

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI
AND
OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into by and between, The University of Mumbai herein after referred to as MU with the registered address at M. G. Road, Fort, Mumbai 400032 and Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies herein after referred to as OCHS with registered address at 13-15 Magdalen Street, Oxford OX13 AE, UK.

The primary objective of this agreement is the development of cooperative efforts between OCHS and MU, which will enhance and strengthen the academic interchange between the two institutions. Recognizing the importance of mutual collaboration and contribution to the society made by the institutions of higher education, the parties desire to promote exchange of academic and research information.

1. Background

OCHS has shown a keen interest in developing an academic exchange programme in areas of mutual academic interest between MU and OCHS and accordingly OCHS has submitted a proposal to MU, a copy of which is enclosed herein as Annexure A.

MU being one of the oldest and leading institution of imparting higher education, is continuously engaged in promotion of learning, research and developmental activities in various fields of Language, Humanities, Science and Technology and is interested in developing collaborations with Universities within India and abroad.

OCHS is a recognised independent centre of Oxford University dedicated to the study of Hindu cultures, societies, philosophies, religions and languages.

2. Representatives

MU deputed Dr. Madhavi Narsalay, Head of Department & Assistant Professor, Department of Sanskrit, University of Mumbai as the Principal Investigator (PI).

In the case of incapability or unavailability of the PI, the MU shall nominate some other competent person as PI for the programme in place of Dr. Madhavi Narsalay.

OCHS deputed Mr. Shaunaka Rishi Das, Director - OCHS as their representative for the programme.

3. Purpose

The Parties recognise the benefits to be derived from increased collaboration, cooperation and interaction. The purpose of this MoU is to define the areas for fundamental academic research in which the Parties desire to work together in the future for their mutual benefit, to foster a collaborative framework between MU and OCHS in the specified areas with a view to benefitting from each other's initiatives and working procedures and to support collaboration among the researchers associated with both parties. The present MoU intends to cover the following areas of mutual interest:

- a. Develop joint courses on Hinduism.
- b. Facilitate faculty and student exchange. Student exchange program would extend for two terms and the respective institutions would contribute towards this exchange in terms of waiver of admission and course fees only.
- c. Any other specific projects arising out of the said MoU shall be dealt with supplementary agreements. However, the parties shall be at liberty to exchange their programmes in accordance with the terms well elaborated in this MoU.
- d. Develop courses for global leadership. This module would involve the participation of Dr. Radhakrishnan Pillai, Director of Chanakya Institute of Public Leadership.

4. Scope

4.1 The areas of mutual interest between MU and OCHS that form the basis of this MoU and specific outputs envisaged are outlined as below:

- a. Specific projects in areas of educational interest will be selected as a result of coordination by OCHS and MU at the appropriate administrative level in

each institution. As these projects are developed, each will require a specific written agreement made in advance setting forth the terms and conditions thereof and executed by authorized representatives of both institutions.

- b. At the onset, MU and OCHS are interested in joint research in the areas mentioned below:

First Phase: 3 years

- A comparative study of the tenth chapter of the following commentaries shall be undertaken :
 - Bhavartha Dipika/ Bhavarthabodhini of Shridhar
 - Bhagavata tatparya Nirnaya,
 - Subodhini
- Study of Bhairavi tantra – a commentary in Marathi on the tenth chapter of the Bhagavat Purana written by Bahira Jataveda will be undertaken.
- Study and documentation of the oral tradition of Bhagavata will be undertaken which will be published in the form of monograph and CD.
- Focus of the study will be on the narrative style, content and rituals.
- This will also include a survey – interviewing narrators and participants.

Second Phase: 2 years

- Translations of the 10th chapter of the commentaries under investigation to be published in the form of a book.
- Survey of folk versions in the form of picture scroll, folk arts like gavlan, vaga, etc, to be published in the form of monograph and CD.

4.2 Specific work areas have been defined as under:

4.2.1 Department of Sanskrit - MU

Department of Sanskrit – MU shall undertake the following:

- Undertake a critical review of the stated texts
- Document the public performances of *Bhāgavata Kathā* in Marathi
- Interview the narrators of the *Kathā* and undertake a critical study of the different dimensions emerging out of these narrations.
- Undertake translation into English of *Eknāthī Bhāgavata*.

4.2.2 OCHS

- OCHS will publish the study in the form of research articles/monographs/books.
- Organise lecture and seminars.

5. **Implementation of the MoU and the review and assessment of the MoU:**

Six monthly reports will be submitted by both sides detailing the activities undertaken and completed.

6. **Duration of the MoU**

Duration of the programme stands at five years.

7. **Termination Clause**

7.1 Either parties of this MoU can terminate this agreement by giving an advance written notice of 90 days. The project in hand is required to be completed before the lapse of the notice period mentioned above.

7.2 Notices with respect to this agreement shall be provided to the parties as indicated on the attachment A 'Hereto entitled Administration of Programme and Contact Information' which is incorporated by reference herein.

8. **General Provisions**

8.1 All research and other collaborative activities conducted pursuant to this agreement shall be conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations appropriate with each institution. In the case of OCHS, these are the laws of the United Kingdom and the rules and regulations of the Board of Governors of the OCHS. In the case of MU, these include the laws of the Republic of India and of the State of Maharashtra and the rules and regulations of the Senate of the University of Mumbai.

8.2 This agreement shall take effect when executed by the parties and shall terminate on September 15, 2021. The agreement may be renewed or amended by written mutual agreement.

8.3 Copy of Attachment A is enclosed and shall form an integral part of this agreement

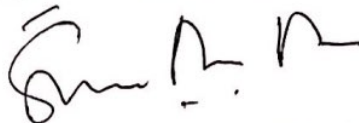
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed two copies of this instrument each of which shall be considered an original, in the presence of two witnesses whose signatures also appear below.

FOR
UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI



PROF. DR. SANJAY DESHMUKH
VICE-CHANCELLOR

FOR
OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES



MR. SHAUNAKA RISHI DAS
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

Mumbai, September 16, 2016

ATTACHMENT- A

OXFORD CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES

Working with our Memorandum of Understanding:

Aim: Developing relationship between University of Mumbai and the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies.

History:

Discussion regarding establishing a Memorandum of Understanding

The OCHS

The Oxford Centre of Hindu Studies is a recognized centre of Oxford University and fully integrated into the University. The Centre works closely with the Theology and Oriental Studies Faculties and with History, Anthropology and Music. Staff members of the Centre are members of University Faculties and the OCHS provides teaching for under graduate and post graduate courses.

The Centre is solely concerned with the academic study of Hindu traditions, hold seminars, facilitate lectures, organise conferences and invite visiting scholars to Oxford. We also publish Hindu Studies book series with Routledge and The Journal of Hindu Studies with the Oxford University Press.

Proposal from OCHS:

We are interested in collaborating with the University of Mumbai in number of areas, in faculty and student exchange and supervision, in research and in organizing conferences.

We are interested in developing educational resources, in collaboration with MU, to contribute to the academic study of philosophy and religion, and theories and methodologies which will support such study.

The OCHS has initiated a project on 'BhagavataPurana'. This project intends to study the BhagavataPurana as a textual tradition, along with undertaking a critical exegetical study of the same. It also aims at studying the social, historical, anthropological aspects of the BhagavataPurana. The Department of Sanskrit may place a role in facilitating translations as well as studying narrative traditions of the Purana.

Other areas of possible collaborations are organizing conferences and development of research projects. Proposals of collaborative research and educational projects could be made to our Hindu Studies Books series, with Routledge and our Journal of Hindu Studies, with Oxford University Press.

Summary

In summary, we would like to propose a MoU between OCHS and University of Mumbai with a view to promoting shared research, publications and educations interests.
