Institutional Open Access Agreement

Prepaid Article Processing Charge (APC) bundle

> *How to use this form: print it, fill in the blank lines (tick one option where a choice is given), sign every page at the foot, and sign with two witnesses at the end. Send the signed copy to GATHA COGNITION by email (scanned PDF) or post. We will check it, countersign and send you a copy; the agreement starts on the date we countersign unless another date is written in. Where stamp duty applies, the agreement will be executed on stamp paper. Prices are those on gathacognition.com for agreements signed by 31 March 2027.*

This Agreement is made on _____ *(date)* (the "**Effective Date**") between:

(1) **GATHA COGNITION®**, a proprietary concern with its office at Shivajinagar, Dhumalwadi Road, At/Post/Tal. Akole, District Ahilyanagar – 422601, Maharashtra, India, GSTIN 27APHPB4527M1ZR, represented by its Proprietor, Dr. Kalpana Bhagat ("**Gatha Cognition**"); and

(2) _____ *(full legal name of university / institute)*, having its office at _____ *(address)*, represented by _____ *(name and designation, e.g. Registrar / Librarian)* (the "**Institution**").

Background

- Gatha Cognition publishes peer-reviewed journals in which authors may choose Open Access Plus publication on payment of an article processing charge ("**APC**") after acceptance.
- The Institution wishes to prepay APCs so that its researchers can publish Open Access without paying themselves.

1. The bundle

1.1 The Institution buys the number of bundles in Schedule 2. Each bundle contains **ten (10) APCs** at **20% below** the standard APC: ₹60,000 per bundle for an institution in India, or US$1,600 per bundle for an institution outside India.

1.2 One APC covers Open Access Plus publication of one article, of any article type, in any journal owned and published by Gatha Cognition and listed in Schedule 2 (journals hosted by Gatha Cognition for other institutions are not included), within the length limits of that journal's author guidelines. Extra-page and other optional charges, if any, are not covered unless agreed.

1.3 The bundle is valid for **two (2) years** from the date Gatha Cognition receives payment. APCs not used by the end of that period expire and are not refunded or carried over, except under clause 4.2.

2. Who may use it

2.1 An APC may be used for an article whose **corresponding author** is affiliated with the Institution (staff, faculty, research scholar or student) at the time of submission, as stated on the submitted manuscript.

2.2 When an eligible article is accepted, Gatha Cognition will email the Institution's contact person (Schedule 1) with the article details. The Institution will approve or decline within seven (7) working days; if no answer is received, Gatha Cognition will treat the request as approved. If the Institution declines, the author may pay the APC or choose Standard publication.

2.3 The Institution may set further rules for its own researchers (for example a limit per department) by telling Gatha Cognition in writing.

3. Editorial independence

3.1 Every article goes through the journal's normal double-blind peer review. The bundle gives no advantage in review: editors and reviewers do not see whether an article is covered by it, and Gatha Cognition does not guarantee acceptance of any article.

3.2 Open Access Plus articles are published under the CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 licence, and the authors keep their copyright.

3.3 Where a journal publishes an article free of charge under an offer in force at the time (for example, articles submitted in 2026 are published free and Open Access), no APC is used from the bundle.

4. Payment, statements and ending

4.1 The bundle fee is payable in full within thirty (30) days of the invoice. Prices are all-inclusive: the amount stated is the full amount payable, including applicable taxes.

4.2 If Gatha Cognition stops offering Open Access Plus in its journals, or ends this Agreement without cause, it will refund the unused APCs pro rata. Otherwise the fee is not refundable.

4.3 Gatha Cognition will send the Institution a statement after each use, and a summary every three (3) months, listing the articles covered (title, authors, journal, DOI) and the APCs remaining.

4.4 This Agreement ends when all APCs are used or expire. Either party may end it earlier by written notice if the other seriously breaches it and does not remedy the breach within thirty (30) days of written notice. The Institution may buy further bundles at the price then in force.

5. Confidentiality

5.1 Each party will keep confidential any non-public information it receives from the other party under this document (including unpublished manuscripts, reviewer identities, prices agreed privately, sales figures and login details), will use it only for the purposes of this document, and will share it only with staff and advisers who need it and are bound by the same duty.

5.2 This does not apply to information that is or becomes public without fault of the receiving party, that the receiving party already lawfully had, or that must be disclosed by law or by order of a court or authority (after telling the other party where the law allows).

5.3 This clause continues for three (3) years after this document ends; for unpublished manuscripts and reviewer identities it continues without time limit.

6. Personal data

6.1 Each party will handle personal data of authors, editors, reviewers, readers and customers in line with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and the rules made under it, and only for the purposes of this document.

6.2 Gatha Cognition processes personal data entered on its platform under its Privacy Policy published on gathacognition.com. Each party will tell the other without undue delay if it becomes aware of a personal data breach affecting the other party's users.

7. Liability

7.1 Neither party is liable to the other for indirect or consequential loss, or for loss of profit, revenue or goodwill.

7.2 Except for non-payment of amounts due, breach of confidentiality, or claims arising from content that infringes the rights of others, each party's total liability under this document in any year is limited to the amount paid or payable to Gatha Cognition under this document in the twelve (12) months before the claim.

7.3 Gatha Cognition takes daily backups and reasonable care to keep the platform available, but does not promise uninterrupted service; planned maintenance will be announced in advance where possible.

8. Force majeure

8.1 Neither party is responsible for delay or failure caused by events beyond its reasonable control, such as natural disasters, epidemics, war, government action, strikes, or failure of the internet, power or hosting providers. The affected party will tell the other party promptly and resume as soon as possible. If such an event continues for more than sixty (60) days, either party may end this document by written notice.

9. Notices

9.1 Notices under this document are given in writing by email to the addresses in Schedule 1 (or any new address a party gives by notice), with a copy by post or courier for notices of termination or breach. An email notice is received on the next working day after it is sent, unless the sender receives an automatic message that it was not delivered.

10. Disputes and governing law

10.1 This document is governed by the laws of India.

10.2 The parties will first try to settle any dispute by discussion between the persons who signed this document (or their successors) within thirty (30) days of written notice of the dispute. If it is not settled, either party may refer it to mediation, and if mediation does not resolve it within a further sixty (60) days, the courts at Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra, India have exclusive jurisdiction.

11. General

11.1 The parties are independent. Nothing in this document creates a partnership, joint venture, agency or employment relationship, and neither party may bind the other.

11.2 Each party may use the other party's name and logo to announce and describe this arrangement (for example on its website), and for no other purpose without consent.

11.3 Neither party may transfer its rights or duties under this document without the other party's written consent, which will not be unreasonably refused.

11.4 This document, with its schedules, is the whole agreement between the parties on its subject and replaces earlier discussions. Changes are valid only in writing signed (including electronically) by both parties. If a provision is found invalid, the rest remains in force.

11.5 This document may be signed in counterparts and by electronic signature under the Information Technology Act, 2000; each signed copy is an original.

In witness whereof the parties have signed this document on the dates written below.

For and on behalf of GATHA COGNITION®

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

Seal / stamp:

For and on behalf of _____
(name of Institution)

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

Seal / stamp:

Witness 1

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Witness 2

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Schedule 1 — Parties' contacts

	Gatha Cognition	Institution
Contact person	Dr. Kalpana Bhagat	_____
Designation	Proprietor	_____
Email for notices	office@gathacognition.com	_____
Phone / WhatsApp	+91 95118 96365	_____
Postal address	Shivajinagar, Dhumalwadi Road, Akole – 422601, Dist. Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra, India	_____ _____ _____
GSTIN / tax ID	27APHPB4527M1ZR	_____ *(if any)*
Bank account for payments	Account name: GATHA COGNITION Account no.: 35415773426 Bank: State Bank of India IFSC: SBIN0001166	Account name: _____ Account no.: _____ Bank: _____ IFSC: _____

Schedule 2 — Bundle and journals

Item	Details
Number of bundles (10 APCs each)	_____ bundle(s) = _____ APCs
Price per bundle	_____ *(₹60,000 (India) / US$1,600 (outside India))*
Total payable	_____
Bundle valid until	Two years from the date of payment: _____ *(date)*
Eligible affiliations (campuses, departments)	_____ *(All / list)*

Journals covered (journals owned and published by Gatha Cognition at the Effective Date; new Gatha Cognition journals are added automatically):

- Remote Sensing of Land (ISSN 2582-3019)
- Feminist Research (ISSN 2582-3809)
- Hydrospatial Analysis (ISSN 2582-2969)
- Journal of Geographical Studies (ISSN 2582-1083)

For comparison, the standard APC is ₹7,500 for authors in India and US$200 outside India (US$100 for lower-middle-income countries; free for low-income countries; students 50% off).