Nayanta University and Minerva University Join Forces to Reimagine Higher Education

Pune, 19th November 2026: Nayanta University, Pune, and Minerva University, San Francisco, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Through this agreement, the two institutions will explore collaboration across several key areas, including student mobility, faculty engagement and development, and curriculum development. The MoU also covers research, experiential learning, and academic knowledge exchange. Dr Ranjan Banerjee, Vice Chancellor, Nayanta University, and Dr Michael Magee, President, Minerva University, signed the agreement.

The collaboration brings together two institutions that share a vision for multidisciplinary, experiential, and student-centred higher education. Both focus on preparing young people to engage thoughtfully with a rapidly changing world. The partnership seeks to create opportunities for the reciprocal exchange of students, faculty, ideas, and institutional learning. At the same time, it recognises the distinct contexts and strengths of both universities.

Speaking on the collaboration, **Dr Ranjan Banerjee, Vice Chancellor and Professor, Nayanta University**, said, "We would like our students to develop the ability to collaborate across cultures and solve problems across contexts. This requires opportunities to work with faculty and students from different countries, in contexts that are both familiar and unfamiliar. Both Minerva and Nayanta are building new models in education and have much to learn from each other. This partnership can open up new possibilities for students and faculty from both universities. We have already begun working together on some interesting initiatives, and I look forward to building on these."

Under this MoU, the two institutions will explore several specific initiatives. These include short-term student exchanges and summer programmes, as well as reciprocal faculty visits, guest lectures, and co-teaching. They will also look into faculty development programmes, joint and collaborative research, and curriculum and interdisciplinary programme development. Further areas of exploration include field immersion and experiential learning, executive education and leadership programmes, and co-branded academic initiatives such as workshops and symposia.

Dr Michael Magee, President, Minerva University, said, "Nayanta and Minerva University share a vision for higher education that is multidisciplinary, experiential and designed to support talented young people on their paths to ethical and responsible leadership. We also agree that in this era of seismic technological, economic and

ecological change, higher education must likewise change to meet the moment. In over a decade of successful innovation at Minerva, across eight graduating classes, we have seen what student-centred and future-facing education makes possible. I see vast opportunity for even greater impact through our innovative collaboration with Nayanta, both in India and globally."

Nayanta continues to build its undergraduate, postgraduate, and lifelong learning programmes. As part of this growth, the University is developing relationships with institutions around the world. These partnerships aim to create opportunities for global learning, research, academic exchange, and engagement with diverse intellectual and cultural contexts.

About Minerva University and Nayanta University

Minerva University is a nonprofit institution of higher education based in San Francisco, California. Its pedagogical model is centred on rigorous, interdisciplinary learning delivered through active, discussion-based seminars and city-connected educational programmes. Its approach connects knowledge, practice, and societal challenges, while preparing students to engage thoughtfully with institutional, cultural, and urban complexities.

Nayanta University, a new multidisciplinary institution based in Pune, is committed to bringing together the arts, sciences, technology, management, and public thought in a student-centred learning environment through a balance of cultural and technical literacy. Shaped by visionary leaders like Naushad Forbes, Kris Gopalakrishnan, Nadir Godrej, Meher Pudumjee, among others, and a strategic partnership with CII, Nayanta is grounded in its commitment to real-world learning and celebrating diverse dimensions of excellence. The university offers a four-year residential undergraduate programme in BA (Honours) and BSc (Honours) with an interdisciplinary foundation; to prepare the next generation of ethical and responsible leaders.