

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, ANDHRA PRADESH

AND

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY KAKINADA

Recognizing

- ❖ that the democratic framework of our country has been shaped through credible, transparent, impartial electoral processes put in place by the Election Commission of India over the last sixty years, and also
- ❖ that these processes, enfranchising every eligible elector in this country, begin with voter registration and ultimately seek to provide a level playing field for all political parties and an environment that is conducive for conducting a free and fair poll, in which all eligible electors can and should participate
- ❖ that these processes must be citizen-friendly providing all necessary information to potential voters so that they become active, informed and responsible citizens fully engaged in the process of democratic governance through effective electoral participation


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- ❖ that there is an imperative need for greater participation of all the stakeholders that in the broadest sense would imply greater citizen engagement in the election process
- ❖ that young Indians who become qualified to be registered as voters on turning 18 years need to be given the necessary facilitation to understand their new role and get engaged with the electoral registration and further participation process
- ❖ that a program of citizenship education deepening students' knowledge of the democratic processes in general and the electoral process in particular and helps to develop an attitude that values democratic & peaceful resolution and respect for the rule of law can help build an inclusive, participative, democratic polity
- ❖ that Universities, Colleges and institutions of Higher Education can play a pivotal role in initiating and sustaining this process of creating active and responsible citizenry more particularly oriented towards democratic electoral participation through formal and non-formal programs of relevant, interactive, collaborative curricular course offerings


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The Vice-Chancellor and his team at the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Kakinada wish to partner with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Andhra Pradesh to further the objectives of the Election Commission of India and work towards deepening the foundations of our election based democracy by:

1. Setting up a core group of faculty members to look at the whole gamut of issues relating to students' participation in electoral registration and citizenship education programs and design appropriate programs to achieve the objective of enhancing student engagement in democratic processes.
2. Encouraging the formation of students' clubs to enable the students to imbibe the values of democratic living and learning by doing. These clubs will not be affiliated to any political group and will remain neutral, academic fora for enhancing student participation in electoral registration and democratic processes.
3. Assisting the Chief Electoral Officer in taking up voter awareness programs in the villages and towns around the University area or other such area, as may be agreed between the University and the CEO's office.
4. Facilitating registration of students' as voters by getting applications filled in by the students' clubs, preferably at the time of student's admission into colleges and the University and transmitting them to the District Collector.


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5. Initiating the process of integrating citizenship education into the students' academic calendars and focusing on creating opportunities of learning through activities and projects like surveys and studies of the processes of electoral registration, conduct of elections, voter awareness and voters facilitation.
6. Supporting various participative initiatives to make electoral rolls cleaner and poll process more efficient.

In order to make the partnership work, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer will provide the required support and facilitation by:

1. Instructing the District Collectors to forward the applications received from the University to the concerned Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and after the EROs include the names in the electoral roll and issue the EPICs, send them to the University for distribution among the students
2. Providing information on electoral processes regularly so that the faculty members in the core group and the students are aware of the latest developments in the electoral field and disseminate them widely
3. Guiding the students' clubs in formulation of appropriate, relevant projects that will add to the knowledge base of election management. An illustrative list would include projects that involve analyzing enrolment data, poll data, implementation of model code of conduct and affidavits filed by candidates.


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While this Memorandum sets out only the broad contours of the collaboration between the University and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer and does not spell out all possible avenues of partnership, we recognize that it is the spirit of working together for a common purpose that shall guide us in nurturing this partnership and make it both fruitful and sustainable and the finer details of this collaborative endeavor will constantly keep evolving as we move forward. Since, non-partisan, objective, non-political citizen awareness, facilitation and engagement are the basis of this MoU, any deviation will automatically mean that this Memorandum has lost its relevance and stands terminated forthwith. The sole arbiter in such case shall be the Election Commission of India.

This MOU may be signed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and both of which duly executed shall constitute one entire document, and shall enter into force and effect on the date ("Effective Date") in which it is duly signed by both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below.

For JNTUK



Registrar

JNT University Kakinada

Kakinada

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For CEO



**Addl. Chief Electoral Officer &
Joint Secretary to Government,
Government of AP**

Jt. Secy & Addl. CEO

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