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Government of Himachal Pradesh

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Description of Document	:	Article 5 Agreement or Memorandum of an Agreement
Property Description	:	Not Applicable
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First Party	:	DEVI SANSTHAN LUCKNOW 226001
Second Party	:	SAMAGRA SHIKSHA
Stamp Duty Paid By	:	DEVI SANSTHAN LUCKNOW 226001
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the 'MoU') is executed on the 25 day of July 2026, at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

BETWEEN

Samagra Shiksha, Government of Himachal Pradesh, represented through its authorized signatory, State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Government of Himachal Pradesh, having its registered office at Directorate of Education, Lalpani, Shimla-1, Himachal Pradesh (hereinafter referred to as the 'First Party' or 'Samagra Shiksha Himachal Pradesh'), which

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expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, be deemed to include its successors and permitted assigns.

AND

Dignity Education Vision International (DEVI Sansthan), a non-profit organization registered under the Societies Act, 1992 vide Registration No. 250/1992-1993, with the mission of FLN and Quality Education for All, and having its registered office at 10 Station Road, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, 226001 – represented through Dr Sunita Gandhi, Founder-CEO, DEVI Sansthan and authorized signatory hereinafter referred to as the 'Second Party' or 'DEVI Sansthan', which expression shall, unless excluded by or repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, be deemed to include its successors and permitted assigns of the second part.

Samagra Shiksha Himachal Pradesh and DEVI Sansthan are hereinafter collectively referred to as the 'Parties' and individually as 'a Party'.

WHEREAS, THE "FIRST PARTY" Samagra Shiksha, Government of Himachal Pradesh (hereinafter referred to as "Samagra Shiksha" or "the Department"), established as the integrated flagship programme of the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh (formerly known as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), is the nodal agency vested with the responsibility for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of school education programmes across the State of Himachal Pradesh. The Department's mandate includes ensuring that all children attain Foundational Literacy & Numeracy skills and develop 21st century skills, in accordance with the National Education Policy 2020. The State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Government of Himachal Pradesh, is duly authorized to represent the Department hereunder.

WHEREAS, THE "SECOND PARTY" Dignity Education Vision International, registered under the Societies Act, 1992 vide Registration No. 250/1992-1993, with the mission of FLN and Quality Education for All, and having its registered office at 10 Station Road, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh – 226001, is a non-profit organization represented through Dr Sunita Gandhi, Founder-CEO, DEVI Sansthan and authorized signatory.

DEVI Sansthan is fully compliant with all applicable laws and regulations, including:

- Income Tax Act, 1961 exemptions under Sections 12A and 80G
- ISO 9001:2015 Certification for Quality Educational Project Implementation & Monitoring
- Registered on the BSE Social Stock Exchange, with registration number BSESSENPO0107
- Registered office at 10 Station Rd, Hussainganj, Lucknow, UP 226001
- Official Website: www.dignityeducation.org

DEVI Sansthan partners with state and district governments across India, conducting teacher training, providing materials, and enabling quality education for all. It has active implementations of the Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) pedagogy in over 10,000 government schools, and MOUs for implementation across 4 entire states covering over 1.5 lakh government schools.

1. PREAMBLE

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into between Samagra Shiksha (first party) and DEVI Sansthan (second party). The second party will work under the guidance and direction of the first party. The parties have previously entered an MOU in 2023, and DEVI

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Sansthan has successfully implemented ALfA in several districts. Shimla and Solan have both made large FLN gains as measured by PRS 2024 compared to NAS 2021. Now the parties seek to scale up this program to the state-wide level, embedding this pedagogy within the state curriculum and training framework.

The Parties hereby agree to record the terms and conditions of this collaboration in writing through this Memorandum of Understanding.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

The Second Party is a non-profit organization and will extend support to the State in the implementation of FLN initiatives.

A. DEVI Sansthan will provide full support in the development of resource material for teachers and students, pedagogical inputs, capacity building of teachers and assessment under FLN.

B. DEVI Sansthan possesses the required expertise in the field of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and will extend complete academic and technical support to the State for effective implementation of the programme.

C. DEVI Sansthan has also been working in Himachal Pradesh and has experience of supporting hi-touch foundational learning efforts in Solan and Shimla districts.

D. The Parties now wish to collaborate so that Samagra Shiksha Himachal Pradesh leads and implements the State's FLN initiatives, with DEVI Sansthan extending academic and technical support as a knowledge partner, on the terms and conditions recorded in this MoU.

E. This MoU commits the two Parties to collaborate towards implementation of FLN initiatives for helping the State of Himachal Pradesh with its FLN goals. The First Party shall remain the lead implementation agency, and the Second Party shall provide academic, pedagogical, technical, and capacity-building support in aid of the State's programme.

3. THIS MOU WITNESSES AS FOLLOWS:

The Second Party shall support Samagra Shiksha, Government of Himachal Pradesh, in advancing the goals of the FLN Bharat Mission across Himachal Pradesh, including through ALfA pedagogy and related resource support, as may be adopted by the State.

A. a. Scope: All government primary schools of Himachal Pradesh for Grades 1 to 5, with the objective of strengthening foundational literacy and numeracy skills and improving student readiness for future PRS for Grade 3 and related assessments by the government and third parties, and including the reflection in Grade 6 results of the PRS 2027 by the students of Grade 5 who graduate with strong foundational literacy and numeracy skills.

B. b. Subjects and Languages: Literacy (Hindi) and Numeracy; with English support, where mutually agreed.

4. IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

A. The First Party shall provide the necessary enabling conditions for DEVI Sansthan to effectively engage with the government to deliver on its role as knowledge partner.

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B. Learning material distribution: during or after training, as may be decided by the First Party.

C. Training: in-person and/or online training for teachers, local officers, supervisory staff, and trainers, as may be required.

D. Supervision by Government: monitoring and supervision by the Government through its usual mechanisms, including use of agreed ALfA/FLN supervision checklists adopted by the State.

E. Data analysis and reporting by DEVI Sansthan under the academic purview of SCERT/ DIET.

5. TRAINING AND SUPPORT

A. Training may be conducted through cascade, online, in-person, or blended mode, in batches, as mutually decided by the Parties.

B. Refresher trainings and review meetings may be conducted online or in person.

C. Block-level or district-level communication groups may be created for implementation support, sharing of updates, videos, and review inputs. Relevant officers may be included for motivation and monitoring.

D. Training support may include videos, quizzes, review mechanisms, and certificates, as may be approved by the First Party.

E. Training may cover trainers, supervisory staff, district academic coordinators, middle-level government leaders, cluster heads, BEEOs, and teachers, as required by the State.

6. GOVERNMENT ROLES

A. To lead the implementation of ALfA FLN adopted as the State programme.

B. To facilitate the training and involvement of middle-level officials, supervisory staff, and trainers for effective monitoring and support.

C. To share school and trainer data in a timely manner and in an appropriate format, subject to applicable approvals, and to facilitate physical and/or online training touch-points statewide.

D. To appoint a nodal contact person to facilitate communication with DEVI Sansthan.

E. To print or arrange printing of ALfA toolkits, booklets, low-cost mathematics materials, charts, posters, ed-tech/AI tools, and related supplementary academic resources, in accordance with departmental norms and subject to approval and budget availability.

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F. To facilitate distribution of approved supplementary materials to schools across Himachal Pradesh.

G. To ensure that any use of ALfA content, DEVI Sansthan name/logo, and related attribution or copyright are upheld as part of this MOU.

H. To facilitate coordination between DEVI Sansthan and district/block education officers, school heads, and other relevant functionaries for smooth on-ground implementation, review, and follow-up.

I. In pursuant to the approval accorded by the Project Approval Board (PAB), Government of India, under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, DEVI Sansthan shall facilitate the training of teachers and academic functionaries for the implementation of the Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) pedagogy in the State of Himachal Pradesh, as a knowledge and technical support partner to the First Party.

7. DEVI SANSTHAN ROLES

A. To support the Government in the development of resource material for teachers and students, pedagogical inputs, teacher capacity building, and assessment support under FLN.

B. To help the Government integrate ALfA pedagogy into government materials or as a supplementary statewide support, or embedding it in its curriculum for long term sustainability.

C. To assist in development of literacy and numeracy charts, guides, training inputs, and related academic resources, as may be required by the State.

D. To design training support in consultation with the Government and train designated trainers in relevant methods and processes.

E. To participate in agreed implementation-support communication channels and provide academic and technical support as may reasonably be required.

F. To prepare and share reports based on agreed data, reviews, assessments, and implementation narratives.

G. To designate a dedicated State Programme Coordinator/nodal representative for Himachal Pradesh operations and share the contact details of such representative with the First Party within fifteen (15) days of execution of this MoU, or within such other timeline as may be mutually agreed.

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H. Digital and e-learning distribution: DEVI Sansthan and its authorised partner organisations may distribute and support apps, chatbots, videos, links, digital worksheets, e-learning materials and related learning/assessment tools through official channels, including school and class WhatsApp groups, SMS/WhatsApp messages, government portals/apps, teacher networks and other channels approved by the First Party. Government will share relevant data with DEVI Sansthan including enrollment details and teacher contact details. DEVI Sansthan will treat such data with full confidentiality.

8. GOVERNANCE, MONITORING & REPORTING

A. A State-Level Review Committee, comprising representatives nominated by both Parties, may meet at least quarterly to review programme progress, address operational challenges, and make implementation decisions within the scope of this MoU.

B. District-level coordination may be facilitated through designated district officials, DIET/ SCERT representatives, and DEVI Sansthan's State Programme Coordinator/authorised representative.

C. DEVI Sansthan shall submit half-yearly progress reports, preferably within fifteen (15) days from the end of each half-yearly period, setting out district-wise training coverage, implementation-support activities, review findings, agreed assessment or monitoring insights, and the next planned milestones.

D. DEVI Sansthan shall also submit an annual impact/implementation report, preferably within thirty (30) days from the end of each academic year, summarising statewide progress, implementation learnings, case studies/good practices, and recommendations for strengthening FLN outcomes.

E. Reports and review materials may be shared in soft copy and/or hard copy, as mutually agreed, with the designated nodal officer of the First Party and with such other academic authorities as the State may identify.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This is a non-financial MoU between Samagra Shiksha, Himachal Pradesh and DEVI Sansthan.

10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

All pre-existing intellectual property, including ALfA pedagogy, study materials, training resources, assessments, charts, guides, videos, formats, and educational content in digital or print form that is owned, or provided by DEVI Sansthan, shall remain the property of DEVI Sansthan. Any use, printing, reproduction, adaptation, translation, or circulation of such material by the First Party shall be solely for purposes of this MoU and with due attribution,

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subject to mutual consultation wherever required. Nothing contained in this MoU shall be construed as transfer of ownership of such intellectual property to the First Party.

11. ARBITRATION

A. Dispute Resolution: Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this MoU shall first be attempted to be resolved amicably through mutual consultation between the Parties.

B. If the dispute is not resolved amicably, the same shall be referred to arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, as amended from time to time.

C. A sole arbitrator shall be appointed by mutual consent of the Parties. In the event of failure to agree, appointment shall be made in accordance with applicable law.

D. The venue and seat of arbitration shall be Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

E. The arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in English.

F. The arbitral proceedings shall be confidential, except to the extent disclosure is required by law or for enforcement of the award.

G. The decision/award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the Parties.

H. Each Party shall bear its own costs unless otherwise directed by the arbitrator.

12. GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

This MoU shall be governed by the laws of India. Subject to Clause 11 above, the courts at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh shall have jurisdiction in respect of interim relief, enforcement of the arbitral award, and matters not capable of being referred to arbitration.

13. DURATION, TERMINATION & NOTICE

A. This MoU shall come into force on the date of its execution by both Parties (the "Commencement Date") and shall remain in force for a period of 3 Years therefrom, unless terminated earlier in accordance with this Clause.

B. Either Party may terminate this MoU by serving at least 01 month's prior written notice to the other Party, specifying the reasons for termination.

C. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either Party may terminate this MoU immediately upon written notice in the event of: material breach by the other Party, which remains uncured

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after 15 days written notice; insolvency, liquidation, or cessation of operations by the other Party; or Force Majeure events persisting beyond 30 days.

D. Upon expiry or termination, this MoU may be renewed for such further period as mutually agreed in writing by both Parties.

E. Termination or expiry shall not affect accrued rights or obligations, including reporting and student welfare responsibilities, which shall continue as necessary.

14. BRANDING & PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

A. In communications, publications, press releases, promotional materials, or other public representations specifically relating to this partnership, both Parties shall mutually acknowledge the collaboration, subject to the communication protocols of the Government and the mutual understanding of the Parties.

B. Neither Party shall issue any public announcement, press release, or public statement specifically concerning this MoU or its activities without prior intimation to, and where appropriate prior consent of, the other Party, except where disclosure is required by law or Government process.

15. FORCE MAJEURE

A. Neither Party shall be liable for any failure or delay in performing its obligations under this MoU if such failure or delay is caused by an event beyond its reasonable control, including fire, earthquake, flood, epidemic, pandemic, war, civil commotion, strike, lockout, governmental restriction, or any other force majeure event.

B. The affected Party shall notify the other Party in writing, as far as practicable, within seven (7) days of the commencement of the Force Majeure event, with reasonable particulars of the event and its expected impact.

C. The Parties shall consult in good faith to determine an equitable course of action, including temporary suspension, modification of timelines, or such other steps as may be necessary for continuation of the programme.

16. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Amendments, modifications, supplements, or waivers to this MoU shall be valid only if made in writing and duly executed by the authorised representatives of both Parties.

B. If any provision of this MoU is held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable by a competent authority, such provision shall be severed only to that extent and the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

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C. Nothing in this MoU shall be deemed to constitute either Party as the agent, partner, joint venture, or legal representative of the other Party, nor shall either Party have authority to bind the other except as expressly authorised in writing.

D. The Second Party shall maintain an appropriate internal mechanism for addressing implementation-related grievances concerning its personnel or programme activities. Matters requiring Government review may be brought to the notice of the First Party for appropriate consideration.

E. This MoU is non-exclusive, and nothing herein shall restrict either Party from entering into other collaborations or partnerships, provided such arrangements do not conflict with the rights and obligations under this MoU.

F. Any matter necessary for the smooth functioning of the programme but not expressly provided in this MoU may be finalised by the Parties through mutual written understanding consistent with applicable law and Government process.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties hereto have caused this MoU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives on the date and place first above written.

For the First Party **Government of Himachal Pradesh**	**For the Second Party** **Dignity Education Vision International (DEVI Sansthan)**
Shri Rakesh Kanwar, IAS Secretary of Education, Government of Himachal Pradesh	**Dr Sunita Gandhi** Founder & CEO, DEVI Sansthan, Lucknow
Signature & Stamp Secretary (Education) to the Govt. of Himchal Pradesh	Signature & Stamp
Witness 1: Name: Designation: Date:	Witness 1: Name: Designation: Date: