

PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF
THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2021

In pursuance of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology concluded on November 10, 2000 at New Delhi, the two sides agreed upon the following Programme of cooperation in Science and technology for the period 2018-2021.

1. Establishment of Joint Committee

The two sides agreed to set up an Indo-Bulgarian Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation for creating favourable conditions for implementation of the above mentioned Agreement, and for providing direction on issues related to the utilisation of the result, technologies, products etc. achieved during the Joint research work carried out under Agreement. The Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation shall meet once in every two years, or as and when required, by mutual consent, alternately in India and in Bulgaria. In case of necessity, the representatives of the Coordinating Agencies may organise a short meeting between two consecutive sessions of the Joint Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (JCSTC). 9th meeting of the Joint Committee was held in Sofia on 8th August 2018.

2. Areas of Cooperation

The subject areas of cooperation under the current programme of Cooperation shall be:

- Information and Communication Technologies
- Material science
- Physics, including Laser Science and Technology, Nuclear Physics, Astronomy and Space research and technologies
- Chemical Sciences
- Renewable Energy
- Earth sciences, Geophysics, Climate research, Ocean science and Environmental protection including Waste management
- Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food Technologies
- Health, Biomedical devices, Bioethics, Pharmacy and Traditional Medicine
- Science for society

Cooperation could, however, be undertaken in other Science and Technology areas as and when required, with the mutual consultation between the Coordinating Agencies.

3. Coordinating Agencies

The Department of Science and Technology (Ministry of Science and Technology) of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, hereinafter known as the Coordinating Agencies, shall be responsible for the supervision, coordination and implementation of the Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology for India and Bulgaria, respectively.

4. Undertaking of Joint scientific projects

The two sides shall support joint scientific projects based on mutual interest, which shall be developed jointly by the Indian and Bulgarian institutions on mutually agreed format. On the Bulgarian side, the National Science Fund shall be the Implementing Agency for the projects. The following procedure will be adopted.

- Projects shall be received and evaluated by the Department of Science and Technology from the Indian side and the National Science Fund from the Bulgarian side.
- Both sides shall exchange the evaluation scores and jointly decide on projects to be funded.
- Project progress reports shall be prepared by the Project Coordinators following the national rules.

The final report on the outcome of the projects shall be submitted to the Indo-Bulgarian Joint Science and Technology Committee through the Coordinating Agencies.

5. Joint Collaborative Activities

5.1. The two sides agreed to hold two workshops each year - one in Bulgaria and one in India during 2018-2021 period in mutually acceptable areas in which a few specialists from each other's country would participate to work out Joint Collaborative Science and Technology activities. Themes of the workshops to be decided by the Coordinating agencies. During the period 2018 – 2019 it was agreed to organize workshops in Nanomaterials, Astronomy and Traditional Medicine.

5.2. Both sides agreed to support the exchange of up to 5 researchers under the age of 35 years for postdoctoral work in each other's country for up to 12 months.

5.3. Two sides shall support co-development of technologies promoting innovations, produced by research.

6. Exchange of Researchers

In order to realize the cooperation mentioned in article 4 and 5 above, both sides shall encourage the exchange of researchers on short term visits (up to 21 days) from each side to familiarize themselves about the state-of-the-art in each other's country, work out and

finalize specific action plans, participate in international/bilateral scientific conferences, workshops, exhibitions or long term (over 21 days) from each side.

7. Financial Provisions

The Department of Science and Technology (Ministry of Science and Technology) in case of India and the Ministry of Education and Science (for activities other than identified in article 4) and the National Science Fund (for activities in article 4) in case of Bulgaria shall provide the respective expense. Following are the financial terms for the visit of the researchers between Bulgaria and India under the approved Programme:

- 7.1. The sending side shall cover the expenses on international travel up to the capital city of the host side both ways.
- 7.2. The receiving side shall make the following arrangements:
 - 7.2.1 The receiving side shall provide free furnished accommodation in a Guest House/hotel with reasonable amenities.
 - 7.2.2. The receiving side shall arrange the in-country travel of the visiting researchers from the capital city/city of arrival to the place of the institute to be visited by appropriate means.
 - 7.2.3. The receiving side shall arrange picking/dropping at/from the airport for all visiting researchers. In case of senior researcher (in the rank of Director/Dean or above), transport shall be provided for official events.
 - 7.2.4. The Bulgarian researchers visiting India shall be paid a per-diem amount @ Rs2,500/- per day in case of short term visit (up to 21 days) and Rs. 50,000/- per months in case of long term visit (more than 21 days) towards food and out of pocket allowances. The Indian researchers visiting Bulgaria shall be paid a per diem amount @ 48 Leva per day in the case of short term visits and on long term visit @ 1150 Leva per month for similar purpose.
 - 7.2.5. The sending side will provide the medical insurance to all persons, exchanged under the programme.
- 7.3. If necessary, the financial terms may be revised after mutual consultations between the two sides.

8. Legal Aspects, Amendments and Validity

- 8.1. Any disputes related to the interpretation or implementations of this Programme of Cooperation (PoC) shall be settled through bilateral negotiations between the coordinating Agencies.
- 8.2. This PoC may be amended anytime by mutual consent of the Parties in writing.
- 8.3. This Programme of cooperation shall enter into force from the date of signature and shall remain in force until December 31, 2021. Its validity shall be extended automatically for one year or until the signing of the new PoC within this one-year period.

8.4 The termination of this PoC shall not affect any project or any other cooperative activity undertaken under this PoC and not fully executed at the time of termination of this PoC.

Signed in Sofia, Bulgaria on ----- 2018 in two identical copies in Bulgarian, Hindi and English languages. In case of discrepancy in the interpretation, the text in English shall prevail.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FOR THE MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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