



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ओडिशा ODISHA

S 023810

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

Entered into on the 21st day in the month of August of the year 2025

BETWEEN

The Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha
(Hereinafter referred to as "DoT")

AND

The Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department,
Government of Odisha

(Hereinafter referred to as "OLLC Dept")

AND

The Light of Buddhadharma Foundation International (LBDFI), India
(Hereinafter referred to as "LBDFI")

BACKGROUND:

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

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

AND Pilgrim Tourists have specific needs and requirements that can be met by local and state authorities,

IT IS AGREED THAT the DoT, OLLC Dept., and LBDFI shall cooperate together on the terms set out below:

ARTICLE 1: OBJECTIVES

1. The purpose of this MOU is to promote international cooperation in the field of Indian and international pilgrimage within the state of Odisha, including the construction of amenities and the presentation of Buddhist learning and wisdom.
2. The areas of cooperation on key areas of interest shall include a series of programs as set out below, subject to mutual consent, within the laws, rules, and regulations of each institution and their governing bodies.

ARTICLE 2: OBLIGATION OF PARTIES

1. Obligation of Department of Tourism:

1. Infrastructure enhancement at designated sites for better visitor experience.
2. Organization of tourism-centric events to attract Pilgrim Tourists.
3. Promotion of tourism related to Buddhist heritage sites within Odisha.
4. Promotion of Odisha's intangible cultural heritage linked to Buddhist history.

2. Obligation of Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department:

1. Curation of cultural and religious festivals related to Buddhism and heritage sites.
2. Arrangement of cultural troupes for performances and traditional programs.

3. Obligation of The Light of Buddhadharma Foundation International (LBDFI):

1. Conduct of annual Buddhist prayer ceremonies at Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, Hirapur, and other mutually agreed locations.

2. Organization of Guru Padmasambhava and Tara chanting programs.
3. Promotion of Buddhist history and teachings through research and documentation.
4. Development of visitor engagement programs, including digital resources and signage for tourists.
5. Collaboration in creating visitor centers focusing on Buddhist heritage.

ARTICLE 3: KEY COLLABORATION AREAS

1. The promotion and conduct of annual prayer ceremonies within the Indian Mahayana Buddhist tradition at the sites of **Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, Hirapur** and other locations mutually agreed upon within the state boundaries of Odisha (hereinafter referred to as the 'Sites'). The foundation will annually hold **Guru Padmasambhava programs** along with **Tara chanting programs** to encourage and inspire the relationship to these sacred sites.
2. The design, installation, and maintenance of sites for accommodation, sacred peace gardens, toilets, and other facilities at the Sites to improve the overall experience of Pilgrim Tourists.
3. The organization of conferences to explore the history of the Sites, with a special focus on the life and legacy of **Guru Padmasambhava**.
4. The beautification of the Sites, including the installation of plaques and signage highlighting the Buddhist history of each Site and the Buddhist teachings offered there.
5. The promotion of good internet connectivity and the development of websites for the Sites, along with downloadable app information and QR codes so Pilgrim Tourists can engage with audible lectures about the history of the Sites.
6. The development of programs to encourage connections to local village cultural life at the Sites and to strengthen the relationship between neighboring world heritage sites such as **Bodhgaya** and **Nalanda**.
7. Assistance with the design of a **visitor center** focused on the life and legacy of **Guru Padmasambhava** and his relationship with other great Buddhist masters.

ARTICLE 4: PROGRAM COORDINATION

1. Each institution shall nominate a Liaison Officer (or a group) who will serve as the program coordinator(s) to oversee and develop specific programs within the scope of MOU.
2. **An annual budget shall be agreed upon among the three parties' institutions no later than June of each calendar year.**
3. All parties agree to maintain regular communication through their respective offices and provide progress updates or any other information as required.

ARTICLE 5: EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION OF MoU

1. This MoU, signed in triplicate, shall become effective from the date it is signed by the authorized representatives of the three parties and will be subject to the approval of the Administrative Head / Board of Management or the relevant authorities of each party.
2. The duration of this MoU shall be for a period of **Five (05) years** from the effective date unless terminated earlier as per the provisions outlined in Article 6.

ARTICLE 6: TERMINATION OF MoU

1. This MoU can be terminated by any of the parties by giving **a written notice** of no less than **120 days** of its intention to do so, without affecting any commitments made prior to the date of the termination notice.
2. In the event of termination, all parties shall continue to uphold professional ethics and maintain confidentiality regarding any shared information or intellectual property rights.

ARTICLE 7: SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

In the event of any dispute, controversy, claim, or breach arising from this MoU, both institutions shall actively direct their best efforts toward an amicable settlement through dialogue and negotiation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representatives of both parties have set their hands on the date and year mentioned above.

For the Department of Tourism, Government of Odisha:

(Signature) Jaykishan Mishra
Dy. Secy. to Govt.
Tourism Deptt.

Designation _____

For the Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department, Government of Odisha:

(Signature) [Signature] 21.8.2025
Special Secretary to Government
Odia Language, Literature & Culture Deptt

Designation _____

For The Light of Buddhadharma Foundation International (LBDFI):

(Signature) Wangmo Dixey

Wangmo Dixey 08/21/2025

Executive Director, LBDFI