

পশ্চিমবঙ্গ पश्चिम बंगाल WEST BENGAL

AM 503060

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

(FOR PROMOTING GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT)

This Memorandum of Understanding is made on this the A.7......day of May, Two Thousand Twenty Five (2025) A.D. at Botanical Survey of India, HQ, Kolkata.

BETWEEN

The President of India, in exercise of the power vested upon him under article 299 of constitution of India, duly represented on his behalf through **The Director**, **Botanical Survey of India** (BSI) Kolkata having its head office at CGO Complex, 3rd MSO Building DF Block, Sector -1, Salt Lake City, Kolkata -700064, hereinafter identified and referred as "BSI" (which expression, unless repugnant and /or inconsistent to the context thereof, shall mean and include his successors in office and assigns) for **THE ONE PART**.

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VIBGYOR N.E. Foundation, a non-profit social enterprise since 2016, has been at the forefront of promoting sustainable development and environmental conservation across Northeast India and beyond. As a not-for-profit organization, the Foundation have successfully conducted eight editions of the Northeast Green Summit and inaugural edition of Chhattisgarh Green Summit in collaboration with UN Environment. It is duly represented through The President, VIBGYOR N.E. Foundation, Assam (which expression, unless repugnant and I or inconsistent to the context thereof shall mean and include his successor in office and assigns) for THE OTHER PART.

Whereas

Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and VIBGYOR N.E. Foundation will collaborate to organise all upcoming Green Summits in Northeast India and beyond, and while conducting various projects of rural development initiatives focusing on training, extension, and research. Implement afforestation projects with a strong emphasis on watershed management, soil conservation, biodiversity preservation, social forestry, and the promotion of medicinal plants and herbs through community outreach and awareness programs. Undertake forestry and environmental projects, prioritizing training and extension activities to foster sustainable practices. Particularly, the Foundation will carry out ioint activities with Botanical Survey of India viz., organizing workshops/seminars/conferences/Training programs and submitting & executing various developmental projects. The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and VIBGYOR N.E. Foundation do hereby enter into this memorandum of Understanding for promoting green

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and sustainable development and have set forth the following Articles on Mutual Agreement.

Article 1: Rational

Botanical Survey of India (BSI) is the apex research organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF& CC), Government of India, New Delhi, and is dedicated to undertaking floristic and taxonomic studies on all plant groups (including algae and fungi) and conserving the wild plant resources of the country through effective ex situ and in situ conservation strategies. BSI, with its headquarters in Kolkata, has a country-wide presence, having 21 regional centres/units/botanic gardens spread throughout the country. The organization is headed by the Director, and the regional centres/units are headed by the respective Heads of Office. The overall administration, research, and management activities of the entire organization are controlled and monitored by the Directorate. The goals of BSI include: (i) Conducting extensive surveys to inventory the plant, fungal, and algal diversity across the country. (ii) Documenting and conserving India's rich biodiversity, including endangered and endemic species, to ensure sustainable use of plant resources. (iii) Studying the taxonomy and phylogeny of Indian flora using morphological, biochemical, and molecular markers to contribute to the scientific understanding and sustainable management of plant species. (iv) Actively participating in afforestation programs, including preserving biodiversity in critical habitats like mangroves, wetlands, and forests. (v) Undertaking community outreach initiatives, such as tree plantation drives and educational programs, to promote environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. (vi) Developing digital platforms, including the Indian Virtual Herbarium and e-flora, to provide accessible information for research and conservation.

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These goals directly align with the Ministry's objective of conserving the country's natural resources, including its lakes, rivers, biodiversity, forests, and wildlife, while preventing and abating pollution.

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Whereas, Since its inception in 2016, VIBGYOR N.E. Foundation has been a driving force in fostering sustainable development and environmental conservation across Northeast India and beyond. Through innovative projects and collaborations, it has addressed critical challenges like climate change, biodiversity preservation, and community empowerment, leaving a lasting impact on the region. **Key Initiatives:** (i) **Northeast Green Summit:** Influencing policy across Northeast India through its robust network of stakeholders. (ii) **Rural Bioresource Complex (RBC):** Promoting bio-entrepreneurship in Assam in collaboration with IIT Guwahati. (iii) **Borail Eco Camp:** Encouraging eco-tourism and cultural preservation in Assam's Borail Wildlife Sanctuary. (iv) **Chhattisgarh Green Summit:** Highlighting environmental protection in Lok traditions and honouring sustainability champions. (v) **Knowledge Exchange Platform:** Documenting edible herbs from the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot through international meets. (vi) **Millet Mission:** Supporting sustainable agriculture in Assam's Barak Valley. (vii) **Aranyani: The DocuFest:** Raising environmental awareness through documentaries.

Collaborating with esteemed institutions such as IIT Guwahati, Rain Forest Research Institute, NIT Raipur and NIT Silchar, VIBGYOR N.E. Foundation continues to unite diverse stakeholders and inspire a greener, sustainable future.

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Article 2: Preamble

Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and VIBGYOR N.E. Foundation recognize the importance of forming a strong partnership to advance green and sustainable development by collaboratively organizing workshops, seminars, conferences, training programs, and submitting and executing various developmental projects. Both organizations share a commitment to fostering cooperation and exchange in areas of mutual interest, with the aim of promoting environmental conservation, biodiversity preservation, and sustainability. This collaboration seeks to jointly plan and execute programs that contribute to excellence in sustainable practices and environmental stewardship. In alignment with these shared objectives, the two parties have agreed to formalize their collaboration by signing this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the following terms and conditions:

NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH AS FOLLOWS: -

Article 3: Area and Scope of Co-operation

- Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and VIBGYOR N.E. Foundation will jointly organize Green Summits, rural development projects, and implement afforestation and biodiversity conservation programs to promote green and sustainable development.
- Both parties will work together to organize workshops, seminars, conferences, training programs, and community outreach initiatives, with a focus on fostering environmental conservation and promoting sustainable practices.
- Joint developmental projects will be planned and executed to address environmental
 sustainability and rural empowerment, ensuring each initiative is carefully
 negotiated and aligned with the mutual goals of both organizations.

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- Clear responsibilities will be defined for both parties to ensure transparency, mutual understanding, and effective implementation of all activities.
- All programs and initiatives will be designed to align with national and regional objectives of environmental conservation and sustainable development.

Article 4: Designated Point of Contact

 Each Party has appointed a primary point of contact and liaison (hereinafter called the "Partnership Manager") responsible for the management and development of the relationship between the Parties under this MoU as follows:-

Botanical Survey of India (BSI)

The Scientist In Charge
Technical Section, HQ
Botanical Survey of India
CGO Complex, Sector 1, Salt Lake City,
Kolkata – 700 064
Contact: 033-2321 4050

Contact: 033-2321 4050 Email: tech@bsi.gov.in

VIBGYOR N.E. Foundation

Ms. Bitapi Luhoe, Secretary, VIBGYOR N.E. Foundation, Phone: +91-8133874311

 Any Party may, by written notice to the other Party, designated additional or substitute representatives for the purposes of this MoU.

Article 5: Responsibilities and other matters

- The Parties intend to keep each other informed regarding matters or activities related to this MoU.
- The Parties agree to carry out their respective responsibilities as mutually agreed upon.

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SEAL OF PARTIES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have signed, sealed and delivered this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on27. May, 2025 as mentioned hereinbefore, in the presence of

For and on behalf of the President of India

For and on behalf of VIBGYOR N.E. **FOUNDATION**

Signature:

(Dr. Ashiho Asosii Mao)

Director.

Botanical Strice of India Republic of India भारत सरकार Govt. of India

तृतीय एम. एस. ओ. भवन 3rd MSO Building सी.जी.ओ. कॉमप्लेक्स, सॉल्ट लेक सिटी CGO Complex, Salt Lake City कोलकाता / Kolkata-700064

(Shri Shankhadeep Choudhury)

President.

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Guwahati, Assam

PRESIDENT

SIGNED, SEALED AND DEILVERED BY THE ONE PART In the presence of

Witness:

SIGNED, SEALED AND DEILVERED BY THE OTHER PART In the presence of

Witness:

Signature:

Name:

Dr. S.S. Dash

Designation: Scientist F & Incharge

Signature:

SECRETARY

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Technical Section BSI, HQ, Kolkata

Name: Ms. Bitapi Luhoe Designation: Secretary

Organization: VIBGYOR N.E. Foundation

Assam

Dr. S. S. Dash

नक - एक / Scientist - F, Incharge ते अनुधाग / Technical Section सण / Botanical Survey of India शेक्स, साल्ट लेक सिटि / CGO Complex, Salt Lake City 1117-1000 068 / Kolketa-700 084