

Catalytic Collaborative Grant – Guidelines for Phase III

All proposals must fall within the remit of Biomedical Research and be based in India

Successful awards will be activated within the financial year in which the decision for each round is made.

1. Purpose

The Catalytic Collaborative Grant (CCG) supports established scientists in India with a strong research track record to pursue new research directions that are clearly rooted in their existing body of work. Through collaboration, Investigators are expected to leverage complementary strengths to pursue research questions beyond the scope of their individual laboratories and achieve a meaningful expansion in scope, ambition, or approach. While bold pivots are not discouraged, proposals must demonstrate a clear intellectual foundation in prior research. The programme aims to catalyse impactful new trajectories and position investigators for future large-scale collaborative funding.

The Principal Investigator (PI) holds primary responsibility for the intellectual leadership, strategic direction, and overall delivery of the programme. The PI is accountable for ensuring scientific coherence, effective management, and achievement of the stated objectives. The grant supports structured collaboration with one or, at most, two Co-Investigators whose complementary expertise is integral to the design and execution of the proposed research. Co-Investigators are expected to make substantive intellectual and/or technical contributions and to assume clearly defined responsibilities within the programme. They may be at different career stages and based at the same or different institutions. While collaborative in structure, the PI retains overall leadership, with roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes clearly articulated at the proposal stage.

The grant enables:

- Up to three years of focused support to drive an ambitious, forward-looking research direction rooted in established strengths.
- The generation of compelling preliminary data and conceptual breakthroughs that position the programme competitively for future large-scale collaborative funding.
- Strengthen scientific leadership, build collaborative capacity, and expand technical and methodological capabilities.

2. Remit

All proposals must fall within the remit of Biomedical research including Basic science, Clinical and Public Health research and be based in an institution in India. Proposals should have clearly articulated goals and outcomes over a 3-year period.

India Alliance does not support applications focused primarily on:

- Infrastructure development
- Creation or maintenance of a community resource. Proposals in the domain of public health must have a clearly defined study cohort at the time of application.
- Standalone technology development, although technology development may be included as part of a broader scientific objective.
- Regulatory clinical trials conducted solely for that purpose, although Academic Trials are fundable under the scheme. (*The academic clinical trial as per GSR 313*)

(E) dated 16 March 2016 is a clinical trial intended for academic purposes in respect of approved drug formulations for any new indication or new route of administration or new dose or new dosage form. For more details, refer to [ICMR Ethical Guidelines 2017.pdf](#)).

3. **Eligibility Criteria**

a. **Principal Investigator (PI):**

- Should have PhD; MD/MS or equivalent; MPH or equivalent
- Must be an established scientist with an exceptional steady track record
Should have between 6-12 years'* experience leading an independent research laboratory/group in India
- Should hold a regular academic or research position and have a salary, or the guarantee of a salary, for the duration of the award period
- Should hold an official service tenure that extends for the full duration of the proposed project plus an additional year, calculated from the final submission deadline
- Final determinations regarding eligibility are made by India Alliance.

***EXCEPTION: For the Round 1 in 2026, PI with 6-14 years' experience of leading an independent research lab in India will be considered.**

b. **Host Institution[s]:**

- The PI Host Institution must be based in India.
- Institution[s] hosting PI and Co-Investigator[s] must be financially eligible to receive DBT WT India Alliance (India Alliance) funding.
- All Institutions should be committed to administer the grant for the entire duration.
- The PI's Host Institution should have the ability to transfer funds, maintain accounts and report these on behalf of all participating institutions, including any foreign counterparts, if applicable.
- For more than one participating institution, if an MoU is not already in place, all participating Institutions must be able to ensure that an MoU for collaboration can be signed before the grant activation. **A draft MoU, with agreed terms, will be required for applicants shortlisted for the interview.**
- Must have Institutional Committees that ensure compliance with statutory regulation and research ethics requirements of the country.
- Must have a formal Conflict of Interest policy in place, including clear procedures for its disclosure and management.
- Must have policies to ensure good research practice and to handle allegations on Research Misconduct, Bullying and Harassment, Abuse and Harm, and plagiarism.

- The following documents will be required if shortlisted:

To establish not-for-profit status (unless exempted)	
1	Registration Certificate (Trust / Society / Section 8 Company)
2	Governance Document – Trust Deed / Memorandum of Association & Bye-laws / Rules & Regulations
3	Institution PAN Card
4	12A Registration Certificate (Income Tax Act exemption)

5	Website link for List of Trustees / Governing Body / Board Members
Documents for due diligence (regardless of exemption)	
6	Audited Financial Statements (last 3 years)
7	Host Institution website link/pdf of most recent Annual Report

4. Investigator Framework

Applications may be submitted by one Principal Investigator (PI) with up to two co-Investigators. The PI holds overall responsibility for the conception, scientific direction, coordination, and delivery of the research programme. The grant is intended to enable the PI to build on established strengths while advancing into a clearly defined and ambitious new area of enquiry through meaningful collaboration. Co-Investigator[s] must provide complementary expertise that substantively enhances the programme and extends it beyond the PI's current capabilities. This may include contributions to conceptual development and experimental design, access to specialised methodologies or advanced techniques, and leadership of defined work packages.

Co-Investigator[s] are expected to satisfy the following conditions:

- Should have PhD; MD/MS or equivalent; MPH or equivalent
- Have a record of research achievements appropriate for their career stage
- Should hold a regular academic or research position and have a salary, or the guarantee of a salary, at a financially eligible Host Institution for the duration of the grant period.
- Should have an official service tenure that extends for the full duration of the proposed project plus at least an additional year, calculated from the final submission deadline.

There is no age or nationality restriction for investigators participating in this grant. They must be able to commit an appropriate proportion of their time to ensure successful project execution. Investigators may be based in different organisations or in different departments within the same organisation. Gender balance and geographical diversity is encouraged.

In any given round, an individual may submit only one application as Principal Investigator (PI). Explanation must be provided in all applications if there is justifiable reasons for a Co-Investigator to participate in more than one application in a given round.

The composition of the investigator team and the participating institutions, including the Co-Investigator Host Institution[s] (HI), must remain unchanged for the duration of the grant. Transfers to another organisation, sabbaticals during the award period, engagement in work outside the Host Institute, or extensions associated with maternity leave are not permitted under this scheme.

5. Roles on application

a. Principal Investigator

- Lead and coordinate the project.
- Ensure that there are valid necessary regulatory approvals, where applicable.

- Ensure submission of consolidated annual scientific and financial reports to India Alliance.
- Seek approval from India Alliance on any changes to the approved project plan or the budget prior to the implementation of the changes.
- Inform India Alliance promptly of any reports relating to research misconduct, bullying and harassment, abuse and harm, or plagiarism.

b. Co-Investigator(s)

- Contribute to the research as per the approved objectives.
- Contribute to the preparation of scientific reports.
- Ensure submission of individual financial reports and other relevant documents to the PI Host Institution.

c. Sponsor(s)

- Head of the institution/ head of the department/ equivalent with administrative authority can qualify as Sponsor who can guarantee that the Host Institution will provide space and support to carry out the funded research.
- If more than one institution is participating, each institution would need to identify a Sponsor.

d. Collaborator(s) (if applicable)

- If the proposed research involves Collaborators, applicants must include formal letters of support at the time of submission. These letters should clearly confirm the collaborators willingness to participate in the project and to provide access to agreed resources, where applicable.
- Where the collaboration involves access to specific resources-such as established cohorts, restricted datasets, clinical populations, community groups, or vulnerable populations-the letter must explicitly state the nature and scope of access being granted, any relevant conditions, and confirmation that such access is consistent with applicable institutional and ethical requirements.
- Applications lacking the required documentation may be considered incomplete.

6. Provisions

Applicants may request up to ₹4.0 Crore for a three-year project. This amount is inclusive of all project costs as well as the 5% institutional overheads. Funds will be disbursed only to the institution hosting the Principal Investigator (PI). All anticipated costs required to deliver the proposed work must be fully itemised and justified within the budget submitted at the time of application. The major provisions supported under the grant include:

- **Research expenses:** Scientifically justified costs for materials, consumables, services, minor equipment, animals and expenditures that fall within the remit of the proposal. It is expected that participating institutions will provide access to the core infrastructure required, wherever available.
- **Project Staff:** Research staff that includes a combination of Postdoctoral Fellows, Research Fellows, Project Assistants etc. may be supported (salaries as per institutional/ Gov norms), within project costs.

- Internship training support: Hosting funded internships for a minimum of four students from resource-limited/ Tier-2 or Tier-3 settings, enrolled for undergraduate, postgraduate or a PhD degree, is mandatory. This can be for 3-6 months for each intern and must be completed before the last 6 months of the grant. India Alliance funds should be utilised to cover costs of travel, stay, subsistence costs and a nominal stipend for the intern. Serving as a co-supervisor for a doctoral student in a resource-limited setting/ conducting workshops, is not a substitute for the internship. Based on the duration of the internship, up to ₹3 Lakh can be allotted for each student.
- Travel to meetings/conferences/training: To meet costs for travel of short durations to national and international meetings or conferences to present work accomplished during the Grant by Investigators, or any research staff employed in the project. The cost to cover childcare during the travel may also be utilized from this head. The travel budget cannot exceed ₹9.0 Lakh over the entire Grant period.
- Overheads: Set at 5% of the total grant costs and computed annually. Overhead costs for the 2nd year are typically released only after grant closure documents are accepted by India Alliance.

7. Costing guidelines

Costs requested should be commensurate with the research proposal and should be fully justified in the application. Inadequate justifications may result in costs being revised. As a rule, modifications to the approved budget will not be possible once a grant is activated. The annual request for funds over 3-year period must be according to the timeline of the research plan.

The upper limit for Catalytic Collaborative Grant is ₹4.0 Crore for the entire duration of the grant. This can only be utilized for the directly incurred costs that are explicitly identifiable as arising from the conduct of the research project. These costs are charged as cash value actually spent and should be verifiable by an auditable record. Applicants must provide a detailed and itemised budget, with clear justification for each cost requested. All expenses necessary to deliver the proposed research should be included at the time of submission. The final budget of the grant, as mentioned on the award letter, cannot be modified during the grant period.

India Alliance cannot pay supplementary funds; hence, it is important to present a comprehensive three-year budget. Budget expenditure is expected to be distributed equitably across all three years. Any exceptions must be justified. **In case new funding regulations by the government are implemented, the unspent amount from the annual instalment may be lost at the end of the financial year and cannot be reimbursed later by India Alliance.** Interest earned, if any, by the Host Institutions on funds transferred from India Alliance will be adjusted annually before making future disbursements.

If the project involves multiple Host Institutions or multiple laboratories within the same Host Institution, applicants must clearly describe the proposed distribution of funds across sites and investigators.

In the event of an award, India Alliance will disburse funds in Indian Rupees (₹) solely to the Sponsoring Institution of the Principal Investigator (PI), which will be responsible for onward allocation as agreed.

Budget allocations should reflect the scientific design, roles, and resource requirements of the proposed work. In many cases, the PI's laboratory will host the core programme activities and therefore manage a substantial proportion of the budget. As general guidance, Co-Investigator[s] might typically be allocated upto 40% of the total budget. However, the distribution of funds should be driven by the demands of the work plan. Where a different allocation is scientifically justified - for example, where significant or resource-intensive components are undertaken in a Co-Investigator's laboratory - applicants should provide a clear rationale aligned with the proposed activities.

If partnering institution(s) are based outside India, collectively, **no more than 25% of the approved budget may be transferred to the overseas institution(s)**. Where a co-Investigator is based at an overseas institution, applicants must ensure that the budget accounts for any taxes or charges levied on funds transferred to that institution.

Costs are grouped as:

- Personal support for Investigators: All investigators must have a regular contract of employment. Personal support can be requested for PI only in cases where an eligible Indian Host Institution can confirm in writing that the employment contract requires the Investigator to raise their salary from extramural funding. This is applicable only for the PI.
- Support staff salaries: Adequately justified support staff on the grant may include research assistants, technicians, junior research fellows, senior research fellows, research associates, senior residents, field workers, nurses, or others. Salary recommended by the Government of India should be considered as the starting salary. The total cost for salaries of support staff must include any increment or costs of expected promotions. As the employer, the Host Institution is responsible for contracts of employment and checking permissions to work in India.
- Internships Training Support: To support at least **four** students from resource-limited settings. This training can be conducted for 3-6 months at any laboratory of the participating investigators. Permitted use of the funds include, travel (round trip), a modest monthly stipend, board, lodging, etc. BTech/Masters/Doctoral students may be chosen for this opportunity. Up to ₹3.0 Lakh may be allocated for each intern.
- Materials and Consumables: Costs for materials and consumables like plasticware/glassware, reagents, isotopes, peptides, enzymes, antibodies, etc. may be requested.
- Equipment and Access charges: The Grant permits funding for essential minor equipment only. It is expected that the core research infrastructure required for the proposed project is already available at the Host Institution(s). Procurement of specialised equipment is strongly discouraged given the three-year duration of the grant, although the purchase of essential parts for such equipment is allowable. Maintenance costs for equipment may be requested for the award period. No changes will be permitted to the approved equipment list once finalised. Additionally,
 - The Host Institution is required to use the best procurement practices when purchasing equipment funded with India Alliance funds. Equipment should be

selected such that it has a short lead time for procurement, enabling all planned purchases to be **completed within the first 12 months of the Grant**.

- Purchase of vehicles is not permitted.
- Project funds may be used for shipping and clearance charges but **not** for customs duty.
- The India Alliance does **not supplement** support provided by other funding bodies.

Access charges may be requested for the use of existing equipment or facilities. The use of the equipment/facilities must be essential to the proposed research. Applicants must include details such as the cost per experiment, the percentage of time, and the number of hours the equipment or facilities will be used for the project.

- **Animals:** Costs for purchase, food, maintenance, experimental procedures and associated cost (like bedding, disinfectant and labour cost for care and maintenance of animals) may be included. It is recommended that the costs be computed in consultation with the Head of the Facility or Animal House of the Host Institutions and after consideration of the suitability of species, estimated number including requirement for breeding, type and duration of experiment with understanding of biohazard, waste management, severity, post-procedure monitoring etc.

The use of animals and the numbers required for experiments should be carefully planned and estimated at the time of proposal preparation. Any change in animal experiments, number, strain or type is not permitted after the proposal is approved.

Refer to https://ccsea.gov.in/Content/54_1_ACTS,RULESANDGUIDELINES.aspx.

- **Miscellaneous/other costs/publication charges:** The list below is indicative rather than exhaustive and is intended to provide guidance on the types of costs that may be requested. These costs may include:
 - Costs for publications (open access) arising from the project.
 - Access to special publications (not available in institute libraries) and necessary for research.
 - Consultancy fees directly associated with the execution of the research. This should clearly indicate the number of hours that the consultancy firm or individual will spend on India Alliance-funded project.
 - Fieldwork fees for subjects/volunteers involved in a research project.
 - Computing – including recurrent costs of computing-related items dedicated to the project (e.g. software licences).
 - Recruitment and advertising costs for staff employed on the grant.
 - Hiring/operational costs of project-dedicated vehicles. Note that purchase of vehicles is not allowed.
 - Expenses for transporting biological samples.
 - Subsistence funds for short collaborative visit for few weeks.
 - Stationery and the cost of printing questionnaires, recruitment material, newsletters, etc. for clinical, epidemiological, and qualitative research studies
 - Training costs, legal consultation for safeguarding intellectual property, expenses for venue hire, cost to arrange any regulatory meeting, etc.
 - Indemnity insurance: India Alliance expects Grant holders to provide appropriate insurance cover to the human subjects participating in their study. Applicants with studies involving human subjects/conducting trials should request premium of trial insurance as a budgetary item under this section. India Alliance will not be liable to pay indemnities directly to the participants being recruited on its funded studies. Nor will India Alliance be held liable for any injuries caused during the trial. It is responsibility of the investigator and the

Host Institution to ascertain that the study is conducted in a manner that is safe and to the highest ethical standards.

India Alliance will not provide additional funds for publications beyond the approved budget or beyond the grant end date.

- **Travel Allowance:** Funds for travel to meetings, up to ₹9.0 Lakh can be requested for the Investigators and any research staff recruited on the grant to attend national and international scientific meetings. Where relevant, support for travel and accommodation for short-term personnel exchanges between the PI and Co-Investigator laboratories, to facilitate training in advanced techniques essential to the project is permitted. The cost to cover childcare during the travel may also be utilized from this head.
- **Overhead charges:** Overhead charges are paid on the Grant for supporting the applicants' research, and may contribute to laboratory infrastructure, utilities, administrative support, audit fees for final audit etc. Charges against this head are based on actual expenditure incurred and not on allocations described in the award letter. India Alliance makes this contribution towards the indirect cost incurred by the Host Institution(s) in hosting the research, which is set at up to 5% of the approved budget.
- **Flexible Funding Allowance:** India Alliance recognises that unanticipated costs may arise during the tenure of the project. Accordingly, the budget will include a Flexible Funding head, under which applicants may request funds up to the maximum of ₹10.0 Lakh for the project duration. The amount is intended to support unanticipated purchase of consumables, supplement staff salaries if needed, cover formal training costs or personal development courses. The fund **may not be used** to purchase equipment not originally approved or to plan experiments involving animals/human studies.
- **GST on India Alliance Funds:** The Grant Conditions of India Alliance do not claim or expect anything in return for the grants made to the beneficiaries. It regulates and seeks accountability for the utilization of funds properly and for the mandated activities. The grants are not made to fix any obligation for payback on the recipient. There is no contract for performance of a service, and the aspects of 'consideration' and 'furtherance of business' are not included in grants issued by the India Alliance. Considering that the grant conditions do not express any conditionality for performance of a service to the India Alliance, the same are therefore not classified as 'supply' under GST. Even though India Alliance holds that no GST is leviable on its grant awards, it is also important to note that India Alliance does not undertake to fulfil any tax obligations or liabilities that may be levied on the recipient against the grant. Any Tax that may be required to be paid, shall have to be met with by the grant recipient and may be met from within the approved grant funds.
- **Disallowed Costs:** India Alliance will not provide funds for the following:
 - Inflation or cost-of-living increases
 - Expenses towards infrastructure development like furniture, fixtures, air conditioning, etc.
 - Indirect costs, including general administration costs for personnel, finance, library, IT, departmental services, etc.
 - Redundancy costs for research staff.
 - Laboratory waste disposal costs.

- Radiation protection (Installation/ expansion of facilities) cost
- Customs duty on equipment

8. Application, Evaluation and Selection

- Grants are announced annually, and applicants should adhere to the specified timeline.
- Application forms will be made available after the launch date of the competition. The completed application form and all supporting documents must be compiled into a single PDF and submitted to the specified email address before the deadline. Sample application forms ([link](#)) are available prior to launch for reference purposes only.
- The research proposal should maintain consistency in description of terms, references, and writing style, free of contradiction or leaps of faith and be readily understood by scientists outside your immediate field.
- Compliance requirements for the proposed experiments must be addressed.
- Proposals will be assessed on the clarity and strength of the scientific rationale, including articulation of the current state of the field, identification of key knowledge gaps, and justification for the proposed new direction as a substantive advance grounded in prior work. Reviewers will evaluate the significance, feasibility, and internal coherence of the research plan, including the logical integration of objectives, the robustness of the experimental design, and the appropriate use of state-of-the-art methodologies. Particular attention will be given to the quality and added value of the collaborative framework, specifically, how the expertise of the co-Investigator[s] is meaningfully integrated and how the partnership expands the conceptual, technical, or methodological scope of the programme beyond what could be achieved by one investigator alone.
- Sample size justification and statistical power calculations; articulation of potential risks and mitigation strategies; specific timelines, milestones and the budget will also be reviewed in the proposal.
- All the sections of the application must be filled. If any section is not relevant to the applicant or the co-applicant, then 'Not Applicable' must be written.
- Upon submission, each application will be assigned a reference number, which will be communicated to the team along with an acknowledgement email. This may take up to 2 working days. Applications will then undergo multiple stages of screening and review.
- International peer review is undertaken for applications that successfully cross the first shortlisting stage. Final selection is made through an interview. Decisions taken at each stage are final.
- While India Alliance will assist with logistical information and guidance, applicants will have to make their arrangements to attend the in-person interview. It is mandatory for the PI to attend the in-person interview.
- If shortlisted for interview, each team should submit an MoU (if already in place) or an unsigned draft of MoU with terms and conditions agreed upon between the participating institutions.
- All applicants are informed of the outcome of their application by email at the earliest.
- Where possible, India Alliance will provide anonymised, consolidated feedback to the applicants. Applicants/their colleagues/ Sponsors must not attempt to contact any Committee Member to discuss any aspect of an application, or the decision reached on it. Queries may be directed to India Alliance Office and will be addressed where possible.

- India Alliance reserves the right to decline processing an application or continuing a Grant if it considers that the Host Institutions have not met the eligibility criteria to receive funds or there are ethical concerns with either the applicants, or the Host Institutions. Incomplete or incorrect information on regulatory approvals and institutional registration in the application form will result in the rejection of the application. Final determinations regarding eligibility are made by India Alliance.

An application is ineligible if,

- The eligibility criteria for either the Investigators or the Host Institutions are not met.
- Excluded by the India Alliance Resubmission Policy (mentioned below).
- Another fellowship or a grant application as lead applicant is under consideration at India Alliance.
- Complete or partial duplication with a proposal funded by another agency or India Alliance.
- Supplemental support to another grant or, to cover expenditure already incurred.
- Applicants applying for, holding, or employed under a research grant from the tobacco and related industry.
- The sole intention is to redistribute the funds
- The undertakings from all the participating Investigators are not submitted
- The undertakings from all the participating Host Institutions are not submitted
- Plagiarism is detected at any stage of the application process.

9. Regulatory Approvals

- Details related to both human participation and animal research must be clearly mentioned in the application. This includes names of bodies within the institutions that would provide ethical approvals. In addition,
 - For animal experiments: full details of the study design, including power calculations, sample size justification, and inclusion and exclusion criteria.
 - For trials/study involving human: details of the study population, eligibility criteria, age range (minimum and maximum), recruitment and retention plans, and the proposed timeline.
- Studies involving human participants must demonstrably comply with Indian government rules and regulations regarding human participants in research ([ICMR Ethical Guidelines 2017.pdf](#)). **Applicants are required to submit a sample of the informed consent form, along with any other relevant supporting documents, as part of the proposal.**
- For human participant studies, applicants must provide an undertaking from the Host Institution and/or the relevant government or local authority confirming that, if the award is granted, they will be permitted to work with the proposed cohorts, restricted groups, or vulnerable populations. Alternatively, the Institution may submit evidence of an established track record of authorised engagement with such communities

10. Research Integrity

- India Alliance expects its grantees to uphold the highest standards of responsible conduct in all aspects of research related activities. All research activities supported

by the India Alliance must conform to core principles of ethics and research integrity, to be upheld by both the applicant and the Host Institution.

- Proposals should be free from plagiarism, including reproducing material without attribution from published material where the applicant is an author/co-author. Plagiarism should be checked using standard plagiarism detection software before submission. Past incidents of plagiarism, if any, must be declared in the submission.
- The proposals funded by different funding organizations must not have scope overlap of the specific work for which funding is sought. Any other ongoing/submitted proposals must be mentioned at the first submission and overlap/differences between the proposals clearly articulated.
- Generative AI tools may be used for drafting, preparing figures or infographics, but the use of these tools must be declared. Failure to disclose the use of AI or submission of AI-generated false or misleading information in applications will impact funding decisions and approvals may be withdrawn if detected at a later date.
- If support is withdrawn based on an ethical concern, this will impact any future application from the individual or the Host Institution.
- India Alliance expects that the Applicants, and the Host Institutions will follow the highest ethical standards in sharing authorship and acknowledging contributions from other authors or participants in publications and patents.
- India Alliance supports the appropriate protection and use of intellectual property rights (IPR), as per National IP policy ([DBT IP Guidelines 2023 final.pdf](#)).

11. Resubmission

If an application is unsuccessful at the final stages, the proposal may not be re-submitted to the scheme, unless explicitly recommended by the Committee. However, the PI may participate as a Co-Investigator in subsequent rounds of the scheme.

12. Post award monitoring

- Team must submit progress reports and spend reports periodically in the prescribed formats.
- India Alliance reserves the right to request intermittent reports as and when necessary.
- India Alliance considers constant monitoring and evaluation of its funded research, individuals, institutions and activities very seriously and it has put in place defined processes for periodic evaluation. The mid-term review will evaluate the Grant holder's progress during the tenure of their India Alliance funding. The continuation of India Alliance funding will be contingent upon a satisfactory review of the progress made during the first half of the funding.
- Submission of a final report on overall achievements and impact of the awarded grant within 3 months of project completion alongside an audited spend report for the entire grant period is required.
- IA reserves the right to terminate the project at any stage if it is convinced that (i) inadequate progress is being made in the project; or (ii) the grant has not been appropriately utilized; or (iii) false information has been furnished to IA.

13. Points to be noted

- A three-year budget breakdown is required and should be developed in consultation with the Host Institution's leadership. The funds should be spent equitably across the three year period, along with a strong budget justification. The plan should reflect realistic projections and achievable goals to ensure effective resource utilization.
- India Alliance will not contact applicants for missing or incomplete information or mismatch in budget on the application. Decision to accept any application or taking it forward to the next stages of the competition is at the discretion of India Alliance.
- Each team should submit a MoU (if already in place) or an unsigned draft of MoU with terms and conditions agreed upon between the participating institutions if shortlisted for the interview.
- Approvals must be sought from India Alliance for any change in the approved project plan after the start date. This may be a time-consuming process and will reduce the award period, hence discouraged.

For specific queries, contact ***competition.helpdesk@indiaalliance.org***