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**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India  
Ministry of Science & Technology**

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**Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) celebrates its 18th Foundation Day**

The Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 in the presence of the Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, and the Ambassador of the United States to India, Mr. Kenneth Juster.

The genesis of IUSSTF can be traced back to the year 2000, when after nearly five decades of the India-U.S. relationship in S&T, the Governments of India and the United States of America decided that it was time to create a more formal mechanism to take this long history of productive engagement to the next level. This led to the formation of the binational Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum. IUSSTF's mandate is to promote, catalyze and seed bilateral collaboration in science, technology, engineering and innovation through substantive interactions amongst government, academia and industry. The Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India and the U.S. Department of the State are the two nodal agencies of the respective Governments handling matters related to IUSSTF.

In his Presidential address Dr. Harsh Vardhan said, "Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum has contributed immensely in bringing both our countries closer together and has clearly demonstrated that cooperation in science and technology is driven by leveraging intellect, innovation and technological strength of both our countries that directly contributes to global knowledge economy of 21<sup>st</sup> century".

In 18 years of its existence, IUSSTF has developed an evolving program portfolio largely conceived and driven by the scientific community from both countries. IUSSTF-supported activities have led to the direct interaction of over 20,000 Indian and American Scientists and Engineers. IUSSTF currently implements a portfolio of **"four" broad program verticals - Scientific Networks, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Research and Development and Visitation Programs.**

**Scientific Networks** comprise of short-term engagements such as Bilateral Workshops/Conferences/Symposia as well as medium-term arrangements through Virtual Networked Joint Centers that aim to encourage collaboration in topical areas of mutual interest. More than 340 Workshops and 78 Joint Centers have been supported thus far.

The **Innovation and Entrepreneurship** vertical comprises primarily of the hugely popular U.S.-India S&T Endowment Fund (USISTEF) that provides grant-in-aid support (upto INR 25 Million / USD 400,000 approx.) through a highly competitive process, to commercialize S&T-based innovations with significant societal impact. USISTEF has supported 27 projects over the last 6 years at a total investment of approximately INR 609.69 Million / USD 94, 00,000, in the areas of affordable healthcare, safe drinking water, clean energy and environment, livelihood enhancement, women's empowerment and financial inclusiveness, amongst others. 12 products have since been commercially launched.

In the **Research and Development** space, IUSSTF has been entrusted to administer strategic bi-national initiatives that include the Indo-U.S. Joint Clean Energy Research and Development Center; Grand Challenge on Affordable Blood Pressure Measurement Technologies for Low-Resource Settings; PACEsetter Fund to accelerate the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy solutions; Real Time River Water and Air Quality Monitoring and Partnerships for International Research and Education.

In an effort to address the issue of skill development and capacity building in all areas of science and engineering, IUSSTF currently administers 15 **Visitation Programs** across disciplines and stakeholder levels and close-to 1500 Interns and Fellows have been trained over the last 10 years. More details about IUSSTF and its programs can be accessed at [www.iusstf.org](http://www.iusstf.org)

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