



# “FundConnect Guiding Research Funding Pathway”

**An Initiative by the Centre for Research  
Development & Innovation (RDI)  
Directorate of Higher Education,  
Government of Goa**



[rdi.gshec@gmail.com](mailto:rdi.gshec@gmail.com)

FundConnect\_Directorate of Higher Education, Goa

## Message from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa



“ It gives me great pleasure to present FundConnect – Guiding Research Funding Pathway, an important initiative of the Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Goa. This initiative reflects the Government's continued commitment to strengthening the research and innovation ecosystem across higher education institutions in the State.

FundConnect has been conceptualised to address a critical need in the academic community, providing structured guidance and institutional support for research funding, proposal development, and academic advancement. Through this initiative, faculty members and researchers will receive assistance in identifying suitable funding opportunities, preparing competitive research proposals, and building meaningful academic collaborations.

A key focus of FundConnect is to support aspiring researchers in pursuing PhD and postdoctoral opportunities, both in India and abroad. By offering mentoring, guidance, and access to expert support, the initiative aims to help students and faculty plan their research careers in a systematic and informed manner.

As Goa moves steadily towards becoming a knowledge-driven and innovation-led state, strengthening research capabilities within higher education institutions remains a priority. FundConnect will play a significant role in nurturing quality research, encouraging interdisciplinary work, and aligning academic efforts with national priorities and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

I commend the Centre for Research Development and Innovation at Directorate of Higher Education for launching this important initiative. I am confident that FundConnect will contribute meaningfully to building a strong research culture in Goa and empowering our academic community to achieve excellence.

”

**–Dr. Pramod Sawant**  
**Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa**

## Message from the Hon'ble Education Secretary



“ It gives me great pleasure to note the launch of FundConnect – Guiding Research Funding Pathway, an important initiative of the Centre for Research Development & Innovation (RDI) at the Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Goa. This initiative marks a significant step towards strengthening the research and innovation ecosystem across higher education institutions in the State.

High-quality research is a cornerstone of academic excellence and a key driver of socio-economic development. FundConnect has been thoughtfully designed to address the evolving needs of our academic community by providing structured guidance, institutional support, and access to expertise in research funding, proposal development, and academic collaborations. By empowering faculty members and researchers with the right tools and mentoring, the initiative will help translate ideas into impactful research outcomes.

The emphasis on working closely with Research & Development Cells (R&D Cells) in colleges, facilitating hands-on training in grant writing, and supporting aspiring researchers in pursuing PhD and postdoctoral opportunities, both in India and abroad, reflects a holistic and forward-looking approach. Such efforts are essential for nurturing a sustainable research culture and encouraging interdisciplinary and nationally relevant research.

As Goa advances towards becoming a knowledge-driven and innovation-led state, initiatives like FundConnect will play a vital role in aligning higher education with national priorities and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. I commend the Directorate of Higher Education and the Centre for Research Development & Innovation for this commendable initiative and extend my best wishes to all faculty members, researchers, and institutions who will benefit from this platform.

**-Prasad Lolayekar (IAS)  
Secretary (Education)**



## Message from the Director of Higher Education



“

I am pleased to present FundConnect – Guiding Research Funding Pathway, an important initiative of the Centre for Research Development & Innovation (RDI) at the Directorate of Higher Education Goa.

This program has been designed to support our college and university faculty in their journey to become active contributors to high-quality research and innovation. As Goa moves toward becoming a knowledge-driven state, building a strong research ecosystem is essential. FundConnect aims to make that possible by giving our faculty the tools, guidance, and support they need to apply for research funding, collaborate across disciplines, and develop impactful proposals.

We are also working closely with Research & Development (R&D) Cells (RDC) in every college to make sure this initiative reaches every corner of our academic community. Colleges can request hands-on training sessions for their faculty on grant writing, and resource persons will be arranged by the Centre of Research Development Innovation (RDI).

I encourage all faculty members to make full use of this platform. Let us work together to promote research that not only builds academic excellence but also contributes meaningfully to the development of Goa and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. My best wishes to the entire academic and research community of Goa.

”

**– Bhushan Savoikar**  
**Director**

# FundConnect – Guiding Research Funding Pathway

*An Initiative by the Centre for Research Development & Innovation (RDI)  
Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Goa*

## Introduction

In line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes interdisciplinary research, innovation, and global academic collaboration, the Directorate of Higher Education (DHE), Government of Goa, has launched a strategic initiative titled “FundConnect – Guiding Research Funding Pathway” through the Centre for Research Development & Innovation (RDI). This initiative is a step toward realizing the vision of “Viksit Bharat @2047”, with a focused commitment to nurturing a knowledge-based, innovation-driven economy in Goa. As the State aspires to become a hub for high-impact research and academic excellence, it is essential to empower faculty members across Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to actively participate in interdisciplinary and collaborative research that addresses both local and national challenges.

Despite growing opportunities, many faculty members face hurdles in accessing timely information about research funding, crafting competitive proposals, and finding collaborators from complementary disciplines. FundConnect is designed to bridge these critical gaps by creating a structured, state-level support mechanism that promotes high-quality, cross-disciplinary research and enhances Goa’s contribution to national development goals. To further strengthen research capacity at the institutional level, Research & Development (R&D) Cells have been set up in all colleges across Goa. Through FundConnect, colleges may also request hands-on training sessions on grant proposal writing by registering and booking slots with Centre of RDI. Expert resource persons will be arranged by the Centre. This initiative has been launched under the guidance and leadership of Shri Bhushan Savoikar, Director of Higher Education, Goa, to provide structured and long-term support to researchers across the state.

## Objectives of FundConnect

Under the FundConnect initiative, faculty members applying for any eligible research funding scheme can receive full support from Centre RDI-DHE, including:



1) Timely and accessible information on research funding opportunities from state, national, and international agencies for faculty across all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Goa.



2) Support to enhance the quality and competitiveness of research proposals through structured guidance, expert feedback, and proposal development.



3) To promote meaningful interdisciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration by connecting faculty across diverse fields and institutions.



4) To build research capacity among young and early-career faculty members through continuous mentorship, training, and proposal writing workshops.



5) To establish an enabling ecosystem for collaborative, problem-solving research that aligns with local needs and national priorities.



6) Hands-on training sessions in grant proposal writing can be arranged at the college level through their R&D Cells, upon prior registration. Resource persons will be provided by the Centre.

## Scope of FundConnect

FundConnect is a comprehensive state-level initiative designed to support faculty in applying for any competitive research funding scheme, whether at the state, national, or international level. It plays a key role in strengthening the research culture across Goa's higher education institutions by connecting researchers with the right opportunities and support.

The initiative covers a wide range of funding programs, including but not limited to:

1. State-level schemes, such as Goa State Research Grants (GSRF), Goa DST, GSBB etc. aimed at improving institutional research capacity.
2. National research funding agencies, including DST, DBT, ICSSR, UGC, ICAR, ICMR, ANRF, and others that support sector-specific and interdisciplinary research.
3. International funding programs, such as Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, Commonwealth Grants, and calls supported by UN bodies, the World Bank, and other global institutions.

No matter the funding source, FundConnect offers structured guidance, collaboration support, and expert mentoring to help Goa's faculty members turn their research ideas into impactful proposals and projects.

## Support Provided under FundConnect

Support Provided under FundConnect Under the FundConnect initiative, faculty members applying for any eligible research funding scheme can receive full support from RDI-DHE at every stage of the proposal process. The support includes:

- a) Sharing timely information about new and ongoing research funding opportunities with all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Goa.
- b) Helping faculty find suitable collaborators from other colleges, disciplines, or universities based on the needs of their research project.
- c) Providing expert advice and feedback to improve the quality, structure, and clarity of research proposals.
- d) Offering mentorship and training through one-on-one consultations, proposal writing workshops, and mock review sessions.
- e) Assisting with documentation, budget planning, and the final submission process.
- f) Facilitating joint meetings at DHE, where project teams can work together to finalize proposals before submission.

**FundConnect ensures that no faculty member in Goa is alone in the research journey, support is available from idea to submission.**

## PhD Opportunities: Begin Your Research Career

The Centre for Research Development and Innovation (RDI), Directorate of Higher Education (DHE), Goa mentor students who wish to pursue PhD programs in India or abroad.

Through this initiative, you can:

- Learn about upcoming PhD openings and funding schemes
- Get guidance on the application process
- Plan your research career with proper support

How to Register

- Fill in your details using the link: <https://forms.gle/eUfMwY9nQVkJ2BXGg7>
- RDI, DHE will schedule an appointment for discussion and further planning

## Postdoctoral Opportunities: Advance Beyond Your PhD

The Centre for Research Development and Innovation (RDI), DHE, Goa helps researchers explore postdoctoral fellowships and research opportunities in India and internationally.

Through this platform, you can:

- Access information about postdoctoral programs and fellowships
- Receive guidance on preparing strong applications
- Plan your next stage of academic or research career

How to Register

- Submit your details via this link: <https://forms.gle/5ijol4eg4W8c3L4H9>
- RDI, DHE will arrange a meeting for further guidance and planning

## How to Participate

Faculty members from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Goa who are interested in applying for research funding with support from FundConnect can follow the steps below:

1. Respond to Calls or Reach Out Directly: Faculty can either respond to specific funding calls circulated under the FundConnect initiative or directly contact RDI-DHE if they have a research idea that aligns with an active funding scheme.
2. Submit Your Research Idea: Interested faculty should fill out the FundConnect Idea Submission Form, providing basic details about the proposed research, collaborators (if any), and funding scheme.
3. Proposal Development and Collaboration Support: Based on the topic and scope of the proposed project, RDI will assist in identifying suitable collaborators from relevant disciplines or institutions and offer expert support to strengthen the proposal.
4. Joint Discussions and Finalization: Where needed, joint proposal planning sessions will be organized at DHE to help the research team finalize the draft and prepare it for submission.
5. Faculty may also coordinate with their college's R&D Cell to request grant writing sessions or group mentoring workshops supported by Centre of RDI, DHE.
6. Submission to Funding Agency: After all inputs are incorporated, the proposal is submitted to the funding agency by the Principal Investigator (PI).

**Note:** In most funding schemes, the Principal Investigator is required to hold a Ph.D.. For postdoctoral project opportunities, RDI can also provide support based on individual requests.

## Team FundConnect

The FundConnect initiative is led and coordinated by a dedicated team at the Directorate of Higher Education (DHE), Goa, committed to supporting faculty through every stage of their research journey:

- Prof. Mahesh Majik - Professor, Research Development & Innovation
- Prof. Vithal Tilvi - Professor, Research Development & Innovation
- Dr. Mahadev Gawas - Programme Director, SAMARTH
- Ms. Niti T. Naik - Assistant Professor, Research Development & Innovation

Faculty members from any college or university in Goa are encouraged to contact any member of the FundConnect team for guidance, mentoring, or help with identifying funding opportunities and collaborators.

## Way Forward

FundConnect marks a key step toward building a strong, research-driven academic culture in Goa. All Higher Education Institutions are encouraged to engage actively with the initiative, while faculty members are invited to make use of this structured support to strengthen their research and expand their contribution to national and global challenges.

## Managing Committee



**Prof. Vithal Tilvi**  
Professor, RDI



**Prof. Mahesh Majik**  
Professor, RDI



**Dr. Mahadev Gawas**  
Assistant Professor



**Ms. Niti Naik**  
Assistant Professor

### Contact Us



Email Address  
rdi.gshec@gmail.com  
dhe.goa.gov.in



Phone No. 08322410824



Address  
Goa Education Complex,  
Alto Porvorim