



Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) BETWEEN

Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) Nainital
AND
Uttarakhand Open University (UOU), Haldwani

FOR

Academic, Scientific, Research, Training, Outreach and Other Collaborative Activities

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MoU") is entered into on 13th day of May 2026 between:

1. PARTIES

Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, located at Manora Peak, Nainital, Uttarakhand – 263001, hereinafter referred to as "ARIES", which expression shall include its successors and permitted assigns;

AND

Uttarakhand Open University (UOU), established under the Uttarakhand Open University Act, 2005, having its headquarters at Haldwani, Uttarakhand – 263139, hereinafter referred to as "UOU", which expression shall include its successors and permitted assigns.

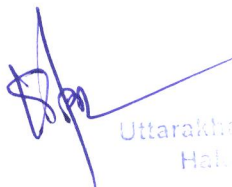
ARIES and UOU are hereinafter individually referred to as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties".


2. PREAMBLE

WHEREAS ARIES is engaged in advanced research in Astronomy, Astrophysics, Atmospheric Sciences, Solar Physics, Space Sciences, and allied scientific disciplines;

AND WHEREAS UOU is engaged in higher education, distance learning, research, academic innovation, and dissemination of knowledge;

AND WHEREAS both Parties desire to establish collaborative academic, scientific, educational, research, outreach, and training activities for mutual benefit and societal development.


Registrar
Uttarakhand Open University
Haldwani, Uttarakhand


डॉ. मनीष कुमार नजा / Dr. Manish Kumar Naja
निदेशक / Director
Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)
आर्यभट्ट प्रेक्षण विज्ञान शोध संस्थान (एरीज़)
मनोरा पीक, नेनीताल – 263001 / Manora Peak, Nainital – 263001

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

3. OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of this MoU are:

- a) To promote academic and scientific cooperation between the Parties;
 - b) To facilitate collaborative research and educational activities;
 - c) To jointly organize seminars, workshops, conferences, lectures, and outreach programmes;
 - d) To provide opportunities for student internships, training, dissertation work, and skill development;
 - e) To encourage science communication and public engagement activities;
 - f) To exchange expertise, academic resources, and knowledge;
 - g) To undertake any other mutually agreed scientific research, including observational & educational activities.
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4. AREAS OF COLLABORATION

The Parties may collaborate in the following areas:

4.1 Academic and Research Activities


- Joint research projects and scientific studies;
- Collaborative publications and reports;
- Faculty interaction and academic cooperation;
- Development of academic and educational content.

4.2 Student Training and Capacity Building

- Internship and project opportunities;
- Dissertation and research guidance;
- Skill development programmes; Specialized training and certificate courses.

4.3 Scientific Outreach and Public Engagement

- Science popularization programmes;
- Astronomy outreach activities and sky observation camps;
- Public lectures and awareness programmes;
- Teacher training and educational outreach initiatives.


Registrar
Uttarakhand Open University
Haldwani (Nainital)


Dr. Manish Kumar Naja / Dr. Manish Kumar Naja
निदेशक / Director
Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)
आर्यभट्ट प्रेक्षण विज्ञान शोध संस्थान (एरीस)
मनोरा पीक, नैनीताल - 263001 / Manora Peak, Nainital - 263001

4.4 Conferences, Workshops and Events

- Joint organization of seminars, conferences, workshops, and symposia;
- Exchange of experts, scientists, faculty members, and resource persons.

4.5 Digital and Educational Collaboration

- Development of online learning materials and e-content;
- Collaboration in distance education and digital platforms;
- Sharing of technical and educational expertise.

4.6 Other Activities

Any other academic, scientific, technical, or outreach activity mutually agreed upon in writing by both Parties.

5. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

5.1 The Parties may nominate nodal officers/coordinators for implementation of activities under this MoU.

5.2 Specific programmes or projects may be implemented through separate work plans or agreements specifying:


- Scope of work;
- Responsibilities of each Party;
- Financial arrangements;
- Timelines and deliverables.


5.3 This MoU provides a broad framework for collaboration and does not create any automatic financial liability on either Party.

6. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Joint projects funded by external agencies may have separate financial arrangements subject to mutual approval. If needed a separate agreement can be signed.

6.2 Each Party shall ordinarily bear its own expenses related to activities under this MoU unless otherwise agreed in writing by a separate agreement.


Uttarakhand
Halimabad


डॉ. मनीष कुमार नजा / Dr. Manish Kumar Naja
निदेशक / Director
Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)
आर्यभट्ट प्रेक्षण विज्ञान शोध संस्थान (एरीज़)
मनोरा पीक, नैनीताल - 263001 / Manora Peak, Nainital - 263001

7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)

7.1 Intellectual Property Rights arising from collaborative activities shall be jointly discussed and governed by mutually agreed terms in accordance with applicable laws and institutional policies.

7.2 Publications arising from joint work shall appropriately acknowledge contributions of both Parties.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

Both Parties agree to maintain confidentiality of any proprietary or confidential information shared during collaborative activities unless disclosure is required by law or mutually agreed upon.

9. NON-EXCLUSIVITY

This MoU is non-exclusive and shall not restrict either Party from entering into similar agreements with other organizations or institutions.

10. VALIDITY

10.1 This MoU shall come into effect from the date of signing.

10.2 The MoU shall remain valid for a period of five (5) years unless terminated earlier by either Party.

10.3 The MoU may be renewed by mutual written consent.


11. AMENDMENTS


Any amendment or modification to this MoU shall be made in writing and signed by authorized representatives of both Parties.

12. TERMINATION

12.1 Either Party may terminate this MoU by giving three (3) months' written notice to the other Party.

12.2 Termination shall not affect ongoing approved activities unless mutually decided otherwise.


Registrar
Uttarakhand Open University
Haldwani (Uttarakhand)


डॉ. मनीष कुमार नजा / Dr. Manish Kumar Naja
निदेशक / Director
Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)
आर्यभट्ट प्रेक्षण विज्ञान शोध संस्थान (एरीज़)
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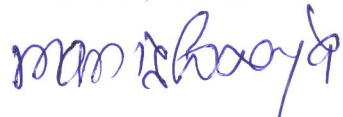
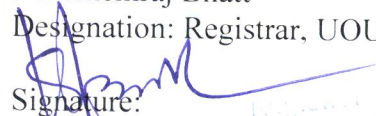

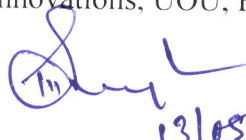
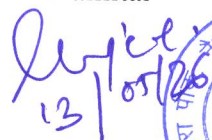


13. GENERAL PROVISIONS

13.1 This MoU does not create any legal partnership, agency, or employment relationship between the Parties.

13.2 All activities shall be conducted in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and institutional rules.

SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have signed this Memorandum of Understanding on the date and year first above written at UOU, Haldwani.

For ARIES, Nainital	For Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani
<p>Dr Manish Kumar Naja Designation: Director, ARIES</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Date: 13-05-2026 कमर नजा / Dr. Manish Kumar Naja निदेशक / Director Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) आर्यभट्ट प्रेक्षण विज्ञान शोध संस्थान (एरीज) मनोरा पीक, नैनीताल - 263001 / Manora Peak, Nainital - 263001</p>	<p>Dr. Khemraj Bhatt Designation: Registrar, UOU, Haldwani</p> <p>Signature: </p> <p>Date: 13-05-2026 Uttarakhand Open University Haldwani (Nainital)</p>
<p>Witness 1- Mohit Kumar Joshi, Registrar I/c & Engineer -E, ARIES Nainital</p> <p>Signature:  मोहित कुमार जोशी / Mohit Kumar Joshi रजिस्ट्रार (प्रभारी) / Registrar I/c आर्यभट्ट प्रेक्षण विज्ञान शोध संस्थान (एरीज) Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) मनोरा पीक, नैनीताल-263001/Manora Peak, Nainital-263001</p>	<p>Witness 1- Prof Girija Prasad Pande, Director, Research & Innovations, UOU, Haldwani</p> <p>Signature:  13/05/2026</p>
<p>Witness 2- Samaresh Bhattacharya, Engineer F, ARIES Nainital</p> <p>Signature:  13/05/26</p> 	<p>Witness 2- Prof P. D. Pant, Director Academic, UOU, Haldwani</p> <p>Signature: </p>