

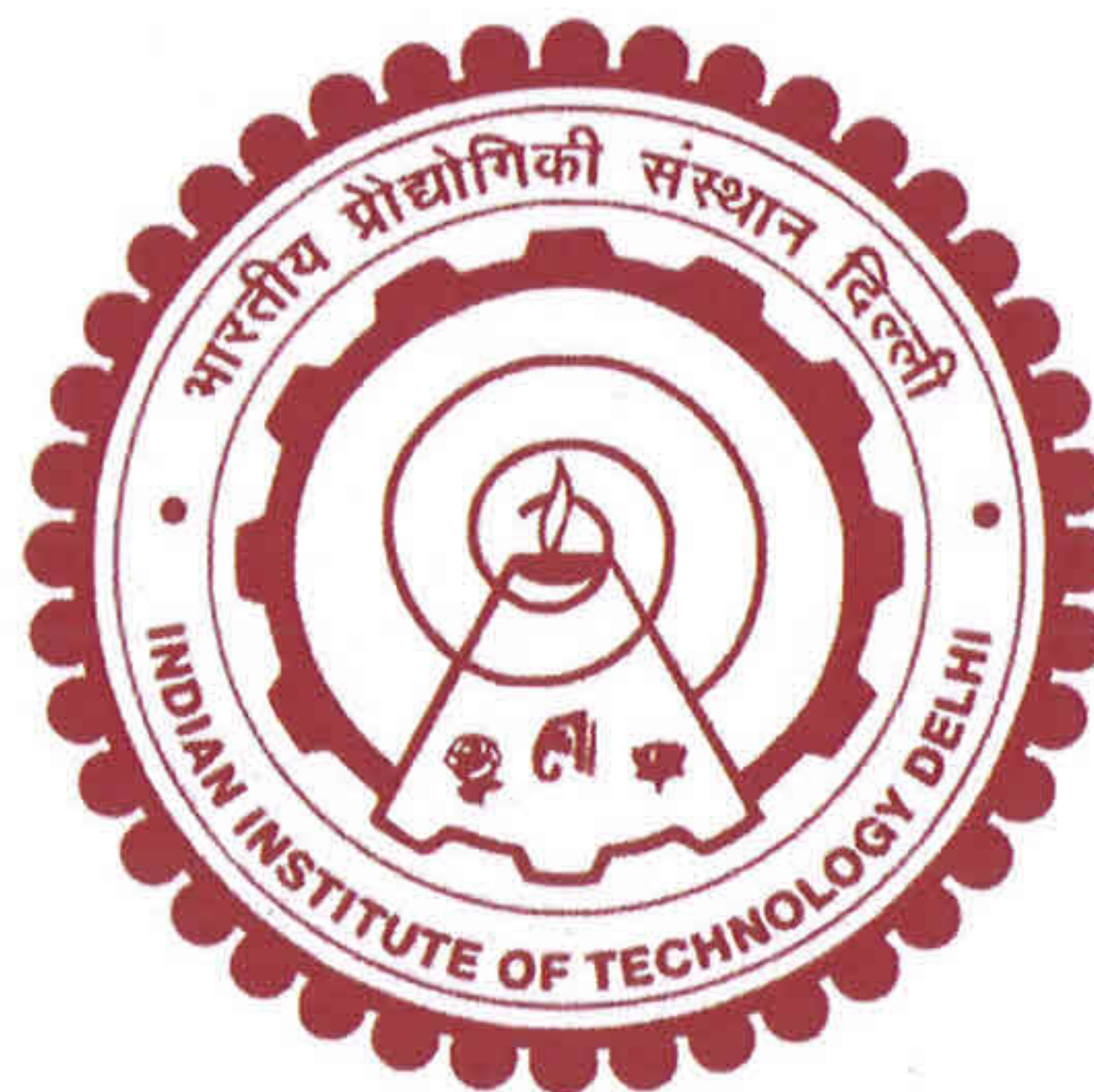
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SIKKIM
BARFUNG BLOCK, RAVANGLA, SIKKIM 737139**

&



**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI
HAUZ KHAS, NEW DELHI-110016**

**Memorandum of Understanding
between
National Institute of Technology Sikkim
and
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi**

1. Parties

This Memorandum of Understanding (herein after referred to as MoU) is entered into on this 4th day of June 2026 between:

National Institute of Technology Sikkim an Institute of National Repute duly established under the provisions of NIT Act 2007 as amended up to date having its registered office at Barfung Block, Ravangla Sub-Division, District: Namchi, Sikkim - 737 139 (hereinafter referred to as the “NITSIKKIM”), represented through it’s Director, which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, be deemed to mean and include its successor, legal representatives, duly authorized agents and permitted assigns) on the FIRST PART

and

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, an Institute of National Eminence established under the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, having its principal office at Hauz Khas, New Delhi – 110016, India, hereinafter referred to as “IITD” represented through it’s Director, which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, be deemed to mean and include its successor, legal representatives, duly authorized agents and permitted assigns) on the OTHER PART

2. Definitions

For the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the following terms shall have the meanings assigned to them as below:

- **“Home Institution”** refers to the institution in which the student or faculty member is formally enrolled or employed, and from which they are nominated to participate in activities under this MoU.
- **“Host Institution”** refers to the institution where a student or faculty member from the partner institution undertakes academic, research, or related activities under this MoU.
- **“Programme”** refers to any academic programme (such as B.Tech., M.Tech., M.S.(R), Ph.D., or equivalent) offered by either institution.
- **“Parties”** refers collectively to both the National Institute of Technology Sikkim (NITSIKKIM) and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD), and “Party” refers to either of them individually.
- **“Special Exchange Student”** refers to a student enrolled at the Home Institution who is permitted to undertake coursework, research, or project work at the Host Institution for a specified period under this MoU.
- **“Early Admission Scheme”** refers to the provision under this MoU that enables eligible students from the Home Institution to be considered for provisional admission to postgraduate programmes (M.Tech., M.S.(R), or Ph.D.) at the Host Institution prior to completion of their current degree.
- **“Credit Transfer”** refers to the process by which academic credits earned by a student at the Host Institution are recognized and counted toward the degree requirements at the Home Institution.
- **“Credit Sharing (Dual Counting)”** refers to the mutually agreed mechanism by which specific academic credits earned at the Host Institution may be counted toward the degree requirements of both the Home Institution and the Host Institution, subject to applicable regulations at both institutions.
- **“Advanced Standing”** refers to the recognition granted by the Host Institution to a student for prior academic work completed (including under this MoU), allowing exemption from certain coursework requirements and enabling an accelerated completion of a postgraduate programme.
- **“Foreground Intellectual Property (Foreground IP)”** refers to any intellectual property generated jointly by the Parties in the course of activities undertaken under this MoU.
- **“Bachelor’s Degree”** refers to full-time, in-person undergraduate degree programme of a minimum duration of four (4) years at the Home or Host Institutions, including but not limited to programmes such as Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech.), Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Bachelor of Design (B.Des.), Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.), or any other equivalent undergraduate degree programme as recognized by the Home or Host Institutions. For the avoidance of doubt, fully online or distance-learning programmes shall not be covered under this definition.

- **“Dual Degree”** refers to full-time, in-person combined undergraduate and postgraduate degree programme of a minimum duration of five (5) years at the Home or Host Institutions. For the avoidance of doubt, fully online or distance-learning programmes shall not be covered under this definition.
- **“Master’s Degree”** refers to full-time, in-person postgraduate degree programme of a minimum duration of two (2) years at the Home or Host Institutions, including but not limited to programmes such as Master of Technology (M.Tech.), Master of Science (Research) (M.S.(R)), Master of Design (M.Des.) or any other equivalent postgraduate degree programme as recognized by the Home or Host Institutions. For the avoidance of doubt, fully online or distance-learning programmes shall not be covered under this definition.

3. Scope

The scope of collaboration on academic and research activities in this MoU includes the following categories:

- i. Academic and Research collaboration in the areas of mutual interests.
- ii. Exchange of students, staff, and faculty.
- iii. Early admission of NITSIKKIM students to IITD’s Master’s and Ph.D. programmes.
- iv. Credit transfer, credit sharing, and advanced standing programmes for accelerated degree pathways.
- v. Exchange of academic information, scholarly information, materials, and publications.

4. Research Collaboration & Joint Supervision

Faculty from both Institutions shall collaborate in joint research in disciplines of mutual interest and in the joint supervision of students. All such joint research activities shall be governed by the terms as given below:

4.1. Research Collaboration:

- 4.1.1. Each Institution shall nominate one of its members as its representative in charge of the cooperative programme.
- 4.1.2. Proposals for collaborative research work under this Memorandum shall be submitted with the prior approval of the Head of each Institution, or her/his nominee.
- 4.1.3. Individual programme of work under this Memorandum shall be jointly planned and conducted by both parties.
- 4.1.4. Work progress of any individual programme shall be reviewed and approved by designated authorities of both parties.
- 4.1.5. The final approval of any project shall depend on the availability of guaranteed support funds.

- 4.1.6. Every collaboration shall have its own distinct agreement/contract which addresses IPR, funding pattern, usage policies of research facilities, disclosure of information etc.
- 4.1.7. Neither NITSIKKIM nor IITD shall be held responsible for any liability to the party.

4.2. Joint Supervision (Ph.D./M.Tech./M.S.(R))

- 4.2.1. Co-Supervision: For every student enrolled under this collaborative framework, there shall be at least one supervisor from IITD and one from NITSIKKIM.
- 4.2.2. Consent: The joint supervision arrangement requires the explicit written consent of the supervisors from both the Home and Host Institutions.
- 4.2.3. Research Plan: A specific outline of the research program and the roles of the respective supervisors must be approved by the designated authorities of both parties before the commencement of the project.

5. Students, Staff, and Faculty Exchange

Pursuant to the agreement, students, research scholars and faculty members of NITSIKKIM and IITD will be able to pursue academic activity at the partner institution according to the terms laid out here. It is desired by both parties that there will be significant flow of students/faculty in both directions.

- 5.1. Students participating under this exchange programme (see 5.9) shall be classified as Special Exchange Students. Such students shall be permitted to credit/audit courses, as well as participate in research activities/internship/ project work.
- 5.2. The consent of the teacher/project supervisor/ research supervisors, as the case may be, is required. Such consent shall take into account among other things whether the student has pre- requisites for the course/ project.
- 5.3. Equivalent course credits and equivalent grades earned shall be determined by the Home Institution based on the grade report and project completion certificate (if any) provided by the Host Institution.
- 5.4. The number of students at the Host Institution shall be worked out on case-to-case basis.
- 5.5. Host Institution shall not require admission or tuition fees of Special Exchange Students under this MoU.
- 5.6. Spending at least a semester at the Host Institution is compulsory as a Special Exchange Student, and, normally, not more than one year
- 5.7. Participants shall be subjected to the rules and regulations of the Host and Home Institutions. The Host Institution shall inform the Home Institution of any academic or other problems that may arise during the period of the student's residence in the Host Institution. The Host Institution along with the Home Institution shall deal with such problems.

5.8. The faculty of Home Institution may also apply for suitable opportunities available at the Host Institution subject to the terms and conditions of the Home Institution.

5.9. Nomination and Selection of Special Exchange Students

An interested student shall apply to the Coordinator of their Home Institution with

- i) Curriculum vitae
- ii) Statement of aptitude from a member of the student's school/ faculty.
- iii) A specific outline of the programme of study at the Host Institution and a statement of objectives of the student.

The Home Institution shall ascertain the suitability of the students for the proposed programme and consents to relieve the student, if selected by the Host Institution, for the duration of their stay.

The Host Institution shall evaluate the nominations and determine their suitability for selection under the Student Exchange Programme.

Where the exchange student is pursuing a research or implementation project as part of the Bachelor's Degree., Dual Degree, M.Tech., M.Sc. or Ph.D. (or equivalent) degree programme, the Host Institution shall identify a suitable faculty member to assist or co-supervise (along with supervisor in the Home Institution) the exchange student in their project.

The selection and nomination of students is open twice in an academic year, in the month of March/April and in the month of October/November.

6. Early Admission to M.Tech., M.S.(R), and Ph.D. Programmes in IITD

This MoU allows students currently pursuing Bachelor Degree, Dual Degree, and Master of Technology (M.Tech.) in NITSIKKIM to be considered for early admission to the **Ph. D., M.Tech., M.S.(R)** programmes at IITD, without the need to qualify for GATE or any other national level examination. It is envisaged that this scheme will also help NITSIKKIM students to enhance their chances of qualifying for the prevailing government funded fellowships for Ph.D. at IITD, including but not limited to PMRF.

6.1. Under this scheme, NITSIKKIM Bachelor's Degree students who have a minimum CGPA of 8.00 at the end of their 6th semester (three years), will be eligible to apply for a project in summer and complete their fourth year (7th and 8th semesters), at IITD. After the satisfactory completion of one semester as Special Exchange Student, the student will be eligible to apply for the early admission scheme into the M.Tech./M.S.(R)/Ph.D. programme at IITD.

- 6.2. NITSIKKIM M.Tech. students who have a minimum CGPA of 8.00 at the end of their 2nd semester (first year), will be eligible to apply for a project in summer and complete their second year (3rd and 4th semesters), at IITD. Similarly, NITSIKKIM Dual Degree students who have a minimum CGPA of 8.00 at the end of their 8th semester (four years), will be eligible to apply for a project in summer and complete their final year (9th and 10th semesters), at IITD. After the satisfactory completion of one semester as Special Exchange Student, the student will be eligible to apply for the early admission scheme into the Ph.D. programme at IITD.
- 6.3. Satisfactory completion of minimum one semester in IITD is mandatory for consideration to the early admission scheme.
- 6.4. Upon selection, the students will have a provisional offer of admission to the M.Tech./M.S.(R)/Ph.D. Programme. The early admission offer could be made in the 8th semester for Bachelor's Degree students, 10th semester for Dual Degree students, and in the 4th semester for the M.Tech. students. This provisional offer will clearly state that the final offer of admission will follow provided they demonstrate sufficient merit in coursework and/or research during their stay in IITD. The final confirmation of this offer will be made through a selection committee set up for the purpose, whose decision will be significantly influenced by (but not limited to), the performance of the student in coursework and project conducted at IITD.
- 6.5. During their stay in IITD, NITSIKKIM students may also undertake additional coursework credits, which could be counted towards credit requirements for M.Tech., M.S.(R), and Ph.D. degrees at IIT Delhi.
- 6.6. IITD shall provide either on-campus or off-campus hostel accommodation during the period. Hostel fees and other fixed charges shall be charged at regular rates on par with IITD Students.
- 6.7. Students will formally join the programme (M.Tech., M.S.(R) or Ph.D. Programme) in IITD only after completion of all graduation requirements at NITSIKKIM, which would be typically in the month of July. All shortlisting criteria and admission criteria must be satisfied by the student at the time of joining as well.
- 6.8. Students coming under this programme shall not be entitled to participate in the Training & Placement process in IITD until they register formally to any academic programme in IITD. This will be clearly stated in their provisional offer of admission.
- 7. Credit Transfer, Credit Sharing (Dual Counting), and Advanced Standing Programme**
- To further strengthen the academic collaboration and provide an accelerated pathway, the following provisions are incorporated for Bachelor's Degree Students under the early admission scheme:
- 7.1. Eligible Bachelor's Degree Students (meeting the CGPA requirement of 8.00 at the end of the 6th semester) may spend their entire last year (7th and 8th semesters)

at the Host Institution as Special Exchange Students. This period shall be utilized to complete the final-year requirements of the Bachelor's Degree programme through coursework, projects, and research activities.

- 7.2. Credit Transfer:** Courses, laboratory work, projects, and research credits completed at Host Institution during the final year shall be transferred to the Home Institution for the award of the Bachelor's Degree. The Home Institution shall determine and award the equivalent credits and grades based on the official grade report and project completion certificate provided by the Host Institution (in line with Section 5.3). The student must still satisfy the minimum credit requirements and all other graduation norms of Home Institution to be awarded the Bachelor's Degree.
- 7.3. Credit Sharing:** Selected advanced-level courses, electives, or project/research work undertaken at Host Institution may be mutually recognized and shared (dual-counted) towards both the Bachelor's Degree requirements at Home Institution and the M.Tech./M.S.(R) Degree programme at the Host Institution, subject to prior approval by the respective academic bodies (e.g., Senate/Academic Council or their nominees) of both institutions. Such credit sharing shall be documented in the student's individual programme plan and shall not exceed the limits prescribed by the regulations of either institution.
- 7.4. Advanced Standing for M.Tech./M.S.(R) Degree:** Upon successful completion of the Bachelor's Degree at Home Institution (incorporating the transferred and shared credits from Host Institution), the student shall be granted advanced standing in the M.Tech./M.S.(R) programme at Host Institution. This advanced standing recognizes the substantial academic work already completed during the final year at Host Institution and shall allow the student to complete the full M.Tech./M.S.(R) degree in **one additional year** (instead of the standard two years) of full-time study at Host Institution. The exact credits exempted and the remaining requirements shall be determined by the Host Institution selection committee at the time of final admission confirmation, based on the student's performance, project outcomes, and alignment with the chosen M.Tech./M.S.(R) specialization.
- 7.5.** Students joining this programme shall not be entitled to participate in the Training & Placement process in the Home Institution. However, they will be eligible to participate in the Training & Placement process in the Host Institution as per their placement rules, after they receive the final admission confirmation from the Host Institution.
- 7.6.** The provisional early admission offer (as per 6.5) shall explicitly mention the possibility of credit transfer, credit sharing, and advanced standing under this programme. All other terms in Section 6 (including hostel accommodation, placement restrictions, and formal joining after Home Institution graduation) shall apply mutatis mutandis. Detailed operational guidelines, including specific credit

- equivalences and selection criteria for the advanced standing route, may be developed jointly by both institutions as a separate schedule/annexure to this MoU.
- 7.7. Participation in this credit transfer / advanced standing programme remains subject to availability of seats/supervisors at Host Institution and mutual consent of the academic authorities of both institutions.

8. Funding and Financial Arrangements

- 8.1. Initial collaborative activities may be supported under the ALIGN scheme by IITD, subject to availability of funds and institutional approvals.
- 8.2. Unless otherwise agreed in writing:
- Each Party shall bear its own costs.
 - Travel, accommodation, and local hospitality arrangements shall be mutually agreed on a case-to-case basis.
- 8.3. External funding may be jointly sought from government agencies, industry, and other funding bodies

9. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Publication:

- 9.1. Any Foreground Intellectual Property generated jointly by the Parties in the course of activities under this MoU ("Foreground IP") shall be jointly owned by the Parties, unless otherwise mutually agreed in writing. The terms of use, protection, publication, and commercialization (if any) of such Foreground IP shall be decided through a separate written agreement.
- 9.2. Intellectual property created solely by one Party in the course of activities under this MoU shall remain the exclusive property of that Party, even if the other Party has contributed inputs or feedback, unless expressly agreed otherwise in writing.
- 9.3. Both Parties shall be free to publish academic and research outcomes, subject to reasonable prior notice to the other Party and provided that any confidential information or proprietary rights are duly protected.

10. Commencement, renewal, termination, disputes, and amendment

This MoU shall come into force upon affixing the signatures of the representatives of the partner Institutions and shall remain effective for five (05) years. This MoU may be renewed upon expiry, with the agreement of both the partner Institutions. If either partner Institution wishes to terminate the MoU at the end of five years, it must notify the other Institution not less than six months before the expiry of the MoU. This MoU or its renewal and the actions taken under it may be reviewed at any time. Modifications may be made by mutual agreement and any amendment or extension to the agreement may be formalized by the exchange of letters between the two parties. Any dispute arising from this MoU shall be referred to the Directors of both Parties, or to their nominees, for joint resolution.

11. Force Majeure:

Neither Party shall be held liable for failure or delay in the performance of its obligations under this MoU if such failure or delay is caused by events beyond its reasonable control, including but not limited to acts of God, natural disasters, war, terrorism, civil unrest, epidemics or pandemics, government actions, strikes, or any other force majeure events.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF THE PARTIES HERETO HAVE EXECUTED THEIR RESPECTIVE HANDS AND SEALS ON THE DAY MONTH AND YEAR FIRST ABOVE WRITTEN:

**FOR: NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY, SIKKIM**

Signature:

Name:

Designation:


M.C. GOVIL
Director

Witness:

Signature:

Name:

Designation:


Dr. Achintesh H Biswas
Dean, AIIR

**FOR: INDIAN INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY DELHI**

Signature:

Name: Prof. Rangan Banerjee

Designation: Director

Witness:

Signature:

Name: Prof. Dhanya C.T.

Designation: Dean, Academics


16/6/26