



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

आचार्य मनिष र. जोशी
सचिव

Prof. Manish R. Joshi
Secretary



सत्यमेव जयते



आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव
विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

D.O.No.2-76/2023(CPP-II)

07th October, 2024/ 15, आश्विन 1946

**Subject: MoU signed between Election Commission of India and
Ministry of Education**

आदरणीय महोदया/महोदय,

This is in continuation of the UGC letter of even number dated 19th December, 2023. As you are aware, a Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Education and the Election Commission of India (ECI) on 02nd November, 2023 to incorporate voter education and electoral literacy formally into the University/ College education system to prepare future and new voters for greater electoral participation.

The Higher Education Institutions are requested to take necessary steps for operationalisation of the provisions of this MoU by making it an integral part of their functioning.

सादर,

भवदीय,

(मनिष जोशी)

संलग्नक: यथोपरि

सेवा में,

सभी विश्वविद्यालयों के कुलपति।

सभी महाविद्यालयों के प्राचार्य।



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter to be referred to as "MOU") is signed on this 2nd November, 2023.

BETWEEN

The ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA, a constitutional body, having its registered office at Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi -01 (hereinafter referred to as "ECI")

AND

Ministry of Education including the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) and Department of Higher Education (DoHE) on the Other Part

And shall hereafter be collectively known as "Partners"

WHEREAS:

The ECI is a body under the Constitution mandated with the 'superintendence, direction and control' of the conduct of elections to the Parliament and every State Legislature and preparation and revision of electoral rolls;

Further, ECI has been pursuing the ideals of inclusive & accessible elections and informed & ethical voting and striving to address the issues of youth apathy (national enrolment rate in 18-19-year age cohort is less than 14%) and urban apathy (voter turnout in cities is significantly lower than the average national turnout and metropolitan cities have been amongst the least voter turnout areas of the country) by making concerted efforts and forging suitable partnerships;

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AND:

WHEREAS, the Department of School Education & Literacy is responsible for ensuring school education and literacy in the country through universal access to quality education which is fundamental for developing an equitable and just society, promoting national development, scientific advancement, national integration, and cultural preservation. The DoSEL works through its autonomous/Statutory bodies and state governments and their autonomous/ statutory bodies;

WHEREAS, the Department of Higher Education, is responsible for the overall development of the basic infrastructure of the Higher Education sector and looks after the expansion of access and qualitative improvement in Higher Education, through world-class Universities, Colleges and other Institutions and regulates all institutions imparting higher education in the country through University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and other statutory bodies;

AND:

WHEREAS, ECI is implementing its flagship programme called Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (hereinafter to be referred to as 'SVEEP') that aims at universal and enlightened participation of all eligible citizens in elections *inter alia* by addressing urban and youth apathy;

AND:

WHEREAS, Continuous Electoral and Democracy Education (CEDE) is an important component of SVEEP strategy which needs to be formalized and grounded in the school and higher education system in order to motivate future voters for greater electoral participation that would enable them to be responsible citizens who take pride in being a part of our democratic system in an informed manner with a sense of duty and purpose to strengthen our democracy;

AND:

WHEREAS, the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) is a transformative initiative to usher India to prepare itself to meet the challenging demands of a 21st Century knowledge society;

AND:

WHEREAS, the National Curriculum Framework (hereinafter to be referred to as 'NCF') being developed by NCERT, an Autonomous Body under the DoSEL, is one of the key components of NEP 2020, that enables and energizes this transformation, informed by the approach of NEP 2020. The revision of NCF provides an opportunity for ECI to integrate voter education and electoral literacy in the curricular framework of various grades of schools;

AND:

WHEREAS, ECI carries out the SVEEP programme in collaboration with government departments and partner agencies at various levels who have the complementary strength and objectives; for achieving optimal and sustainable outcomes, electoral literacy needs to become a formal part of the school/college education system in the form of a structured, curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and having due linkages with accreditation and assessment systems;

AND:

WHEREAS, both Partners have agreed to enter into an MoU to collaborate in their endeavours to attract the young minds in classes 6-12 and at the college level towards understanding the democratic electoral process, teach them the specific details of the constitutional and legal foundations of our electoral system, the core values and processes of inclusive, accessible and ethical elections and the range of election technologies as a means of empowering the citizen through ease of registration and ease of participation as a voter, besides also strengthening the school and college campus system for facilitating registration of newly eligible voters;

AND:

WHEREAS, DoSEL and DoHE are also in a position to facilitate the registration of young voters.

THEREFORE:

Under this MoU, the DoSEL & DoHE, as the case may be, will:

- 1) Integrate voter education and electoral literacy in a systematic manner in the curricular framework under NCF for classes 6 to 12 for all schools of the country;

- 2) Integrate voter education and electoral literacy appropriately in the curricular framework for all colleges/universities in a manner and to the extent of credit & hours suitable for different disciplines.
- 3) Introduce/update textbooks of NCERT to incorporate electoral literacy and advise State Education Boards and other Boards to do the same;
- 4) Orient/train teachers in imparting electoral literacy in the classrooms;
- 5) Mainstream voter education content in teaching, learning and assessment; and voter education and electoral literacy in pre-service teacher education courses;
- 6) Create an institutional framework for using anonymised & aggregated UDISE (Unified District Information System for Education), All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) and other databases of students who have attained 17+ years of age with due regard to data privacy and protection with a view to facilitating online voter registration of eligible and prospective students after every qualifying date (1st January, 1st April, 1st July and 1st October of every calendar year) and during the Annual Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls (in the last quarter of every calendar year) using voter registration portals and mobile apps of ECI; evolve a robust mechanism to fulfil the aspirational goal of ECI to handover the Voter ID card to every student of the country immediately after their attaining the age of 18 years;
- 7) Develop an institutional framework for inculcating a sense of ownership amongst State Education Departments for the Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELCs) in schools/colleges for new/future voters, and other co-curricular activities for imparting voter awareness amongst students with a view to making them fully conversant with the electoral system of the country and inculcate in them the willingness to register as voters and participate in every election in a passionate, informed and ethical manner;
- 8) Conduct online/offline/blended training of nodal teachers for organising ELC activities and appoint/train campus ambassadors in schools and colleges to lead the ELC activities;
- 9) Include Electoral Literacy in the curriculum for adult literacy and basic education, develop educational content on electoral processes for life-long learning and make electoral literacy an integrated component of life-long education.

- 10) Disseminate communication material on electoral literacy prepared in consultation with ECI through various forms of media appropriate for school/college students;
- 11) Organise mobilisation campaigns and participatory activities in schools/colleges, administer a pledge to vote by students, organising mock polls, EVM-VVPAT demonstrations, information about ECI mobile apps, conduct competitions for electoral education and outreach;
- 12) Organise intensive activities on the occasion of National Voters' Day (25th January), and undertake voter awareness drive by students during the election time;
- 13) Devise a system of credits for students taking part in CEDE to pursue higher studies;
- 14) To regularly monitor the electoral literacy programme in all schools/colleges/universities at the national and state levels, among other things, to meet its objectives and to ensure the non-political and non-partisan character of the collaboration;
- 15) Introduce electoral literacy awareness programmes in colleges/universities wherever elections to student bodies are held for inculcating practices of ethical voting right from the formative days and ensuring free, fair & inducement-free ethical elections at the student union level;
- 16) Designate and brand one of the rooms in every senior secondary school as the 'Democracy Room' for displaying SVEEP material on regular basis and conducting CEDE activities around the year;
- 17) Ensuring end-to-end accessibility of every school/college building which is used as a polling station during elections, by providing standard ramps (1:10 gradient slope); an adequate number of separate male and female toilets and accessible toilets; and proper lighting/electricity.
- 18) Devise a mechanism by which the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) includes electoral literacy as one of the components in conducting assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions.

THAT THE ECI WILL:

- 1) Provide information, inputs, and assistance in defining content to be included in the curricular framework so that electoral literacy becomes an integral part of the school education system and the adult education system.
- 2) Identify co-curricular content based on activities, which could also be suitably developed in consultation with DoSEL/DHE;
- 3) Prepare online content for training and conduct training of master trainers in the domain of SVEEP and outreach activities for capacity building of teachers/field functionaries;
- 4) Share prototype IEC material for wider dissemination through MoE infrastructure, networks and platforms;
- 5) Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs), District Election Officers (DEOs), Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), and Booth Level Officers (BLOS) shall coordinate with the school/ higher education administration at respective levels for efficient execution of the partnership and take part in voter education and voter registration activities/events.

THAT BOTH THE PARTNERS WILL:

1. Operationalize the provisions of this MoU in every School /Centrally Funded College / University by making it an integral part of the routine functioning of their relevant authorities and personnel and issue necessary directions to all the other Colleges / Universities for making it an integral part of the routine functioning of their relevant authorities and personnel.
2. Report and document action taken and lessons learnt under the MoU and appropriately disseminate success stories;
3. Review the operationalization of this MoU on a six-monthly basis or such other shorter periods as mutually decided at the national level.

msz

[Signature]

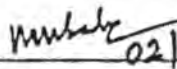
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This MoU will be valid for a period of five years, unless cancelled earlier with mutual consent, and can be extended from time to time.

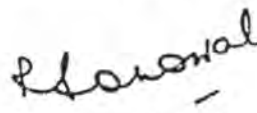
Signed on behalf of:

First Party:

Second Party :


02/11/2023
Signature

मनोज कुमार साहू / MANOJ KUMAR SAHOO
संयोजक, भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India
(Deputy Election Commissioner)
अशोक रोड / Ashoka Road
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Signature

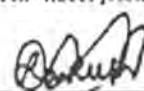
1. Smt. Rina Sonowal Koul (रीना सोनोवाल कौल)
Joint Secretary (Higher Education)
संयुक्त सचिव / Joint Secretary
शिक्षा मंत्रालय / Min. of Education
उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग / D/o Higher Education
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Signature

2. Smt. Prachi Pandey
Joint Secretary (Institutions & Training)
Department of School Education & Literacy
(PRACHI PANDEY)
संयुक्त सचिव / Joint Secretary
भारत सरकार / Govt. of India
शिक्षा मंत्रालय / Min. of Education
स्कूल शिक्षा एवं साक्षरता विभाग / D/o School Education & Literacy
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली / Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

In the presence of:

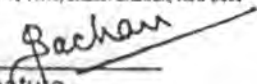

02/11/23
Signature
संतोष अजमेरा / SANTOSH AJMERA
निर्वाचन सचिव / Director
(Director)
भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India
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Signature

Love Kush Yadav
(Under Secretary)

लवकुश यादव / LOVE KUSH YADAV
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Ajeet Kumar
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(Under Secretary)
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Signature
Praveen Kumar Sachan
(प्रवीण कुमार साखन)
(Under Secretary)
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