

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

HANDICRAFTS AND CARPET SECTOR SKILL COUNCIL (HCSSC)
AND
BHARTIYA SHIKSHA BOARD (BSB)

For the Integration of NSQF-aligned Handicrafts Vocational Courses into School Education under NEP 2020.

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") is made and entered into on this ____ day of ____ 2026 (the "Effective Date") at New Delhi, India,

BY AND BETWEEN

Handicrafts and Carpet Sector Skill Council (HCSSC), a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 having its registered office at OCF, Plot No. 2, Pocket 9, Sector B, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi – 110070, represented herein by Mr. Krishan Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, duly authorised Representative (hereinafter referred to as "HCSSC", which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, be deemed to include its successors, permitted assigns, executors, administrators and nominees), being the **PARTY OF THE FIRST PART**;

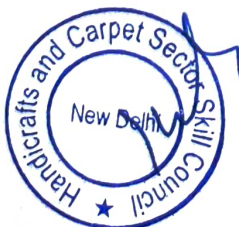
AND

Bhartiya Shiksha Board (BSB), a National Board of School Education notified by the Government of India, having its principal office at Behind Patanjali Yogpeeth, Phase-2, Delhi-Haridwar National Highway, Bahadrabad, Haridwar – 249405, India, represented herein by Mr. Rajesh Pratap Singh, IPS (Retd.), Secretary, duly authorised in this behalf (hereinafter referred to as "BSB", which expression shall, unless repugnant to the context or meaning thereof, be deemed to include its successors, legal representatives and permitted assigns), being the **PARTY OF THE SECOND PART**.

HCSSC and **BSB** are hereinafter referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties", as the context may require.

RECITALS

- HCSSC focuses on establishing an effective and efficient ecosystem for developing standards and for the skilling, reskilling and upskilling of the workforce in the Handicrafts and Carpet Sector and works to bridge the gap between the skill ecosystem and industry demand by bringing together industry, labour and academia.
- BSB has been set up with the permission of the Government of India in 2019 and develops its curriculum and syllabus across school education in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023, following the 5+3+3+4 school structure for fifteen years of schooling, including a semester-based assessment pattern for the secondary stage.
- Both Parties recognise the importance of vocational education and training within school education for enhancing the employability, entrepreneurship and dignity of



livelihood of students, and for the preservation of India's living craft traditions as part of the Indian Knowledge Systems.

- D. HCSSC is committed to promoting skill development in the Handicrafts and Carpet Sector and possesses NCVET-approved Qualification Packs, National Occupational Standards and the assessment and certification machinery relevant to the Sector.
- E. BSB possesses the school network, NEP-aligned pedagogy and the institutional framework within which such vocational courses can be delivered for credit, and wishes to introduce safe, age-appropriate, NSQF-aligned handicrafts courses across Classes 6 to 10.
- F. The Parties are desirous of collaborating, on a substantially *non-financial* and non-exclusive basis, to introduce NSQF-aligned handicrafts vocational courses within BSB schools and accordingly wish to record the terms and understanding reached between them through this MoU.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MUTUAL COVENANTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS CONTAINED HEREIN, THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREE AND RECORD AS FOLLOWS:

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definitions. In this MoU, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Addendum" means any written addendum, annexure or supplementary arrangement executed by the Parties under and in furtherance of this MoU.

"Candidate" means a student enrolled in a BSB-affiliated school who is registered for, or assessed in, a Certified Vocational Course under this MoU.

"Certified Vocational Course" means an NSQF-aligned, school-adapted handicrafts course offered under this MoU at the secondary stage (Classes 9–10) that leads to a co-branded course completion certificate.

"NCVET" means the National Council for Vocational Education and Training.

"NOS" means the National Occupational Standards notified for the Sector.

"NSQF" means the National Skills Qualifications Framework.

"Qualification Pack" or "QP" means a set of NOS aligned to a job role and approved by NCVET.

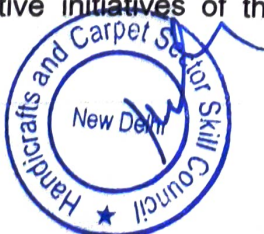
"Training of Trainers" or "ToT" means the trainer-orientation and capacity-building programme conducted by HCSSC for BSB teachers.

"Term" has the meaning given to it in Clause 8.

1.2 Interpretation. The headings and captions in this MoU are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of any provision. Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa, and words importing one gender include every other gender. References to a Clause or Annexure are to a Clause of, or Annexure to, this MoU, which Annexures form an integral part hereof.

2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This MoU sets out a structured, non-binding framework to guide and reinforce the collaborative initiatives of the Parties for the integration, development and promotion of



Handicrafts and Carpet Sector vocational education within BSB school education. The objectives of this collaboration are:

- (a) to introduce and implement NSQF-aligned handicrafts and Carpet vocational courses within BSB school education, in strict conformity with the guidelines and regulatory framework prescribed by MSDE, NCVET and HCSSC.
- (b) to enhance the quality and rigour of such vocational education and training through joint curriculum development, capacity building of teachers and robust, sector-aligned assessment.
- (c) to facilitate the systematic exchange of best practices, institutional resources and domain expertise between the Parties; and
- (d) to connect students with master artisans, preserve India's living craft traditions, and develop self-employment and entrepreneurship capabilities among students, consistent with NEP 2020 and NCF 2023.

3. SCOPE OF COLLABORATION

The collaboration shall be limited to the introduction and delivery of the Certified Vocational Courses and related capacity building, assessment and certification activities described in this MoU and its Annexures.

4. OBLIGATIONS OF HCSSC:

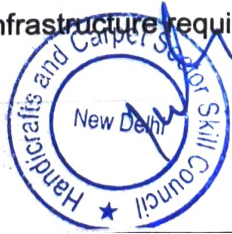
HCSSC shall:

- (a) provide guidance and support to BSB in introducing relevant vocational courses and NSQF-aligned curriculum frameworks, in accordance with HCSSC's established framework and policies.
- (b) conduct paid Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes for BSB faculty members, as and when necessary and nominated by BSB, to upgrade their skills and knowledge in delivering the said vocational education.
- (c) conduct, or cause to be conducted through its empanelled assessors, the paid assessment of Candidates undertaking the Certified Vocational Courses.
- (d) co-certify and add the BSB name to the course completion certificates of successful Candidates, and issue such certificates promptly; and
- (e) provide guidance to enrolled Candidates on self-employment and entrepreneurship development opportunities in the Sector.

5. OBLIGATIONS OF BSB

BSB shall:

- (a) identify the vocational courses to be introduced in its schools based on local craft strengths, student interest and teacher availability, and accordingly enrol students for those courses.
- (b) implement the NSQF-aligned Qualifications, curriculum and assessment methodologies of HCSSC for the selected courses.
- (c) ensure the availability of qualified teachers and of a safe, age-appropriate craft-lab infrastructure required for delivering the said vocational education effectively.



- (d) integrate the courses into the school timetable and provide space and support for artisan masterclasses and craft exhibitions; and
- (e) collect from its affiliated schools and release to HCSSC the Registration Fee and the Assessment Fee per Candidate as set out in Clause 7 and Annexure I.

6. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- (a) **Mode of delivery.** The courses shall be delivered primarily in physical (offline) mode, with blended/online support for theory and artisan masterclasses, depending on course requirements.
- (b) **Qualified instructors.** Training shall be delivered by ToT-certified instructors to ensure high-quality delivery and effective learning outcomes.
- (c) **Curriculum design.** The curriculum shall be aligned with the National Occupational Standards (NOS) and NSQF guidelines so that credits remain portable and the school certificate carries sector value.
- (d) **Assessment and certification.** Candidates shall undergo continuous and practical assessment; upon successful completion, they shall receive co-branded certification.
- (e) **Career guidance.** Guidance on self-employment and entrepreneurship shall be provided to Candidates to facilitate their transition into livelihood or enterprise.
- (f) **Target group.** The collaboration targets BSB students at the middle and secondary stages, with the objective of skilling and enhancing their employability.

7. FINANCIAL TERMS

- 7.1 **Non-financial nature.** This MoU is intended to operate on a substantially non-financial basis. Except for the Training of Trainer fee, Registration Fee and the Assessment Fee expressly set out in this Clause and in Annexure I, neither Party shall be liable to bear, pay, reimburse or charge any cost, fee or financial obligation to the other Party. No additional monetary consideration shall be payable unless expressly agreed in writing by the Parties through a duly executed amendment or addendum to this MoU.
- 7.2 **Assessment Fee.** BSB shall, through its affiliated schools, collect and release to HCSSC an Assessment Fee of **Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only)** per Candidate appearing for assessment in a Certified Vocational Course under this MoU.
- 7.3 **No other charges.** No affiliation fee, registration fee for schools, shall be payable by either Party under this MoU.
- 7.4 **Payment.** The fees set out above shall be released by BSB to HCSSC in the manner and within the timelines specified in Annexure I. Statutory taxes, levies or charges, if any, shall be borne in accordance with applicable law.
- 7.5 **Further financial arrangements.** Should the Parties at any time envisage any project or activity carrying financial implications beyond the fees stated herein, such arrangement shall be the subject of a separate written Addendum executed on mutually agreed terms in conformity with MSDE/NCVET guidelines.



know the same for the purposes of this MoU and who are under a similar duty of confidentiality, save where disclosure is required by a third party having a legal right to obtain it.

These restrictions shall apply during the Term and for a period of two (2) years after the termination or expiry of this MoU, but shall not apply to information which: (i) has, in its entirety, entered the public domain otherwise than through unauthorised disclosure or breach; (ii) the disclosing Party has consented in writing to its disclosure; or (iii) has been independently developed by the receiving Party without reference to the confidential information. Where confidential information must be shared with statutory bodies, the disclosing Party shall, where legally permissible, inform the other Party at least five (5) days before such submission.

12. FORCE MAJEURE

Neither Party shall be liable for any failure or delay in performing its obligations under this MoU to the extent caused by a Force Majeure Event. The affected Party shall take reasonable measures to mitigate the impact and shall notify the other Party in writing within seven (7) days of the event, stating its nature, expected duration and the obligations affected, and shall resume performance promptly upon cessation. A "Force Majeure Event" includes acts of God, war, blockades, natural disasters, epidemics, pandemics, lockdowns, riots, terrorism, change in government policy and any other event beyond a Party's reasonable control.

13. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- (a) The intellectual property rights (IPR) in any existing work product used for activities under this MoU shall remain vested in its respective owner. A Party owning such a work product may assign rights of use to the other Party only through a separately documented assignment or undertaking.
- (b) The IPR in any new work product developed by HCSSC as part of activities under this MoU shall remain vested in HCSSC. Any change in such ownership shall be affected by the Parties through the necessary modalities prior to commencing the relevant activity.
- (c) Each Party may use the other Party's logo and name in promotions, documentaries, episodes and documents relating to the training under this MoU, and for this purpose only. Neither Party shall use the other's logo, name, mark or IPR for any other commercial purpose, or beyond the scope of this MoU, without the prior written consent of the concerned Party.

14. DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY

- (a) Each Party shall, to the extent applicable, comply with all laws, regulations and mandatory guidelines relating to data protection, privacy and confidentiality ("Applicable Data Laws") in respect of any Personally Identifiable Information ("PII") or confidential data received or accessed under this MoU.
- (b) Each Party shall implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect such PII and confidential data in its possession or control, and shall not use, disclose or transfer the same except: (i) as necessary to perform its obligations



under this MoU; (ii) as expressly authorised by the relevant data subject; or (iii) as required by applicable law or a valid governmental order (in which case the disclosing Party shall, if legally permitted, promptly notify the other Party).

- (c) The obligations under this Clause apply to PII and confidential data actually exchanged between, or accessed by, a Party specifically in the performance of its duties under this MoU.

15. NON-EXCLUSIVITY AND INDEPENDENT STATUS

- (a) Nothing in this MoU shall prevent either Party from engaging in any business or activity, including activities similar to the collaboration contemplated herein, and neither Party shall impose any constraint on the independent operations or business decisions of the other.
- (b) The Parties remain independent entities. Nothing in this MoU shall be construed as creating a partnership, joint venture, agency or employer-employee relationship between them, and neither Party shall have authority to bind the other or to assume or create any obligation on behalf of the other.

16. PROMOTIONS, BRANDING AND PUBLISHING

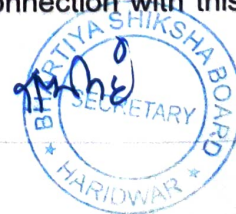
All press releases or other public communications relating to this MoU, including the method of release of any publication, other than an announcement mutually approved, shall be subject to the mutual written approval of the Parties. The Parties may display each other's logos on project sites, resource materials, annual reports, newsletters and websites in relation to the activities under this MoU, ensuring that the intellectual property rights of each other are not used for any unauthorised purpose.

17. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Parties shall, in the first instance, seek to resolve any dispute amicably through mutual consultation. Any dispute or difference arising out of or in connection with this MoU which is not resolved amicably within thirty (30) working days from the date of written notice by either Party shall be finally settled by arbitration conducted by a panel of three (3) arbitrators one to be appointed by each Party, and the third (the presiding arbitrator) to be jointly appointed by the two arbitrators so appointed. The arbitration shall be governed by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, as amended from time to time. The seat and venue of arbitration shall be New Delhi, India, and the proceedings shall be conducted in the English language. The costs of arbitration shall be shared equally by the Parties, unless the arbitral tribunal directs otherwise. The award shall be final and binding on the Parties.

18 GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

This MoU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of India. Each Party shall, at its own expense, comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and governmental orders and maintain all licences, permits and registrations necessary to perform its obligations hereunder. Subject to Clause 17, the courts at New Delhi, India shall have exclusive jurisdiction in respect of any matter arising out of or in connection with this MoU.



19. NOTICES

Any notice or communication required or permitted under this MoU shall be in writing and in the English language, and shall be effective upon delivery, by hand, courier or electronic mail, to the following addresses (or such other address as a Party may notify in writing):

If to HCSSC

Handicrafts and Carpet Sector Skill Council
Attn: Mr. Krishan Kumar, Chief Executive Officer
2nd Floor, OCF, Plot No. 2, Pocket 9, Sector B,
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi – 110070
Email: ceo@hcssc.in

If to BSB

Bhartiya Shiksha Board
Attn: Mr. Rajesh Pratap Singh, IPS (Retd.),
Secretary
Behind Patanjali Yogpeeth, Phase-2,
Delhi-Haridwar National Highway,
Bahadradab, Haridwar – 249405
Email: secretary@bsb.org.in

21. MISCELLANEOUS

- (a) **Severability.** If any provision of this MoU is or becomes prohibited or unenforceable in any jurisdiction, such provision shall, as to that jurisdiction, be ineffective only to the extent of such prohibition or unenforceability, without invalidating the remaining provisions, which shall continue in full force and effect.
- (b) **Amendment.** Any amendment to this MoU shall be valid only if made in writing and duly signed by the authorised representatives of both Parties.
- (c) **Use of Program Data.** The Parties acknowledge that data, analyses, reports, results and course feedback generated in the course of this MoU ("Program Data") may be shared with their respective affiliates, agents and service providers to the extent reasonably necessary to carry out the activities contemplated herein and the management of their businesses; provided that any Program Data that is confidential in nature shall require the explicit prior approval of the other Party before disclosure to any third party.
- (d) **Delegation.** HCSSC may discharge all or any of its activities under this MoU either itself or through its affiliates or knowledge partners, as appropriate, while remaining responsible for such activities.
- (e) **No financial burden.** Save as expressly provided in Clause 7 and Annexure I, no financial burden or obligation shall be imposed on either Party under this MoU.
- (f) **Entire understanding.** This MoU, together with its Annexures, records the entire understanding between the Parties in relation to its subject matter and supersedes all prior discussions and correspondence. This MoU is a statement of intent to collaborate; the rights and obligations created hereunder are otherwise non-binding, save for the provisions relating to confidentiality, intellectual property, data protection, indemnification, dispute resolution and governing law, which are intended to be binding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have, through their duly authorised representatives, executed this MoU on the date first written above.



For and on behalf of
**HANDICRAFTS AND CARPET SECTOR
SKILL COUNCIL (HCSSC)**

Signature

Mr. Krishan Kumar

Chief Executive Officer, HCSSC

Date: _____



For and on behalf of
BHARTIYA SHIKSHA BOARD (BSB)

Signature

Mr. Rajesh Pratap Singh, IPS (Retd.)

Secretary, BSB

Date: 01-08-2026



WITNESSES (HCSSC):

1. Murthan Gaur Agar
2. Mahine Dedi Mahine



WITNESSES (BSB):

1. Dr. Nidhi Gaurain
2. Ashish Kumar Singh BSB



ANNEXURE I

Fee Schedule

This MoU is substantially non-financial. The only fees payable under it are set out below. All fees are collected by BSB from its affiliated schools and released to HCSSC.

Fee Component	Amount (per Candidate)	Basis
Assessment Fee	Rs. 1000/-	Per Candidate appearing for assessment in a Certified Vocational Course.
Exposure stage (Classes 6–8)	Nil	No NSQF fee; only the actual low cost of safe consumables.
Training of Trainers	As per CCN	Conducted by HCSSC on costs as per the guideline
Co-branded certification	Nil	Issued by HCSSC at no additional charge.
Any other charge	Nil	No affiliation, school-registration or other fee is payable under this MoU.

Payment terms. BSB shall release the consolidated Registration Fees within ____ days of registration of a cohort, and the Assessment Fees within ____ days of the assessment, to such bank account of HCSSC as may be notified in writing. Statutory taxes, if any, shall apply as per law. Any future fee carrying financial implications beyond this Schedule shall be agreed through a separate written Addendum in conformity with MSDE/NCVET guidelines.