

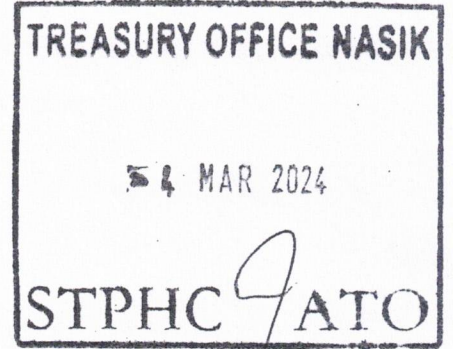


महाराष्ट्र MAHARASHTRA

2023

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अ.नं.:45521, दि.:12-03-2024, रु.:100, पैकी रु.:100
 श्री./श्रीमती/सौ./में.: कुलसचिव, यशवंतराव चव्हाण महाराष्ट्र मुक्त विद्यापीठ
 पत्ता : गंगापूर गोवर्धन ता.जि.नाशिक
 कारण : प्रतिज्ञापत्र
 हस्ते : बाळू साबळे
 सही : *[Signature]*



स. र. अमृतकर
 स्टॅम्प वेंडर, नाशिक.
 (मु. वि. प. क्र. १०३ / २००२)

MAHARASHTRA UNIVERSITIES CONSORTIUM FOR DEVELOPING MAHA-SWYAM

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Establishment of the Maharashtra universities Consortium for developing Maha- Swayam platform and portal is made on 12th March, 2024 at Mumbai.

[Signatures] 1

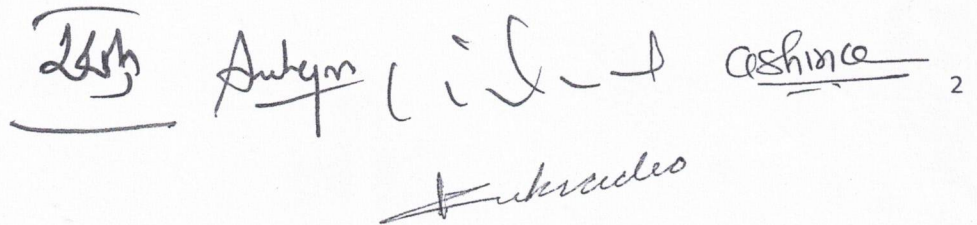
BETWEEN

1. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), through Vice Chancellor, having its office at Near Gangapur Dam, Nashik (Lead University for the Consortium)
First party
2. University of Mumbai, Mumbai through Vice Chancellor, having its office in Fort, Mumbai
Second party
3. Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), Pune through Vice Chancellor, having its office Pune
Third party
4. Shivaji University, Kolhapur through Vice Chancellor, having its office in Kolhapur
Fourth Party
5. SNDT Women's University, Mumbai through Vice Chancellor, having its office in Mumbai
Fifth party
(hereinafter referred to collectively as "Parties")

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into on 12th March 2024, by and between Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), University of Mumbai, Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), Pune, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, and SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, collectively referred to as the "Parties." The purpose of this MOU is to establish a consortium for the development, operation, promotion, and delivery of high-quality online syllabus-based courses and digital resources, specifically tailored for higher education in Maharashtra, through the online platform Maha Swayam.

WHEREAS

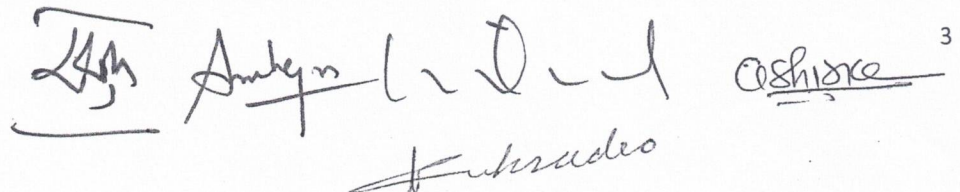
1. The National Education Policy 2020 emphasizes the importance of online learning platforms to offer multidisciplinary, choice-based education to a large number of students.
2. The Consortium aims to leverage the enabling provision of the UGC, allowing students to complete 40% of degree credit requirements online, by offering curated, localized, and affordable courses, especially in Marathi.
3. Recognizing the urgent need to offer low-fee and high-quality local content, especially in Marathi, in sync with Maharashtra's academic calendar.


The image shows several handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right, there are four distinct signatures. The first is a stylized 'Y' followed by 'CMOU'. The second is 'Anubha'. The third is 'U' followed by 'SPPU'. The fourth is 'Ashinca'. Below these, there is a signature that appears to be 'K. K. Kulkarni'.

4. Acknowledging the potential benefits of collaboration in developing and offering the Maha-Swayam online platform to learners across the state.
5. Seeking to leverage their respective expertise, resources, and infrastructure to establish a consortium for the development and operation of an online platform, Maha-Swayam
6. Recognizing the critical role of digital technology in expanding the reach and inclusivity of higher education, thus democratizing access to learning opportunities for students regardless of geographical barriers.
7. Emphasizing the value of interdisciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration in creating a robust curriculum that meets the diverse needs and interests of students across Maharashtra and beyond.

1. **THEREFORE, THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

- I. **Consortium Formation:** The Parties agree to establish a consortium for the development and operation of the Maha-Swayam platform and portal.
- II. **Lead University:** YCMOU shall lead the development of the Maha-Swayam Platform and Portal, ensuring its functionality, usability, and scalability.
 - a. YCMOU shall coordinate the activities of the Consortium and serve as the primary point of contact.
 - b. YCMOU shall allocate a budget for technology, manpower, and infrastructure required for the development and management of the Maha-Swayam Platform.
 - c. YCMOU shall establish a dedicated office for Maha Swayam to oversee its day-to-day operations and management and outline and fulfil the manpower requirements and team of experts and professionals for the development and implementation of the Maha-Swayam Platform.
- III. **Governance Structure:** The Consortium shall be governed by a Board of Governors comprising the Vice-Chancellors of the participating universities, chaired by the Principal Secretary of the Department of Higher and Technical Education of the Government of Maharashtra. The Board of Governors shall provide strategic guidance and decisions regarding the Governance of consortium aligning with the broader goal of the state.
- IV. **Steering Committee:** The Steering Committee composed of representatives from each participating university shall oversee the operations and management of the consortium.
- V. **Consortium Working Groups:** The consortium shall create working groups for various operations of the Maha-Swayam platform as and when required, such as Content Creation Committee, Quality assurance Cell, Platform Development Committee, Peer Review Panels, Committee for Course Development, Promotion and

The image shows three handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is partially obscured by a horizontal line. The second signature in the middle is written in a cursive style. The third signature on the right is also cursive and includes a small superscript '3' at the end.

c. The course shall be included on the Maha-swayam platform only after the rigorous quality check.

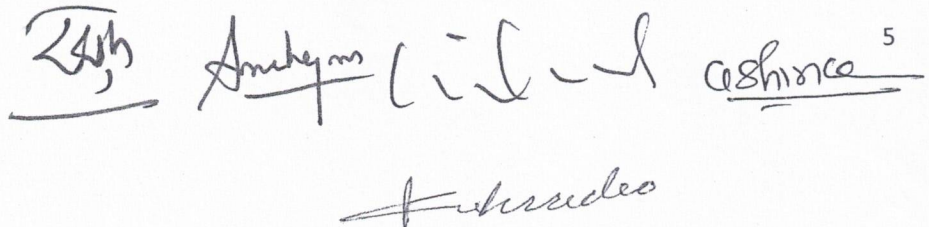
- XI. **Branding and Technical Requirement:** The technical committee shall develop branding guidelines to ensure visual identity and consistency in visual elements across the course material. The committee shall also create guidelines for minimum equipment setup and specifications for use and create online content to ensure platform compatibility, accessibility standards, and scalability.
- XII. **Continuous Professional Development:** The training cell will create self-paced online and offline modules to develop a pool of expert content creators for the Maha-Swayam platform.
- XIII. **Collaboration:** The Steering Committee shall initiate dialogue for collaboration to diversify the quality, breadth, and depth of course offerings with similar credible online platforms.
- XIV. **Marketing and Promotion:** The participating universities agree to collaborate on marketing and promotion efforts, actively promoting the Maha-Swayam consortium through official channels.
- XV. **Inclusion of New Member:** Board of Governors may consider new addition of any new State Public University in the Consortium for widening the offerings of the Maha-Swayam Platform and Portal.

2. Governance:

- I. The Board of governors shall meet once in the academic year to review the progress of the Consortium
- II. The steering committee shall meet at least once every quarter to review the progress of the Consortium's activities and address any issues or concerns.
- III. The Consortium Management Team shall meet regularly to coordinate activities and ensure effective implementation of the Consortium's objectives.
- IV. The Consortium Working Groups shall meet as needed to fulfil their respective responsibilities and report to the Consortium Management Team.

3. Financial Arrangements:

- I. YCMOU has initially committed INR 2.96 crores for the Maha Swayam Platform and Portal
- II. Each Consortium Member shall bear its expenses related to the development of courses on the Maha Swayam platform.
- III. The collaborating universities may provide financial support to the Consortium for specific initiatives, subject to mutual agreement between the parties.

Handwritten signatures of the Consortium members, including 'Zah', 'Ameyans', 'C. S. S.', 'ashinco⁵', and 'F. S. S. S. S.'.

- IV. The revenue accumulated in terms of the fees of the course offering will be shared by the participating parties on a mutually agreeable basis.

4. Duration and Termination:

- I. This MoU shall come into effect on the date of its signing and shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years unless terminated earlier by mutual agreement.
- II. Any Participating party may opt out of this MoU by providing written notice to the other parties at least ninety (90) days before the intended date of termination.

5. Intellectual Property Rights:

- I. Any intellectual property created jointly by the participating parties shall be jointly owned by the Consortium Members, and any use or exploitation of such intellectual property shall be subject to mutual agreement.
- II. Each participating party shall retain the intellectual property rights to the courses and materials developed by them independently for contributing to the Maha-Swayam platform.

6. Confidentiality:

- III. The participating parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of any information shared by other Consortium Members during the course of their collaboration.
- IV. The participating parties shall not disclose any confidential information to third parties without prior written consent.

7. Dispute Resolution:

- I. Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this MoU shall be resolved amicably through consultation and negotiation between the parties.
- II. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute through negotiation, the dispute shall be referred to arbitration as per the laws of India.

8. General Provisions:

- I. This MoU may be amended or modified only in writing and signed by authorized representatives of the participating parties.

