

Department of Paint Technology  
Harcourt Butler Technical University, Kanpur

Title:

MoU Signing Ceremony between HBTU Kanpur and SBL Specialty Coatings Pvt. Ltd. (Berger Paints Group)

Date: 08 January 2026

Venue: Harcourt Butler Technical University, Kanpur



MOU SIGNED BETWEEN  
SBL SPECIALTY COATINGS PVT. LTD.  
AND  
DEPARTMENT OF PAINT TECHNOLOGY, HBTU KANPUR  
08 January, 2026



### Organized By:

- Department of Paint Technology
- Harcourt Butler Technical University, Kanpur

### Industry Partner:

- **SBL Specialty Coatings Pvt. Ltd.**
- Subsidiary of **Berger Paints India Limited** (India's 2nd largest paint company; among top 15 globally)



### 1. Introduction

In a significant step toward strengthening industry–academia collaboration, Harcourt Butler Technical University (HBTU), Kanpur, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with SBL Specialty Coatings Pvt. Ltd. on 08 January 2026. This collaboration marks a strategic initiative to bridge the gap between academic research and industrial application in the domain of advanced coatings and materials science.

The partnership reflects a shared vision of fostering innovation, enhancing employability, and developing sustainable, future-ready technologies in the coatings sector.

## 2. About the Industry Partner

**SBL Specialty Coatings Pvt. Ltd.** is a leading organization in specialty industrial coatings, backed by advanced Swiss technology. The company operates a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Derabassi, Punjab, and focuses on high-performance coatings for industrial applications.

As a wholly owned subsidiary of **Berger Paints India Limited**, SBL benefits from global expertise and strong R&D capabilities, making it a valuable partner for academic collaboration.



## 3. Objectives of the MoU

The MoU aims to establish a long-term collaborative framework with the following objectives:

- To promote **industry-oriented research and innovation**
- To facilitate **joint research and development (R&D) projects**
- To enable **technology transfer and product development**
- To enhance **student employability through industry exposure**
- To provide opportunities for **internships, training, and live projects**

- To strengthen **faculty-industry interaction**

#### 4. MoU Signing Ceremony

The MoU was formally signed by **Mr. Amit Kumar Rathoure**, Registrar, HBTU Kanpur, on behalf of the university.

The ceremony was conducted in the presence of distinguished representatives from the industry:

- **Manas Kumar Aich**, Chief Technical Officer
- **Sharad Buchake**, Vice President – R&D

The event symbolized the beginning of a mutually beneficial partnership focused on technological advancement and knowledge exchange.



#### 5. Institutional Leadership and Vision

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, **Prof. Samsher**, emphasized the critical role of industry-academia collaboration in:

- Driving innovation
- Enhancing practical learning

- Improving employability
- Addressing real-world industrial challenges

Dr. Arun Maithani, Head of the Department of Paint Technology, highlighted the transformative potential of the MoU in enabling:

- Advanced product development
- Collaborative research initiatives
- Exposure to cutting-edge industrial technologies



## 6. Alumni Contribution and Recognition

The department proudly acknowledges **Anil Mehrotra**, Managing Director of SBL Specialty Coatings Pvt. Ltd. and a distinguished alumnus (1991 Batch) of the Paint Technology Department.

His continued support and association play a vital role in strengthening institutional collaborations and fostering industry engagement, even though he could not attend the ceremony in person.

## 7. Technical Interactions and Discussions

A key highlight of the event was the in-depth technical interaction between faculty members and industry experts. The visiting delegation explored the **PACT Centre of Technical Excellence** and advanced laboratories within the department.

Focused discussions were held on emerging and high-impact areas in coatings technology, including:

### 7.1 Advanced Functional Coatings

- Development of high-performance coatings with enhanced durability
- Multifunctional coatings for industrial applications

### 7.2 Glass Coatings for Appliances

- Coatings for improved thermal resistance and aesthetics
- Surface engineering for appliance durability

### 7.3 Thermal Insulation Coatings

- Energy-efficient coating solutions
- Sustainable materials for thermal management

### 7.4 Self-Healing Coatings

- Smart coatings with autonomous repair mechanisms
- Enhancing lifespan and reliability of coated surfaces



## 8. Faculty and Participant Involvement

The event witnessed active participation from faculty members, contributing to meaningful technical discussions and collaboration opportunities:

- Dr. Pramod Kumar
- Dr. Radha Sachan
- Dr. Durgesh K. Soni
- Mr. Brajendra Mohan Singh
- Mr. Ghanshyam Das
- Mr. Sunil Mehrotra

Their engagement ensured a productive exchange of ideas and alignment of academic research with industrial needs.



## 9. Key Outcomes of the MoU

The collaboration is expected to yield the following outcomes:

- Establishment of **joint research programs**
- Development of **industry-relevant curriculum enhancements**
- Increased opportunities for **student internships and placements**
- Strengthening of **laboratory capabilities and testing standards**
- Facilitation of **technology transfer and commercialization**

## 10. Benefits to Students and Faculty

**For Students:**

- Exposure to real-world industrial challenges
- Hands-on experience through internships and projects
- Enhanced employability and skill development

**For Faculty:**

- Opportunities for collaborative research
- Access to industry-grade problems and solutions
- Strengthening consultancy and funded projects

**11. Relevance to NAAC/NBA Criteria**

This initiative significantly contributes to:

**NBA Criteria Alignment**

- **Criterion 3:** Program Outcomes (Industry readiness, problem-solving skills)
- **Criterion 5:** Faculty Contributions (Industry collaboration)
- **Criterion 7:** Professional Activities (Industry interaction)

**NAAC Criteria Alignment**

- **Criterion 2:** Teaching-Learning & Evaluation
- **Criterion 3:** Research, Innovations, and Extension
- **Criterion 5:** Student Support and Progression
- **Criterion 7:** Institutional Values and Best Practices

**12. Conclusion**

The signing of the MoU between HBTU Kanpur and SBL Specialty Coatings Pvt. Ltd. marks a significant milestone in strengthening the synergy between academia and industry. This collaboration is expected to play a crucial role in advancing research, promoting innovation, and preparing students to meet the evolving demands of the coatings industry.

It represents a strong beginning to the year, reinforcing the department's commitment to **innovation, sustainability, and excellence in technical education.**