MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

(MOU)

BETWEEN

BOARD OF PRACTICAL TRAINING (EASTERN REGION), KOLKATA

An autonomous body of Ministry of Education, Government of India

&

Higher Education Department
Government of Odisha

Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha

for

Implementation of Apprenticeship Embedded Degree/ Diploma Programme (AEDP) under National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) of Ministry of Education, Government of India.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTADING

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTADING (here in after referred to as "MoU") is executed on this **15th Day** of **April, 2025** at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

BETWEEN

BOARD OF PRACTICAL TRAINING (EASTERN REGION), KOLKATA

An autonomous body of Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India

AND

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) entered on **15th Day** of **April, 2025** at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha).

Board of Practical Training (Eastern Region), Kolkata under the Department of Higher Education, an autonomous body of Ministry of Education, Government of India and ***Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha*** enter into this understanding that industrial training component of minimum 6 months to a maximum of 1 year integrated in the final year of Apprenticeship Embedded Technical as well as Non-Technical Graduate, and Diploma courses may be covered under National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) with stipendiary coverage at a rate as prescribed by the Government of India, NATS, in line with the Office Memorandum No.16-6/2024-TS.VII dated 20/12/2024 (Attached as Annexure I) received from the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

1. About BOPT (ER)

1.1. Established in 1968, Board of Practical Training (Eastern Region), Kolkata, is an autonomous organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

1.2. The Board is functioning at Block-EA, Sector-1, Salt Lake City (Opp.Labony Estate), Kolkata-700064.

1.3. The major function of the Board is to implement and monitor the provisions of The Apprentices Act 1961, as amended in 1973 and 2014, so far as they relate to the training of Graduates, and Diploma holders in Technical as well as General streams, in exercise of powers conferred to the Board under Section 23 of the said Act.

2. About Collaborating Institute

2.1. The Department of Higher Education, Odisha is a unit of the Government of Odisha in India that oversees higher education in the state.

2.2. The department is responsible for managing the education curriculum at the University, Post-Graduate, and Graduate levels in Odisha.

2.3. It also handles the recruitment and employment of teaching staff in positions such as Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor, along with non-teaching staff in government-run Higher Education Institutions.

2.4. The department supervises the functioning of state-run universities, including Maa Manikeshwari University, Rajendra University, Ravenshaw University, Utkal University, Berhampur University, Sambalpur University, Sri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya, Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Fakir Mohan University, Gangadhar Meher University etc.

2.5. The Higher Education Department has been pivotal in enhancing the quality of education in the State, establishing a value-based society, and preparing the youth for the challenges of the 21st Century.

2.6. The establishment of institutions of national repute like IIT, IIIT, and NISER in Odisha has further cemented its role as an educational hub while presenting challenges and opportunities for the Department.

2.7. The Department is proactively strengthening the existing educational system and taking innovative steps to open new pathways for students by providing need-based, market-oriented education. Its strategic initiatives and reforms are aimed at ensuring holistic development and transformation in higher education across the state.

3. Definitions

3.1. "**UGC**" shall mean the University Grants Commission.

3.2. "**AICTE**" shall mean the All-India Council for Technical Education.

3.3. "**HEI**" shall mean (i) Universities included under section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 (ii) Deemed to be Universities under section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 (iii) Institutions funded by Central or State Governments and empowered to award degrees.

3.4. "**AEDP**" shall mean **Apprenticeship Embedded Degree/ Diploma Program,** a programme enabling a student admitted to an undergraduate/ diploma programme of the HEIs, to pursue apprenticeship training as an integrated component of the degree/ diploma programme in compliance with these guidelines. The said AEDP programme shall adhere to all the guidelines published by University Grants Commission (UGC) and/or All-India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) from time to time as applicable to the programme, and as per guidelines issued by Government of Maharashtra.

3.5. "**Board**" shall mean BOARD OF PRACTICAL TRAINING (EASTERN REGION), KOLKATA which is an autonomous body of Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

3.6. "**DoHE**" shall mean Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha.

3.7. "**NATS**" shall mean National Apprenticeship Training Scheme, the flagship programmes of Government of India for Skilling Indian Youth in Trade disciplines. NATS under the provisions of The Apprentices Act, 1961, and The Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, both as amended from time to time till date, offers Graduate, and Diploma holders practical, 'hands-on', 'On-the-Job-Training (OJT)' based skilling opportunities for a duration of one year for technical courses, and six months to three years for non-technical courses.

3.8. **"NATS 2.0 Portal"** shall mean the national portal for NATS having the URL https://nats.education.gov.in;

4. Background

4.1. National Education Policy, 2020, emphasizes to bridge the Education-Employability gap among students. Apprenticeship is a tried and tested model to improve the employability of students.

4.2. In accordance with that, UGC has issued revised Guidelines for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to offer Apprenticeship Embedded Degree/ Diploma Program (AEDP) in 2025 under which HEIs are required to offer Apprenticeship Embedded Degree/ Diploma Program (AEDP) at undergraduate level with a mechanism of industry-academia linkages and outcome-based learning of students.

4.3. The objectives of the AEDP are as follows:

4.3.1. To enhance the employability of students pursuing Undergraduate level degree/ diploma programmes.

4.3.2. To focus on outcome-based learning in all degree/ diploma programmes to achieve graduate attributes and desired proficiency levels.

4.3.3. To promote active linkage between HEIs and industries/establishments.

4.3.4. To bridge the skill gap in the industries by effectively implementing AEDP in partnership with HEIs and/or Board of Practical Training (BOPT)/ Board of Apprenticeship Training (BOAT).

5. Purpose of the MoU

5.1. The specific purpose of this MoU is to establish a relationship and cooperation between the **Board** and the ***"DoHE"*** to ensure that the industrial training component of the final year degree and diploma programme is covered as apprenticeship under NATS.

6. Applicability of the MoU

6.1. The MoU shall be applicable for all AEDP courses recognized as per The UGC Act, 1956 and providing apprenticeship training as an integrated component of the degree/ diploma programme in compliance with the 2025 UGC guidelines on AEDP implementation. The said AEDP programme shall adhere to all the guidelines published by University Grants Commission (UGC) and/or All-India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) from time to time as applicable to the programme.

6.2. All the provision (s) of The Apprentices Act, 1961, and The Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, as amended from time to time shall supersede all or any clause of this MoU in case it is found conflicting in nature.

6.3. This MoU and activities mentioned therein shall cover this HEIs and students of this HEIs. It will be the responsibility of the Head of the HEI to motivate the participation of students in the activities.

7. Period of MoU

7.1. This MoU will come into effect from the date of signature by both parties and will be valid till the MoU may be modified or terminated by one month written notice to the other party.

7.2. The MoU will be renewed after taking review of the earlier activities as per mutual understanding of both parties, unless terminated or replaced with a new MoU.

7.3. The termination of MoU shall not affect the commitment and on-going activities which are planned or are being executed at the time of termination.

8. Roles and Responsibilities of the Board

8.1. The Board in consultation shall extend the coverage of NATS to the industrial training component of minimum 6 months and maximum of 1 year period of the final year students enrolled in AEDP Degree and Diploma programmers of the HEI.

8.2. The Board shall facilitate interactions between the HEIs and industries/ establishments, once the detail is shared by the institute.

8.3. Organize workshops/ seminar/ meetings with establishments/ industries and industry associations with support of Universities/ HEIs to promote Apprenticeship Training through AEDP under NATS.

8.4. The Board shall be responsible for issuance of 'Certificate of Proficiency (CoP)' through NATS 2.0 portal subject to the training establishment uploading all requisite information for generation of such Certificates.

8.5. The financial support of Government share of stipend to student will be available only while undergoing Apprenticeship Training component in final year of undergraduate level programme.

8.6. The 50% of stipend share of minimum rate of stipend as prescribed by Government of India will be disbursed by Government of India to the apprentices via DBT and remaining 50% will be paid by respective establishment/ industry partner.

8.7. The Board may provide technical support to HEIs interested in implementing AEDP, on mutually agreed terms

8.8. HEIs may seek to involve the Board in the development of the plan for onboarding HEIs, establishments, and students on the NATS portal

8.9. The Board is to ensure adherence to the guidelines related to training and other mandated compliances, as applicable.

9. Roles and Responsibilities of Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha

9.1. Provide overarching guidance and support to HEIs in Odisha for the adoption and implementation of the Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programme (AEDP).

9.2. Facilitate awareness campaigns and workshops to educate HEIs about the benefits and processes involved in integrating AEDP into their curriculum.

9.3. Encourage HEIs to incorporate AEDP as part of their educational offerings, ensuring compliance with guidelines established by UGC and AICTE.

9.4. May support HEIs in acquiring necessary approvals from statutory bodies to initiate AEDP within their institutions.

9.5. Assist HEIs in identifying suitable industry partners who can provide practical training and apprenticeship opportunities under AEDP.

9.6. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of AEDP across HEIs and provide feedback for continuous improvement.

9.7. Promote initiatives to incorporate emerging technologies and skills within AEDP to increase employability and industry-readiness of students.

9.8. Ensure effective communication and coordination between HEIs and the Board of Practical Training for smooth execution of apprenticeship contracts and training modules.

10. Roles and Responsibilities of the *collaborating HEI*

10.1. The HEI shall ensure adherence to all its roles and responsibilities as mentioned in the guidelines published by University Grants Commission (UGC) and/or All-India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) from time to time as applicable to the programme as well as all the provision(s) of The Apprentices Act, 1961, and The Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, as amended from time to time.

10.2. The HEI shall take necessary approval from its statutory bodies, such as the Academic Council and Executive Council/Senate, for offering AEDP.

10.3. The AEDP programme falling under the ambit of a statutory or regulatory body/council other than UGC shall be offered with the prior approval of the concerned statutory or regulatory body/council and in compliance with its guidelines.

10.4. The HEI to enroll its eligible students on the NATS 2.0 portal (www.nats.education.gov.in) for apprenticeship of minimum 6 months to a maximum of 1 year integrated in the final year of Apprenticeship Embedded Graduate (Technical/Non-Technical) and Diploma (Technical/Non-Technical) courses that can be covered under National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS).

10.5. The HEI are required to engage the students, especially of final year, to enable the above in experiencing and implementing NATS to the fullest.

10.6. The HEI may seek support of the nearest Common Service Centre (CSC) for the enrollment of students on the NATS 2.0 portal.

10.7. The HEI shall supply the information to the students that the said AEDP courses may be considered to be equivalent to the Sandwich courses as defined in The Apprentices Act,1961, and The Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, both amended from time to time.

10.8. The HEI shall collaborate with the nearby industries/ establishments for providing industrial training to their students by directing all such industries/ establishments to register on the NATS 2.0 portal, for including industrial training under NATS and providing stipendiary support to the apprentices under intimation to BOPT (ER).

10.9. The HEI shall ensure that once all the eligible students are enrolled on NATS 2.0 portal, they are directed to join the concerned establishment for undergoing apprenticeship training for the period as demanded in the course curriculum, minimum of which shall not be less than six months and maximum shall not be more than one year.

10.10. The HEI shall ensure that all such students execute the Contract of Apprenticeship through the NATS 2.0 portal with the training establishment immediately after their joining as apprentices.

10.11. The HEI shall include a digital banner/ poster about NATS and a redirecting link on the landing page of their official website, which will lead to NATS 2.0 portal with URL www.nats.education.gov.in.

10.12. The HEI may include Apprenticeship Training placements as part of their Placement Cell processes.

10.13. Industry assessments may be included as a part of the HEI's grading criteria for the apprentice to increase effectiveness of the apprenticeship training.

10.14. The HEI and Board may import new-age skills under NATS viz. AI, ML, IoT, Block chain, and more to make the youth aware of and immersed in these skills.

10.15. The HEI may establish NATS Facilitation Centers in their campus, which will help in the facilitation of NATS awareness, NATS 2.0 portal registrations, issue resolution, and more so that more aspirants will enroll for AEDP courses.

10.16. The HEI is expected to track the outcomes of the pass-outs from such programmes for a period of at least 1 year after the completion of the programme to assess the employment and education pathways pursued by such candidates and contribute to the further development of AEDP. These details shall be shared with BOPT as well.

10.17. The HEI shall facilitate establishing of an Apprenticeship Alumni Connect to further students' interest and awareness of NATS.

10.18. The HEI shall coordinate and facilitate with the concerned establishments for the smooth and successful completion of the apprenticeship training.

10.19. Both the parties to nominate and inform the names of their coordinators for effective communication and ease of activities along with communication details.

10.20. The Higher Education Institution (HEI) shall proactively engage with local industries situated in the vicinity of the institute to explore and establish partnerships. These collaborations shall be formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Subsequently, the particulars of these agreements shall be communicated to the Board of Practical Training (BoPT) to facilitate and enhance industry connections.

11. Notices

11.1. Any notice or other communication under this MoU shall be given in writing and delivered by hand, sent by post, facsimiled transmission, or e-mail.

12. Amendment

12.1. This MoU may be amended on consent of both the parties to align with the Guidelines published by University Grants Commission (UGC) and/or All-India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), from time to time as applicable to the programme.

12.2. This MoU may be amended on consent of both the parties to align with the provision(s) of The Apprentices Act, 1961, and The Apprenticeship Rules, 1992, as amended from time to time.

12.3. This MoU may be amended on consent of both the parties to align with the provision(s) and directions of the Ministry of Education, as issued from time to time.

13. Force Majeure

13.1. Neither party shall be liable to the other for failure or delay in the performance of any of its obligations under this MoU for the time and to the extent such failure or delay is caused due to acts of God, natural disaster, fire, floods, explosions or earthquake, epidemic or quarantine restrictions, serious accidents, war, insurrection or riots, strikes, legal necessity or labor troubles, or any other cause beyond the party's reasonable control, provided that sufficient notice of such occurrence of force majeure is communicated to the other party.

14. Signatures

14.1. This MoU constitutes in principle to proceed and work out more detailed modalities to operationalize the same between the parties. No amendments consent or waiver of terms of this MoU shall bind either party unless in writing or signed by both parties.

14.2. Both the parties agree and assure each other about the secrecy and maintaining the privacy of all sorts of communication and details of students during the period of MoU and thereafter.

All the above contents are read over and understood by both the parties to this MoU. Hence, the MoU is executed on 15th Day of April, 2025.

First Party:	**Second Party:**
Signed on behalf of BOARD OF PRACTICAL TRAINING (EASTERN REGION), KOLKATA 15/04/2025 **Shri. S.M. EJAZ AHMED,** **Director,** **BOPT(ER),** **KOLKATA** डॉ. एस.एम. एजाज़ अहमद / DR. S.M. EJAZ AHMAD निदेशक एवं क्षे.के.शि.स. / Director & R.C.A. कार्यालय प्रशिक्षण बोर्ड (पूर्वी क्षेत्र) / Board of Practical Training (Eastern Region) शिक्षा मंत्रालय के अधीन / Under Ministry of Education उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग, भारत सरकार / Deptt. of Higher Education, Govt. of India ब्लॉक-ई ए, सेक्टर-I साल्ट लेक सिटी, कोलकाता - 700 064 Block-EA, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700 064 Date:15.04.2025	Signed on behalf of DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA 15.04.2025 **Shri Prasant Kishore Mohapatra(OAS, SS)** **Special Secretary to Government** **Higher Education Department, Odisha** Additional Secretary to Govt. Higher Education Deptt Date:15.04.2025
Witness: 1	**Witness: 2**