



**IIT MADRAS**  
Indian Institute of Technology Madras



# **Memorandum of Understanding between**

**Extra C**

**and**

**All India Council for Technical  
Education(AICTE);**

**Indian Institute of Management(IIM)  
Mumbai;**

**Indian Institute of Technology(IIT)  
Madras**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") is signed and executed on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2024 between

**Extra C**, a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 having its registered office at B-55, Buddha Colony, Patna -800001 (India), and represented herein by its Director, Corporate Relations, Ms. Unsa Siddique, hereinafter referred to as "Extra C" and/or **FIRST PARTY**

**and**

**All India Council for Technical Education**, a Statutory Body of Ministry of Education, Government of India, established under the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987(52 of 1987), having its headquarter at Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 (hereinafter referred to as "AICTE"), (which expression shall, where the context so admits, be deemed to include its executors, administrators and those assigned, as the case may be.

**and**

**Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai**, erstwhile known as NITIE, established by the Government of India in 1963 with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Labor Organization (ILO), having its registered office at Vihar Lake Road, Powai, Mumbai, Maharashtra-400087, hereinafter referred to as "IIM-Mumbai";

**and**

**Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**, a premier institution of National Importance, Government of India functioning at premises at Sardar Patel Road, IIT, P.O. Chennai 600036, Tamil Nadu hereinafter referred to as "IIT-Madras";

AICTE, IIM-Mumbai and IIT-Madras herein are collectively referred to as on the **SECOND PARTY**;

Extra C, AICTE, IIM-Mumbai and IIT-Madras shall be collectively referred to as "Parties" and separately as "Party" and a reference to a Party shall, where the context so admits, be deemed to include its successors-in-interest, executors, administrators and Permitted Assigns, as the case may be.

**WHEREAS Extra C** is a not-for-profit civil society initiative, actively engaged in the promotion of crosswords in India and abroad, particularly among the school and college students, having successfully conducted crossword programs for national organizations like AICTE, UGC, CBSE, NVS, IIM among others.



**AND WHEREAS AICTE** is constituted with a view of proper planning and coordinated development of a technical education system throughout India, the promotion of qualitative improvements of such education in relation to planned quantitative growth, and regulation & proper maintenance of norms and standards in the technical education system and for the matters connected therewith.

**AND WHEREAS IIM Mumbai** has a Centre of Excellence in Logistics and Supply Chain Management that aims to conduct cutting-edge research, knowledge creation, and capacity-building programs to develop India's logistics sector through applied research and industry outreach to tackle real-time business scenarios. It also conducts several global online courses in collaboration with renowned academics from India and abroad.

**AND WHEREAS IIT Madras** is one of the foremost institutes of national importance in higher technological education, basic and applied research.

**AND WHEREAS** the parties, through professional interactions and collaboration seek to bring in a holistic qualitative enhancement in technical education in India, enter into this agreement to establish a strategic partnership in the areas given in more details in the succeeding paragraphs.

#### **1. Preamble and Objectives:**

Crosswords have the potential to impart multiple benefits to the higher education students. It is an exercise for the mind involving use of lateral thinking abilities, power to recall and reading between the lines. It helps develop one's mental word bank – a vital nutrient for better articulation. It enhances the challenge-handling skills of a person. The attributes honed by crosswords are bound to add value to the technical education students, when they take the mantle of leadership in the future. It was decided to organize **National Inter-college Crossword Expedition (NICE, in short)** for the coming two years and accordingly, institutionalize the working arrangements so that the calendar and logistics are planned well in advance, both for the organisers, and the participants.

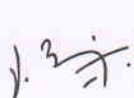
The objective of this MOU is to carry forward the novel endeavour of National Inter-college Crossword Expedition (NICE) in a seamless manner where the roles and responsibilities of the Parties are clearly spelt out for the next two years, starting from the date of signing of MoU, devise ways and means to indigenize crosswords in Hindi and few other regional languages, spread knowledge about the rich heritage and traditional knowledge of the country through crosswords and quizzes, and also to enhance the soft skills through Extra Edge clubs in IIM Mumbai, IIT Madras and the interested Higher Education institutions under the ambit of AICTE.



## 2. Strategic Collaboration (Objectives, Scope & Outcome)

Extra C, AICTE, IIM Mumbai and IIT Madras, under this MOU, shall collaborate towards:

1. Designating a Nodal Person from each of the Parties for the purpose of regular coordination for smooth conduct of NICE and other activities envisaged under this collaboration
2. Issuing of a circular for NICE with broad timelines by AICTE in consultation with Extra C, IIM Mumbai and IIT Madras to be sent to all HEIs so that students are made aware of the different stages of the event
3. Allowing non-AICTE college students to participate in the NICE so that it is more open and inclusive
4. Identifying consenting Host Institutions for conduct of each of the five Zonal Final rounds through AICTE, IIM Mumbai and IIT Madras
5. Anchoring the whole exercise, right from registration of participants and execution of the three stages, viz., Online Rounds, Zonal Rounds and National Round through Extra C and its official website <https://nice.crypticsingh.com>
6. Providing engaging content like free tutorials, practice sessions, news reports and visuals on the various rounds through Extra C website
7. Giving support for the successful conduct of National Round by AICTE, which would inter-alia include stage and allied set-ups at the AICTE Auditorium.
8. Working jointly and cordially towards making NICE a popular and useful annual event
9. Setting up of Extra-Edge Clubs in IIM Mumbai, IIT Madras and AICTE approved willing institutions to carry forward NEP's objectives of holistic education through crosswords, quizzes, public speaking and other soft skills, and providing online content, assessment to the interested institutions through Extra C
10. Devising methodologies to indigenize crosswords in Hindi and few other regional languages, with the help of AICTE/MoE Innovation Cell (MIC) at AICTE



11. Spreading knowledge about the rich heritage and traditional knowledge of the country through crosswords and quizzes with the help of Indian Knowledge Systems at AICTE

### **3. Definitive Agreement:**

1. The basic design, template and scale of NICE would correspond to the pattern as evolved in the first couple editions of NICE which were successfully implemented by Extra C.
2. Innovations with regard to indigenization of crosswords would involve some joint R&D by AICTE/ MoE Innovation Cell (MIC) at AICTE, which will provide the technology support and Expert Team at Extra C which will work upon the syntax of the Hindi and regional language crosswords
3. Spreading of knowledge about Indian heritage and knowledge through crosswords and quizzes would be done online and offline by Extra C, from time to time, in consultation with Indian Knowledge Systems, as mutually agreed upon.
4. The scale of support from IIM Mumbai, IIT Madras and AICTE to Extra C for the collaboration activities as mentioned in definitive agreement, would be as mutually agreed upon.
5. Any other cost/escalation associated with the execution of the objectives of this MOU, if any, shall be mutually discussed and agreed to between the parties in a definitive agreement.

### **4. Confidentiality:**

Neither of the parties shall make any public announcement or disclose to any person any and all documents which are marked as confidential, as well as any other information of a confidential nature which the Parties have made available to further the Collaboration ("Confidential Information") to any third party, without the prior consent of the other Parties, except as may be required by applicable law or judicial order. This clause shall survive the termination or expiry of this Memorandum.

### **5. Indemnity:**

The Parties shall indemnify and hold each other harmless against and from any direct losses arising in connection with any intentional or gross negligent act, omission or willful misconduct of the other Party, its employees or other persons working under its responsibility in the performance of this Memorandum. With respect to materials supplied by one Party to another hereunder, the supplying Party shall be under no

obligation or liability, or no warranty, condition or representation as to the sufficiency, accuracy or fitness for purpose of such materials.

**6. Costs and Expenses:**

The financial expenditure for organizing NICE shall be borne by IIM Mumbai, IIT Madras and AICTE on equally sharing basis i.e. 33:33:33, or shall be mutually decided by all the signatory on event to event basis under the intimation to the Ministry of Education.

**7. Events of Termination:**

- (a) Bankruptcy, insolvency, dissolution or compulsory winding up of a Party; or
- (b) Material breach by any Party of any of its obligations, undertakings, etc, specified in this Memorandum; or
- (c) The occurrence of any event that has a material adverse effect on either Party or on this Memorandum with the consent of the parties

**8. Term**

This Memorandum shall come into force on the Execution Date and shall subsist until:

- i. It is terminated by either Party by giving sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other Party; or
- ii. Cessation of the performance of the activities under the Collaboration, whichever is earlier.

Save and except for the Events of Termination provided for in Clause 7, neither Party shall be entitled to terminate the Memorandum until the expiry of 02 (two) years from the Execution Date. Notwithstanding the above, prior to the expiry of 02(two) years either Party shall be entitled to terminate the Memorandum with the prior written communication to the other Party by giving sixty (60) days prior notice.

**9. Non-Exclusive:**

IIM Mumbai, IIT Madras and AICTE hereby acknowledges and agrees that nothing in this Memorandum shall prohibit EXTRA C from continuing to provide services or otherwise engaging in its basic activities with different third parties.

**10. Disputes:**

Disputes or claims arising under or pursuant to this Memorandum shall be solely and finally settled by mutual discussions and consent of the parties





amicably.

**11. Severance:**

Each and every obligation under this Memorandum shall be treated as a separate obligation and shall be severally enforceable as such and in the event of any obligation or obligations being or becoming unenforceable in whole or in part, to the extent that any provision or provisions of this Memorandum are unenforceable the Parties shall endeavour to amend such clauses as may be necessary to make the provision or provisions valid and effective.

Notwithstanding the foregoing any provisions which cannot be amended as may be necessary to make it valid and effective shall be deemed to be deleted from this Memorandum and any such deletion shall not affect the enforceability of the remainder of this Memorandum not so deleted, provided, the fundamental terms of the Memorandum are not altered.

**12. Party-wise Contact Details**

- a. The primary points of contact for carrying out the provisions of this MOU are as follows:

**AICTE**

Name : Dr. Mamta R Agarwal  
Designation : Adviser-I, AICTE  
Email : advpnap@aicte-india.org  
Contact No. : 9811100488

**IIM Mumbai**

Name : Dr. Utpal Chattopadhyay  
Designation : Professor  
Email : utpalc@iimmumbai.ac.in  
Contact No. : 9969936749

**IIT Madras**

Name : Prof. V. Sriram  
Designation : Professor, Dept. of Ocean Engg.  
Email : vsriram@iitm.ac.in  
Contact No. : +91 (0) 4422574813; 9445556802.

**EXTRA C**


Name : Unsa Siddiqui  
Designation : Director, Corporate Relations  
Email : extracindia@gmail.com  
Contact No. : 9650055022



- b. Each Party may from time to time change its respective point of contact and inform the other Parties accordingly in writing, at the earliest.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have executed this mutually binding Memorandum of Understanding as on the date written above.

**For and on behalf of Extra C**

  
**Unsa Siddiqui,**  
Director, Corporate Relations


**1. For and on behalf of AICTE**

  
**Prof. Rajive Kumar,**  
Member Secretary  
AICTE, New Delhi


**2. For and on behalf of IIM, Mumbai**


  
**Prof. Manoj Kumar Tiwari**  
Director, IIM Mumbai

**3. For and on behalf of IIT, Madras**

  
**Prof. V. Sriram**  
Professor, Dept. of Ocean Engg.,  
IIT, Madras

**Witnesses:**

  
21 May, 24  
(Dr. Manika Rani Agarwal)  
Adviser - I  
Policy & Academic Planning Bureau  
AICTE, New Delhi

  
21.05.24  
(Dr. UTPAL CHATTOPADHYAY)  
Professor  
IIM Mumbai