

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**DEFENCE INSTITUTE OF HIGH ALTITUDE RESEARCH (DIHAR), LEH
LADAKH**

and

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MANDI)

This MoU is entered into on this **31st January 2026** between parties:

DEFENCE INSTITUTE OF HIGH ALTITUDE RESEARCH (DIHAR), having its Head Office at DIHAR Leh Ladakh-194101 represented by Centre Head, DIHAR (hereinafter referred to as **DIHAR** in short, which expression unless repugnant to the context mean and include their successors and assigns)

AND

Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, having its office at Kamand, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh-175005, represented by Director IIT Mandi (herein after referred to as in short **IIT Mandi** which expression shall where the context so requires or admits, be deemed to include its successor and permitted assignees)

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS **DIHAR** is responsible for trial and testing of defence equipment and systems at high altitude. Besides, DIHAR is also the nodal agency to assess the impact of weather, terrain and altitude on vital military equipment deployed in High Altitude Areas (HAA) and Super High-Altitude Areas (SHAA).

WHEREAS **IIT Mandi**, which is charged with the responsibility of generating technical manpower in different areas of engineering and technology, is also contributing to the rapidly growing scientific and technological knowledge and professional excellence in Science and Technology by undertaking industrial and applied research and consultancy.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises made herein and of good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which both DIHAR and IIT Mandi hereby acknowledge. DIHAR and IIT Mandi, hereby agree to promote/ encourage academic and research cooperation on terms and conditions stipulated below:

1. Scope of the MoU

This MoU details the modalities and general conditions regarding collaboration between DIHAR and IIT Mandi, for enhancing within the country the capabilities, expertise, and competence without any prejudice to prevailing rules and regulations in DIHAR and IIT Mandi, and without any disregard to any existing mechanism evolved and approved by the competent authorities under Government of India. The scope of the MoU covers collaborative R&D, academic interaction leading to higher qualifications and other programs

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to benefit students and staff of both the organizations. The link involves collaboration between DIHAR and IIT Mandi on research projects & academic interactions relevant to the systems & technologies for Defence interest in High & Super High Altitude Areas.

2. Objectives

The activities under the link will be as described below for collaboration which forms the schedule to this MoU. The schedule may be amended by mutual agreement and such amendments will form part of this understanding.

2.1 DIHAR Association with IIT Mandi/Responsibilities: Separate & Joint

- (i) IIT Mandi will recognize DIHAR as a research centre for high-altitude and super-high-altitude studies, focusing on systems and technologies of Defence Interest.
- (ii) Point of Contact(POC) from DIHAR will be Sh. Rohit Kumar, J.O-2
- (iii) Point of Contact(POC) from IIT Mandi will be Dr. Amit Shukla

2.2 Faculty Exchange

- (i) The Supervisor from DIHAR and the Ph.D/M.Tech/B.Tech students can visit IIT Mandi and vice versa for a limited period as per requirement in connection with the research work. The expenditure incurred towards the visit by the staff/ faculty will be met either from the joint collaborative project(s) / other funded project(s) under execution by the staff/ faculty, if any, or by the respective parent organization from the funds identified for such visits.
- (ii) Both institutions shall encourage lectures from staff/ faculty at the other institution in the areas relevant to the scope of this MoU. Visiting lecturers from either institution shall be paid TA/ DA (as applicable) and honorarium from lectures delivered as per the prevalent rates of the host institution.

2.3 Research Collaboration

- (i) DIHAR and IIT Mandi may jointly submit research projects for consideration under R&D scheme of relevant Ministry/ Department being implemented through DIHAR. The project will be evaluated as per the existing norms of the R&D scheme. If the project is approved for funding support, a separate MoU will be entered into between DIHAR and IIT Mandi for the execution of the project.
- (ii) DIHAR and IIT Mandi will undertake collaborative work on technologies and systems for High Altitude Areas (HAA) and Super High Altitude Areas (SHAA).
- (iii) IIT Mandi will provide technical inputs to DIHAR on specification formulation for of various systems for High Altitude Areas (HAA) and Super High Altitude Areas (SHAA) which will be procured by DIHAR to provide infrastructure support for test and trails in Ladakh region.
- (iv) IIT Mandi will facilitate DIHAR in developing testing methodologies, protocol and SOPs for High Altitude Areas (HAA) and Super High Altitude Areas (SHAA).
- (v) IIT Mandi will provide technical inputs to DIHAR in failure analysis, reliability assessment and formulation of standards of equipment & systems for High Altitude Areas (HAA) and Super High Altitude Areas (SHAA).

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2.4 Knowledge Dissemination

- (i) Joint Conference/ Workshops:
 - a. Both institutes agree to hold/ conduct, whenever feasible, joint workshops/ conferences on topics related to the scope of this MoU.
 - b. Joint Workshop or Symposium would also be conducted by DIHAR and IIT Mandi to disseminate the knowledge gained through the research findings from the joint collaborative R&D projects.
 - c. The matters related to the conduct of the joint conferences/ Workshops will be discussed and agreed upon in writing by the appropriate responsible representation by both institutes.
- (ii) Young scientific/ engineering officers of DIHAR will be allowed to participate in short-term courses (in the areas related to the defence sector) offered by IIT Mandi from time to time, based on nomination from DIHAR. The registration fees may be waived off for such participants only on prior approval of the competent authority on case to case basis.
- (iii) The information on technologies/products developed as a part of the collaboration, will be made available on DIHAR website and IIT Mandi website.

2.5 Sharing of Facilities

- (i) The two institutes agree to share the required R&D facilities to promote academic and research interaction.
- (ii) The two institutes shall provide access to the library to staff/ faculty as per the prevailing rules and norms in the respective institutes.
- (iii) Accommodation/ canteen facilities, whenever available, will be provided to the staff/ faculty and research students by both the institutes as per the respective rules and regulations of the institutions.

2.6 Co-ordination Committee

- (i) Implementation of this MoU will be coordinated by the 'Research Advisory Committee' at DIHAR and respective school at IIT Mandi.
- (ii) Further, a committee comprising of the will be constituted to monitor and review all activities under the MoU between the two institutes by mutual consent of DG(ACE) & Director IIT Mandi.
- (iii) The Co-ordination Committee shall:
 - a. Review the progress of the identified programmes every 06 months, based on the output / outcome indicator of the MoU.
 - b. Consider the continuance / extension of the MoU

3. Patent and Technology Transfer Mechanism

- (i) Research findings shall be owned jointly by DIHAR and IIT Mandi. Any publications, IPR etc. arising out of the joint research efforts shall be owned by both DIHAR and IIT Mandi. The publications under the collaboration should be co-authored by the concerned staff of DIHAR / Research Scholars

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and faculty / Research Scholars of IIT Mandi. Prior intimation should be provided to DIHAR and IIT Mandi regarding the submission of joint authored technical manuscript prepared under the collaboration.

- (ii) DIHAR and IIT Mandi will jointly patent the product/ technology/ process developed. The patent will be applied in the name of the Director General DRDO or his nominee and IIT Mandi, and the patent rights will jointly vest with DRDO and IIT Mandi as per DRDO IP Policy.

4. Confidentiality

- (i) DIHAR and IIT Mandi shall undertake on their behalf and on behalf of their employees/ associates to maintain strict confidentiality and prevent disclosure thereof of all the information and data exchange/ generated pertaining to work under this MoU for any purpose others than this MoU. Each Party shall keep all confidential information provided by the other party strictly confidential and agree not to disclose any confidential information to the other Party or any third Party without the prior written consent of the other, or to use any such confidential information for any purpose other than as contemplated by this MoU. Each Party hereby agrees to keep any confidential information transmitted to it or obtained by it from the other Party relating the processes employed by the Parties to this project strictly confidential and not to disclose the same or, any part thereof save to those of its employees, affiliates, representatives who require to know the same strictly on need-to-know basis. Each Party agrees to use all reasonable efforts/ endeavor to ensure that any employees, affiliates or representatives to whom such disclosure is made shall keep such information confidential and shall not use the same for their own purposes or for the purposes of any third Party for any purpose other than provided for under this MoU.
- (ii) No party will disclose any investigation to the media/ any unauthorized person from each institute in any form, whether electronic/ print without mutual consent and approval by Coordination Committee.
- (iii) The Officers & Staff of DIHAR, DRDO will adhere to the Official Secrets Act, 1923 as amended from time to time for any act under this MoU.

5. Statutory Requirements

- (i) All activities under this MoU will be carried out in accordance with statutory provisions like Workmen's Compensation Act, Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act. Employees Provident Act or any other related enactment passed by the Parliament or State Legislature and any rules/ laws made there by the either Central or respective state Governments, wherever applicable.
- (ii) THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT, 2000 as amended from time to time should be adhered to for any IT related development / dissemination / collaboration under this MoU.
- (iii) Since the collaboration is between DIHAR and IIT Mandi, the terms of the MoU cannot be extended to other organization/ cannot be clubbed with any other MoU of the IIT Mandi.

6. Force Majeure/ Terminations

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None of the participating agencies/ bodies shall be held responsible for non-fulfilment of their respective obligations under this MoU due to the exigency of one or more of the force majeure events such as but not limited to Acts of God, war, natural calamities such as flood, earthquakes etc. and strike, lockdown, riots, civil commotion etc. provided on the occurrences of cessation of any such events, the party affected thereby shall give notice in writing to the other party withing one month of such occurrence or cessation. If the force majeure conditions continue beyond six months, the signatories shall then mutually decide about the future of action.

7. Validity of Agreement

The MoU comes under immediate force on the date of signing and is valid for 5 years (Five years) from the date of signing. Prior to the expiry date, the MoU may be reviewed for possible extension, if required, and may be extended with mutual consent of the Parties after recommendation by the Co-ordination committee and approval of DG(ACE) and Director IIT Mandi.

8. Amendment of the MoU

No amendment or modification of this MoU shall be valid unless the same is made in writing by all the Parties or their authorized representatives and specifically stating the same to be an amendment of this MoU. The modifications/ changes shall be effective from the date on which they are made/ executed, unless otherwise agreed to.

9. Settlement of Dispute and Arbitration

- (i) Un the event of any dispute or any difference among the Parties, such dispute or differences shall be resolved amicably by mutual consultation or through the good offices of the Centre Head DIHAR and Director IIT Mandi.
- (ii) In the event of any dispute between the parties to this MoU, it will be resolved as per the India Arbitration and Conciliation Act-1996.
- (iii) The venue for arbitration shall be Chandigarh and the language of arbitration shall be English or Hindi.

10. Jurisdiction

The courts at Chandigarh and Mandi shall have jurisdiction in all matters concerning this MoU including any matter arising out of the arbitration proceedings or any award made therein.

11. Indemnity

Each Party of this MoU shall be responsible for its own acts and / or omissions and those of its officers, employees and agents. The Parties shall fully indemnify and hold the other Party harmless against the claims arising from the use of third party IPR in its respective work share.

12. Financial Implications

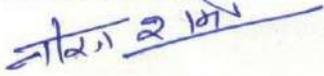
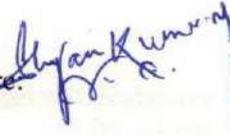
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This MoU is without any financial commitment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF PARTIES. HERETO HAVE ENTERED INTO THIS AGREEMENT EFFECTIVE AS THE DAY AND YEARS FIRST ABOVE WRITTEN

For and on behalf of DIHAR Centre Head, DIHAR  Signature: डॉ. ओ.पी. चौरसिया/Dr. O.P. Chaurasia Name: केन्द्र प्रमुख/Centre Head Title: रक्षा उच्च तुंगता अनुसंधान संस्थान Defence Institute of High Altitude Research Confirming Party: Leh-Ladakh  Signature: Name: NEERAJ SHARMA Title: SG	For and on behalf of IIT Mandi Director, IIT Mandi  Signature: Name: Title: Witness  Signature: Name: Neeraj Kumar Title: Dean SRIC IIT Mandi Kamand H.P., India 005.
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