

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi
Expression of Interest (EoI) for
Research on ICMR-INDIAB Study Biobank Samples

1. Background

The Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) project is a nation-wide cross-sectional survey of the Indian population over 20 years old with the goal of estimating the national burden of diabetes and other metabolic NCDs, by determining the state-by-state prevalence of the same. This study revealed key data on diabetes, pre-diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and dyslipidemia across 31 States/ Union Territories (UT) of India. In addition, a biobank was established as part of this study, wherein biological samples from participants were systematically stored as aliquots for future research use. Details of the participants, sample types, and study design are published and publicly available at <https://ijmr.org.in/icmr-mdrf-diabetes-biosamples-cohort-profile/>

2. Invitation for Expression of Interest

ICMR invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from eligible researchers and institutions in India to undertake scientifically meaningful research using biological samples available in the ICMR-INDIAB Study Biobank. The objective of this EoI is to enable optimal and responsible utilization of ICMR-INDIAB Biobank samples for investigator-initiated research addressing biomedical, clinical, translational, or public health research questions of national importance.

3. Modalities for Submission of Expression of Interest

The ICMR-INDIAB Biobank samples will be made available to eligible researchers through the following two modalities:

Option 1: Provision of Samples without Funding Support (Preferred Modality)

Under this modality, applicant groups are expected to have all necessary infrastructure, laboratory facilities, equipment, manpower, and consumables required to carry out the proposed research. No financial support will be provided by ICMR under this option, and ICMR will facilitate access to biological samples only.

Applicants opting for this modality are required to submit a Concept Note (2–4 pages max) clearly outlining the proposed research to be conducted using the ICMR-INDIAB study samples. The Concept Note must be submitted to ICMR on or before 16 March 2026 on the ICMR ePMS portal and should include the names of investigators and affiliations, rationale, objectives, brief methodology, expected outcomes and source of funding. The EoI must clearly specify:

- type of biosample(s) required;
- minimum volume per sample;
- minimum number of samples;
- scientific justification for sample requirement.

Based on scientific merit and relevance, shortlisted research teams will be invited to submit a detailed full proposal for further evaluation.

Option 2: Provision of Samples with Funding Support from ICMR (Exceptional Cases)

In exceptional cases, researchers may seek limited financial support from ICMR in addition to access to ICMR-INDIAB study samples. Funding support, if considered, will be restricted to manpower, consumables, and operational expenses only. Requests for support towards equipment procurement or infrastructure development will not be entertained

Proposals seeking funding support must be submitted as part of the already open ICMR Extramural Grant calls under the following schemes, in accordance with their respective guidelines and timelines:

- Call for Investigator-Initiated Research Proposals for ICMR Small Extramural Grants ([ICMR ANVESHAN](#)) – 2026
Last date for submission: 16 March 2026 (5:00 PM IST)
- Call for Investigator-Initiated Research Proposals for ICMR Intermediate Extramural Grants ([ICMR NISCHAYAK ANVESHAN](#)) – 2026
Last date for submission: 20 March 2026 (5:00 PM IST)

The title of the proposal must be preceded with: “(EOI FOR ICMR-INDIAB STUDY SAMPLES)” (in all CAPS) followed by the actual title. Applicants opting for this modality must clearly indicate the requirement of ICMR-INDIAB study samples within their grant proposal and provide appropriate scientific justification. Proposals must clearly specify:

- type of biosample(s) required;
- minimum volume per sample;
- minimum number of samples;
- scientific justification for sample requirement.

4. Steps to Apply

- i. Login to the ePMS portal
- ii. Complete the PI profile and institutional details
- iii. For Option 1: Navigate to: Proposal submission → EoI → ‘Add new EoI proposal’
For Option 2: Submit the proposal under the relevant Call as mentioned above
- iv. Fill the EoI form step-by-step and upload all relevant documents.

5. Role of ICMR

- v. ICMR will facilitate provision of approved biosamples as per agreed terms and conditions. Initially, a limited number of samples will be provided to enable assay standardization and preliminary analysis, subject to review and satisfaction by ICMR before consideration of additional sample provision.
- vi. ICMR will monitor all scientific, ethical, and operational aspects of the study.
- vii. The study shall be governed by applicable ICMR policies and approvals.

6. Role of Researcher / Institution

- i. Conduct the study strictly as per the approved protocol and timelines.
- ii. Comply with ethical guidelines, data protection requirements, and reporting obligations.
- iii. Submit periodic progress reports and final study outcomes to ICMR.

7. Authorship and Publications

- i. The ICMR-INDIAB Study Group shall be included as group authors in all publications arising from the use of samples.
- ii. If ICMR-INDIAB investigators are involved as co-investigators, mentors, or scientific contributors, appropriate individual authorship shall be provided as per ICMJE guidelines.
- iii. Support of ICMR must be duly acknowledged in all publications.

8. Monitoring and Compliance

All approved studies will be subject to monitoring by ICMR. Any deviation from the approved protocol or misuse of samples may result in appropriate action including withdrawal of sample access and/or funding.

9. Disclaimer

ICMR reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, amend or withdraw this EoI, or modify its terms and conditions without assigning any reason.

10. Contact

For any clarifications related to this EoI, please contact:

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