



## Memorandum of Understanding

between

### **India Central Asia Foundation**

(hereinafter referred to as 'ICAF', New Delhi, India)

and

### **Centre for Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir**

(hereinafter referred to as 'CCAS', Srinagar, India)

**The India Central Asia Foundation** is a Track-II non-profit organisation based in Delhi which works for the creation of an institutional framework in which the links between India, Central Asia and Eurasia are strengthened in sectors of activities like the political, economic, strategic, military, science & technology and cultural. ICAF promotes scholarly exchanges in Indian and Eurasian Studies between appropriate institutions. The Foundation has proven expertise in understanding the past and present socio-political and strategic realities of the Eurasian region. The foundation is located at 306, Block 'B - 608", Vasant Kunj Enclave, New Delhi – 110070, represented by the Director, India-Central Asia Foundation, shall hereinafter be referred to as "**ICAF**" of the first part which expression shall include its permitted assigns and legal successors.

and

**Centre for Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, is a multidisciplinary research Centre focusing on Central Asia-India-related issues. The CCAS, Srinagar, having its office, University of Kashmir, Hazratbal, Srinagar, represented by the Director, Centre of Central Asian Studies, shall hereinafter be referred to as "**CCAS**" of the second part which expression shall include its permitted assigns and legal successors.

*Samuel Srinivas*

*[Signature]*

## Objectives

- Whereas, the Parties are engaged in research on topics of Cultural, Historical, socio-political, strategic, economic and contemporary relevance.
- Whereas, the Parties have been articulating policy orientations with a bearing on national and international affairs, and realize the importance of enhancing India's visibility and interests in the Central Asian and Eurasian matrix;
- Whereas, the Collaboration would serve beyond the confines of formal governmental engagements as a substantive unit of bridge-building with Central Asia and Eurasia, on issues central to cultural and historical ties, foreign policy planning, national security, diplomatic and economic relations;
- Whereas, the Parties have honed their academic experience and scholarship in the Central Asian and Eurasian region, the existing gaps shall, through the promotion of research, scholarships and other linkages with the countries and their languages, aptly complement India's commitments in the region;

The Collaboration between the Two Parties, towards the fulfilment of above-mentioned objectives, would be guided by the following Articles:

### Article 1: Scope of Collaboration

1.1 The Parties will undertake mutually agreed collaborative research in political, economic and strategic studies focusing on the Central Asian and Eurasian region. For the purpose of the present collaboration, 'Eurasia' would be deemed to include –

- The five Central Asian States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan)
- The four Slavic States (Russia, Belorussia, Ukraine and Moldavia)
- The three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania)
- The three Caucasian States (Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia)
- Afghanistan, Iran and Xinjiang

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- 1.2 India's interest in Central Asia and Eurasia would be the pivot of the collaboration and inspire the research projects. Dissemination of research findings would be in the form of thematic/promotional conferences, seminars, Round Tables and other modes involving academics, technocrats, diplomats, defence analysts, entrepreneurs, administrators and other stakeholders in the policy-making process.

### **Article 2: Medium of Dissemination**

- 2.1 The research cooperation on mutually agreed topics would be promoted through various methods, including:
- a) Holding of regular and structured dialogues/seminars/conferences
  - b) Exchange of research scholars, faculties and stakeholders
  - c) Joint research projects and publications
  - d) Exchange of research publications.

### **Article 3: Programmes and Activities**

The objectives of the collaboration would be fulfilled through an annual schedule comprising the following programmes:

- 3.1 One national/international level conference every year aimed at broadening the scope of public debate;
- 3.2 Publication of a periodic journal, occasional monographs, policy and issue briefs, reports and other relevant literature, which shall form a major share of the tangible outcomes of the partnership.
- 3.3 In addition, four programmes would be organized annually under the auspices of the Collaboration. Each party would bear the responsibility for organizing two programmes annually.
- 3.4 These programmes and activities would be planned, budgeted and implemented by the Steering Committee (see Article 5).

### **Article 4: Finances**

- 4.1 The Parties would endeavour to approach suitable funding agencies for support in the execution of the objectives of the collaboration if required.
- 4.2 Funds received under the Collaboration would be vested with either of the two parties as per the terms and conditions of the funding agency. The

funds would be utilized for the enshrined purposes of the Collaboration and the disbursal shall be overseen by the Steering Committee.

- 4.3 ICAF shall carry out an audit of the accounts raised in line with the Steering Committee guidelines and prevailing practices.

#### **Article 5: Steering Committee**

- 5.1 The objectives of this Collaboration would be realized by the collective endeavours of the Two Parties functioning through a coordinating and monitoring mechanism. To this end, the two Parties would appoint a Five-member 'Steering Committee', comprising the members nominated by the Director, ICAF, and the Director, CCAS.

#### **Article 6: Amendments**

- 6.1 This agreement may be amended by the Parties through mutual consent.

#### **Article 7: Effective Date and Validity**

- 7.1 This Memorandum shall be effective upon signature of the Parties and will remain in force for five (5) years.
- 7.2 Any Party which wishes to withdraw shall give a notice of three (3) months in writing.

#### **Disclaimer:**

The present agreement does not impose any legal binding on the Two Parties and does not preclude any of the Parties from pursuing their institutional programmes and objectives.

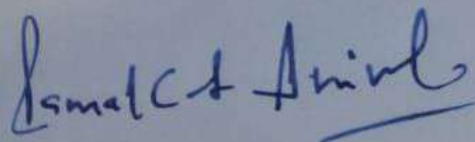
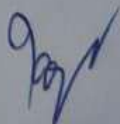
#### **Article 8: Nodal Points**

##### **In New Delhi**

Director  
ICAF  
306, Block – B, Vasant Kunj Enclave,

##### **In Srinagar**

Director  
CCAS, University of Kashmir  
Hazratbal, Srinagar,





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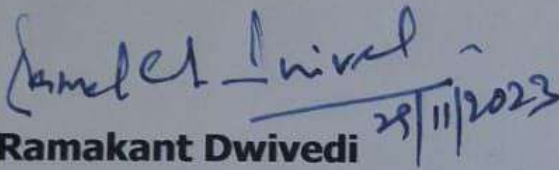
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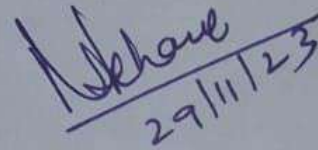
website: [www.theicaf.org](http://www.theicaf.org)

website: [www.kashmiruniversity.net](http://www.kashmiruniversity.net)

The Memorandum of Understanding is signed on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, in Srinagar, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the English language in three copies and all three are equally authentic.

  
29/11/2023

**Dr. Ramakant Dwivedi**  
Director  
ICAF

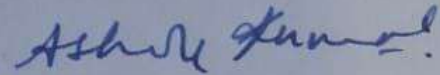
  
29/11/23

**Prof. Nilofer Khan**  
Vice-Chancellor,  
University of Kashmir

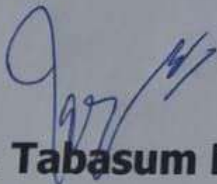
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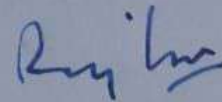
**Dr. Nisar Ahmad Mir.**  
Registrar.  
University of Kashmir



**Amb. Ashok Kumar Sharma**  
President, ICAF



**Prof. Tabasum Firdous**  
Director  
Centre of Central Asian Studies



**Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma**  
Senior Fellow  
United Services of India, New Delhi