

Restricted Call for Proposals for Top 10 NIRF Ranked Medical Institutions*

'To elevate global ranking of Indian health research institutions in the top-ten of National Institutional Ranking Framework-2025'

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi

No.: ICMR/IDC/EPMS/CallforProposal/2026

Date: 13th May, 2026

Background and Rationale:

The Top-ten National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)-ranked Indian health research institutions have demonstrated significant advancements in biomedical and health research, innovation and capacity building. In alignment with the Viksit Bharat vision, the research capabilities of these institutions need to be enhanced and strengthened to elevate their global research rankings.

As a strategic initiative, the ICMR invites research proposals from the faculty members of top-ten NIRF-ranked medical and health research institutions to undertake mission-oriented and investigator-led research in emerging and inter-disciplinary domains. This initiative aims to foster high-impact globally recognized research outputs, including publications, patents, innovative technologies, and transformative clinical and public health solutions. This will also facilitate to position top-ten NIRF-ranked Indian health research institutions as key contributors to global biomedical and health research.

Objective: To elevate global ranking of Indian health research institutions in the top-ten of National Institutional Ranking Framework-2025

Eligible Institutions:

This call is open to top-ten NIRF-ranked Medical Institutions (as per the NIRF-2025, <https://www.nirfindia.org/Rankings/2025/MedicalRanking.html>). Proposals must be submitted through eligible institutions only. The Head of Institution must provide necessary endorsement for research and administrative support.

*The institutes eligible for the call are:

1. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
 2. Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh
 3. Christian Medical College, Vellore
 4. Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry
 5. Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow
 6. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
 7. National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru
 8. King George's Medical University, Lucknow
 9. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu
 10. Kasturba Medical College, Manipal
-

Eligible Investigators:

Principal Investigators (PIs) must:

- Hold (regular/contractual) faculty positions in eligible medical institutions;
- Have demonstrated commitment to medical research;
- Not have more than four ongoing ICMR projects as PI.

For contractual/temporary faculty as PI/CO-PIs:

- The Head of Institution must provide an undertaking for all administrative and financial responsibilities;
- At least one Co-Principal Investigator must be a regular employee;
- The PI will not draw salary from the project grant.

Exclusions:

The following will not be supported under this call:

- Proposals from medical institutions other than the top-ten NIRF-ranked Medical Institutions (as per the NIRF-2025, <https://www.nirfindia.org/Rankings/2025/MedicalRanking.html>).
- Proposals focused primarily on infrastructure development/ routine academic or departmental activities/ clinical service strengthening without research objectives
- Proposals not aligned with biomedical or public health research
- Proposals submitted without institutional endorsement

Budget and duration of research:

- The duration of any project will be from 2- 4 years
- The total budget per proposal may range from 10 Lac to 2 Crore or 2 to 8 Crores
- The total budget of all submitted projects from any institute should not exceed 50 Crores.
- The decision of the Competent Authority shall be final.

Submission guidelines:

- Identification of 3-5 core priority areas by each institute based on an objective analysis of research output over the preceding four years. The selection of the core priority areas must be based on the following criteria:
 - Numbers of publications in peer-reviewed indexed journals.
 - Cumulative impact factor
 - Publication Equivalent (PE) scores in align with IRIS-equivalent: <https://ijmr.org.in/publication-equivalent-as-the-new-single-currency-of-research-impact-the-icmr-impact-of-research-and-innovation-scale-icmr-iris/>).
-

- Proposals from an institute must align with the identified core priority areas of the institute
- Trainings programs, capacity development of the faculty, high-end research infrastructure, international collaborations, innovation clusters pertaining to the project may be budgeted into the project budget.
- Publication and patent would be supported by ICMR
- IP guidance, patent filing, maintenance for 5 years and technology transfer would be facilitated by ICMR's Biomedical Innovations Patent Mitra
- Regulatory guidance would be facilitated by ICMR's MedTechMitra

Selection process:

ICMR will conduct an independent evaluation of all submitted proposals. Within each institute, proposals shall be ranked according to merit, and the highest-ranked projects will be funded within the institute's allocated budget. The proposals submitted to ICMR will be evaluated by a two-tier approach. The first evaluation will be done at the level of the institute, where the internal Scientific Review Committee comprising of top leadership and super-annuated faculty may evaluate the proposals.

Evaluation will consider:

- Scientific merit and originality of the research proposal
- Relevance to priority biomedical or public health challenges
- Innovation and translational potential
- Feasibility and methodological rigor
- Track record and expertise of the investigator team
- Potential for high-impact publications and scientific advancement
- Budget justification and alignment with ICMR norms

Timelines:

Activity	Timeline
Release of 'Call for Proposal'	13 th May 2026
Submission Deadline	13 th July 2026, 1700 hours

How to Apply?

- All proposals must be submitted ONLINE ONLY through: ICMR Extramural Project Management System (e-PMS): <https://epms.icmr.org.in>
- Kindly update the personal details under the PI profile to proceed before proceeding for submission.
- Proposal submission → Click on ‘**Apply proposal**’ → Select the call from the dropdown
- **For proposals with budget of 10 Lac to 2 Crores** → Select → Call for Proposal to elevate global ranking of top National Institutional Ranking Framework-ranked Indian health research institutions - under Small Extramural Grants (“ICMR ANVESHAN Extramural Grants”) 2026
- **For proposals with budget of 2 Crores to 8 Crores** → Select → Call for Proposal to elevate global ranking of top National Institutional Ranking Framework-ranked Indian health research institutions - under Intermediate Extramural Grants (“ICMR NISCHAYAK ANVESHAN Extramural Grants”) 2026
- Fill in the form step-by-step.
- Kindly ensure that all sections are adequately filled with the necessary details.
- Inclusion of at least one Co-PI from PI’s institute is mandatory.
- PIs are advised to submit proposals well ahead of the last date.
- For any query related to the call, please mail to the addresses given below; other modes of communication won’t be entertained.

For Technical Queries (ePMS Portal Issues)	For Scientific Queries (Proposal related)
po.epms@icmr.gov.in	gunjank.hq@icmr.gov.in

Call for Proposal to elevate global ranking of top National Institutional Ranking Framework-ranked Indian health research institutions - under Small Extramural Grants (“ICMR ANVESHAN Extramural Grants”) 2026

Format for project proposal

For Proposals with budget - INR 10 Lac- 2 Crores

PART-A

(No personally identifiable information for PI/institute should be included in part-A)

1. Title of the proposed research project: should be specific, concise and yet sufficiently informative.
 2. Summary (up to 500 words): A structured summary should contain the following subheadings: Background, Problem statement and rationale of study, Key research question(s), Objectives, Methodology, and Expected outcomes.
 3. Please select the most appropriate priority area from the list (Ref: Table-1), else select ‘Other’.
 4. Keywords: Six keywords separated by comma which best describe your project may be provided.
 5. Abbreviations: List of all the abbreviations (maximum of 10) used in the proposal may be provided.
 6. Background, including problem statement, and rationale of study (up to 1000 words).
 7. Key Research question(s):
 8. Study Objectives: Define the objectives (maximum 4): The objectives should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable with the project’s budget and time, resourced within the project’s budget, and time bound).
 9. Methodology: Describe the research methods that could best achieve the study objectives under the following sub-headings (as applicable):
 - a. Study design
 - b. Study Area or Settings
 - c. Study subjects
 - d. Interventions
 - e. Comparison
 - f. Primary and secondary outcome measures
 - g. Sample size estimation and sampling strategy
 - h. Data Collection methods, instruments used, measurements
-

- i. Data quality assurance methods
 - j. Data management plan
 - k. Data analysis plans
 - l. Ethical considerations
 - m. Does your project involve
 - i. Animal experiments?
 - ii. Humans as study participants?
 - iii. Biosafety concerns e.g. pathogens, recombinant microorganisms, radiations, etc.?
 - iv. CDSCO approvals e.g. for investigational new drugs, vaccines, devices, diagnostics?
 - v. Any others (please specify) (text box)
10. Project Implementation plan along with milestone chart (objective wise deliverable & timelines e.g. Gantt/ PERT chart). [Textbox & picture]
11. Any potential risk & challenges to success of this project and how you plan to address them.
12. Expected outcome/ Deliverables from the project i.e., what will be known at the end, if the project achieves all the stated objectives (up to 500 words).
- Describe as applicable, whether the study is going to generate:
- a. Publications
 - b. Patents
 - c. Health Technology
 - i. Proof-of-Concept
 - ii. Prototype Development
 - iii. Final Product, or a validated model
 - d. Public health impact (impact on public health program guidelines/policies)
 - e. Clinical care impact (impact on clinical care guidelines)
13. Please describe what the immediate next steps after the end of the project if study objectives are successfully achieved.
14. Have you taken help of Artificial Intelligence tools to write your proposal (Yes/No)
- (if yes, to what extent and in which component of proposal –textbox)
15. References (in American Medical Association (AMA) style)
-

PART-B

16. Details of Preliminary work done by the PI including the source of funding (up to 1000 words): Proof of concept (if any) [Addition of Field for Picture]
 17. Skill and experience of the research team: Highlight only salient points (along with 5 relevant publications) that provides confidence to reviewers that the team can implement the project with quality.
 18. Institutional Support/ Facilities: Share a brief note on inter-departmental or inter-institutional collaboration needed for study implementation. Do mention the role and responsibility of the PI and Co-PIs.
 19. Laboratory facilities (in-vitro/ in-silico): Mention the institutional resources (such as animal house, instruments/ equipment etc.) available for use in the proposed project for participating institutes.
 20. Additional supplementary information including figures, tables, flow diagrams, data collection tool etc. can be shared as PDF (maximum size 10 MB).
 21. Budget: Budget should be as per ICMR guidelines available on the website. Justifications for all sub-headings under budget (as per ICMR format) are to be provided in detail. Without appropriate justification, the project will not be considered for review.
 22. List up to two non-preferred reviewers for assessing your project:
 - i. First Name
 - ii. Middle Name
 - iii. Last Name
 - iv. Designation
 - v. Affiliation
-

Format for the short resume (PI/Co-PI)
(Addition of CVs of PI and three (3) Co-PIs are permitted)

a) Name of PI/Co-PI along with their affiliation	
b) Date of Birth	
c) Domain Expertise	
d) Number of articles in PubMed (Past 10 years)	
e) h-index	
f) Fellow of Academies	

g) Maximum of 10 primary research publications related to the proposal.

Publication details in AMA style	Impact factor of journal	Author type (first, corresponding, co-author)	Name of policy/programme/ protocol document or patent/ commercialization of products where cited.

h) Patent (s)

Title	Patent filed or granted	Patent Number	Patent Agency	Patent Date

i) Experience as Investigator (completed projects):

Short title of project (Max. 10 words)	Role PI/Co-PI	Funding agency	Amount of funding	Reference of main publications

j) All ongoing research projects:

Project ID	Title	Grant amount	Funding agency	Start Date	Duration of project

BUDGET

(Staff, Equipment, Contingency/Consumables and Travel allowance)

a) Staff/Manpower			
Sl. No.	Salary (As per ICMR Project guidelines)		
Justification of Staff/Manpower*			
b) Equipment			
Sl. No.	Equipment Name	Estimated cost with appropriate supporting document	Justification*
c) Contingency/Consumables			
Detail		Breakup with Justification*	
Year 1:			
Year 2:			
Year 3:			
Consumables			
Detail		Breakup with Justification*	
Year 1:			
Year 2:			
Year 3:			
d) Travel Allowance			
Detail		Justification*	
Year 1:			
Year 2:			
Year 3:			
Overhead charges(as per rules)			
GRAND TOTAL			

**Justification must be given in adequate detail; else the proposed budget item will be removed from the approved grant.*

**Call for Proposal to elevate global ranking of top National Institutional Ranking
Framework-ranked Indian health research institutions - under Intermediate
Extramural Grants (“ICMR NISCHAYAK ANVESHAN Extramural Grants”)-2026**

Format for project proposal

For Proposals with budget - INR 2 Crores - 8 Crores

PART-A

(No personally identifiable information for PI/institute should be included in part-A)

1. Title of the proposed research project: should be specific, concise and yet sufficiently informative.
 2. Summary (up to 500 words): A structured summary should contain the following subheadings: Background, Problem statement and rationale of study, Key research question(s), Objectives, Methodology, and Expected outcomes.
 3. Please select the most appropriate priority area from the list (Ref: Table-1), else select ‘Other’.
 4. Keywords: Six keywords separated by comma which best describe your project may be provided.
 5. Abbreviations: List of all the abbreviations (maximum of 10) used in the proposal may be provided.
 6. Background, including problem statement, and rationale of study (up to 1000 words).
 7. Key Research question(s):
 8. Study Objectives: Define the objectives (maximum 4): The objectives should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable with the project’s budget and time, resourced within the project’s budget, and time bound).
 9. Methodology: Describe the research methods that could best achieve the study objectives under the following sub-headings (as applicable):
 - a. Study design
 - b. Study Area or Settings
 - c. Study subjects
 - d. Interventions
 - e. Comparison
 - f. Primary and secondary outcome measures
 - g. Sample size estimation and sampling strategy
 - h. Data Collection methods, instruments used, measurements
-

- i. Data quality assurance methods
- j. Data management plan
- k. Data analysis plans
- l. Ethical considerations
- m. Does your project involve
 - i. Animal experiments?
 - ii. Humans as study participants?
 - iii. Biosafety concerns e.g. pathogens, recombinant microorganisms, radiations, etc.?
 - iv. CDSCO approvals e.g. for investigational new drugs, vaccines, devices, diagnostics?
 - v. Any others (please specify) (text box)
- 10. Project Implementation plan along with milestone chart (objective wise deliverable & timelines e.g. Gantt/ PERT chart). [Textbox & picture]
- 11. Any potential risk & challenges to success of this project and how you plan to address them.
- 12. Expected outcome/ Deliverables from the project i.e., what will be known at the end, if the project achieves all the stated objectives (up to 500 words).

Describe as applicable, whether the study is going to generate:

- a. Publications
 - b. Patents
 - c. Health Technology
 - i. Proof-of-Concept
 - ii. Prototype Development
 - iii. Final Product, or a validated model
 - d. Public health impact (impact on public health program guidelines/policies)
 - e. Clinical care impact (impact on clinical care guidelines)
 - 13. Please describe what the immediate next steps after the end of the project if study objectives are successfully achieved.
 - 14. Have you taken help of Artificial Intelligence tools to write your proposal (Yes/No) - (if yes, to what extent and in which component of proposal –textbox)
 - 15. References (in American Medical Association (AMA) style)
-

PART-B

16. Details of Preliminary work done by the PI including the source of funding (up to 1000 words): Proof of concept (if any) [Addition of Field for Picture]
 17. Skill and experience of the research team: Highlight only salient points (along with 5 relevant publications) that provides confidence to reviewers that the team can implement the project with quality.
 18. Institutional Support/ Facilities: Share a brief note on inter-departmental or inter-institutional collaboration needed for study implementation. Do mention the role and responsibility of the PI and Co-PIs.
 19. Laboratory facilities (in-vitro/ in-silico): Mention the institutional resources (such as animal house, instruments/ equipment etc.) available for use in the proposed project for participating institutes.
 20. Additional supplementary information including figures, tables, flow diagrams, data collection tool etc. can be shared as PDF (maximum size 10 MB).
 21. Budget: Budget should be as per ICMR guidelines available on the website. Justifications for all sub-headings under budget (as per ICMR format) are to be provided in detail. Without appropriate justification, the project will not be considered for review.
 22. List up to two non-preferred reviewers for assessing your project:
 - i. First Name
 - ii. Middle Name
 - iii. Last Name
 - iv. Designation
 - v. Affiliation
-

Format for the short resume (PI/Co-PI)
(Addition of CVs of PI and three (3) Co-PIs are permitted)

a) Name of PI/Co-PI along with their affiliation	
b) Date of Birth	
c) Domain Expertise	
d) Number of articles in PubMed (Past 10 years)	
e) h-index	
f) Fellow of Academies	

k) Maximum of 10 primary research publications related to the proposal.

Publication details in AMA style	Impact factor of journal	Author type (first, corresponding, co-author)	Name of policy/programme/ protocol document or patent/ commercialization of products where cited.

l) Patent (s)

Title	Patent filed or granted	Patent Number	Patent Agency	Patent Date

m) Experience as Investigator (completed projects):

Short title of project (Max. 10 words)	Role PI/Co-PI	Funding agency	Amount of funding	Reference of main publications

n) All ongoing research projects:

Project ID	Title	Grant amount	Funding agency	Start Date	Duration of project

BUDGET

(Staff, Equipment, Contingency/Consumables and Travel allowance)

a) Staff/Manpower			
Sl. No.	Salary (As per ICMR Project guidelines)		
Justification of Staff/Manpower*			
b) Equipment			
Sl. No.	Equipment Name	Estimated cost with appropriate supporting document	Justification*
c) Contingency/Consumables			
Detail		Breakup with Justification*	
Year 1:			
Year 2:			
Year 3:			
Consumables			
Detail		Breakup with Justification*	
Year 1:			
Year 2:			
Year 3:			
d) Travel Allowance			
Detail		Justification*	
Year 1:			
Year 2:			
Year 3:			
Overhead charges(as per rules)			
GRAND TOTAL			

**Justification must be given in adequate detail; else the proposed budget item will be removed from the approved grant.*

Priority diseases or conditions:

Communicable Diseases (bacterial, viral, fungal, parasitic)	Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)	Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition
One-health approach for infections of epidemic or pandemic potential	Cancer	Preconception care
Tuberculosis	Diabetes	Antenatal Care
Antimicrobial resistance	Cardio-vascular diseases	Intra and peri-partum care*
Malaria	Chronic respiratory illness*	Postnatal care
Vector-borne diseases (other than malaria)	Neurological Disorders	Preterm birth / low birth weight
Sexually Transmitted Infections including HIV	Chronic kidney diseases	Neonatal sepsis
Influenza and other Respiratory infections	Common mental health disorders	Early child development
Gastrointestinal infections including hepatitis	Chronic Gastroenterological / Liver diseases	Childhood Malnutrition, Breastfeeding and complementary Feeding*
Sepsis, meningitis, encephalitis	Trauma and Burns	Anaemia in women and children*
Urinary infections	Oral health problems	Common childhood diseases
Infections that may cause cancer	NCD risk factors e.g. diet, physical activity, alcohol, tobacco etc.*	Polycystic Ovary Syndrome & other reproductive health problems
	Blood disorders like thalassemia, sickle cell disease, clotting disorders etc.	Adolescent health*
	Eye diseases	Contraception and infertility
	ENT conditions	Transgender Health
	Genetic diseases, especially inherited rare diseases	
<p>Over-arching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Counter measures development (e.g Vaccines, Diagnostics, Therapeutics) against infections with outbreak potential • Climate change – environmental risk factors & their impact on health* • Oral Health • Ageing and elderly health • Disability and rehabilitation • Nursing • Medical education 		

Table 1:

*We encourage the researchers to submit proposals on these high-priority research areas.