

**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**  
**TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR**

**“Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions (FIST)” GRANT**

The scheme entitled “Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions – (FIST)” was launched in the year 2000 to strengthen S&T infrastructure with adequate funding and associated flexibility. Over the years, the FIST Program has played a pivotal role in the strengthening of both the teaching and research infrastructure in different academic and research institutions. However, with the shift in priorities and the S&T needs of the country, restructuring of the program was necessary in the context of the current National interests, National Missions, Sustainable Development Goals, and its scope to strengthen the vibrant economy towards building up of a self-reliant India.

Keeping all these factors in mind, the FIST Program has been restructured.

**The Terms and Conditions:**

1. The beneficiary Department/ PG College accepting the FIST Project would be considered for any subsequent cycle of support **only after a period of 10 years from the date of sanction of the current Project**. So, in case, any beneficiary wish to forego the current recommendation of support and seek fresh assessment towards better prospective support may do so before signing of this document.
2. The grant being released under the scheme is for strengthening infrastructure of the identified department for teaching and research and shall be spent exclusively for this purpose. The Department shall constitute a “**Project Implementation Group**” with 4-5 Faculty Members including younger faculty members under the overall supervision of the Head/ Chairman/ Dean of the Department. The **Project Implementation Group** would be responsible and accountable to DST for all aspects of implementation of such project during its 5 years project duration. The Department shall inform FIST Program Secretariat on the composition of the **Project Implementation Group** before releasing of funds etc.
3. For all Non-Government Grantee Institute, the total sanctioned amount based upon the Expert Committee recommendations, will be shared in 50:50 mode, i.e., DST share would be 50% and the management of the Non-Government Grantee Institute would need to bear 50% of the total sanctioned cost of the project.
4. Facility created under FIST support shall not be kept with the custody of an individual faculty member in the Department and shall be made accessible to all the faculty members all the time.
5. There should not be any deviation from the Budget Heads as approved by DST. In case, if it is very necessary, a request can be made to the DST for consideration.
6. The grants-in-aid for “*Networking and Computational Facilities*” being released under the scheme should be utilized for creating a “**Central Computer Lab**” in the identified Department/ College and accessible for Students and Faculty research activities with the following guidelines:  
Internet Connectivity (to be provided by Institution)  
Server + Hub + Modem and UPS  
Several PCs or Net-Computers proportional to number of students enrolled

**The Institution should also make sure that this grant is not meant for just providing PCs to each of the Faculty members in the Department.**

7. The grants-in-aid under “FIST” are to provide infra-structural facilities for research activities in the department. Therefore, ***no provision of Overhead Charges*** is admissible. **Please note that the scheme does not allow any provision for building/ construction and recruitment of staff** etc.
8. All the assets acquired from the grant will be the property of the Government of India and should not, without the prior sanction of the Department, be disposed off or encumbered or utilized for purposes other than those for which the grant has been sanctioned.
9. All efforts should be made to procure the equipment and other items at the earliest to avoid cost escalation due to foreign exchange fluctuation and should abide all procedures laid out by the GFR 2017. In case it is found that the Department is not able to use the funds within two years of its release, the Department of Science & Technology shall have the right to withdraw the project from the Department/ University.
10. Servers, Desktops, Workstations, Printers etc. under Networking may be procured through GeM (Government E-Market) platform.
11. The Institute will furnish to Department of Science & Technology, Utilization Certificate, and an audited Statement of Accounts (in DST format) pertaining to the grant (along with Progress Report) within three months following the end of each financial year.
12. After receiving the grant by the Department/ Centre, Department of Science & Technology will review the technical & financial progress including utilization of the grant on an annual basis with an appropriate mechanism. The Department reserves the right to terminate the support at any stage if it is convinced that the grant has not been properly utilized or appropriate progress is not being made.
13. A register of the permanent/semi-permanent assets acquired wholly or mainly out of this grant should be maintained in the prescribed form and a copy thereof furnished to this Department. Such register of assets and the accounts maintained shall be available or open to scrutiny by Audit.
14. DST reserves sole rights on the assets created out of grants. Assets acquired wholly or substantially out of government grants (except those declared as obsolete and unserviceable or condemned in accordance with the procedure laid down in GFR 2017), shall not be disposed of without obtaining the prior approval of DST. All the procurement should be as per procedure laid down in GFR 2017.
15. To maintain transparency and accountability, the facilities acquired from FIST Grant should be mapped to Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map i.e. I-STEM portal ([www.istem.gov.in](http://www.istem.gov.in)) and should be accessible to the scientific community and industry. DST should be informed after mapping the research facilities in the I-STEM Portal.
16. The Grantee Institution should promote services of FIST facilities to the demands of outside faculties, researchers, scientists and students at other academic institutes, universities, nearby colleges national laboratories, R&D Labs, Startups, and Industries to enable them to carry out R&D activities to promote FIST collaborative research endeavors.

17. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, at his discretion, shall have the right to access to the book accounts for this support. **The Department shall open an interest earning Bank account for operation of funds being transferred by DST. The interest thus earned should be reflected appropriately in the Financial Statement of each year submitted to the Department of Science & Technology and the same need to be deposited back to Consolidated Fund of India by using the Non-Tax Receipt Portal (NTRP) i.e., [www.Bharatkosh.gov.in](http://www.Bharatkosh.gov.in)**
18. Any unspent amount sanctioned/ interest accrued would be surrendered to the Government through the Bharatkosh site ([www.Bharatkosh.gov.in](http://www.Bharatkosh.gov.in)) and the receipt of the same may be enclosed with financial documents. Any carry forward of funds to the next financial year may be considered only with the specific approval of the Department on receipt of proper financial documents/Interim progress report from the university.
19. The grantee organization will have to enter & upload the Utilization Certificate in the PFMS portal besides sending it in physical form to this Division with UC id generated in PFMS Portal. The subsequent/final installment will be released only after confirmation of the acceptance of the UC by the Division and entry of previous Utilization Certificate in the PFMS.
20. The Grantee Institution is directed to use the Expenditure-Advance-Transfer (EAT) module of PFMS, and next release will be made only after mapping and following EAT modules by the grantee institutions.
21. Due acknowledgement of technical support / financial assistance resulting from FIST grant of Department of Science & Technology should mandatorily be highlighted by the grantee organization in bold letters in all publications/ thesis /Patents/Prototypes, Media releases as well as in the opening paragraphs of their Annual Reports during and after the completion of the project.
22. To give visibility to the identified department, the department may be called as “**DST-FIST Sponsored Department**”. **The Public Notice displaying the Logo of the FIST Program may be suitably displayed in this regard.**

Signed by

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Head of the Department/ Centre  
or Principal of College

Signed by

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Head of the University / Institute

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Registrar or Head of Finance

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\*Chairman of Trust/ Board/ Management

*\* Only for Non-Govt. (including Private and Aided) Institutes/ Colleges/ Organizations supported under 50:50 mode as per the FIST Award Letter*