



भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य और परिवार
कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare, Government of India

Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) on “Prevention and Screening of Oral, Breast, Cervical and Gastrointestinal Cancers in Jammu and Kashmir”

Background

Cancer poses a significant and pressing public health challenge in India and is a top priority within the mandate of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Cancer cases are rising in India with over 14 lakh cases annually nationwide and over 67,000 cases reported between 2018 and 2024, averaging over 14,000 new cases annually in 2026. In India, breast and lung cancers are dominant, while in J&K, gastrointestinal (stomach and esophagus) and lung cancers have high incidence. Gastric (stomach) cancer is highly prevalent, particularly in the Kashmir Valley, followed by esophageal and colorectal cancers.

ICMR is initiating an implementation research on “Prevention and Screening of Oral, Breast, Cervical and Gastrointestinal Cancers in Jammu and Kashmir”.

Subsequently, ICMR is inviting implementation research concept proposals, with the primary goal of enhancing the coverage and quality of cancer screening and early detection within the framework of the public healthcare system under NP-NCD.

Priority Research Question

In the framework of the National Program for Prevention and Control of Non- Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), how can a J&K wide implementation program for high screening coverage and quality, early diagnosis, prevention and treatment initiation for Oral, breast, cervical, and gastrointestinal cancers be achieved in Jammu & Kashmir using a co- developed implementation model through the implementation of a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, and geographically adapted cancer screening and prevention program?

How to accelerate prevention, screening, early diagnosis and treatment of cancer, pre-cancerous/potentially malignant conditions at district level of J&K by implementing a package of interventions to:

1. Improve coverage and quality of cancer prevention and screening through the existing health care system using accepted and validated methods.
2. Engage non-specialist physicians and other health care workers within a supportive healthcare system for screening of cancer and pre-cancerous conditions.
3. Ensure that all screen-positive people are linked to facilities for early diagnosis and treatment.
4. Involve communities to encourage the target population to undergo prevention, screening, early diagnosis, and treatment.

Research Design

- Mixed methods implementation research design, including qualitative and quantitative approaches using an implementation science framework
- Implementation Research study.

Target Population

S.No.	Target Population	Cancer Category
1	Women aged 30 years and above	Breast Cancer
2	Adults aged 18 years and above	Oral Cancer
3	All sexually active women aged 30-60 years	Cervical Cancer
4	Adults aged 40 years and above	Gastrointestinal Cancer

Setting

District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (and, if applicable, medical college) At least one full district should be included in the proposal.

Interventions

Prevention and screening interventions and strategies included in national programme (NP-NCD).

Newer interventions those are effective.

Facility and population-level interventions to support the prevention and screening of oral, breast, cervical, and gastrointestinal cancers

Duration of project

The project duration will be four years. This includes up to 6 months for preparatory activities and 6 months or analysis and interpretation. It should include formative phase, implementation phase and evaluation phase.

Expected Outcomes of the study

- Development of an optimized, effective, evidence-based implementation model for prevention, screening, early diagnosis and treatment, which can be integrated into NP-NCD programme in a feasible and scalable manner in context to Jammu and Kashmir.

Outcomes

- **Primary:** Screening uptake, confirmed cases, turnaround time, and completion of screening-to-treatment cascade.
- **Secondary:** Changes in community knowledge and perceptions (baseline vs endline), patient satisfaction, feasibility, and cost indicators.
- Training and capacity building of healthcare workers and ASHAs in screening, counselling, referral, and follow-up care.
- Improved community-level knowledge and risk perception related to cancer prevention and early detection, measured through pre- and post-intervention assessments.
- Generation of implementation evidence to support integration and strengthening of cancer prevention and screening within the NP-NCD framework at the state level.

ICMR invites Expression of Interest (see annexure) from research teams from J&K to participate in this Implementation Research Study. Selected research groups, J&K Government representatives and ICMR Secretariat will co-develop the detailed protocol for this study.

Annexure

Format of Expression of Interest (EOI) to be submitted

1. Rationale of proposed study including the choice of sites (district) where the implementation shall be carried out

The proposal should clearly state the rationale for the study, the recommended sites (district) and the likelihood of utilization of the model by stakeholders in the future. The proposal can also provide evidence from previous research on the topic in the county or elsewhere, and describe any specific challenges related to implementation for the target group(s).

2. Implementation Strategy

Provide a clear and detailed description of the intervention(s) being implemented, including the target population, the intervention components, and the implementation strategies. You may include preparatory activities, mapping, a timeline, steps of implementation, measures of outcome, data management and deliverables.

3. Address feasibility and scalability

Address the feasibility and scalability of the proposed intervention, including the resources needed, the capacity of the implementing organization, and the potential for wider adoption and scale-up within India's health care framework.

4. Research Team

Summarize and justify the composition of the research team based on the expertise of individual team members in designing and implementing the project. The role and responsibility of each team member should be outlined here.

5. Established relationships with health systems and educational institutions

Operational feasibility is the key to this implementation research. Include established collaborations with state and district health systems, NHM structures, educational institutions, and NGOs. The EoI should also describe the existing or proposed liaisons with district health system where the study is proposed to be undertaken.

6. Budget outline

The final site budgets for the proposal will be developed by the selected research team(s) under the guidance of ICMR. In this EOI, provide an estimated budget outline (no budget justification required at this stage).

7. CV of the principal investigator and other key investigators

Please provide CV of the PI and other key investigators from each identified area. Each CV should include:

- Academic and professional qualifications
- Current position and affiliation
- Up to five most relevant previous research grants
- Up to five most relevant previous publications
- H-index

8. Duration of the Project:

The project duration will be up to four years. An additional period of up to six months for preparatory activities (with no additional costs) can be incorporated.

9. Review process:

EOI documents will be evaluated and shortlisted by ICMR. The ICMR team will screen applications for technical accuracy and eligibility. Shortlisted teams will collaborate to develop a detailed protocol under ICMR Headquarters' guidance. Proposals will be evaluated based on study design, feasibility, data management capabilities, prior experience, engagement with public health systems, and potential for seamless integration.

10. Who can submit the EOI?

The EOI can be submitted through EPMS PORTAL ONLY by scientists/professionals with regular employment in Medical Institutes, Research Institutes, Universities, Colleges, Government and semi-government organizations, and NGOs.

Points to be kept in mind while submitting the EOI

- 1) The EOI must address the specific research question that is mentioned in the call text.
- 2) Collaborative, multi-centre, interdisciplinary research initiatives from the applicant will be encouraged.
- 3) Descriptive studies, systematic reviews and secondary data analysis will not be considered.
- 4) Should focus on outcomes that are translatable into policy.
- 5) Evaluation of the development of indigenous technologies and solutions relevant to the Indian context may be prioritized.
- 6) Foreign collaboration is not allowed under the call.

Interested parties should submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) as per the Format given above. Only shortlisted PI will be contacted

Timeline

Activities	Date
Release of Call	25 th May 2026
Last Date for Submission of EOI	25 th June 2026
Short listing of EOI	10 th July 2026
Proposal Development Workshop	10 th August 2026
Submission of Full Proposal	25 th August 2026

How to apply?

The EOI proposal can be submitted for financial support through ONLINE MODE ONLY (<https://epms.icmr.org.in>) by the Principal Investigator on behalf of the proposed team of Scientists/professionals who have a regular employment in Indian Medical Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges/ recognized Research & Development laboratories/ Government and semi-government organizations and NGOs (documentary evidence of their recognition including DSIR certificate, as applicable should be enclosed with every proposal). The research team should have the credentials for relevant skills, and experience and have demonstrated the ability to solve health problems under

consideration.

- The PI must not have more than five ongoing research proposals funded by ICMR or the sum of grant amount of more than ₹25 crores from the ongoing research projects funded by ICMR.
- ICMR scientists/institutes are not eligible to apply in this call. ICMR scientists may be named as co-investigators in these projects, but no funds will be given to ICMR institutions or scientists.

Important points for the submission of the proposal

1. Submission portal (<https://epms.icmr.org.in>) will open from **1st June 2026**
2. After completing mandatory section of PI profile, click on Proposal submission →Click on EOI → Click on the blue tab -Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) on Prevention and Screening of Oral, Breast, Cervical and Gastrointestinal Cancers in Jammu and Kashmir to apply for new proposal →Fill the form step by step.
3. Kindly ensure that all sections are adequately filled with the necessary details.
4. Inclusion of at least one Co-PI from PI's institute is mandatory.
5. PI's are advised to submit proposals well ahead of the last date, since servers may be overloaded and slow to respond on the last day of submission.
6. For any query related to the call, please mail to the addresses given below; other modes of communication won't be entertained.

For any queries related to the call, please contact	Technical concerns related to application process
Dr. Nisha K Jose Program Officer Division of Development Research Indian Council of Medical Research Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029 Email: jose.nisha@icmr.gov.in	Email: po.epms@icmr.gov.in

Template for CV

a) Name of PI/Co-PI along with their affiliation	
b) Date of Birth	
c) Domain Expertise	
d) Number of articles in PubMed (Past 05 years)	
e) h-index	
f) Fellow of Academies	

g) Maximum of 05 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) 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

i) All ongoing research projects:

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