



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
between
Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of Delhi
and
Aditi Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi
on
17th September 2025

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is established on **17-09-2025** between:

Centre for Himalayan Studies, a distinguished academic and research centre dedicated to fostering interdisciplinary studies on the Himalayas with a special focus on ecological, socio-cultural, and developmental aspects, hereinafter referred to as “Centre for Himalayan Studies”,

and

Aditi Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi, an esteemed women’s educational institution of higher learning recognised for its academic excellence, innovation, and commitment. Aditi Mahavidyalaya is situated on the outskirts of Delhi and is the only institution of higher learning for a cluster of 52 villages. It was conceptualized in 1994 with the vision and mission to empower women through the indispensable tool of education. The motto of the Mahavidyalaya is to provide and disseminate a sound liberal education of high standards and promote overall physical, mental, and moral well-being of all stakeholders and contribute wholeheartedly in nation-building to serve humanity as socially responsible global citizens.

Both institutions enter into this MoU with a shared commitment to promote high-quality academic collaboration, research, and educational exchange in areas of mutual interest related to the Himalayan region.

Preamble:

Recognizing the critical importance of interdisciplinary research and the need to promote an in-depth understanding of the Himalayan region, Centre for Himalayan Studies and Aditi Mahavidyalaya, express their intent to engage in mutually beneficial academic collaboration. This MoU establishes a framework for cooperation that will enhance research, teaching, and student engagement while upholding highest standards of academic rigor and intellectual exchange.

Scope of Collaboration:

Centre for Himalayan Studies and Aditi Mahavidyalaya hereby agree to collaborate on the following initiatives, each reflecting the strategic priorities of both institutions:

- **Joint Research Initiatives: Education, Training and Capacity Building**

Centre for Himalayan Studies and Aditi Mahavidyalaya will explore opportunities for students and faculty exchange. Both institutions will collaborate to design and implement joint research programs focusing on key areas of mutual interest, including but not limited to:

- Himalayan ecology and biodiversity
- Climate change adaptation and environmental sustainability
- Indigenous knowledge systems and community resilience
- Socio-cultural dynamics and economic development in the Himalayan region
- Collaborative research proposals will be submitted to prominent national and international funding agencies, with the express purpose of contributing to global knowledge on the Himalayas.

- **Faculty and Researcher Exchange Programs:**

Centre for Himalayan Studies and Aditi Mahavidyalaya will facilitate reciprocal exchange programs for faculty members, researchers, and academic staff. This initiative is intended to promote academic interaction, knowledge sharing, and expertise transfer. Visiting faculty will contribute to joint research, lecture series, and academic symposia, thereby enriching the intellectual capital of both institutions.

- **Student Exchange and Fieldwork Opportunities:**

Both institutions will develop and implement student exchange programs, designed to provide students from Aditi Mahavidyalaya and Centre for Himalayan Studies with hands-on learning experiences in the Himalayan region. Fieldwork opportunities, internships, and immersive courses will be organized to enhance students' practical skills and understanding of the region's unique ecological, socio-economic, and cultural challenges.

- **Co-organization of Academic Conferences and Symposia:**
Centre for Himalayan Studies and Aditi Mahavidyalaya shall co-organize conferences, symposia, and workshops on topics of shared academic interest. These events will serve as platforms for interdisciplinary dialogue, bringing together scholars, experts, and policymakers to address pressing issues related to the Himalayan region and beyond.
- **Resource and Publication Exchange:**
Both institutions will facilitate the exchange of academic resources, including library materials, publications, research reports, and access to digital databases. Joint academic publications and research outputs shall be encouraged, contributing to the scholarly body of knowledge on the Himalayas.
- **Field-Based Collaborative Projects:**
Centre for Himalayan Studies and **Aditi Mahavidyalaya** will jointly undertake field-based projects that align with sustainable development goals, ecological conservation, and community engagement. These projects will contribute to the long-term preservation of the Himalayan ecosystem and the well-being of its indigenous populations.

Implementation and Management:

- **Steering Committee:**
A joint steering committee shall be constituted, comprising representatives from both **Centre for Himalayan Studies** and **Aditi Mahavidyalaya**. The committee will oversee the strategic implementation of this MoU, monitor progress, and propose new initiatives. The committee will meet bi-annually to evaluate ongoing activities and identify future areas of collaboration.
- **Duration and Review:**
This MoU will remain in force for a period of **five (5) years** from the date of signing. It may be extended or modified by mutual agreement between both parties. A review of the collaboration will be conducted annually to ensure alignment with the strategic objectives of both institutions. Both Parties may terminate this MoU upon 30 calendar days' notice in writing. In the event of Termination, both parties have to discharge their obligations.

- **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):**

Any intellectual property resulting from the collaboration shall be jointly owned by **Centre for Himalayan Studies** and **Aditi Mahavidyalaya**, unless otherwise agreed upon for specific projects. Appropriate mechanisms will be established to ensure equitable recognition and benefit-sharing of intellectual outputs.

- **Dispute Resolution:**

In the event of a dispute arising from the interpretation or execution of this MoU, the parties shall engage in good-faith negotiations to resolve the matter. Should a resolution not be reached through discussions, the dispute will be referred to the appropriate University of Delhi authorities for arbitration and resolution.

Signatories

This MoU is executed in good faith by the undersigned, representing their respective institutions. Each institution shall retain a signed original of this document.

Prof. B. W. Pandey
Director
Centre for Himalayan Studies
University of Delhi

Prof. Punyatoya Patra
Coordinator
Dept. of Geography
Aditi Mahavidyalaya

Prof. Neelam Rathi
Acting Principal
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