

IUSSTF boosts Indo-US virtual networks to address COVID 19 challenges

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The Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF), has invited Proposals for 'COVID-19 Indo-U.S. Virtual Networks' that would allow Indian and U.S. scientists and engineers currently engaged in COVID-related research to carry out joint research activities through a virtual mechanism, leveraging existing infrastructure and funding. Proposals that convincingly demonstrate the benefits and value of the Indo-U.S. partnership to advance research and address critical challenges related to COVID-19 are encouraged.

Global challenges like COVID 19 call for global collaborations and partnerships, bringing together the best and brightest scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs to work together to find solutions not only to address the current pandemic but also for the challenges that lie ahead. The IUSSTF is booting such collaborations for this specific purpose in keeping with their core mandate to catalyze collaborative initiatives across both countries.

The IUSSTF established under an agreement between the Governments of India and the United States of America in March 2000 is an autonomous bilateral organization jointly funded by both the Governments that promotes Science, Technology, Engineering, and Innovation through substantive interaction among government, academia, and industry. The Department of Science and Technology, Governments of India, and the U.S. Department of State are respective nodal departments.

"Doing science in the time of COVID-19 is globally bringing to the fore such elements as effective communication, need- recognition, collaboration, speed, translational & tech aspects, transparency, accountability, societal benefits, and a general zeal for problem solving. Effective solutions that emerge are likely to be transnational. IUSSTF has had a history of developing relevant technologies through strong collaborations and is thus a good platform for the activity being launched", said Prof Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology.

As the world battles the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that the S&T communities work together and share resources to address this global challenge. Science, Engineering, and Technology will play a critical role in finding solutions through the development of new vaccines, devices, diagnostic tools, and information systems, as well as strategies to help communities and nations manage and deploy resources to combat this pandemic. Collaboration across nations and organizations can leverage and share expertise across S&T communities and facilitate the development of a diverse, globally-engaged science, engineering, and technology-abled workforce, which can proactively work towards solutions for the Pandemic. Applications will be accepted online from 15 April 2020 and till 15 May 2020.

[For more details, please visit <https://www.iusstf.org/>

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The poster features the IUSSTF logo at the top center, with the text 'Indo-US Science and Technology Forum' below it. The main title is 'Call for Proposals Indo-U.S. Virtual Networks for COVID-19'. The background is a light pink color with a faint, stylized illustration of a virus particle. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with key sections highlighted in red boxes.

IUSSTF
Indo-US Science and Technology Forum

Call for Proposals Indo-U.S. Virtual Networks for COVID-19

Across the world, countries are being challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic in ways they have never been before. To support the global efforts of the medical and scientific community, the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) announces a **Call for Proposals** to support **COVID-19 Virtual Networks**. IUSSTF invites proposals that highlight the value of the Indo-U.S. partnership to advance research and address critical challenges related to COVID-19.

Virtual Networks would allow Indian and U.S. scientists and engineers currently engaged in COVID-related research to carry out joint research activities through a virtual mechanism, leveraging existing infrastructure and funding. Proposals are invited in two categories:

- **Knowledge R&D Networks** that enable Indian and U.S. scientists from Academia and Laboratories to conduct joint research and encourage the integration of research and education.
- **Public-Private Virtual Networks** that enable Indian and U.S. scientists from Academia and Industry to collaborate on pre-commercial R&D activities having potential towards applied research and product development.

Eligibility

- Teams at Indian and U.S. Academic Institutions, Laboratories and/or Industries that are actively engaged in COVID-19 research funded by Federal Agencies and/or Foundations.
- Each proposal must involve at least one Indian and one U.S. Institution.
- All partners should have intellectual and financial stake in the activities by contributing resources required for project execution.

Type and Extent of Funding by IUSSTF

- INR 25,00,000/- to INR 50,00,000/- per project [approx. \$33,000/- to \$66,000/-].
- Funding would be available for a period of 18 months.
- The Grant-in-Aid would cover:
 - Partial support for Personnel (Students/PostDocs);
 - Basic Infrastructure (limited supplies), if needed;
 - Limited travel (with justification); and,
 - Contingencies for dissemination of research, educational materials and reports.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted online from 15th April 2020 onwards with a submission deadline of 15th May 2020.

For more details, please visit www.iusstf.org

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