

MoU signed between TMU and Maker Bhavan Foundation

Partnership Overview

TMU entered a strategic partnership with the Maker Bhavan Foundation (MBF), a USA-based charitable organization supporting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education and research in India. This landmark MoU centers around the creation of a state-of-the-art Tinkerers Laboratory (TL) on TMU's Moradabad campus. The collaboration reflects a shared vision to advance hands-on technical learning, innovation, and industry-relevant skill development for TMU's students through direct access to advanced tools and mentorship.

Objectives and Project Scope

The primary objective of this MoU is to establish a fully equipped Tinkerers Laboratory that will serve as a creative hub for students from various disciplines. The facility is designed to:

Enhance experiential learning and nurture a “learn by doing” culture.

- Support workshops, boot camps, and immersive courses Driven by the LEAP (Learning Engineering by Activity through Projects) program, in partnership with IIT MaDr.as Incubation Cell.
- Create interdisciplinary opportunities, enabling students to work collaboratively on diverse projects, bridging gaps between theory and real-world application.

The total project outlay is INR 38 Lakhs, with MBF donating sophisticated equipment and supporting programs over a five-year period, with sustainability and self-reliance as long-term goals.

Roles and Responsibilities

TMU's Commitments:

- Provide suitable infrastructure, operational support, and 24x7 lab access for interdisciplinary student use.
- Appoint a full-time “Lab Champion” to oversee daily operations, upkeep, and maintenance.
- Manage operating expenses (OPEX), ensuring the security and optimal utilization of donated resources.
- Facilitate rigorous reporting and transparency, allowing MBF to monitor utilization and impact through regular interactions, reporting, and the MBF Makerspace Information System (MIS).
- Ensure all safety, security, and e-waste disposal regulations are strictly followed.
- Prepare a sustainability plan by end of year 4 to maintain operations beyond MBF's direct financial involvement.
- Indemnify MBF against any loss, injury, or damage arising from use of equipment, and manage end-of-life disposal responsibly.

MBF's Commitments:

- Donate equipment worth INR 30 Lakhs, in two tranches, and provide an additional INR 4 Lakhs to kick start LEAP programs.
- Offer supplementary financial support for consumables matched by TMU, and extend technical and strategic support for effective implementation.
- Enable access to a nationwide network of tinkerers' spaces and facilitate collaborative mentoring.
- Provide access to the MIS platform to streamline usage monitoring and performance assessment.
- In all project media and communications, require appropriate credits to MBF.

Implementation and Oversight

The project runs for five years from the date of signing, with oversight led by TMU's Dean of Faculty of Engineering (Project Lead) and MBF's Senior Program Manager (SPOC). Both parties agree to joint governance, regular review, and shared decision-making for appointment of key personnel. MBF holds no proprietary rights to the intellectual property (IP) generated from the TL – all assets remain with TMU, securing the university's long-term interest in student innovation.

Strategic Benefits and Long-Term Vision

Educational Impact

The Tinkerers Laboratory's focus on active, project-centric engineering education will significantly raise the bar on student learning outcomes at TMU. By working with cutting-edge devices and methodologies, students develop competencies that closely match evolving industry requirements, strengthening their employability and entrepreneurial potential.

Promoting Innovation and Collaboration

The lab's open-access, interdisciplinary model breaks traditional academic silos, creating fertile ground for:

- Student-led innovation projects.
- Faculty-student mentorship in real-world problem-solving.
- Networking with other institutions and MBF's extended mentoring ecosystem.
- Regular workshops, competitions, and collaborative boot camps are expected to generate a strong culture of innovation, making TMU a regional leader in STEM excellence.

Sustainability and Future Growth

A core requirement of this MoU is TMU's commitment to long-term operational sustainability. By year four, TMU must demonstrate readiness to maintain the lab independently—including funding, resource management, and scalability—ensuring that the facility continues to thrive after the initial MBF support window. Responsible stewardship, including regulatory compliance and transparent governance, further safeguard this legacy.

Legal and Administrative Framework

The agreement is governed by the laws of Uttar Pradesh and explicitly details mechanisms for amicable dispute resolution and termination, providing a robust foundation for trust and continuity between the partners. Any modification to the MoU requires written mutual consent, ensuring stability and accountability throughout the project life cycle.

Conclusion

TMU's partnership with the Maker Bhavan Foundation marks a transformative step in bringing world-class, hands-on engineering education to Moradabad. The Tinkerers Lab will empower students to move beyond theoretical study, fostering creativity, problem-solving, and technical mastery essential for India's next generation of STEM leaders. Joint commitment to sustainability, ethical standards, and innovation assures positive, enduring outcomes for TMU and the communities it serves.