**Government of India**

**Ministry of Science and Technology**

**Department of Science and Technology**

**SEED-SSTP Division**

**Scheme for Young Scientist & Technologist (SYST) Programme**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2025**

Scheme for Young Scientist & Technologist (SYST) programme of Department of Science and Technology (DST) is focused to motivate and nurture young scientist & technologists who have adequate background and training in fields of science and technology and show inclination to undertake socially relevant action research projects. Young Scientists are promoted for finding affordable and adaptable Science and Technological (S&T) solutions for identi­fied socio-economic challenges and livelihood of marginalized communities for sustainable and inclusive development of society.

Call for project proposals are invited in two components\* under the following identi­fied thrust areas:

* Technologies in Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry
* Green Technologies: Solutions for underutilized crops/ Vegetables, Sustainable Rural Housing, Textile from Natural fibres and additives, Health and Hygiene for underprivileged
* Renewable Energy: Solutions for Sustainable livelihoods
* Marine Biology: Priority on seaweed and fisheries transformative technologies
* Waste Valorisation: Turning Agro/animal waste into Economic Resources
* Occupational Health and Safety: Reducing Drudgery and Enhancing Worker Welfare

**\*COMPONENT A: For Employed Young Scientists**

**\*COMPONENT B: Special Call for Unemployed Young Scientists (for SC/ ST category)**

ELIGIBILITY

* Quali­fication: Ph.D. in Basic and Applied Sciences/MD/MS. Those who have submitted PhD thesis will also be considered.
* Age: Less than 40 years on the last date of submission of the application.

Age relaxation of 5 years for Women/ Differently-abled (Divyangjan) /SC/ST/OBC/EWS.

* For young scientists who don’t have regular employment (for component B):

Young Scientists should align himself/herself with Academic (Govt/Pvt) S&T departments or S&T Institutions.

The host organization must agree to facilitate smooth execution of the project and provide necessary infrastructure/ facilities for this purpose.

Mentor: Mentor should hold a Permanent/Regular position and possess expertise in proposed area of intervention.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are required to submit a soft copy of the proposal through http://onlinedst.gov.in **before or on 31st March 2025**, in prescribed format available at DST website www.dst.gov.in. Project tenure proposed should not be more than three years. A Screening Committee constituted by DST will screen the proposals received and only selected candidates will be called for presentation.

For more information, please refer DST website: <https://dst.gov.in/programmes-innitiatives>

NOTE:

* Basic exploratory research proposals and surveys will not be considered.
* Principal Investigator whose project proposal was not recommended by DST under the previous calls under SYST need not submit the same proposal again.
* Candidates are requested to submit single proposal only.
* The incomplete applications will be summarily rejected by DST without any consideration.
* Project if recommended, will not be transferred to any other Scientist/ Researcher

For any questions/queries relating to submission of proposal under this Call, may call on 011-29512324 or mail to the following address:

Dr. Anita Aggarwal (HEAD), email: [anita.a@nic.in](mailto:anita.a@nic.in)

Or

Dr. Akanksha Gupta (Scientist), email: [akanksha.g@gov.in](mailto:akanksha.g@gov.in)

Science for Equity, Empowerment & Development (SEED) Division, Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016

**APPLICATION FORMAT**

**SCHEME FOR YOUNG SCIENTIST AND TECHNOLOGIST (SYST) PROGRAMME**

**Call for project proposals are invited in two components:**

**COMPONENT A: For Employed Young Scientists**

**COMPONENT B: Special Call for Unemployed Young Scientists (for SC/ ST category)**

* ***Please read the guidelines carefully before submission of project proposal***
* ***Last Date for Submission of Online Proposals is 31/03/2025***



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**TECHNOLOGY BHAVAN, NEW MEHRAULI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110016**

**SCHEME FOR YOUNG SCIENTIST AND TECHNOLOGIST (SYST)**

**COMPONENT A: For Employed Young Scientists**

## Annexure-I

### ENDORSEMENT FROM THE HEAD OF INSTITUTION

### (TO BE GIVEN ON LETTER HEAD)

PROJECT TITLE:

* 1. Certified that the Institute welcomes participation of Dr./Shri/Smt./Km……..……..……as the Principal Investigator and Dr./Shri/Smt./Km……………..……..as the Co-Investigator for the project. In the unforeseen event of discontinuance by the Principal Investigator, the Co-Investigator will assume the responsibility for the fruitful completion of the project (after obtaining consent in advance from DST).
  2. Certified that the equipment, other basic facilities and such other administrative facilities as per terms and conditions of the grant, will be extended to investigator (s) throughout the duration of the project.
  3. Institute assures financial and other managerial responsibilities of the project.
  4. Certified that the organization has never been blacklisted by any department of the State Government or Central Government.
  5. This proposal has not been submitted to any other agency / organization for financial support.

Signature of Executive Authority

of Institute/ University with Seal with date

**Date:**

**Place**: **Signature Principal Investigator**

**Date:**

**Place**: **Signature**

**Co- Investigator**

**Annexure-II**

**CERTIFICATE FROM PI & Co-I**

PROJECT TITLE:

1. This is to certify that the information given in the proposal is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. We agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the DST grant.
3. Support of SEED division, DST will be acknowledged in all future internal or external publications/ reports/ presentations etc. and IPR guidelines will be followed.
4. We undertake that spare time on permanent equipment procured through DST grant will be made available to other users for larger societal benefit.
5. We will keep ready to provide following materials & documents in case project proposal is shortlisted/ selected by DST (in soft copy)
6. Valid Registration certificate (only for Private organizations)
7. Memorandum of association, rules and regulations of the institution (only for Private organizations)
8. Audited Balance Sheets/ audited accounts of last 3 years (only for Private organizations).
9. Annual reports of last 3 years (only for Private organizations).

**Date:**

**Place**: **Signature Principal Investigator**

**Date:**

**Place**: **Signature**

**Co- Investigator**

**Annexure-III**

**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

# POLICY ON 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.

## Coverage of the Policy:

1. 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.
2. 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.)

## 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 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 a 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.

## 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 stake holders 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.

## 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.

## Code of Conduct

* 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 Chair-person 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Sanction for violation

### For a) Reviewers / Committee Members and b) Applicant

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

### 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.

## 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 Secretary, DST in these issues shall be final and binding.

## Declaration

**I** **have** **read** **the** **above** **“Policy** **on** **Conflict** **of** **Interest”** **of** **the** **DST** **applicable** **to** **the** **Reviewer/** **Committee** **Member/** **Applicant/** **DST** **Scheme** **or** **Program** **Officer** **#** **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 \*

\* & # (Tick whichever is applicable)

# Name of the Reviewer/ Committee Member or Applicant or DST Officer

*(****Strike*** ***out*** ***whichever*** ***is*** ***not*** ***applicable****)*

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

**SUBMISSION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS**

The Principal Investigator should submit the project proposal online only through DST’s Electronic Project Management System (e-PMS) online portal www.onlinedst.gov.in in the given format along with necessary documents. Proposal submitted by any other means will be summarily rejected. The investigators may please note the following for submission of proposal online.

(a) Browse onlinedst.gov.in to access the homepage of the “DST e-PMS Portal”

(b) Applicants should register as a Principal Investigator (PI) in DST’s Online Portal (onlinedst.gov.in) for submission of online project proposals. Registered PIs may get an option of “submit proposal”, under calls that are open

(c) “Submit Proposals” link would take you to a page seeking information starting with General Information, Details of Principal Investigator etc.

(d) The project proposal should be submitted in prescribed format under Scheme for Young Scientist and Technologist (SYST) programme.

(e) Ensure to fill all the mandatory information sought against each menu/item.

(f) After filling all the particulars there is provision for previewing the details filled before final submission of application form by clicking on “Preview” button. Preview page will display all the particulars that you have mentioned. Click on “Submit” button for final submission of the proposal.

(g) Applicants are advised to carefully fill and verify the details filled in the online application as no change will be possible after clicking the Final Submit Button.

(h) Generation of TPN number ensures successful submission of project proposal. The TPN number generated after submission of project proposal may be noted for future reference.

(i) Before filling up the form candidates are advised to carefully go through the call for proposals published at the DST Website (www.dst.gov.in)

(j) The Last Date for Submission of Online Proposals is **31/03/2025** after which the web-link will be automatically disabled for any usage

(k) Do not send any hard copy of the project proposal to the DST – **NO HARD COPIES**

**BRIEF GUIDELINES OF SCHEME FOR YOUNG SCINETIST AND TECHNOLOGIST (SYST) PROGRAMME**

**1. OBJECTIVE**

Development of technologies, techniques and processes for societal problem centric solutions through Science and Technology (S&T) interventions.

**2. SCOPE**

The developed technologies, techniques and processes should focus on solving the societal based problems to improve the quality of life and livelihood of marginalized communities.

**3. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS**

The project proposals should aim at providing solutions for socio-economic problems through S&T interventions. The project proposals should be submitted only in the identified thrust areas given in the call document. The following organizations/institutes are eligible for receiving financial support:

(a) Government Academic Institutions (Central and State Government), Government S&T bodies, R&D Labs etc.

(b) Private Academic Institutions (Universities/ Colleges/ Institutions and Government Aided Colleges recognized or regulated by UGC/AICTE/MCI/DCI/PCI etc) – would be considered as Non-Government Organization (NGO) and shall use ‘NGO/ VO’ option during the process of online submission of proposal.

* Having adequate R&D infrastructure to execute the project.
* The organization has not been blacklisted by any Central or State Government Department.

Private Academic Institutions are also required to submit the following documents while submission of proposal online on the DST e-PMS portal.

* Copy of valid registration certificate/Trust Deed, Memorandum of Association
* Audited Statement of Accounts and Annual Activity Reports of the organization for the last 3 financial years.
* Organization’s Unique ID in NGO Darpan Portal

**4. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. Co-Investigator (Co-I) as regular faculty is desirable in the project and if PI leave the project in between the duration of the project then it is responsibility of the Co-Investigator (Co-I) to complete the project (with prior permission from DST). The Co-I is not eligible for any separate grants under the programme.
2. The young scientists are not eligible to receive any other fellowship from any Government or Non-Governmental source during the tenure of the fellowship.
3. The fellows must inform DST if he/she intends to be away from the implementing institute (except for field work related to the project) continuously for a period more than four weeks.
4. Change of Host Institution (transfer of project from one institution to another) is only permitted if the remaining duration of the project is more than nine months and with the approval of Chairman and competent authority in DST.
5. The Principal Investigator (PI) applying for a project should not have any ongoing projects under SYST programme. If there are any ongoing projects, their completion date must be within six months from the time of applying for the next call for proposals under the SYST Programme.
6. No PI can avail the grant from the said programme more than twice.
7. Continuation and financial support for project will depend on evaluation of progress report by expert team of DST from time to time. Non-performance may lead to stoppage of grant/disqualification for further project support.
8. It is important to note that the young scientist who are not in a regular position and applying under part A call for proposal will not be eligible under Part B, if selected during the entire duration of the project.

#### Termination of the Fellowship

* If any fellow wishes to terminate the fellowship, he/she shall inform the DST atleast one month prior. The implementing institute should not incur any expenditure from the date of termination of the project or the date of resignation of PI.
* DST reserves the right to terminate the Fellowship at any stage if it is convinced that appropriate progress is not being made or the grant has not been utilized properly.

**5. THE BUDGET LIMIT FOR THE PROJECTS SUPPORT UNDER SYST PROGRAMME IS AS FOLLOWS:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Under Component A call for proposals | Qualification | Amount of Fellowship | Ceiling of total cost of project including overhead charges |
| 1. | Employed Young Scientist | Ph.D. in Basic and Applied Sciences/MD/MS | -- | Rs. 50 lakhs |

**6. GUIDELINES FOR RELEASING OF THE GRANT**

* 1. The projects recommended for financial support by EC will be put up for financial concurrence of Integrated Financial Division (IFD) of DST.
  2. Costs for Manpower, Consumables, Travel, Trainings/Demonstrations, Field Trials/Testing, Infrastructure/Equipment, Fabrication Costs, Contingencies, and Overheads will be supported as per extant norms/guidelines.
  3. The emoluments for manpower shall be sanctioned as per extant norms of DST or as per any other specific guidelines issued by Programme Division (PD) from time to time with approval of competent authority.

**7. GUIDELINES FOR GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS**

1. The extant GFR rules are to be followed while incurring expenditure under the project and submission of audited accounts (Utilization Certificate, Statement of Expenditure etc).
2. As far as possible, equipment should be purchased through Government e-Market (GeM) portal.
3. In case the equipment is not available in GeM or has to be fabricated, prior approval of DST should be taken from DST for purchase of the same through other sources/vendors.
4. Any expenditure in the project is to be incurred only through PFMS or as per guidelines issued by the Department from time to time
5. Subsequent release of the grant for the project is subject to satisfactory progress of the project in review meetings and timely submission of progress report and audited accounts for the project.
6. The release of subsequent installments will be generally restricted to 50-80% of the recurring grant and 100% of non-recurring grant sanctioned for that particular year, depending on expenditure made in the previous year.
7. The final installment will be released only after Completion of the Project, Review of Output/Outcomes of the Project and Endorsement of Project Completion Report by the EC and submission of requisite documents by the institute.
8. The PI/HI will follow all the guidelines as contained in the GFR 2017. The Principal Investigator(PI)/Host Institution (HI) shall submit performance cum achievement reports after the end of the financial year preferably within three months.
9. Institutions/organization receiving funds for execution of the project would assume financial and legal administrative responsibility for execution of the project.
10. Project implementing agency/organization will be responsible in case of any legal dispute between the agency/organization and PI/Co-I/project staff. DST will not be liable for such legal cases of disputes.
11. The equipment/infrastructure procured in the project should be handed over to the beneficiaries after the completion of the project.
12. Other provisions of GFR would also apply to the project/HI/PI including any other changes/modifications/new rules/guidelines issued by Government of India from time to time.

**8. SELECTION AND RECOMMENDATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS**

Each project proposal received under the SYST Programme is critically examined by the Sub Expert Committee (SEC) comprising of experts/members from Expert Committee (EC) constituted by the competent authority. The SEC can either (i) shortlist the project proposal for presentation, (ii) suggest peer review or (iii) Screen out the project proposal. The investigators of the shortlisted (screened in) proposals are called for presentation before EC. The recommendation of EC will be final in all respects. The EC can also suggest revision, modification, handholding under the guidance of members of EC/Secretariat etc as deemed fit based on the presentation by the PI’s.

***Note: The guidelines provided above are for reference and guidance purposes and are not exhaustive.***

***For more information: please refer SYST programme on DST website https://dst.gov.in/***

**SCHEME FOR YOUNG SCIENTIST AND TECHNOLOGIST (SYST)**

**COMPONENT B: Special Call for Unemployed Young Scientists (for SC/ ST category)**

## Annexure-I

### ENDORSEMENT FROM THE HEAD OF INSTITUTION

### (TO BE GIVEN ON LETTER HEAD)

PROJECT TITLE:

1. Certified that the Institute welcomes participation of Dr./Shri/Smt./Km……..……..……as the Principal Investigator and Dr./Shri/Smt./Km……………..……..as the Mentor for the project.
2. Certified that the equipment, other basic facilities and such other administrative facilities as per terms and conditions of the grant, will be extended to investigator (s) throughout the duration of the project.
3. Institute assures financial and other managerial responsibilities of the project.
4. Certified that the organization has never been blacklisted by any department of the State Government or Central Government.
5. This proposal has not been submitted to any other agency / organization for financial support.

Signature of Executive Authority

of Institute/ University with Seal with date

**Signature**

**Principal Investigator**

**Date:**

**Place**:

**Signature**

**Mentor**

**Date:**

**Place**:

**Annexure-II**

**CERTIFICATE FROM PI**

PROJECT TITLE:

1. This is to certify that the information given in the proposal is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. We agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the DST grant.
3. Support of SEED division, DST will be acknowledged in all future internal or external publications/ reports/ presentations etc. and IPR guidelines will be followed.
4. We undertake that spare time on permanent equipment procured through DST grant will be made available to other users for larger societal benefit.
5. We will keep ready to provide following materials & documents in case project proposal is shortlisted/ selected by DST (in soft copy)
6. Valid Registration certificate (only for Private organizations)
7. Memorandum of association, rules and regulations of the institution (only for Private organizations)
8. Audited Balance Sheets/ audited accounts of last 3 years (only for Private organizations).
9. Annual reports of last 3 years (only for Private organizations).

**Date:**

**Place**: **Signature Principal Investigator**

**Date:**

**Place**: **Signature**

**Mentor**

**Annexure-III**

**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

# POLICY ON 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.

## Coverage of the Policy:

1. 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.
2. 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.)

## 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 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 a 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.

## 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 stake holders 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.

## 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.

## Code of Conduct

* 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 Chair-person 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Sanction for violation

### For a) Reviewers / Committee Members and b) Applicant

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

### 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.

## 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 Secretary, DST in these issues shall be final and binding.

## Declaration

**I** **have** **read** **the** **above** **“Policy** **on** **Conflict** **of** **Interest”** **of** **the** **DST** **applicable** **to** **the** **Reviewer/** **Committee** **Member/** **Applicant/** **DST** **Scheme** **or** **Program** **Officer** **#** **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 \*

\* & # (Tick whichever is applicable)

# Name of the Reviewer/ Committee Member or Applicant or DST Officer

*(****Strike*** ***out*** ***whichever*** ***is*** ***not*** ***applicable****)*

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

**SUBMISSION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS**

The Principal Investigator should submit the project proposal online only through DST’s Electronic Project Management System (e-PMS) online portal www.onlinedst.gov.in in the given format along with necessary documents. Proposal submitted by any other means will be summarily rejected. The investigators may please note the following for submission of proposal online.

(a) Browse onlinedst.gov.in to access the homepage of the “DST e-PMS Portal”

(b) Applicants should register as a Principal Investigator (PI) in DST’s Online Portal (onlinedst.gov.in) for submission of online project proposals. Registered PIs may get an option of “submit proposal”, under calls that are open

(c) “Submit Proposals” link would take you to a page seeking information starting with General Information, Details of Principal Investigator etc.

(d) The project proposal should be submitted in prescribed format under Scheme for Young Scientist and Technologist (SYST) programme.

(e) Ensure to fill all the mandatory information sought against each menu/item.

(f) After filling all the particulars there is provision for previewing the details filled before final submission of application form by clicking on “Preview” button. Preview page will display all the particulars that you have mentioned. Click on “Submit” button for final submission of the proposal.

(g) Applicants are advised to carefully fill and verify the details filled in the online application as no change will be possible after clicking the Final Submit Button.

(h) Generation of TPN number ensures successful submission of project proposal. The TPN number generated after submission of project proposal may be noted for future reference.

(i) Before filling up the form candidates are advised to carefully go through the call for proposals published at the DST Website (www.dst.gov.in)

(j) The Last Date for Submission of Online Proposals is **31/03/2025** after which the web-link will be automatically disabled for any usage

(k) Do not send any hard copy of the project proposal to the DST – **NO HARD COPIES**

**BRIEF GUIDELINES OF SCHEME FOR YOUNG SCINETIST AND TECHNOLOGIST (SYST) PROGRAMME**

**1. OBJECTIVE**

Development of technologies, techniques and processes for societal problem centric solutions through Science and Technology (S&T) interventions.

**2. SCOPE**

The developed technologies, techniques and processes should focus on solving the societal based problems to improve the quality of life and livelihood of marginalized communities.

**3. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS**

The project proposals should aim at providing solutions for socio-economic problems through S&T interventions. The project proposals should be submitted only in the identified thrust areas given in the call document. The following organizations/institutes are eligible for receiving financial support:

(a) Government Academic Institutions (Central and State Government), Government S&T bodies, R&D Labs etc.

(b) Private Academic Institutions (Universities/ Colleges/ Institutions and Government Aided Colleges recognized or regulated by UGC/AICTE/MCI/DCI/PCI etc) – would be considered as Non-Government Organization (NGO) and shall use ‘NGO/ VO’ option during the process of online submission of proposal.

* Having adequate R&D infrastructure to execute the project.
* The organization has not been blacklisted by any Central or State Government Department.

Private Academic Institutions are also required to submit the following documents while submission of proposal online on the DST e-PMS portal.

* Copy of valid registration certificate/Trust Deed, Memorandum of Association
* Audited Statement of Accounts and Annual Activity Reports of the organization for the last 3 financial years.
* Organization’s Unique ID in NGO Darpan Portal

**4. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. Young scientists will not be permitted to work with their Ph.D. guide or co-guide (as mentor). Additionally, it is not allowed to pursue this opportunity within the same department or institution where the young scientist completed their Ph.D. degree.
2. The young scientists are not eligible to receive any other fellowship from any Government or Non-Governmental source during the tenure of the fellowship.
3. The fellows must inform DST if he/she intends to be away from the implementing institute (except for field work related to the project) continuously for a period more than four weeks.
4. Change of Host Institution (transfer of project from one institution to another) is only permitted if the remaining duration of the project should be more than nine months and with the approval of Chairman and competent authority in DST.
5. The Principal Investigator (PI) applying for a project should not have any ongoing projects under SYST programme. If there are any ongoing projects, their completion date must be within six months from the time of applying for the next call for proposals under the SYST Programme.
6. No PI can avail the grant from the said programme more than twice.
7. Continuation and financial support for project will depend on evaluation of progress report by expert team of DST from time to time. Non-performance may lead to stoppage of grant/disqualification for further project support.

#### Termination of the Fellowship

* If any fellow wishes to terminate the fellowship, he/she shall inform the DST atleast one month prior. The implementing institute should not incur any expenditure from the date of termination of the project or the date of resignation of PI.
* DST reserves the right to terminate the Fellowship at any stage if it is convinced that appropriate progress is not being made or the grant has not been utilized properly.

**5. THE BUDGET LIMIT FOR THE PROJECTS SUPPORT UNDER SYST PROGRAMME IS AS FOLLOWS:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No. | Under Component B call for proposals | Qualification | Amount of Fellowship of young scientist | Ceiling of total cost of project including overhead charges |
| 1. | Special call for Unemployed Young Scientist (for SC/ST category) |  | Rs.67,000/- +HRA per month | Rs. 60 lakhs including the fellowship of Young Scientist |

**6. GUIDELINES FOR RELEASING OF THE GRANT**

* 1. The projects recommended for financial support by EC will be put up for financial concurrence of Integrated Financial Division (IFD) of DST.
  2. Costs for Manpower, Consumables, Travel, Trainings/Demonstrations, Field Trials/Testing, Infrastructure/Equipment, Fabrication Costs, Contingencies, and Overheads will be supported as per extant norms/guidelines.
  3. The emoluments for manpower shall be sanctioned as per extant norms of DST or as per any other specific guidelines issued by Programme Division (PD) from time to time with approval of competent authority.

**7. GUIDELINES FOR GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS**

1. The extant GFR rules are to be followed while incurring expenditure under the project and submission of audited accounts (Utilization Certificate, Statement of Expenditure etc).
2. As far as possible, equipment should be purchased through Government e-Market (GeM) portal.
3. In case the equipment is not available in GeM or has to be fabricated, prior approval of DST should be taken from DST for purchase of the same through other sources/vendors.
4. Any expenditure in the project is to be incurred only through PFMS or as per guidelines issued by the Department from time to time
5. Subsequent release of the grant for the project is subject to satisfactory progress of the project in review meetings and timely submission of progress report and audited accounts for the project.
6. The release of subsequent installments will be generally restricted to 50-80% of the recurring grant and 100% of non-recurring grant sanctioned for that particular year, depending on expenditure made in the previous year.
7. The final installment will be released only after Completion of the Project, Review of Output/Outcomes of the Project and Endorsement of Project Completion Report by the EC and submission of requisite documents by the institute.
8. The PI/HI will follow all the guidelines as contained in the GFR 2017. The Principal Investigator (PI)/Host Institution (HI) shall submit performance cum achievement reports after the end of the financial year preferably within three months.
9. Institutions/organization receiving funds for execution of the project would assume financial and legal administrative responsibility for execution of the project.
10. Project implementing agency/organization will be responsible in case of any legal dispute between the agency/organization and PI/Co-I/project staff. DST will not be liable for such legal cases of disputes.
11. The equipment/infrastructure procured in the project should be handed over to the beneficiaries after the completion of the project.
12. Other provisions of GFR would also apply to the project/HI/PI including any other changes/modifications/new rules/guidelines issued by Government of India from time to time.

**8. SELECTION AND RECOMMENDATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS**

Each project proposal received under the SYST Programme is critically examined by the Sub Expert Committee (SEC) comprising of experts/members from Expert Committee (EC) constituted by the competent authority. The SEC can either (i) shortlist the project proposal for presentation, (ii) suggest peer review or (iii) Screen out the project proposal. The investigators of the shortlisted (screened in) proposals are called for presentation before EC. The recommendation of EC will be final in all respects. The EC can also suggest revision, modification, handholding under the guidance of members of EC/Secretariat etc as deemed fit based on the presentation by the PI’s.

***Note: The guidelines provided above are for reference and guidance purposes and are not exhaustive.***

***For more information: please refer SYST programme on DST website https://dst.gov.in/***