

 

AUSTRALIA-INDIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUND (AISRF)

**Guidelines & Format for Round 16 - 2025**

***Indo-Australia Fund for Scientific and Technological Cooperation***

# PART 1 - OVERVIEW

## BACKGROUND and OBJECTIVES

The Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) is a platform for bilateral collaboration in science, jointly managed and funded by the governments of India and Australia.

Since its establishment in 2006, the AISRF has supported collaborative, leading-edge research between scientists in India and Australia across a range of agreed priority areas. It has also helped to build linkages between premier research institutions in both countries.

The objectives of the AISRF are to:

* + - increase the uptake of leading-edge science and technology (S&T) by supporting collaboration between Australian and Indian researchers in strategically focused, leading-edge scientific research and technology projects, and strengthening strategic alliances between Australian and Indian researchers; and
		- facilitate India’s and Australia’s access to the global S&T system.

# SUPPORT AVAILABLE UNDER ROUND SIXTEEN

Support is provided for collaborative **research projects** involving Indian and Australian partners.

Maximum support from Indian side is between Rs 70-80 lakhs

We cannot fund your project if it receives funding from another government grant for the same activities. If you receive Australian government funding for your core activities, you will need to demonstrate that the activity you are carrying out for the project is additional to your core activities. If you have received AISRF project funding in a previous round, you cannot receive funding for the same activities in this round.

# PROJECT PERIOD

You must complete your project by April 2029

# INDO-AUSTRALIAN S&T FUND

The Indo-Australian S&T Fund is jointly managed by the Australian Government’s Department of Industry and Resources (DISR) and the Government of India’s Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The priority areas for collaborative research projects in Round Sixteen of the Indo-Australian S&T Fund are:

* + - ***Critical minerals processing technologies and methods***
		- ***Quantum computing and communications***
		- ***Remanufacturing and product end-of-use recovery including electronic waste recycling***

All applications for the Indo-Australian S&T Fund must fall within one of this priority area. Applications not related to this area will not be considered.

# TIMELINE FOR ROUND SIXTEEN

The call for applications for Round Sixteen will open from 05 March 2025 to 11 April 2025.

# PART 2 - ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

## Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply for funding under the *Indo-Australian S&T Fund*, the Indian applicant must:

* + - Seek support for a bilateral collaborative research project in one of the priority areas of research;
		- Have obtained the agreement of their proposed Australian research partner to undertake the project activities;
		- Be one of the following ‘eligible organizations’ (or a consortium of eligible organizations):
			* Education institution
			* UGC recognized Universities/ Deemed Universities
			* Academic Institutes and National Research & Development Laboratories/Institutes
			* Public sector research agency; or
			* Private, not for profit, research organization (Recognized by Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Govt. of India organization as S&T organization)
		- Address each of the Assessment Criteria
		- Seek funding for eligible expenses; and
		- Not seek funding for activities funded under another Indian Government program.

## Conditions relating to Eligibility Criteria

AISRF grants are not intended to duplicate support available from other Indian Government sources. Where an applicant already receives Indian Government funding for their core activities, the applicant will only be eligible if they can demonstrate that the activity for which funding is sought is additional to their core activities.

## Eligible activities and expenses

Under the *Indo-Australian S&T Fund*, the Indian Government will support the direct costs of

**bilateral collaborative research projects** in one of the priority areas of research Indian side will provide for the following expenses:

* + - **International economy excursion class return airfares for Indian researchers travelling to Australia to participate in collaborative research projects** *(international airfares for Australian researchers travelling to India will be met by the Australian Government)*;

## Living expenses, including accommodation and meals, for Australian researchers travelling to India to participate in collaborative research projects and workshops. The Australian Scientists visiting India within the framework of the approved projects will be provided fully furnished institutional guesthouse accommodation or a hotel (if the institutional guesthouse is not available), with reasonable facilities subject to the limit decided by DST. In addition, they will be provided with a per diem allowance for meals and out-of-pocket expenses including local travel and airport transfers as per DST norms for each visit.

Living expenses, including accommodation and meals, for Indian researchers travelling to Australia will be met by the Australian Government, Australian side will contribute a maximum of AUD$300 per person per day, or AUD$4,000 per person per month, whichever is the lesser amount*.*

Travel and living expenses combined must not exceed 20% of the approved grant amount. Travel restrictions imposed by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as staff policies of individual institutions and businesses, may preclude international and/or domestic travel during part of your project. Please consider carefully to what extent travel is likely to be feasible during the proposed timeframe of your project.

* Manpower-Salaries and on-costs for Indian researchers employed specifically for the project (this includes JRF/RA etc.) as per DST norms.
* Equipment (if specific)
* Consumables up to 2 lakhs per year
* Contingency and overhead

Details of cash and in-kind contributions should be disclosed.

If your application is successful, DST may ask you to verify the project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The concerned officer in the DST (with responsibility for the program) in consultation with the subject expert committee makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required.

## Costs not eligible for support

The following activities/costs will not be funded by the Indian Government:

* + - any cost incurred prior to the execution of a funding agreement with the Indian Government;
		- costs that duplicate the in-kind support from the applicant or other participants in the project;
		- capital expenditure for the purchase of assets such as office furniture, motor vehicles, computers, printers or photocopiers;
		- costs involved in the purchase or upgrade/hire of software (including user licenses) and ICT hardware (unless it can be used only for the project);
		- administration and infrastructure costs;
		- Indian project manager’s salary and salaries for existing staff, including salary related expenses;
		- staff recruitment and relocation costs;
		- international travel and living expenses for undergraduate and Master’s students;
		- costs associated with the protection or patenting of intellectual property;
		- costs associated with the internal preparation of finance and audit statements; and
		- debt financing.

## Duration of projects

Projects may range from short bilateral collaborations to more complex projects spanning up to three years

## Cash and in-kind support from other sources

Applicants will be assessed on the level of support that they can procure from both Indian and Australian organizations (including the applicant’s own organization) for the collaborative research project.

There is no requirement for applicants to demonstrate that the Indian contribution (cash and/or in-kind) to the project matches or is more than the funding sought from the Indian Government.

Indian contributions to the project may be in cash and/or in-kind. The contributions may be from the applicant’s own organization, or other Indian sources, for example, collaborative participants, industry contributions or contributions from other Indian Government funding sources. Salaries for Principal Investigators/ Project Managers may also be included as an in- kind contribution.

In-kind contributions will be required to be detailed and costed. In-kind costs must be directly related to the costs of delivering the activities of the project and can include salaries of staff for the time they are involved and other costs incurred for the duration of these activities.

# PART 3 - ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PROCESS

## Notes on the Assessment Criteria NOTES ON THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applicants should note that, in accordance with the ‘value with public money’ requirements of the Government of India, they should clearly demonstrate that the intended outcomes cannot be achieved without grant assistance from the AISRF.

Please note the maximum number of words or pages specified for each criterion, use clear language, avoid technical jargon wherever possible and spell out acronyms or abbreviations in the first instance. Include all information and do not refer to other sources, e.g. websites.

Supporting documentation should be provided as listed under each of the criteria.

The information provided in your application must be consistent with that provided by your Australian partner’s application to the Government of Australia.

We will only award funding to applications that score highly against all assessment criteria and who score at least 50% on each criterion, as these represent best value for money.

# ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Providing the eligibility criteria set out in the AISRF Guidelines have been met, applicants will be assessed against the following criteria, all of which must be addressed. The assessment criteria must be addressed as a written proposal of **no more than ten (10) A4 pages** (other than supporting documentation identified below), to be submitted as an attachment with the online application form.

**NOTE:** Use the same Project title as the one in the Project Details section of the application form. The Project title must be identical in both the Australian and Indian applications. The Project Reference No. of the proposal submitted by the Australian PI need to be mentioned in the application form submitted by the Indian PI.

***This table provides a guide on how to address each of the assessment criteria:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A. 40%** | **How your project will advance research in priority areas** |
|  | **POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROPOSAL:****A1. Aims and background:** Describe the aims and list the specific objectives of the proposed research collaboration in the context of recent international progress in the field of research, detailing how it will relate to, and benefit, work in the field. Refer only to papers that are available to national and international research communities. |
|  | **A2. Significance and innovation:**Describe how the proposed activity is significant; the need for the proposed activity to address an important problem; and how the anticipated outcomes will advance the knowledge base of the discipline and/or address the problem.**A3. Approach and methodology:** Outline the conceptual framework, design and methods, and demonstrate that these are adequately developed, well-integrated and appropriate to the aims of the proposed research collaboration.The expected outcomes of your research, their relevance to any end users, including potential for commercialization where relevant, and how they will advance the knowledge base of your chosen area of research.**A4. Roles and research capability of personnel:**Summarize the role, responsibilities and contributions of the respective Principle Investigator and other key personnel, including the proportion of their time each will spend on this activity; the leading-edge research capability of the Project’s Australian and Indian partners which must be demonstrated by evidence of their academic awards and citations as contained in the submitted CVs, and/or other measures of research or innovation excellence; and the roles and levels of involvement of other participants, such as technical staff, including the division of work between Australian and Indian investigators.**NOTE:** Where possible, diversity (including gender), should be considered in developing the Project team compositions.**A5. References cited:** Include a list of all publications/documents cited in support of claims made against Criterion A.The following documentation must be provided in support of this criterion: Curricula vitae for both Australian and Indian key personnel identified under A4. **NOTE:** There can be a maximum of 10 key personnel, including the Australian and Indian Project Managers. |
| **B. 30%** | **The ability of the Project to maximize the application and commercialization of research outcomes and contribute to economic growth and diversity (including gender) in Australia and India** |
|  | **POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROPOSAL:****B1. Expected outcomes and benefits resulting from the collaboration:** Describe the expected outcomes and the likely impact of the proposed research collaboration, including the possible tangible benefits for the two countries, especially:the relevance of the Project to industry or other end-user partners;demonstrate a clear path to end use in support of economic growth and development in India and Australia, including the application and commercialization of research outcomes; andexplain how the long-term benefits of the Project outcomes will be sustained beyond the term of funding.**B2. Diversity and other benefits:**Explain how the research collaboration might result in any environmental, social or other benefits, including contributing to diversity (including gender), for India and Australia.Provide a statement addressing diversity, including gender – for example, how the Project will support the development of female researchers as well as how outcomes from the Project have the potential to support women’s economic empowerment in the longer term. |
|  | **B3. Details of intellectual property provisions:**Provide details of the intellectual property (IP) arrangements, including use of IP, the proposed ownership of IP generated by the Project and strategies for protecting Australia’s interests. |
|  | **Support for the Project from participating Australian and Indian organizations and the capacity of the partners to manage it and deliver the activities** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROPOSAL:****C1. Roles and research expertise of each partner organization:*** Explain why these Australian and Indian partners are the key organizations to be involved in this Project and how the collaboration will be managed.
* Provide details of the governance model. Outline how this will be applied and make it clear to the assessors that a sound governance structure will be put in place at the outset.
* Demonstrate that the Project management arrangements are appropriate, including that any issues can be managed and key milestones met to ensure the objectives of the activity can be achieved.
* Summarize the support available from the partners for the Project.
* Summarize the research leadership and management credentials of the Project Manager and how the team will be managed.
* Demonstrate how Project members will ensure they collaborate effectively over the course of the Project.

**C2. Project Plan:*** This should be presented as a mature plan ready for implementation, leading towards the overall Project objectives and include proposed timelines, milestones and project management arrangements. It will form the basis of the funding agreement between the Australian Government and successful applicants.
 |
| **Weighting** | **Guide to addressing and Assessment Criteria** |
|  | **C3. Cash and In-kind Contributions and Budget (to be input directly into the online application form, not in proposal):**The indicative budget for the Australian applicant should itemize eligible expenses for which Project funding is sought from the Australian Government (see the AISRF Guidelines) and should clearly detail in-kind contributions.* The supporting documentation must confirm and demonstrate claims. Support for the Project may encompass either a financial commitment or an in-kind commitment.
* In-kind costs must be directly related to the costs of delivering the activities of the Project and can include salaries of staff for the time they are involved, and other direct costs incurred for the duration of the activity.
* Indirect costs cannot be included as in-kind contributions.

**The following documentation must be provided in support of this criterion:*** Letter(s) of support from the applicant organization and any other Australian partner organization(s), demonstrating and clearly articulating the organization’s financial support (cash and/or in-kind) for the Project, the commitment to engage in the research collaboration, the potential to create enduring links, and the contribution to diversity, including gender.
* Letter from the Indian primary partner confirming (i) that the proposal is jointly prepared, and the Indian partner is submitting an equivalent proposal to the Government of India, (ii) the level of financial support (cash and/or in-kind) the Indian partner organization is committing to the Project, and (iii) the commitment to engage in the research collaboration and the potential to create enduring links.
* Letter(s) of support from any other Indian partner organization(s) and, if applicable, any international partner organizations, demonstrating and clearly articulating the organization’s financial support (cash and/or in-kind) for the Project, the commitment to engage in the research collaboration and the potential to create enduring links.

**NOTE:** All letters of support must be prepared on official letterhead and signed by a person who is authorized to commit to such support. Each letter should be limited to one page, preferably, two pages maximum. Letters of support mustbe combined and submitted as one PDF attachment |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **C. 30%** | **Benefits for both Australia and India** |
|  | **POINTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROPOSAL:**C1. The social, environmental and/or economic short-term and long-term benefits to be gained from your project for both Australia and India**C2. Value and longevity of collaboration:*** Describe how the collaboration between Australian and Indian partner organizations is integral to achieving the outcomes of the proposed Project.
* Explain the strategy to maintain the momentum of this collaboration beyond the term of AISRF funding, including the expected timeframe.
 |
| **Total 100%** |  |

## Conditions relating to Assessment Criteria

The assessment criteria provide the basis for assessment of an application. It is the applicant’s responsibility to provide all relevant information and documentation as required.

Please note that:

* + 1. applicants may be asked to provide additional information to clarify any issues raised during the assessment process; and
		2. the Department may also seek the applicant’s permission to obtain further advice from third parties, if appropriate.

## Collaborative Research Projects

Supporting documentation checklist to assist with the preparation of your application.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Supporting Documentation | Have you attached this to your application form? |
| Criterion A: Detailed written proposal that demonstrates the scientific merit of the research collaboration. |  |
| Criterion A: Letter from the Australian primary partner confirming that the proposal is jointly prepared. The letter should state that the Australian partner agrees to submit an equivalent proposal to the Government of Australia. |  |
| Criterion A: Curricula vitae for each of the key personnel (both Australian and Indian). |  |
| Criterion B: Describe why collaboration between the Indian and Australian partner organizations is integral to achieving the outcomes of the proposed research project. |  |
| Criterion C: Detailed project plan and Indian budget. |  |
| Criterion D: Letter of support from the applicant organization clearly articulating the organization’s financial support (cash and/or in-kind) for the project and commitment to engage in the research collaboration. |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Supporting Documentation | Have you attached this to your application form? |
| Criterion D: If applicable, letter of support from any other Indian partner organizations clearly articulating the organization’s financial support (cash and/or in-kind) for the project and commitment to engage in the research collaboration. |  |
| Criterion D: Letter of support from the Australian partner organization clearly articulating the organization’s financial support (cash and/or in-kind) and commitment to engage in the research collaboration. |  |
| Criterion D: If applicable, letter of support from any other international partner organizations clearly articulating the organization’s financial support (cash and/or in-kind) and commitment to engage in the research collaboration. |  |

## Eligibility checks and assessment of applications

All Indian applications received by the Department by the advertised closing date will be assessed in accordance with the AISRF Guidelines and these Application Instructions.

## Discrepancies, ambiguities, inconsistencies, errors or omissions in an application

The Indian and Australian Governments will not accept responsibility for any misunderstanding arising from the failure by an applicant to comply with the guidelines, or arising from any ambiguity, discrepancy, error or omission contained in an application.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring the correctness, sufficiency and eligibility of their submitted application. If an applicant discovers any material discrepancy, ambiguity, inconsistency, error or omission in their application, they must **immediately** bring it to the attention of the Department by email to a.bhattacharyya@nic.in

The Department may request further information from an applicant or referee and allow an applicant to remedy any errors, omissions etc. in an application at any time, including after the round closing date. The Department reserves the right to consider new information regarding matters referred to in the original application at any time, including after the round closing date.

The Department reserves the right to allow applicants to correct errors or omissions in submitted applications. On these matters the Department’s decision will be final. No correspondence will be entered into in relation to the decision other than to inform the applicant of the decision.

## Note: Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

**4. Submitting an online application**

**To submit a proposal to DST:**

* All documents and forms required for a project application are accessible at [www.onlinedst.gov.in](http://www.onlinedst.gov.in/)

Please write to a.bhattacharyya@nic.in for any query related to the AISRF Round 16 call. **Any query related to the AISRF Round 16 will not be entertained after 06 April 2025**.

The deadline for the submission of proposals is **11 April 2025.**

The Indian researchers can download the proposal formats from websites [www.dst.gov.in/www.onlinedst.gov.in](http://www.dst.gov.in/) and should submit a completed application form and all relevant information.

* Proposals must be submitted to DST through the e-application system provided at [www.onlinedst.gov.in](http://www.onlinedst.gov.in/)

**Australian researchers** may complete the online application form via [business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au/)

* It should be ensured that application with identical title has been submitted by his/ her Australian counterpart to Australia by due date.

## Proposal submitted only on one side will not be considered.

**Contact Details**

**India**

Dr. Arindam Bhattacharyya, Scientist ‘F’,

International Cooperation Division,

Department of Science and Technology,

Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road New Delhi 110016

Phone: +91-11-26590409

Email: a.bhattacharyya@nic.in

**Australia**

Department of Industry, Science and Resources, Australia

Head of Division AusIndustry

GPO Box 2013 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Australia

# FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION

## LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: 11 April 2025 AUSTRALIA-INDIA STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUND (AISRF)

PROPOSAL FOR DST-DISR JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT FROM 2024-25 to 2027-28

*(to be used by the Indian Scientists/ Researchers)*

Project Ref No.

(to be given by DST)

 Project Ref No.

 (to obtain from Australian side PI)

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1. AREA CODE (Please tick the sub area also in ( ) the appropriate box ):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| i) | **Critical minerals processing technologies and methods** |  |
| ii) | **Quantum computing and communications** |  |
| iii) | **Remanufacturing and product end-of-use recovery including electronic waste recycling** |  |

1. TITLE OF THE PROJECT :

## (Project title must be identical in both the Australian and Indian applications)

1. PROPOSED DURATION OF THE PROJECT: Months
2. PROJECT INVESTIGATORS & COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS: INDIAN PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Designation |  |
| Department |  |
| Institution |  |
| Postal Address | Contact Phone No. (o) & (M) : Fax: |
| E-mail |  |
| Date of Birth |  |

AUSTRALIA PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Designation |  |
| Department |  |
| Institution |  |
| E-mail |  |

1. INDIAN CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (CO-PI)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Designation |  |
| Department |  |
| Institution |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Postal Address | Contact Phone No. (o) & (M) : Fax: |
| E-mail |  |
| Date of Birth |  |

1. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN PROJECT TEAM :

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Name & Designation | Department & Institute | Academic Qualification & Specialization |
|  |  |  |  |

1. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PROJECT TEAM :

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Name & Designation | Department & Institute | Academic Qualification & Specialization |
|  |  |  |  |

*Brief Bio-data of Indian and Australian PIs and other Indian team members highlighting the expertise in the proposed field of work along with list of publications highlighting those relevant to the proposed project.*

1. ONGOING / COMPLETED PROJECTS WITH THE INDIAN PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR :

National Projects:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S. No. | Project Title | Sponsoring Agency | Budget | Status |
|  |  |  |  |  |

International Projects:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Project Title | Name of the Collaborating Scientist & Institute | Sponsoring Agency | Budget | Status |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

# TECHNICAL INFORMATION

## Aims and background:

Describe the aims, and list the specific objectives, of the proposed research collaboration in the context of recent international progress in the field of research, detailing how it will relate to, and benefit, work in the field. Refer only to papers that are available to national and international research communities.

**Significance and Innovation:** Describe

* how the proposed activity is significant;
* the need for the proposed activity to address an important problem; and
* how the anticipated outcomes will advance the knowledge base of the discipline and/or address the problem.

## Approach and methodology:

Outline the conceptual framework, design and methods, and demonstrate that these are adequately developed, well integrated and appropriate to the aims of the proposed research collaboration.

## Expected outcomes and benefits resulting from the collaboration:

Describe the expected outcomes and the likely impact of the proposed research collaboration, including the possible tangible benefits for the two sides, including:

* how the research collaboration might result in economic, environmental and/or social benefits for India and/or Australia; and
* how consortium members will ensure they collaborate effectively over the course of the project.

## Roles and research capability of personnel: Summarize:

* the role, responsibilities and contributions of each Chief Investigator/Principal Investigator, Fellow and Partner Investigator, including the proportion of their time each will spend on this activity;
* the leading-edge research capability of the project’s Indian and Australian partners which must be demonstrated by evidence of their academic awards and citations as contained in the submitted CVs, and/or other measures of research or innovation excellence (limit 300 words); and
* the roles and levels of involvement of other participants, such as technical staff, including the division of work between Indian and Australian investigators.

## References cited:

Include a list of all references/documents cited in support of claims made against Criterion A, within the page limit of 10 A4 pages.

## Details of governance arrangements, including intellectual property (IP) provisions.

Provide details of governance arrangements, including use of intellectual property (IP), the proposed ownership of IP generated by the project and strategies for protecting Indian’s interests (limit 300 words).

*Demonstrate that you have thought about and planned the governance of the project and that set arrangements have been organized around the use of IP. For example, a well-structured response will include more than one sentence stating that the Organization’s IP procedures will be followed. Outline how these will be applied in your application and make it clear to the assessors that a sound governance structure is in place*

* 1. **Describe why collaboration between the Indian and Australian partner organizations is integral to achieving the outcomes of the proposed research project**

# FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT :

* + 1. List of equipment and other facilities available in the participating Institutes for implementation of the project:

(In case facilities of other institutes are utilized, a letter of consent from these institute(s) may be enclosed)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Items of expenditure | I Year(Rs.) | II Year(Rs.) | III Year (Rs.) | Total(Rs.) |
| 1. Manpower
 |  |  |  |  |
| b) Equipment(please give quotations) |  |  |  |  |
| c) Consumables (please give quantified list) (Maximum up to 2 lakhs per year) |  |  |  |  |
| Visits by Indian scientists to Australia |
| No. of visits & duration |  |  |  |  |
| International airfare by lowest economy class including airport taxes and airport transfers in India |  |  |  |  |
| Medical Insurance (silver class) |  |  |  |  |
| Visa Fee |  |  |  |  |
| Visits by Australian scientists to India |
| No. of visits & duration |  |  |  |  |
| Accommodation and per diem:The Australian Scientists visiting India within the framework of the approved projects will be provided fully furnished institutional guesthouse accommodation or a hotel (if the institutional guesthouse is not available), with reasonable facilities subject to the limit decided by DST. In addition, they will be provided with a per diem allowance for meals and out-of-pocket expenses including local travel and airport transfers as per DST norms for each visit. |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |  |  |
| Contingency |  |  |  |  |
| Overhead |  |  |  |  |
| Grand total (Rs.) |  |  |  |  |

* + - 1. Please indicate the designation of manpower like JRF, RA etc. including their monthly emoluments as per DST guidelines if any.
			2. Details of consumables including name and quantity are to be provided with full justification.
1. *Note: The PI is required to submit periodic reports and its continuation in the second year would depend upon its progress assessed by DST. At the end of each financial year, the PI is also required to submit the Utilization Certificates and Statement of Expenditure in prescribed format.*
2. *Visit of one person is to be counted as one visit.*
3. *Overhead is calculated excluding travel grant and as per DST norms*
	* 1. Designation and address of the Authorized official in Institute/ University to receive the grant
		2. A letter from the Australian Principal Investigator agreeing with the objectives, work plan including projected visits from both sides may be enclosed.
		3. As per the guidelines of Department of Expenditure (DoE), there is a change in the fund flow mechanism from the existing CNA Model 2 to Hybrid TSA Model - 1A with effect from 16th January 2025 onwards.The three umbrella schemes [(i) S&T Institutional and Human Capacity Building (Scheme No.1817); (ii) Research and Development (Scheme No.3237); and (iii) Innovation, Technology Development and Deployment (Scheme No.1819)] that the DST had been implementing till recently, have now been merged with Vigyan Dhara Scheme (PFMS Code: 4305) as approved by the Cabinet. Union Bank of India is designated nodal bank for Vigyan Dhara Scheme- 4305 to connect the CNA TDB and GIs.
		4. If your Institute has any ongoing DST project, then all the **unspent balance including accrued interest, till date,** has to be returned to the Bharatkosh (<https://bharatkosh.gov.in>). For opening a new Zero Balance Subsidiary Account (ZBSA) with Union Bank of India or converting an existing Union Bank of India A/c for Vigyan Dhara as well as other procedural details towards onboarding Vigyan Dhara, a detailed Step-by-Step SOP is made available at: <https://dst.gov.in/news/sop-ias-onboarding-hybrid-tsa-model-vigyan-dhara-scheme-4305>.
		5. For consortia project, where there is more than one PI/Co-PIs and funds allocated to them, each project partner needs to open a new ZBSA of the Institute for Vigyan Dhara-4305 in Union Bank of India located nearby in order to flow the funds from main institute.

(Please attach the Union Bank of India details in the PFMS format)

 *We hereby certify the statements above to be true and correct.*

 Signature with Date Signature with Date

 Indian Principal Investigator Indian Co-Principal Investigator

# Annexure-I

# CERTIFICATE OF HEAD OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTION

Date: ***[Insert date]***

International Cooperation Division Department of Science and Technology Technology Bhawan

New Delhi 110016

Dear Desk Officer (Indo-Australia)

**Project Title: *[Insert project title]***

This letter confirms our support for the project described in the application submitted by *[insert organization name]* under Round 16 of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund: Round 16 (AISRF- 16).

*[Insert your organization’s name]* will participate in the project and certified that

1. The institution agrees to participate in this joint research project;
2. In the event of the Indian Principal Investigator (PI) leaving the Institute due to retirement or otherwise, the Co-Investigator (Co-PI) would become the PI and be responsible for completing the project and submitting the periodic progress report and financial statements;
3. The institution shall provide infrastructure & available facilities as mentioned above, for implementing the joint project;
4. Following is an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise this organization will bring to the group:
5. The roles/responsibilities this organization will undertake, and the resources it will contribute to the project (if any) are:

*[Insert brief details of key eligible activities your organization will undertake on the project and what resources (if any, in addition to the eligible cash and/or in-kind contribution) it will contribute]*

1. The institution assumes to undertake financial & other management responsibilities for part of the project work to be carried out in this institution. The nominated management level contact officer/ Principal Investigator for this project is: *[Insert details]*
2. The breakup funding for manpower, consumables etc. is available to this project
3. All necessary formalities as per our institution have been completed.

Regards

Signature ........................................................................

Name:

Signature and seal of the Head of the Institution

# Annexure-II

# PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Project Title:
2. Total cost of the project (Indian side) (in Rs.):
3. Duration of the Project.
4. Project Investigators (PIs) and Co-Investigators:
	1. Indian PIs
	2. Foreign
5. Other Project participants:

5.3 Indian

5.2 Foreign

1. Implementing Agencies / Institutions:
	1. Indian
	2. Foreign
2. Sponsoring Agency / Department / Ministry

7.3 Indian

7.2 Foreign

1. Administrative Ministry in Government of India:
2. Has the Project been cleared by Secretary of the Administrative/

Sponsoring Ministry/Department from security/sensitivity angle?: Yes/No

1. If answer to (9) above is 'No', then does the Administrative/ sponsoring Ministry/Department recommend the Project to

be considered by High Level Committee of Secretaries? Yes/No

Signature of the concerned Officer in the Administrative/Sponsoring

Ministry/Department

**Annexure-III**

**Curriculum vitae for key personnel**

(Please provide the following information for all members of the project team involved in your application, including the Australian and Indian project manager and key personnel. Use a separate template for each person. An overall limit of three (3) A4 pages per person applies. All words in *italics* should be deleted prior to submission – you may delete this text from your CV)

***Personal details***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full Name |  |
| Organization |  |
| Role |  |

Qualifications

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Degree/award** | **Year** | **Discipline/field** | **Organisation and country** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Current and previous appointment(s)/position(s) in the past 10 years

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position held** | **Organisation** | **Department/Centre** | **Year appointed** | **Year completed** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

*Add additional rows as necessary*

**Role on the project**

*Please provide a statement on your role within the project, focusing on your contribution to the* research program, operations or management as appropriate.

**Expertise and contribution to project**

*Please provide a brief description of your expertise relevant to this proposal and evidence of any* previous international collaboration.

**Evidence of research impact and contributions to the field**

*Please provide information on research outputs other than publications (e.g. patents,* consultancies, policy advice), including details of relevant grants.

**Ongoing and completed national and international projects**

List your research projects (extramural research funding/ Industry/ Consultancy/ others)

**Career-best and most relevant publications**

*List your best and most relevant publications.*

# Annexure – IV

# CHECKLIST

1. Title of the Project :
2. Initiating Institute of project :
3. Sponsoring Agency/Ministry :
4. Total cost of the project :

Nature and Quantum of foreign Collaboration sought

* 1. Financial support: :
	2. Equipment support :
	3. Technical support :
	4. Manpower training :
	5. Miscellaneous :
1. Is there any possibility, however : remote of use of data, information

of result of the work which may impinge on India’s national security? If yes, the nature of such a use may be indicated. (In case the concerned scrutinizing Ministry does not have clear answer, the matter should be referred to the DRDO and MHA for examination).

# ORIGIN OF THE PROJECT AND ITS SPONSORS:

1. If the proposal is foreign-originated, what is the background of the foreign agency or organization which is sponsoring the project? Information available, if any on past collaboration by foreign agency with Indian Institution.
2. Is the foreign agency, organization, scientists concerned, known to have taken up any project of military significance in the past or are known to be associated with any military organization or project? (if the above information is not known or if there is definite information that there is no such association, these should be clearly indicated).
3. Is the proposer (Indian) known to the foreign collaborator and his group for some time and has this emerged naturally from the research work done by the two sides?

# FUNDING OF THE PROJECT

1. Is the foreign source known to have funded research into sensitive and national security areas in its own country or in other countries?
2. Are there reasons to believe that the foreign source is a cover name for some other sponsor?

# ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL OF THE PROJECT

1. Give a list of the likely places of visit within the :

country planned by the foreign collaborator. Also give a list of the institutions which the collaborator is likely to visit.

1. Will any sensitive source material be referred to

during the course of the research?

1. (I) Does the collaboration involve
2. Transfer of biological material(s) :
3. Use of radioactive materials :
4. Use of environmentally or otherwise : hazardous material(s)
5. Use of Genetically Modified Organisms :
6. Field trials or testing :
7. Ethical issues :
8. Issues related to Intellectual Property : Rights (IPR)
9. If answer to any section of question 13 is :

yes, are the investigators/ proposers aware

of the relevant regulations and have they

agreed to abide by them?

1. Will the research be conducted in accordance, :

not only with the country’s own ethical and

environmental standards, but with international

standards as well?

Signature with date of the Principal Investigator Signature with date and seal of Head of Department/ Institute

Annexure - V

BANK MANDATE FORM

**TDB-TSA HYBRID FUNDS TRANSFER THROUGH PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PFMS)**

**DETAILS OF ORGANIZATION**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. |  | **PFMS Unique Code** |  |
| 2. | (i) | Agency Name (Name of the University/Institute/College, etc.) |  |
|  | (ii) | Agency Type (Statutory Bodies/Autonomous/NGO/Society etc.) |  |
|  | (iii) | Hierarchy of Agency (Central/State/District/Block/Tehsil/Panchayat/Village) |  |
|  | (iv) | Act/Registration No. |  |
|  | (v) | Date of Registration |  |
|  | (vi) | Registering Authority |  |
|  | (vii) | State of Registration |  |
| 3. |  | TIN No. (If available) |  |
| 4. |  | TAN No. |  |
| 5. |  | **Complete Contact Address of the Agency** |  |
|  | (i) | Block No./Building/Name of Premises |  |
|  | (ii) | Road/Street/Post Office |  |
|  | (iii) | Area/Locality |  |
|  | (iv) | City/District |  |
|  | (v) | State |  |
|  | (vi) | Pin Code |  |
| 6. |  | **Contact Person** |  |
|  | (i) | Designation |  |
|  | (ii) | Phone No. (Landline) |  |
|  | (iii) | Alternate Phone No./Mobile No. |  |
|  | (iv) | Official Email Address |  |
| 7. |  | **Bank Accounts Details for TDB Schemes** |  |
|  | (i) | Institution’s Account Name (As per bank records) |  |
|  | (ii) | Account No. |  |
|  | (iii) | IFSC Code |  |
|  | (iv) | Bank Name (in full) |  |
|  | (v) | Branch Name |  |
|  | (vi) | Complete Branch Address |  |
|  | (vii) | MICR No. |  |
|  | (viii) | Account Type |  |

Certified that the institute’s account is in a PFMS enabled branch. I hereby declare that the particulars given above are correct and complete. The above Agency’s Account No. and bank details are registered/mapped under PFMS.

Signature of the Competent Authority

of the Agency with Seal

Date:

Certified that the particulars furnished above are correct as per our records.

Signature of the Authorized

Bank Official with Seal

Date:

**\*NOTE: The duly-filled and attested Bank Mandate form is to be sent at: {****Office-clerk3@tdb.gov.in****} and {****accountofficer@tdb.gov.in****}**

**\*\*Please ensure that the contact details mentioned in the Bank Mandate Form match exactly with those, as registered the PFMS. If it doesn’t, kindly get the information updated in PFMS.**

**Annexure-VI**

**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**POLICY ON THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**FOR REVIEWER & COMMITTEE MEMBER or APPLICANT or DST OFFICER ASSOCIATED/ DEALING WITH THE SCHEME/ PROGRAM OF DST**

Issues of Conflicts of Interest and ethics in scientific research and research management have assumed greater prominence, given the larger share of Government funding in the country's R & D scenario. The following policy pertaining to general aspects of Conflicts of Interest and code of ethics, are objective measures that is intended to protect the integrity of the decision-making processes and minimize biasness. The policy aims to sustain transparency, increase accountability in funding mechanisms and provide assurance to the general public that processes followed in award of grants are fair and non-discriminatory. The Policy aims to avoid all forms of bias by following a system that is fair, transparent and free from all influence/ unprejudiced dealings, prior to, during and subsequent to the currency of the programme to be entered into with a view to enable public to abstain from bribing or any corrupt practice in order to secure the award by providing assurance to them that their competitors will also refrain from bribing and other corrupt practice and the decision makers will commit to prevent corruption, in any form, by their officials by following transparent procedures. This will also ensure a global acceptance of the decision-making process adopted by DST.

**Definition of Conflict of Interest**:

Conflict of Interest means "any interest which could significantly prejudice an individual's objectivity in the decision-making process, thereby creating an unfair competitive advantage for the individual or to the organization which he/she represents". The Conflict of Interest also encompasses situations where an individual, in contravention to the accepted norms and ethics, could exploit his/her obligatory duties for personal benefits.

1. **Coverage of the Policy**:
2. The provisions of the policy shall be followed by persons applying for and receiving funding from DST, Reviewers of the proposal and Members of Expert Committees and Programme Advisory Committees. The provisions of the policy will also be applicable on all individuals including Officers of DST connected directly or indirectly or through intermediaries and Committees involved in evaluation of proposals and subsequent decision-making process.
3. This policy aims to minimize aspects that may constitute actual Conflict of Interests, apparent Conflict of Interests and potential Conflict of Interests in the funding mechanisms that are presently being operated by DST. The policy also aims to cover, although not limited to, Conflict of interests that are Financial (gains from the outcomes of the proposal or award), Personal (association of relative / Family members) and Institutional (Colleagues, Collaborators, Employer, persons associated in a professional career of an individual such as Ph.D. supervisor etc.)
4. **Specifications as to what constitutes Conflict of Interest**.

Any of the following specifications (non-exhaustive list) imply Conflict of Interest if,

1. Due to any reason by which the Reviewer/Committee Member cannot deliver a fair and objective assessment of the proposal.
2. The applicant is a directly relative# or family member (including but not limited to spouse, child, sibling, parent) or personal friend of the individual involved in the decision-making process or alternatively, if any relative of an Officer directly involved in any decision-making process / has influenced interest/ stake in the applicant’s form etc.
3. The applicant for the grant/award is an employee or employer of an individual involved in the process as a Reviewer or Committee Member; or if the applicant to the grant/award has had an employer-employee relationship in the past three years with that individual.
4. The applicant to the grant/award belongs to the same Department as that of the Reviewer/Committee Member.
5. The Reviewer/Committee Member is the Head of an Organization from where the applicant is employed.
6. The Reviewer /Committee Member is or was, associated in the professional career of the applicant (such as Ph.D. supervisor, Mentor, present Collaborator etc.)
7. The Reviewer/Committee Member is involved in the preparation of the research proposal submitted by the applicant.
8. The applicant has joint research publications with the Reviewer/Committee Member in the last three years.
9. The applicant/Reviewer/Committee Member, in contravention to the accepted norms and ethics followed in scientific research, has a direct/indirect financial interest in the outcomes of the proposal.
10. The Reviewer/Committee Member stands to gain personally should the submitted proposal be accepted or rejected.

# The Term “Relative” for this purpose would be referred in section 6 of Companies Act, 1956.

1. **Regulation**:

The DST shall strive to avoid conflict of interest in its funding mechanisms to the maximum extent possible. Self-regulatory mode is, however, recommended for stakeholders involved in scientific research and research management, on issues pertaining to Conflict of Interest and scientific ethics. Any disclosure pertaining to the same must be made voluntarily by the applicant/Reviewer/Committee Member.

1. **Confidentiality**:

The Reviewers and the Members of the Committee shall safeguard the confidentiality of all discussions and decisions taken during the process and shall refrain from discussing the same with any applicant or a third party, unless the Committee recommends otherwise and records for doing so.

1. **Code of Conduct**

**5.1 To be followed by Reviewers/Committee Members**:

1. All reviewers shall submit a conflict-of-interest statement, declaring the presence or absence of any form of conflict of interest.
2. The reviewers shall refrain from evaluating the proposals if the conflict of interest is established or if it is apparent.
3. All discussions and decisions pertaining to conflict of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
4. The Chairman of the Committee shall decide on all aspects pertaining to conflict of interests.
5. The Chairman of the Committee shall request that all members disclose if they have any conflict of interest in the items of the agenda scheduled for discussion.
6. The Committee Members shall refrain from participating in the decision-making process and leave the room with respect to the specific item where the conflict of interest is established or is apparent.
7. If the Chairman himself/herself has conflict of interest, the Committee may choose a Chairman from among the remaining members, and the decision shall be made in consultation with Member Secretary of the Committee.
8. It is expected that a Committee member including the Chairperson will not seek funding from a Committee in which he/she is a member. If any member applies for grant, such proposals will be evaluated separately outside the Committee in which he/she is a member.

**5.2 To be followed by the Applicant to the Grant/Award:**

1. The applicant must refrain from suggesting referees with potential Conflict of Interest that may arise due to the factors mentioned in the specifications described above in Point No. 2.
2. The applicant may mention the names of individuals to whom the submitted proposal should not be sent for refereeing, clearly indicating the reasons for the same.

**5.3 To be followed by the Officers dealing with Programs in DST:**

While it is mandatory for the program officers to maintain confidentiality as detailed in point no. 6 above, they should declare, in advance, if they are dealing with grant applications of a relative or family member (including but not limited to spouse, child, sibling, parent) or thesis/ post-doctoral mentor or stands to benefit financially if the applicant proposal is funded. In such cases, DST will allot the grant applications to the other program officer.

1. **Sanction for violation**

**6.1 For a) Indian PI and Co-PI**

Any breach of the code of conduct will invite action as decided by the Committee.

**6.2 For Officers dealing with Program in DST**

Any breach of the code of conduct will invite action under present provision of CCS (conduct Rules), 1964.

1. **Final Appellate authority**:

Secretary, DST shall be the appellate authority in issues pertaining to conflict of interest and issues concerning the decision-making process. The decision of the Secretary, DST in these issues shall be final and binding.

1. **Declaration**

**I have read the above “Policy on Conflict of Interest” of the DST applicable to the PIs and agree to abide by provisions thereof.**

I hereby declare that I have no conflict of interest of any form pertaining to the proposed grant \* I hereby declare that I have conflict of interest of any form pertaining to the proposed grant \*

**Indian PI Indian Co-PI**

(**Signature with date**) (**Signature with date**)

**Name: Name:**

**Dated: Dated:**