussion:

- a) Provide backend support to the academic mentors, such as providing the latest updates, developments, toolkits, rubrics, presentations etc.
- b) Making payments to the Academic mentors directly.
- c) Orientation programs for academic mentors.
- d) To monitor the progress of identified colleges and project outcomes.
- e) Prepare reports, maintain repository of progress, capture best practices, recommend strategies of the project.
- f) Coordinate and schedule meetings with VCs of partnering University for review of progress and reporting by Academic mentors

4. Role of University of Lucknow:

University of Lucknow, will own the project and will facilitate support of it by CRISP and its teams for implementation of the agreed action plans and in this direction, would:

- a) Select Academic Mentors (AMs) along with CRISP and Nodal Officer and identify the colleges for rolling out the CHEQUE project
- b) Approve the action plan for the CHEQUE project
- c) Locate the AMs at CDC and provide appropriate instructions to CDCs for collaborating with Academic Mentors in developing the identified colleges as Model Colleges of the University.
- d) Give directions to CDC and selected unaccredited colleges to cooperate with the Academic Mentors in rolling out the various initiatives under the project.
- e) Introduce the Academic Mentors and CRISP teams to the identified Colleges through the required instructions.
- f) Incorporating the suggestions made in the agenda of respective bodies for deliberations and necessary action.
- g) Monitoring and feedback on the project and participation in CRISP review meetings

5. VALIDITY:

5.1. This MoU shall be valid for a period of two (02) academic years.

5.2. The validity of this MoU may be extended by mutual agreement in writing and signed by both the Parties. This MoU may be extended on the same terms and conditions, and/or with modifications on mutual consent.

6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:

6.1. Any and all intellectual property created in relation to or arising out of all project reports, case studies and modules produced under this MoU will be jointly owned by the Parties with contribution of each party towards individual components being duly acknowledged.

6.2. There will be no restrictions on the use of the material jointly developed by either of the Parties for consulting/academic/research/capacity building purpose. Except for rights expressly granted under this MoU, nothing in this MoU will function to transfer any of either Party's intellectual property rights to the other Party, and each Party will retain exclusive interest in, and ownership of its intellectual property developed before this MoU or developed outside the scope of this MoU.

6.3. Despite anything to the contrary elsewhere contained in this MoU the intellectual property rights in all methodologies, processes, analysis and recommendations (including but not limited to any presentations made in respect thereof and/or related thereto) frameworks, know-how and techniques.

6.4. Either Party may use the other Party's logo/ branding or any other intellectual property after prior permission from the other Party.

7. MISCELLANEOUS:

7.1. Indemnification: Neither party shall be liable to the other for any special, indirect, or consequential damages, even if the parties have knowledge of the possibility of such damages.

7.2. Limitation of Liability: In no event shall either of the parties of this MoU be liable to each other for consequential, indirect, special, incidental or punitive loss, damage or expense (including without limitation, loss of profits, loss of contracts, loss and corruption of data, loss or damage to reputation and/or goodwill, opportunity costs, etc.) even if the Parties have been advised of their possible existence.

7.3. Severability: The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this MoU shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this MoU that shall continue in full force and effect except for any such invalid and unenforceable provision.

7.4. Relationship between the Parties: This MoU shall not constitute the appointment of either Party as the legal representative or agent of the other Party. This MoU is on a principal-to-principal basis between the Parties hereto. Further, nothing herein shall be construed to entitle either party to be a representative, agent, partner or joint venture of the other. No Party to this MoU shall have any right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against or in the name of or on behalf of the other Party to this MoU except as may be specifically.

7.5. Provisions for Modifications: The Parties agree to make suitable amendments, and modifications to this MoU by mutual agreement as per necessity, provided that no modification, amendment or variation of any provision of this MoU shall be effective unless the same has been approved in writing by each of the Parties. Any reference to this MoU shall be construed as a reference to such MoU, as the same may from time to time be amended, varied, modified, supplemented.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this MoU and have signed it through their authorized representative on this 09-04-2025.

For CRISP

Name: Prof. Balraj Chauhan

Designation: State Lead

Date:

*Prof. Balraj Chauhan
09/04/2025*

For Lucknow of University

Name: Prof. Alok Kumar Rai

Designation: Vice-Chancellor

Date: 09/04/25

*Prof. Alok Kumar Rai
09/04/25*