

**BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN**

**THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2025**

Under the **Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation** between the Government of the Republic of Tunisia and the Government of the Republic of India, signed in Tunis on October 17, 1995, the **General Directorate of Scientific Research (GDSR)** at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia, and the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** , Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, invite Tunisian and Indian universities, research centers, and institutes to submit joint proposals for scientific and technological research.

### PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

The joint research project should be on any of the following areas:

* climate change and eco- innovation
* e-health
* geospatial technology

### WHO CAN APPLY

The proposals should involve **one or more research entities** from both sides. The joint application must include **one Tunisian and one Indian Principal Investigator (PI)**, who will be responsible for both the **technical and administrative coordination** of the project, including periodic **scientific and financial reporting** to the respective authorities (MHESR in Tunisia and DST in India).

The involvement of **industrial or socio-economic sector partners is preferred** to promote collaborative research and optimize the valorization of scientific outcomes. These partners may participate at their own expenses.

**In Tunisia:**

* The PI must hold the rank of **Full Professor** or **Associate Professor (Maître de Conférences)**.
* The PI must be affiliated with a **public research laboratory** that is part of the **partner institution** involved in the project.
* The critical mass of the research team involved must be composed of a minimum of five (5) statutory researchers (corps A and B), including at least two members with the rank of professor, associate professor, or equivalent rank.

**In India:**

### Indian Project Lead and Co-Is should be scientists/faculty members working in regular capacity in universities, academic institutes and national research and development laboratories/institutes. The Indian Project Lead and Co- Is should not be retiring or leaving the parent institute during the proposed duration of the project. The Indian scientist involved in any way in the implementation of two or more projects supported by DST (International Group) that are not expected to be completed by March 31, 2025 are not eligible to be a member of Research team/Project Lead.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

* For the Tunisian research entities: Each project will be funded up to TND 50,000 per year for a duration of maximum three years (maximum total budget of TND150,000).
* For the Indian research entities: Each project will be funded up to for a duration of maximum three years (maximum total budget of 45 lakhs).

Eligible costs are those spent directly by the project partner during the duration of the project and used exclusively for achieving the objectives of the project. All expenses must be incurred between the start date and the end date of the project and must be limited to the allocated budget

The following expenses are eligible for financial support under the approved projects:

* E**xchange Visits for Project Team Members:**
* For researcher exchanges, the sending party will cover round-trip economy-class airfare to the relevant entry city of the host country and medical insurance.
* The receiving party will provide accommodation and cover living expenses.
* **Support for Consumables:** Up to 30–40% of the total budget may be allocated for consumables and accessories.
* **Human Resources:** The participation of research students is encouraged.
* **Scientific Events and Meetings:** Support is available for organizing and participating in scientific conferences, seminars, and meetings.
* **Research-Related Expenses: (Only Tunisian Applicants)**
* Coverage includes publication and filing fees for scientific publications and patent applications.
* Expenses for conducting analyses and processing samples are also supported.
* **Institutional Overhead: (Only Indian Applicants)**
* Institutional overhead costs for Indian applicants will be determined based on prevailing DST norms.

### GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

**Proposals**

* The proposal must be written in English and jointly prepared by Tunisian and Indian applicants.
* The application must include the following documents:
  + Duly completed application forms.
  + Curriculum vitae (CV) of each research team member.
  + A letter of intent exchanged between the project’s Principal Investigators (PIs).
  + A signed submission request, approved and reviewed by:
    - The Director of the research structure,
    - The Head of the institution, and
    - The supervisory authority (e.g., University President, Director General, etc.).
  + Details of the participating industrial or socio-economic sector partners, including their field of business and the expected project outcomes, particularly in terms of productivity and competitiveness.

**Submission**

* For Tunisian applicants:
* Applicants can apply by accessing the link: [Application](https://forms.gle/6fwD78dKLCZdJQff6)
* The Tunisian PI should submit the proposal electronically to partenariat.scientifique@gmail.com in **a single PDF file.**
* Incomplete applications will not be considered.
* Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.
* Sending hard copies of proposals is not needed.
* For Indian applicants:
* Indian applicants should submit their proposals using the format available at <https://onlinedst.gov.in> by 5:00 PM (India time) on last date (31 July 2025). After registration, they should move to “scheme and format” section where details about this call would be available in the International Cooperation (bilateral). An email acknowledging receipt of the application will be provided to the applicant in 3-5 working days. It should be ensured that application with identical title has been submitted by his / her Tunisian counterpart scientist with Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia by due date.

### EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Projects are evaluated by MHESR/GDSR and MST/DST independently by their own evaluation procedures. Only the proposals which are accepted by two sides will be funded.

The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

#### **Strategic Alignment and Project Relevance**

* **Consistency with priority research areas:** The project must align with the themes defined in the call for proposals (climate change and eco- innovation; e-health; geospatial technology and address major scientific and societal challenges.
* **Innovation and originality:** The project should introduce a novel approach, either through new methodologies or by applying existing knowledge to an unprecedented context.
* **Added value of bilateral collaboration:** The complementarity of the institutions and researchers involved must be demonstrated, with a clear distribution of responsibilities and scientific contributions from each partner.
* **Scientific and technological impact:** The project should demonstrate its potential to advance the state of the art in its field and produce exploitable results.

#### **Scientific Quality and Methodological Robustness**

* **Clarity and precision of objectives:** The project goals must be well-defined, measurable, and achievable within the proposed timeframe and budget.
* **Adequacy of the methodology:** The proposal must present a robust methodological approach, well-suited to the research objectives and aligned with international standards.
* **Interdisciplinarity and integrated approach:** The project’s ability to mobilize multiple disciplines to address complex challenges will be valued.
* **Risk management:** Potential risks must be clearly identified, along with mitigation strategies.

#### **Expertise and Complementarity of Research Teams**

* **Experience and scientific excellence of researchers:** The scientific leadership of the coordinators and the experience of the teams in the relevant field must be demonstrated.
* **Complementarity of skills:** The interaction between partner teams should create strong synergy, leading to a deeper understanding of the research topic.
* **Supervision of young researchers and training:** The involvement of young researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and PhD students will be valued, with an emphasis on skill transfer and capacity building.
* **Collaboration dynamics and integration of diversity and gender equality perspectives:** The project’s commitment to promoting inclusive and balanced partnerships will be assessed.

#### **Impact, Dissemination, and Exploitation of Results**

* **Contribution to societal and economic challenges:** The project should demonstrate how its results will benefit society, industries, or public policies.
* **Dissemination and communication plan:** Strategies for sharing results with the scientific community, policymakers, and the general public must be clearly defined (publications, conferences, digital platforms, etc.).
* **Transferability and applicability of results:** Identifying exploitation perspectives, particularly through industrial collaborations or technological innovations, will be an asset.
* **Follow-up and sustainability perspectives:** The project should outline a clear vision for continuing research and maintaining collaborations beyond the funding period.

### EVALUATION OF THE PROGRESS AND FINAL REPORTS

**For Tunisian team:**

The PI must submit an interim report (scientific and financial) to the MHESR, the granting of the second and third budget depends on the submission and positive evaluation of the interim reports. At the end of the third year, a final report is required

**For Indian team**:

The PI must submit an annual financial year wise report (scientific and financial) to the DST, the granting of the second and third budget depends on the submission and positive evaluation of the interim reports. At the end of the third year, a final report is required

### SCHEDULE

* Publication of the Call: May  **19, 2025.**
* Deadline for Proposal Submission: **July 31, 2025**.

### CONTACT POINTS

For further information, please contact:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tunisia** | **India** |
| **Hayet Souai**  Director of programs and scientific partnership,  General Directorate of Scientific Research.  e-mail address: [souaihayet@gmail.com](mailto:souaihayet@gmail.com)  **Saida Rafrafi Farhat**  Deputy Director,  Directorate of programs and scientific partnership,  General Directorate of Scientific Research.  e-mail address: [coopint2@gmail.com](mailto:coopint2@gmail.com) | **Dr Sulakshana Jain**  Scientist  International Cooperation  Department of Science & Technology  Technology Bhawan,  New Mehrauli Road  New Delhi – 110 016  E-mail: **jain.s@nic.in** |

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|  | **MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA**  **&**  **DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (DST), GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** |  |

**APPLICATION FOR A JOINT RESEARCH GRANT UNDER THE TUNISIA/INDIA AGREEMENT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION**

The deadline for proposal submission is ……………….

**Please use font Times New Roman, size: 11 points for all the sections with the text limits**

**PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. **Key area of Research**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

2. **Title of Project**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

3. **Specific research field**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Field | \* | Sub-field |
| **climate change and eco- innovation** |  |  |
| **Energy Security** **e-health** |  |
| **geospatial technology** |  |

**※ please be sure to be specific.** (single choice)

4. **Project Duration**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Project Start Date: | Project End Date: | Duration |
|  |  |  |

5. B**udget**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Ist Year** | **IInd Year** | **IIIrd Year** | **TOTAL** |
| Overall Budget Distribution TND: |  |  |  |  |
| Overall Budget Distribution INR: |  |  |  |  |

6. Summary of Project

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Keywords** |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |
| **Objectives** |  | | |
| **Approach** |  | | |
| **Expected Outcome** |  | | |

**※ Attention - font: Times New Roman, size: 11 points / Do not exceed space provided.**7. Personal Data

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***INDIA*** | **Tunisia** |
| Name of PI |  |  |
| Nationality |  |  |
| Gender |  |  |
| Organization |  |  |
| Department/ Laboratory |  |  |
| Title |  |  |
| Address of Institution |  |  |
| Office phone # |  |  |
| Cell phone # |  |  |
| Fax # |  |  |
| e‑mail |  |  |
| Date of Birth |  |  |
| Name of Co‑Investigator |  |  |
| Organization |  |  |
| Department |  |  |
| Title |  |  |
| Address of Institution |  |  |
| Office phone # |  |  |
| Cell phone # |  |  |
| Fax # |  |  |
| e‑mail |  |  |

**Names and affiliations of Tunisian researchers/students to participate in the project (add rows where required)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Full name | Current Academic Qualification | Institution | Nationality | Gender |
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**Names and affiliations of Indian researchers/students to participate in the project (add rows where required)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Full name | Current Academic Qualification | Institution | Nationality | Gender |
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**PART II: TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

1. **Objectives of Project (up to 200 words)**

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2. **Justification for collaboration & brief introduction to the national and international backdrop to the proposed area of research (up to 400 words)**

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3. **Technical description of the project including methodology**

**※ Attention - font: Times New Roman, size: 11 points / Do not exceed space provided.**

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4. **Plan of work (*per annum*)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Timeline | **Responsibilities of Indian team** | **Responsibilities of Tunisian team** |
| 1st Year  (yyyy) |  |  |
| 2nd Year  (yyyy) |  |  |
| 3rd year |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Work Plan** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Work Packages (WP) and Tasks**   *Please present the work packages in detail, using the table provided below. Use one table per work package (please copy the table as many times as you need it). The explanations included in the table have to be sufficient for justifying the proposed effort and allow for progress monitoring.* | | | |
| **WP Number** | **1** | | |
| **WP Title** |  | | |
| **WP Leader** | ***Only 1 person*** | | |
| **Start Date** |  | **End Date** |  |
| **Objective** | | | |
| |  | | --- | | *Please provide a general description of the work to be undertaken (including methods to be applied where appropriate), identify the partners involved and specify their contributions.* | | | | |
| **Tasks** | | | |
| *Please break the work package down into major tasks. Explain the sequence of tasks and explain interdependencies between tasks where necessary.* | | | |
| **Interdependence with Other Work Packages** | | | |
| *Please provide a narrative description or/and a graphical presentation of interdependencies between the present work package with other work packages.* | | | |
| **Deliverables** | | | |
| *Deliverables represent verifiable outputs of the work package. Normally, each work package will produce one or more deliverables during its lifetime. Please list, specify and quantify deliverables (e.g. prototype, survey results) and state the project month of delivery (measured in months from the first month the project started)****.*** | | | |
| **Milestones** | | | |
| *Milestones represent a scheduled event signifying the completion of a major deliverable or a set of related deliverables (e.g. prototype tested, patient cohort established). Please state the project month of delivery (measured in months from the first month the project started).* | | | |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Success Criteria**   *Please define the objectives, success criteria and importance level of the main work packages in the Work-Time Schedule by also regarding deliverables and milestones. The rows and columns in the schedule can be enlarged and increased. The sum of percentages in the columns should be 100.* | | | |
| **WP No** | **Objective of the Main WP** | **Success Criteria**  **(%, number, statement etc.)** | **Importance of the WP for Success of the Project (%)** |
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| 1. **Risk Management**   *Please describe the risks that can affect the success of the project negatively and clearly describe the alternative plan(s) (Plan-B) that will be implemented in case of encountering with those by regarding the related work packages.* | | |
| **WP No** | **Main Risks** | **Plan-B** |
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5. **Facilities related to project activity available at the institutions where the project will be carried out:**

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| --- | --- |
| At the Collaborating Indian Institutions | At the Collaborating Tunisian Institutions |
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6**. Information of visiting persons for technical mission (*per annum*).**

A. India to Tunisia

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Name | Organization | Duration | Purpose |
| 1st Year |  |  |  |  |
| 2nd Year |  |  |  |  |
| 3rd year |  |  |  |  |

B. Tunisia to India

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Name | Organization | Duration | Purpose |
| 1st Year |  |  |  |  |
| 2nd Year |  |  |  |  |
| 3rd year |  |  |  |  |

**※ Attention: Please add lines if necessary.**

7**. Expected results of Cooperation (e.g. joint publications, patents etc.)**

Are any of the expected results likely to have commercial value? (Up to 100 words)

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**PART III - BIOGRAPHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION**

**1. Personal Data of Indian and Tunisian investigators to be attached.**

※ Describe the expertise of the PI(s) in the proposed field of work by citing relevant publications. Do not exceed one pages A4 size for each PI (Font: Times New Roman, size: 11 points).

**Principal Investigator – Indian (**This resume concerns the Principal Indian Investigator whose name appears in Part 1.)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title |  |
| First Names |  |
| Family Name |  |
| Nationality |  |
| Year of Birth |  |

**Resume** (Relevance of the researcher’s professional background to the proposed research).

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In addition, please enclose abbreviated Curriculum Vitae, which should include the following:

1. Academic and professional training, including names of institutions, years of study, degrees and diplomas.
2. Academic and professional experience, including names of institutes and companies, role and period.
3. Research areas (detailed areas of research in which the researcher has been involved).
4. Publications and patents (during last two years).
5. Any additional detail which may assist in evaluating the professional background of the researcher.

**Principal Investigator - Tunisia** (This resume concerns the Principal Tunisian Investigator whose name appears in Part 1).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title |  |
| First Names |  |
| Family Name |  |
| Nationality |  |
| Year of Birth |  |

**Resume** (Relevance of the researcher’s professional background to the proposed research).

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In addition, please enclose abbreviated Curriculum Vitae, which should include the following:

1. Academic and professional training, including names of institutions, years of study, degrees and diplomas.
2. Academic and professional experience, including names of institutes and companies, role and period.
3. Research areas (detailed areas of research in which the researcher has been involved).
4. Publications and patents (during last two years).
5. Any additional detail which may assist in evaluating the professional background of the researcher.

**Research history of both PIs. (Ongoing / Completed projects with the PIs (last 5 years)**

**Indian PI**

**National Projects:**

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

**International Projects:**

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

**National Projects:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
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| **S. No.** | **Project Title** | **Sponsoring Agency** | **Budget** | **Status** |
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**International Projects:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **S. No.** | **Project Title** | **Name of the Collaborating Scientist & Institute** | **Sponsoring Agency** | **Budget** | **Status** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**PART IV: FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Budget plan (Project Cost) – Indian side**

(All *costs should be in Indian Rs. for projects submitted by Indian PIs to DST)*

**(Rs.)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1st Financial Year | 2nd Financial year | 3rd Financial year |
| Consumables and Accessories |  |  |  |
| Manpower |  |  |  |
| Contingency |  |  |  |
| Visit of Indian Scientists to Tunisia |  |  |  |
| Visit of Tunisian scientist to India (Local hospitality) |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |

* Please list our consumable and accessories items
* Full justification should be given for each budget head

**Budget plan (Project Cost) – Tunisian side**

**(TND)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1st Financial Year | 2nd Financial year | 3rd Financial year |
| **Consumables an small equipments:**   * Up to 30–40% of the total budget may be allocated for consumables and accessories. * The acquisition of computer and office equipment is an ineligible expense |  |  |  |
| **Human Resources:** The participation of research students and post-doc is encouraged. |  |  |  |
| **Scientific Events and Meetings:** Support is available for organizing and participating in scientific conferences, seminars, and meetings. |  |  |  |
| publication and filing fees for scientific publications and patent applications. |  |  |  |
| analyses and processing samples |  |  |  |
| Visit of Tunisian scientist to India |  |  |  |
| Visit of Indian scientist to Tunisia (local hospitality) |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |

**PART V OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT**

**1 Is this research currently being supported by other sources?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **YES** | **NO** |

If yes, please indicate the sources, amounts and periods of support.

**Indian side:**

**Tunisian side:**

**2 Has this project been submitted to other agencies for financial support?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **YES** | **NO** |

If yes, please indicate which agencies, and when.

**Indian side:**

**Tunisian side:**

A. Signatures of the Principal Investigators & Institutions

**▶ Indian PI**

Name Signature Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**▶ Tunisian PI**

Name Signature Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B. Declaration from the Heads of the Collaborating Institutions

It is certified that

1. the Institutions agree to participate in this Joint Research Project;
2. the Institutions shall provide necessary facilities for implementing the Joint Research Project;
3. the Institutions assume financial & other management responsibilities for the duration of the project to be carried out at their institution; and
4. the back‑up funding for manpower, consumable etc. is available for this Joint Research Project.

Signature of the Heads of the Institutions

**▶ Head of the Indian Institution**

Name Signature Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**▶ Designated authority at Tunisian Institution**

Name Signature Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_