



Ministry of Earth Sciences
Government of India



EUROPEAN UNION

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

India–European Union Co-Funding Initiative

Cooperation on Climate Change and Polar Research

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India

in partnership with the European Union under

Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026–2027

Co-Funded Call Topics

Call 1: Advancing understanding, modelling and prediction of extreme events in a changing climate

Topic ID: [HORIZON-CL5-2027-01-D1-07](#) | Type: RIA

Opening: 17 November 2026 | Deadline: 4 March 2027

Call 2: Unlocking a safe operating space for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

Topic ID: [HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-CLIMATE-04](#) | Type: RIA

Opening: 20 April 2027 | Deadline: 23 September 2027

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Introduction

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, invites applications from eligible Indian research entities to participate in two co-funded call topics under the European Union's Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026–2027, focusing on Climate Change and Polar Research.

These calls align with ongoing initiatives of MoES such as Mission Mausam, PRITHvi ViGYAN Scheme and Deep Ocean Mission. Successful collaboration will strengthen India's scientific ties with European partners, enhance capacity in climate and polar sciences, and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Section 1: Co-Funded Call Topics

The following two call topics have been identified for MoES co-funding. Click on the Topic Identifier to view the complete call text on the Horizon Europe Funding & Tenders Portal.

Call Title	Topic Identifier	Type	Opening Date	Deadline
Advancing understanding, modelling and prediction of extreme events in a changing climate	HORIZON-CL5-2027-01-D1-07	RIA	17 Nov 2026	4 Mar 2027 17:00 CET
Unlocking a safe operating space for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean	HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-CLIMATE-04	RIA	20 Apr 2027	23 Sep 2027 17:00 CET

1.1 Call 1: Extreme Climate Events

This call advances understanding, modelling, and prediction of extreme climate events and their cascading impacts. Projects should enhance scientific knowledge on past and present extremes, strengthen high-resolution modelling and attribution capabilities, and support improved preparedness. Activities will integrate data, digital twins, and AI-based tools to improve multi-hazard prediction and early warning systems. Collaboration with Copernicus, Destination Earth, and the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change is encouraged. Full call text – [click here](#)

1.2 Call 2: Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

This call advances multidisciplinary research on the Antarctic cryosphere and Southern Ocean to understand their functioning, interactions, and vulnerability under climate change. Projects should improve projections of ocean, ice, and ecosystem changes; strengthen monitoring indicators; and support evidence-based policies for conservation. Research will contribute to global assessments (IPCC, IPBES), the UN Ocean and Cryosphere Decades, and initiatives such as Destination Earth and the EU Digital Twin of the Ocean. Full call text – [click here](#)

Section 2: Eligibility

2.1 Indian Entities Eligible for MoES Funding

The following categories of Indian entities are eligible to receive funding from MoES:

- Government of India-supported or -recognised public or private academic institutions and research organisations.
- Indian private R&D institutions with at least three years of research experience.
- Not-for-profit organisations, NGOs, Voluntary Organisations (VOs), Trusts, and Research Foundations where research is a core mandate.

Entities NOT Eligible for MoES Funding

- Industry, start-ups, and multinational companies (MNCs) are not eligible.
- Research institutions or academic organisations headquartered outside India, their Indian subsidiaries, or Indian organisations owned by foreign entities are not eligible.

2.2 Mandatory Documentation for Indian Applicants

All eligible Indian applicants must submit the following at the time of proposal:

- Proof of establishment under the relevant Indian statute.
- Recognition documents (e.g., NAAC, UGC, DSIR, or equivalent recognition).
- Valid registration on the Government of India's Public Finance Management System (PFMS) at <https://pfms.nic.in>
- Endorsement, Undertaking and Certificates from the Investigator(s) and Head(s) of Institute(s) : Format available on [MoES website](#)

For NGOs/VOs/Trusts/Research Foundations, the following additional documents are required:

- Proof of registration at NGO Darpan of NITI Aayog: <http://ngodarpan.gov.in>
- Certificate of registration under the Societies Registration Act or equivalent.
- Firm's Memorandum of Association.
- Valid SIRO certificate for in-house R&D recognition (where applicable).
- Audited accounts and annual reports for the past three years.

2.3 Eligibility of European Partners

Any type of legal entity established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country is eligible to participate as a funded beneficiary under Horizon Europe rules. A consortium must comprise at least three independent legal entities from three different eligible countries, with at least one from an EU Member State.

EU Member States (27)

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

Horizon Europe Associated Countries

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada (Pillar II only), Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand (Pillar II only), North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Korea (Pillar II only), Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Transitional arrangements apply to: Egypt, Japan (Pillar II only), and Morocco.

Full list: [Associated countries list](#)

Section 3: Participation Roles and Consortium Structure

3.1 Role of Indian Entities: Associated Partner

Indian entities participate in Horizon Europe projects exclusively in the role of “Associated Partner” (AP). This is the designated role for organisations based in countries not eligible for direct EU funding (referred to as ‘Third Countries’). Indian entities are funded by MoES, not by the European Commission.

Associated Partner CAN	Associated Partner CANNOT
✓ Participate in collaborative research projects	X Sign the EC Grant Agreement
✓ Lead Work Packages	X Coordinate the project (EC-appointed role)
✓ Have a Participant Identification Code (PIC)	X Count toward the minimum/maximum consortium size
✓ Sign the Consortium Agreement	X Receive direct EU funding
✓ Be listed in Art. 9.1 of the EC Grant Agreement	X Access the project on the Sygma platform
✓ Receive funding from MoES (if positively evaluated)	X Participate in mono-beneficiary/PI projects

3.2 Consortium Composition

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium comprising at the European side of the consortium must include at **least 3 legal entities from 3 different EU Member States (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Countries (AS)**. At least one Indian legal entity must be listed as an Associated Partner (AP) in the European proposal (Part A).

There is no prescribed minimum or maximum number of Indian participants. Each Indian participant must clearly demonstrate their added value, essentiality, and complementarity within the consortium.

3.3 Consortium Coordination Roles

- Project Coordinator (EU): One European consortium beneficiary must be nominated as Project Coordinator — the central contact point responsible for managing the project and liaising with the European Commission.
- Lead Scientific Coordinator – India (recommended): Where more than one Indian entity participates, they should appoint a Lead Scientific Coordinator–India to represent Indian participants vis-à-vis MoES.

3.4 Gender Balance

Applicants are encouraged to ensure a balanced participation of women and men at all levels of research and innovation teams, including management structures.

Section 4: Funding

This call operates on a "**Co-Funding Commitment, Independent Disbursement**" model. Both Indian and EU partners work on a single, unified scientific workplan, but funding is managed separately by MoES (for India) and the European Commission (for EU partners). The two funding streams are entirely independent.

4.1 MoES Funding for Indian Participants

MoES will provide Grant-in-Aid (100% of approved costs) to eligible Indian participants, subject to the following:

Parameter	Details
Maximum Funding Limit	INR 2,00,00,000 (Rs. 2 Crore) per project, regardless of the number of Indian participating entities
Funding Type	Grant-in-Aid — 100%
Project Duration	Up to 3-4 years
Funding Scope	Indian participants (associated with Indian Institutions/organizations) only; MoES does not fund European or other international partners
Currency for MoES Budget	Indian budget submitted to EU portal is indicative only; Funding will be in INR

4.2 Eligible Budget Heads

Indian participants must follow the MoES budget format (Annex 1). Eligible expenditure heads are:

Cost Type	Eligible Items
Non-Recurring	Equipment: with detailed specifications, justification, cost estimates, and maintenance plan post-project
Recurring	Manpower: JRF, SRF, RA, TA as per Government of India emolument norms
Recurring	Consumables
Recurring	Travel: domestic (including fieldwork) and international (economy class round-trip, accommodation, local transport, admissible insurance)
Recurring	Training and awareness activities
Recurring	Review meetings
Recurring	Contingency
Overhead Charges	Up to 10% of total direct project costs, as per MoES norms

Important: Budget Notes

- The budget provided by MoES covers Indian participants only and does not fund European or other international consortium partners.
- **Indian entities will not sign the EC Grant Agreement** and are considered **Associated Partners**, not beneficiaries.
- The Indian budget submitted on the EU portal is indicative; the budget submitted to MoES in Indian Rupees is the binding document.
- The host institution is expected to provide research facilities and resources to visiting investigators; such costs may be reflected in participant budgets.

4.3 EU Funding for European Partners

European partners are funded under Horizon Europe rules for Research and Innovation Actions (RIA), with up to 100% of eligible costs covered. For full details, refer to the [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#).

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

All consortium participants must jointly develop a Consortium Agreement (CA) defining ownership, protection, user rights, exploitation, dissemination, joint publication rights, and dispute settlement procedures. A model CA is available at:

- DESCA Model Consortium Agreement: <https://www.desca-agreement.eu/desca-model-consortium-agreement/>
- IPR arrangements must comply with the [Science & Technology Agreement-Annex](#) between the EU and India.
- Disputes must be resolved by mutual agreement between the parties.

Section 5: Proposal Preparation

5.1 Structure of the Joint Proposal

The proposal must be jointly developed by Indian and European partners and submitted electronically to the Horizon Europe Funding & Tenders Portal by the designated Project Coordinator. The proposal has two parts:

Part	Name	Content
Part A	Administrative Forms	Project title, abstract, keywords; consortium details, contact persons, declarations; budget overview. Completed online via the Funding & Tenders Portal.
Part B	Technical Annex	Detailed description of the planned research and innovation activities, structured around the RIA evaluation criteria. Must be jointly developed by all consortium partners (Indian and European) and must be identical in both the EU portal submission and the MoES submission.

Critical Requirement: Part B Must Be Identical

Part B (Technical Annex) must be jointly developed by all consortium partners — both Indian and European. The version submitted to the Horizon Europe Funding & Tenders Portal and the version submitted to MoES must be identical. Any discrepancy will result in disqualification.

5.2 Including Indian Entities as Associated Partners on the Portal

When preparing the online submission, the Project Coordinator must add Indian entities as **Associated Partners (AP)** in the portal. The steps are:

- In the participant section, select the role “Associated Partner” for each Indian entity.
- Enter the PIC number of each Indian entity (see Annex 2 for registration guidance).
- In the budget section, under “Financial Contribution”, enter the amount each Indian entity intends to request from MoES.
- Describe the AP’s tasks and activities fully in Part B (Technical Annex). The estimated budget may also be included in this section (optional).

For the proposal template (Part B), refer to: [Horizon Europe RIA Proposal Template](#)

How to Add an AP to the proposal

Coordinator

1 Institution (name) Add Affiliated Entity + Contacts: ⓘ Add contact +

Institution (full name)
Address
PIC number

Contact (name) · Main contact >

Change organisation Contact organisation

Add Partner + Add Associated partner +

Associated Partner

2 IND organisation (name)

IND organisation (full name)
Address
PIC number

Change organisation Contact organisation

APs **CAN NOT ADD** their contacts details. This means: no access to the Portal for the AP

Possible solution as work-around
— The Coordinator might add the AP contact among its Coordinator's contacts

How to Include the Budget of an AP

No	Participant name	Country	Estimated expenditure					Estimated income					Total estimate of income (D)+(E)+(F)+(G)		
			Estimated eligible costs					Requested EU contribution			Revenues	Other sources of financing			
			A. Personnel costs (a)	B. Subcontracting costs (b)	C. Purchase costs			D. Other cost categories (d)	E. Indirect costs (e) = (a) + (b) + (c) + (d)	Funding rate (f)	Maximum EU contribution to eligible costs (g) = (e) * (f)	Requested EU contribution to eligible costs (Request a grant amount) (h) (i)		Income generated by the action (j)	Financial contributions (k)
C.1 Travel and subsistence costs (a1)	C.2 Equipment (a2)	C.3 Other goods, works and services (a3)	D.X Specific cost categories (d1)												
1	Participant 1	NL													
2	Participant 2	LB													
	Affiliated Entity	LB													
3	Participant 3	DE													
	Associated Partner	AR													
Total															

Section 6: Submission Process

Applicants must complete two parallel submission steps. Both must be completed on time; failure to meet either deadline will result in disqualification.

Step	Action	Details
Step 1	Register and obtain PIC number	All Indian and European participants must register on the Funding & Tenders Portal and obtain a Participant Identification Code (PIC). See Annex 2 for step-by-step guidance. Funding & Tenders Portal Registration
Step 2	Submit jointly to the EU Horizon Europe Portal – by EU Coordinator	The designated EU Project Coordinator submits the complete proposal (Parts A and B) electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal by the call deadline. Indian entities must be listed as Associated Partners. Funding & Tenders Portal
Step 3	Submit to MoES by email by Indian Lead Scientific Coordinator	Within seven (7) working days after the EU portal deadline, Indian participant(s) must email a single consolidated PDF to all MoES contacts (see Section 7). The PDF must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parts A & B of the final proposal as submitted to the EU portal (must be identical). Detailed budget in MoES format (Annex 1), in Indian Rupees, for each Indian partner. Certificates from the Investigator(s) and Head(s) of Institute(s): Download Certificate Template Dr Vandana Chaudhary, Scientist G, v.chaudhary@nic.in Dr Aparna Shukla, Scientist F, aparna.shukla@gov.in
Step 4	Send hardcopy to MoES by Speed Post	One (1) hardcopy of the complete proposal must be sent by Speed Post to: Dr. Aparna Shukla , Scientist F Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India Prithvi Bhavan, Opp. India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003 <i>Envelope to be superscribed: “India–EU Calls on Climate Change and Polar Research”</i>

Submission Tracks Overview

Component	EU Track (Horizon Europe Portal)	India Track (MoES via Email)
Lead Authority	European Project Coordinator	Lead Scientific Coordinator
Primary Technical Document	Part A and B – Joint Technical Annex (Scientific Methodology & Work Plan) – See Template Part B (page 27)	Part A and B – Identical Joint Technical Annex (Ensuring Scientific Alignment) – See Template Part B (page 27)
Administrative data	Part A – Digital structured forms via the HE Funding & Tenders Portal	MoES Annexe 1: Prescribed Indian administrative and financial formats (see Annex 1)
Financial Basis	Euro (€): Funded via Horizon Europe budgetary allocations	Indian Rupee (₹): Funded via MoES Grant-in-Aid

Legal Status	EU entities: Full signatories to the EU Grant Agreement	Indian entities: Primary Beneficiaries of GoI funding. NOT signatories to the EU Grant Agreement.
Submission Portal	EU Funding & Tenders Portal	MoES proposal submission Email
Deadline	As per EU Funding and Tender Portal – call specific deadline	Within seven (7) working days after the EU portal deadline

Disqualification Warning

- Failure to submit to MoES within 7 working days of the EU portal deadline will result in disqualification.
- Any discrepancy between the proposal submitted to the EU portal and the version submitted to MoES will result in disqualification.

Section 7: Contact Information

7.1 MoES Contacts

Dr Vandana Chaudhary, Scientist-G	Dr Aparna Shukla, Scientist-F
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India Prithvi Bhavan, Opp. India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003 Phone: +91-11- 24669537 v.chaudhary@nic.in	Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India Prithvi Bhavan, Opp. India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003 Phone: +91-11-24669541 aparna.shukla@gov.in

ANNEX 1 - MoES Budget Template for Indian Participants

Indian participants must submit a detailed budget to MoES in the format below. A separate budget table is required for each Indian participating partner.

Name of Investigator: _____

Name of Institution: _____

Type of Organisation: _____

(All amounts in Indian Rupees, ₹)

Budget Head	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
A. Non-Recurring Costs					
1. Equipment					
Total A					
B. Recurring Costs					
1. Consumables					
2. Manpower (JRF, SRF, RA, TA)- as per Gol norms (refer DST OM dated July 10, 2020 and June 26, 2023)					
3a. Travel – Domestic (incl. domestic fieldwork)					
3b. Travel – International					
3c. Local hospitality for visiting scientists					
4. Training and Awareness/Workshops					
5. Contingency					
6. Other Expenses (specify)-not covered under any of the other recurring cost heads					
Total B (1 to 6)					
C. / Overheads (max. 10% of recurring costs)					
Total B (1 through 6)					
GRAND TOTAL (A + B + C)					

Notes on Budget Preparation

- A separate budget table must be completed for each Indian participating partner.
- Detailed justification must be provided for each budget head.
- For equipment, provide: detailed specifications; a statement on existing facilities and justification for additional equipment; cost estimates (with at least one notional quotation); and a post-project maintenance plan (as a letter on the institute letterhead) for major equipment.

- International travel must be by economy class only; round-trip fares, admissible insurance, accommodation, and local transport may be included. The hosting side to extend the required logistic and research facility support.
- Overhead charges are capped at 10% of total recurring project costs, as per MoES norms.

ANNEX 2: Registering on the Horizon Europe Funding & Tenders Portal

All participants — both Indian and European — must be registered on the Horizon Europe Funding & Tenders Portal before a proposal can be submitted. Registration provides each organisation with a [Participant Identification Code \(PIC\)](#), which is required at the time of proposal submission.

Step 1: Create a Personal (EU Login) Account

Each researcher or administrator acting on behalf of an organisation must first create a personal account using the EU Login service.

- Click “Create an account” and complete the registration form with your name, organisation email, and a password.
- Verify your email address by clicking the link sent to your inbox.

Step 2: Register Your Organisation

Once your EU Login account is active, you must register your organisation to obtain a [PIC number](#).

- Select “Register an Organisation” from the “How to Participate” menu.
- Provide your organisation’s legal name, country, legal status, VAT number (or equivalent), and upload the required legal documents.
- Upon validation by the European Commission (this may take several days), you will receive your PIC number by email.
- Keep your PIC number; it will be required for all Horizon Europe submissions.

Step 3: Find and Review Your Call

- Search using the Topic Identifier (e.g., *HORIZON-CL5-2027-01-D1-07*) to locate the specific call.
- Review the full call text, eligibility conditions, evaluation criteria, and proposal templates before beginning your application.

Step 4: Prepare and Submit the Proposal

- Download the proposal templates (Part B) from the call page.
- Complete Part A (Administrative Forms) online via the portal.
- Upload Part B (Technical Annex) and any required annexes as PDF documents.
- The Project Coordinator submits on behalf of the full consortium.

Horizon Europe - [How to apply](#)

Tip for Indian Applicants

Begin the PIC registration process as early as possible. Validation by the European Commission can take several business days. Without a valid PIC, you cannot be added as an Associated Partner in the proposal.

ANNEX 3: Finding European Partners

Horizon Europe requires an interdisciplinary and/or inter-sectoral approach and a consortium of at least three independent organisations. Indian applicants who do not yet have European partners should use the resources below to identify and contact suitable collaborators.

Start by considering institutions or researchers with whom you already have direct or indirect connections (e.g., through publications, conferences, or prior projects). If additional partners are needed, the following tools can help:

Resource	Description and Link
EC Funding & Tenders Portal – Partner Search	Search registered organisations on the EU portal that have expressed interest in participating in specific call topics. Useful for finding project-ready partners. Partner Search Tool Finding partners and collaborators for Horizon Europe
Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)	A global network with over 2,500 technology and research profiles from companies and R&D organisations in 60+ countries. Useful for identifying industry or applied research partners. Enterprise Europe Network
Horizon Europe NCP Network	National Contact Points (NCPs) provide free advice and support for applicants in each country. India's NCP for Horizon Europe can assist with partner searches, proposal preparation, and portal navigation. NCP Directory
Guide to Adequate Partner Search	A practical guide produced by the NCP network providing step-by-step advice on partner search strategies for Horizon Europe applicants. Download Guide (PDF)
Expressed Interest – Funding & Tenders Portal	Browse organisations that have publicly expressed interest in participating in specific call topics in the current and previous work programmes. Browse Expressed Interest

Tips for Effective Partner Outreach

- Reach out early — European researchers begin forming consortia months before the deadline.
- Prepare a brief expression of interest (1 page) summarising your institution's expertise, relevant infrastructure, and proposed contribution to the call topic.
- Attend Horizon Europe brokerage events and info days (announced on the Funding & Tenders Portal) to connect with potential partners.