

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

entered
on the 11 th day of the month of July of the year 2025
Between

Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development,

And

The Light of Buddhadharma Foundation International, India

Background:

WHEREAS the ancient culture of India is the internationally recognized heartland of Buddhism,

AND there are millions of people of the Buddhist faith in South East Asian and Asian countries alongside a large population within India itself who wish to visit pilgrimage sites within India ('Pilgrim Tourists'),

AND Pilgrim Tourists have specific needs and requirements that can be of great benefit to local communities who reside in the vicinity of pilgrimage sites,

IT IS AGREED THAT the Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development (ITRHD) and The Light of Buddhadharma Foundation International (LBDFI), India will co-operate together on the terms set out below:

ARTICLE 1 Objectives:

1.1 The purpose of this agreement is to establish an Academy for Preservation of Rural Buddhist Heritage and through it alleviate rural poverty and underdevelopment through the revisioning of cultural heritage for the benefit of contemporary society, particularly rural society, focusing primarily on Buddhist heritage sites in India.

1.2, The Light of Buddhadharma International Foundation (LBDFI) and Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development (ITRHD), express their interest in creating a collaboration and partnership for organisation of an 'International Conference on Development of Buddhist Heritage and Sites' whereby training, study, and research activities conducted by the Parties, scholars and knowledgeable domain experts in India and neighbouring countries would be discussed with a view to ensuring



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

recognition and supporting integration of Buddhist Heritage and Sites as resources within development planning initiatives for rural areas.

ARTICLE 2 Areas of Cooperation:

ITRHD and LBDFI agree to co-operate in the following activities:

2.1 The organization of conferences on Buddhist Heritage and Development through the invitation of conservation professionals and scholars who view the objectives of heritage conservation as a move away from the notions of absolute authenticity that currently defines the ideology of conserving heritage buildings.

2.2 The establishment of an Academy for Preservation of Rural Buddhist Heritage, which moves towards a culturally more relative, pragmatic approach in which the notions of authenticity is negotiable and oriented towards achieving the welfare of local societies.

2.3 To identify a short list of appropriate sites, develop training programs for local guides, and identify local industries that can provide support for visitation by pilgrims.

2.4 To collaborate on programs to educate and train local guides for pilgrimage sites

2.5 To seek funding for the aforementioned projects, with emphasis on reaching out to State and Federal authorities to achieve the same.

ARTICLE 3 Program Coordination:

3.1 Each institution shall nominate a Liaison Officer (or group) working as the program coordinator/s to coordinate and develop specific programs within the remit as set out in article 2 above.

3.2 An annual activity performance plan shall be agreed between each institution no later than June of any calendar year and funds will be sought from interested donors for the same.

3.3 Each institution agrees to keep in regular contact through their respective offices and to report their progress or other specific information as requested.

ARTICLE 4 Effective Date and Duration of MoU:

This MoU, signed in duplicate, shall be effective from the date it is signed by the authorize representatives of the two institutions and would be subject to the approval of the Board of Management or the authorities of the institution concerned. The duration of the MoU will be initially for a period of ten years from the effective date, unless or otherwise terminated earlier as per Article 5 of the MoU.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized name or initials.

ARTICLE 5 Termination of MoU:

5.1 The MoU can be terminated by either of the parties giving the other party, a prior written notice of not less than hundred twenty days of its intention to do so but without dishonoring any commitment entered into prior to the date of termination notice.

5.2 The MoU shall stand terminated by either of the parties giving the other party, a prior written notice of not less than hundred days of its intention to do so but without dishonoring any commitment entered into prior to the date of termination notice.

5.3 Despite termination, the parties shall abide by the usual professional ethics and normal code of conduct to maintain the confidentiality of the information and intellectual property rights.

ARTICLE 6 Settlement of Dispute (s)

In the event of any dispute, controversy, claim or breach, invalidity, termination arising from this memorandum there from, both institutions shall actively direct its best effort to reconcile via an amicable settlement.

In witness whereof, both the parties hereto have here unto set their hands the date and year herein above mentioned.

Wangmo Dixey

.....

Ms. Wangmo Dixey
Executive Director, LBDFI
1 A Vandhana Building, Tolstoy Marg
New Delhi, India

S K Misra

.....
S K Misra
Chairman, ITRHD
C-56, Nizamuddin East,
New Delhi - 110013

