

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING / AGREEMENT

Between

Kumbh Mela Police, Allahabad

AND

G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad

This Agreement made and entered into on this _____ day of _____ between, Kumbh Mela Police Allahabad and G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad (here in after called "GBPSSI Allahabad" which expression shall include its successors and permitted assignees) with its registered address at G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Jhusi-.211019

1. Objective of the MOU

Principle objective of this MoU is testing and evaluation of crowd management strategies at Kumbh Mela, Allahabad 2019 using qualitative tools: 'Rural Mind: Culture and Crowd'. This objective shall be achieved based on following activities:

- a) To analyse the crowd based on heterogeneity
- b) To organize capacity building workshops to understand crowd behaviour, control and integrate stakeholders
- c) To organize cultural and gender sensitization workshop for all stakeholders
- d) To provide vital information about the nature of crowd, their activity, facilities status, the security arrangement and the surrounding environment
- e) To manage crowds efficiently for avoiding stampede-like situation
- f) To interact with crowd to understand their unconscious and irrational behaviours
- g) To analyse and compare the effectiveness of improved crowd management.

2. Aim and goal

To provide a road map for crowd control mechanism with rural sensitivity, which will help to strengthen the technical models for crowd management. To study the crowd behaviour and crowd gathering scenarios which can be used by the administration/authoritative personnel to explore/measure the benefits and analyse planning and customize effective management strategies.

3. Motivation and genesis

- a) Kumbh Mela occasion should not be taken as a regular event and this gatherings should not be taken as normal crowd but a heterogeneous one. The levels of heterogeneity become more complex when other groups of participants like Sadhus, tourist, media, urban and foreign people) enter in it. It becomes different from other mass religious gatherings in India. Sadhus sometimes become more assertive and aggressive in such mass religious gatherings. Media in their process to document sometimes cross the thin line of rural crowd privacy. For urban crowd it may a space of fun. For foreigners it is something adventurous. This creates groups which are beyond our technological tools.
- b) Rural people who come from villages with spiritual approach and are mostly semi-literate, illiterate and unable to read and understand signs and warnings. They will often follow the crowd blindly. They always come in groups, a mix of men, women and children and with less information of area. Sometimes language and technology

create a gap for them, it is difficult for them to converse with people on duty and limit their access to information through digital means.

- c) This crowd is mostly rural crowd (unstructured, unpredictable and unplanned). So the group behaviour is out of coverage of techno-models. They form a coherent group but most of the times unorganized, guided by others/ group leaders (community leaders) who have gathered for a particular purpose in a particular space and time even for a particular muhoorat. Simultaneously these groups carry their multiple identities, which is sometimes difficult to monitor. Pain/anger of one, triggers others which results in spontaneous outburst that leads to stampede or some anti-social behaviour. One fails to understand negative potentialities of crowd and its transforming possibilities
- d) The routes to various activities are altered randomly without proper information or sign boards for the people due to warning of heavy crowd. These may create chaos among the rural crowd and could be a possible cause of stampede. Perfect combination of technology with the stakeholders, who understand the crowd and legacy of Kumbh is needed.

4. Proposed modes of collaboration

Kumbh Mela Police Allahabad and GBPSSI Allahabad propose to collaborate through;

- a) To facilitate the stakeholders of Kumbh Mela Police, Allahabad with Capacity Building training to understand the crowd behaviour.
- b) Volunteers of GBPSSI to interact randomly with crowd to understand their unconscious and irrational behaviours, interact with leaders who can make decisions for the group, and to document their opinions
- c) Any other appropriate mode of interaction agreed upon between Kumbh Mela Police Allahabad and GBPSSI, Allahabad.

Each of the above modes of interaction will be initiated by entering into a single agreement between the two parties wherever applicable with mutual consent.

5. Plan of work including proposed methodology:

For successful accomplishment of this project it is essential to achieve all the desired objectives within time. GBPSSI Allahabad is expected to plan and divide the whole work of the memorandum of understanding into numbers of small objectives and aim to proceed accordingly. The work plan shall have following sub objectives

- a) Phase One-Literature Review and Preparation of visual data (2 months) August - September 2018
 - Review of available literature on religious and cultural spaces and its different paradigm
 - Study of the case studies involving stampede during religious gatherings
 - Study of the literature on Kumbh and its cultural heritage,
 - Understanding the stampede in previous Kumbh and National disaster authority manual to identify issues.
 - Develop various visual materials with help of a workshop of visual and media studies students of Allahabad University, for display and distribution during Kumbh.
- b) Phase Two- Field work for primary data and Identifying volunteers (2 months) October-November 2018
 - Planning preparatory field work for conducting interview of the respondents with purposive sampling. These respondents will be Sadhus from Akharas,

Pandas, Nishads, Malis, local community involved in Kumbh and local vendors. These interviews shall help in collecting the narratives, their memories and experiences. This data shall be used for further planning.

- Selecting volunteers (especially youth) from NGOs, CBOs, PRIs, Mohalla puja committees, communities like Panda, nishads and local youths for 'May I help u desk', who know city, routes and local language. Selection of volunteers shall be done by snowball and purposive sampling.

c) Phase Three -Capacity Building (1 month) December 2018

- Capacity building to integrate stakeholders and to understand crowd behaviour to control them.
- Cultural and gender sensitization workshop shall be organised for all stakeholders to help them to understand the nature of rural crowd, rural sensitivity. These tools will help all stakeholders to understand the nature of this occasion and its crowd.

d) Phase Four - Participant's observation (1 month) January 2019

- To document the views of visitors, mainly rural crowd and Sadhus, tourists, media, locals and foreigners collected through the semi-structured interviews.
- To document the everyday activity of Kalpvasis, rituals, special occasion, mela as a cultural space, economies involved in it and conduct long and unstructured interviews of visitors.
- To provide the vital information about the nature of crowd, their activity, facilities status, the security arrangement and the surrounding environment.
- Randomly interact with crowd to understand their unconscious and irrational behaviours, interact with leaders who can make decisions for the group, and shall document their opinions and follow others under the pressure in crowds.

e) Phase Five - Data analysis and report writing (2 months) February March 2019

- To do narrative analysis of community narratives through the Coding, Categorization and Patterns.
- Submit the report based on collected data.

6. Research Methodology:

This study shall be based on mixed methodology to understand the reality in its embeddedness as confronted by the members of different communities who come to visit and stay, different stakeholders and spectators. The intent of this research is to obtain a holistic picture of the Kumbh with an emphasis on portraying the everyday experiences of participants and their contentment and discontent by observing and interviewing them. GBPSSI Allahabad shall take daily "jottings" and field notes based on conversations and observations. GBPSSI Allahabad shall engage in "triangulation of methods" by conducting focus groups in conjunction with individual interviews and participant observation.

7. Data Collection Method

GBPSSI Allahabad shall collect the data during field visits and stay during Kumbh with the help of qualitative methods such as field research, participant observation in their everyday life, Semi- participant observation of the various process, conditions and occasions. Group discussions, in-depth interviews, unstructured interviewing and collection of documents from the field shall help in understanding life, behaviour and nature of Kumbh in more in-depth manner.

8. Deliverables

- a) GBPSSI Allahabad shall provide a road map for crowd control mechanism with rural sensitivity that will assist Kumbh Mela Police in exploring effective crowd management and control strategies.
- b) GBPSSI Allahabad shall further provide report on crowd behaviour, organize capacity building workshops, interact with crowd as per the requirement of Kumbh Mela Police, Allahabad
- c) GBPSSI Allahabad shall provide a report on narrative analysis of community narratives drafted in the phase five of the methodology phase

All the reports should be sole intellectual property of Kumbh Mela Police. Any public distribution is not allowed for whatever purpose without written consent of the Kumbh Mela Police.

9. Confidentiality

- a) During the period of subsistence of this MOU and additionally for a period of two years of the termination of this MOU, each party agrees to consider all information disclosed by the other party as confidential in nature, whether written or documented or, orally disclosed and confirmed in writing and any other information which identified as confidential by the disclosing party.
- b) The obligations above shall not extend to any confidential information for which the receiving party can prove that this information:
 - i. is in public domain at the time of disclosure or comes within the public domain without fault of the receiving party.
 - ii. is already known or becomes known to the receiving party before the information was disclosed by the disclosing party
 - iii. is received from a third party having no obligations of confidentiality to the disclosing party,
 - iv. is independently developed or researched by the receiving party; or
 - v. is required to be disclosed by law or court order.

10. Non - Exclusivity

The relationship of the parties under this MOU shall be non-exclusive and both parties, including their affiliates, subsidiaries and divisions, are free to pursue other agreements or collaborations of any kind. However, when entering into a particular research agreement, the parties may agree to limit each party's right to collaborate with others on that subject.

11. Terms and termination

This MOU, unless extended by mutual written agreement of the parties, shall end on 31st march 2019 extendable further as per mutual understanding of the Kumbh Mela Police and GBPSSI after the effective date specified in the opening paragraph. This MOU may be amended or terminated earlier by mutual written agreement of the parties at any time. Either party shall have the right to unilaterally terminate this MOU upon 60 days prior written notice to the other party. However, no such early termination of this MOU, whether mutual or unilateral, shall affect the obligations of the participants under any Research Agreement, Confidentiality clause as referenced in clause 9 above, or any other agreement entered into pursuant to this MOU, which obligations shall survive any such termination.

12. Relationship

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to make party a partner, an agent or legal representative of the other for any purpose.

13. Assignment

It is understood by the Parties herein this MOU is based on the professional competence and expertise of each party and hence neither Party shall transfer or assign this Agreement, or rights or obligations arising hereunder, either wholly or in part, to any third party.

14. Cost of the MOU

Each Party shall bear the respective costs of carrying out the obligations under this MOU. Kumbh Mela Police shall consider paying GPBSSIRs. Rupees 5,00,00 0 (Five Lakhs) as cost for providing services which is inclusive of cost of local experts for workshops, cultural materials volunteer expenses etc.

15. Signed in duplicate

This MOU is executed in duplicate with each copy being an official version of the Agreement and having equal legal validity.

BY SIGNING BELOW, the parties, acting by their duly authorized officers, have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed, effective as of the day and year first above written.

On behalf of

Kumbh Mela Police

Allahabad

By:

Name: - *Kavindra Pratap Singh*
Title: - *ADG/ S&P, Kumbh Mela*
Date: - *28/8/18*

Witness:

28/8/18
(NEERAJ KUMAR PANDAY)

ADDL S.P.

[Signature]

On behalf of

GPBSSI

Allahabad

By:

Name:

Title:

Date:

Witness:

[Signature]
(Archana Singh)

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