EoI No: TBacc/2025/1

The Indian Council of Medical Research invites Expression of Interest (EoI) for

Development and Validation of Diagnostics, Treatment regimens, Preventive Strategies and Implementation/Operational Research Studies for Management of Tuberculosis under the ICMR TB Research Accelerator Program

Indian Council of Medical Research
(Department of Health Research, GoI)
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Expression of Interest

Invitation for Expression of Interest

The **ICMR TB Research Accelerator Program** invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from eligible organizations for the development and validation of Diagnostics, Treatment Regimens, Preventive Strategies and Implementation/Operational Research Studies for management of Tuberculosis under the ICMR TB Research Accelerator Program**.**
The EoI contains details of qualification criteria, submission process, brief objective & scope of work and evaluation criteria.

The following is the EOI schedule:

EoI Document Number	**TBacc/2025/1**
Date of Publication	**02.06.2026**
Last date of submission	**02.07.2026**

All applicants are requested to submit **the project proposal as soft copy only** in the relevant format (annexure I or II) to the following E.mail ID along with **scan copy of signed declaration**:

E. mail ID: **icmr.trac@gmail.com**

Kind Attention: Project Management Unit (PMU), TB Research Accelerator Program
Addressed To:
Head, Division of Communicable Diseases
Indian Council of Medical Research,
Ansari Nagar, New Delhi -110029

ICMR reserves the right to cancel this EoI and/or publish a fresh EOI with or without amendments, without liability or any obligation for such EoI and without assigning any reason. Information provided at this stage is indicative and ICMR reserves the right to amend/add any further details in the EoI, as may be desired by the Competent Authority of ICMR and duly notified on the ICMR website.

Declaration:

1. We have gone through the complete EoI document No. **TBacc/2025/1** dated 02/06/2026 and understood all the terms & conditions, role and responsibilities fully.
2. We have also learnt about the purpose and objective of this EoI
3. We hereby declare that the information provided in the proposal are true & correct, and we will not be deviated from the any of the commitment proposed in this proposal.
4. We agree to abide by the roles & responsibilities as outlined by ICMR.
5. We accept that ICMR has the sole discretion of selection/rejection.

Authorized Signatory

Name:

Designation:

Seal:

Date:

1. Background

Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be the leading cause of death from a single infectious agent to date. The Government of India, under the leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister, has demonstrated strong political commitment to eliminating TB. The National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) aims to ensure adequate diagnosis, reporting, prevention, transmission control, treatment adherence, and social support with a goal of eliminating TB as a key public health priority. One of the key activities to achieve this goal is to accelerate the development of new diagnostics, drugs, vaccines and implementation research models. The ICMR TB Research Accelerator Program is proposed to integrate and align TB research with programmatic priorities to accelerate progress toward TB elimination in India. The TB Research accelerator will function in close partnership with the NTEP of the Central TB Division, State TB Programs and Other National/International, Public/Private Stakeholders, Industry or independent researchers, which is expected to promote an accelerated translation of effective diagnostic, management & preventive tools, as well as implementation research models in TB to provide public health solutions for the reduction of TB incidence and mortality by 2030.

The ICMR TB Research accelerator has identified priority research areas through a consultative process, in the domains of Diagnostics, Treatment, Prevention and Implementation/Operational Research for the management of TB and now invites expressions of interest from eligible organizations for conducting research in the priority areas.

2. Objective

To select and fund eligible organizations for the purpose of development and validation of Diagnostics, Treatment regimens, Preventive Strategies and Implementation/Operational Research Studies for effective diagnosis, treatment and management of Tuberculosis

3. Scope of Work

ICMR is seeking expression of interest from eligible organizations/academic institutions/universities/NGOs for the purpose of development and validation of Diagnostics, Treatment regimens, Preventive Strategies and Implementation/Operational Research Studies for management of Tuberculosis

The priority research areas in the domains of Diagnostics, Treatment, Prevention and Implementation/ Operational Research for management of TB are listed below.

4. Priority Research Areas:

S no	Priority Areas
Domain 1	**Case Finding and Diagnostics**
1	Novel screening tools and strategies (including AI based tools)
2	Non-sputum based tests (blood, urine, stool, tongue swabs etc)
3	New methods for drug resistant TB detection
4	Biomarkers for detecting Latent TB and detecting those with high risk of progression to active TB disease
5	Detection methods for Extra Pulmonary TB (EPTB) (Eg: Biomarkers/tools such as portable USG/technologies etc)
6	Molecular tests that can differentiate live from dead bacilli
Domain 2	**TB Treatment**
1	Shorter treatment regimens for minimal/non-severe TB disease
2	Long-acting anti-TB drug formulations (for reducing treatment duration or dosing frequency)
3	New Drug discovery / Re-purposing of existing drugs
4	Newer treatment regimens with focus on Drug Resistant TB
5	Fixed Dose Combinations for Drug Resistant TB
6	Simple tools for therapeutic drug monitoring for optimization of Anti-TB drug doses
7	Artificial Intelligence enable anti-TB therapy Adverse Event management system to maximize treatment compliance
8	Interventions to modulate gut microbiome for improving efficacy of anti-TB therapies
9	Pulmonary rehabilitation and post-treatment follow-up to improve quality of life and prevent TB recurrence
Domain 3	**TB Prevention**
1	Strategies to Improve Uptake of TB Preventive Treatment (TPT), Including Evaluation of New Formulations
2	Optimal Approaches for Nutritional Support in TB Patients, Household Contacts, and General Populations with Severe under-nutrition
3	Development and Evaluation of Tools and Strategies to Reduce TB Transmission (Eg: air sampling tools, ventilation tools etc)
Domain 4	**Implementation / Operational Research**
1	Feasibility, Cost-effectiveness, Operational Feasibility, Incremental Yield, and Health-system Impact of Active TB Screening Strategies
2	Targeted Interventions to Reduce Delays in TB Care-seeking and Improve Early Detection
3	Feasibility, Predictive Accuracy, and Programmatic Utility of Alternative Immunodiagnostic Tools for Latent and Early TB Detection
4	Strategies to Improve TB Program Performance through Digital Intelligence, Workforce Optimization, and Data-driven Decision-making

Important Note:

- The products/tools/solutions under diagnostic/treatment/preventive category should be at least TRL3 level and should have already established proof of concept. **Any products below TRL3 will not be considered for review or funding.**
- Projects that are of exploratory research will not be considered.
- **Industry partners are encouraged to collaborate and apply through an academic partner only.**
- Applicants are encouraged to submit multi-centric projects wherever applicable.

5. Scope of work includes the following activities:

i. Development and clinical performance evaluation of screening and diagnostic modalities for drug sensitive and drug resistant Tuberculosis disease
ii. Design and conduct of clinical trials to evaluate efficacy and safety of newer drug regimens for treatment of drug sensitive and drug resistant Tuberculosis
iii. Development and clinical evaluation of preventive strategies such as TB preventive therapies
iv. Design and conduct of Implementation/Operational/Socio-behavioral research to improve early diagnosis and treatment of TB

Interested organizations can submit their interest (through the templates available at Annexure 1 and/or 2) in **up to two priority research areas**.

Annexure 1 (Concept note Format-1): For development of investigational products/tools/solutions under diagnostic or treatment or preventive category at **TRL ≥ 3**	**Annexure 2 (Concept note Format-2)**: For evaluation of investigational products under the diagnostic, treatment, or preventive categories (**at TRL ≥5**) and implementation/ operational research

Role of ICMR:
ICMR will fund the above-mentioned R&D activities.

6. Who can apply?

- Principal Investigator who has 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) may apply.

OR

- A contractual/temporary faculty may apply as Principal Investigator in ICMR funded research projects from 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), subject to the following terms and conditions:
  a. The Head of the Institute must provide an undertaking stating that it will bear all the administrative and financial responsibilities with respect to the research proposal.
  b. One of the Co-Principal Investigator of the project must be a regular employee of the institute.
  c. The Principal Investigator will not draw any salary or remuneration from the project grant.

7. Role of shortlisted organization

a) The organization shall have requisite capabilities, infrastructure and experience in design and conduct of research in the research areas in which it has submitted their interest
b) The organization agrees to share the technical data with ICMR and participate in all discussions in a professional and mutually agreed-upon manner.
c) The organization agrees to allow authorized personnel from ICMR to visit the designated lab/ production facility as envisaged under this EoI and subsequent Agreement.

Annexure-1

Concept note Format-1

Note:

- This format is applicable for submission of an Expression of Interest (EoI) for the development of investigational products/tools/solutions under the diagnostic, treatment, or preventive categories, as detailed above.
- The products/tools/solutions should be at least TRL3 level and should have already established proof of concept. **Any products below TRL3 will not be considered for review or funding.**
- Kindly provide the information as detailed below (**section A** and **section B**). Fields that are not applicable to a particular category or product/tool/solution may be left blank or modified appropriately, provided that the intended meaning and context remain unchanged.

Section A

General Information

1. Name of the Organization / Institution with Registered Address:
2. Type of Organization: (Academic Institution / NGO / Professional Body / Private Organization / Others – specify)
3. Contact Details of Applicant:
    - Contact Person/Designation:
    - Phone/Email:
4. Core Expertise and Technical Strengths relevant to development of Technology / Product / Solution Proposed under Diagnostic or Treatment or TB Prevention category
5. Past Experience in Similar Projects
6. Collaborations with Government/Academic/International agencies (if any)

Section B

Proposal Details

1. **About the Technology / Product / Solution Proposed under Diagnostic or Treatment or TB Prevention category.** *(Provide a brief description of the **novel** technology, product, tool, or strategy proposed)*

2. **Need and Utility of the Technology from Public Health Perspective.** *(How the proposed solution addresses current challenges in tuberculosis detection, treatment, or infection prevention. The description should highlight its innovation, scalability, and potential to address key challenges)*

3. **Details of Work Done So Far.** *(Briefly describe the work done so far, including development of concept, prototype or algorithm, pilot testing, field trials (if any), and the current Technology Readiness Level (TRL-1 to TRL-9))*

4. **Details of publications in reputed journals (list), if any.**

5. **Details of Team, Capacity and Infrastructure Available.** *(Provide details of the institutional and technical capacity available to support the proposed solution, skilled human resources, and laboratory or field infrastructure.)*

6. **Proposed Action Plan & Methodology.** *(Provide details of the proposed implementation plan, including key objectives, deliverables, methodology, pilot/field testing approach, and/or strategy for scale-up and wider deployment.)*

   The following details should be included in the Methodology wherever required and relevant to the Technology:

   a. Diagnostics:
   - Study sites
   - Samples (Eg: clinical samples/culture isolates/spiked samples etc)
   - Source of samples/specimen
   - Reference tests
   - Other laboratory methods or tests required (Eg: Microscopy/culture/NAAT etc)
   - Equipments/ specialized equipments required (if any) (Eg: water bath/vortex/centrifuge etc)
   - Reference standards/positive/negative controls
   - Analytical studies planned (LOD, inclusivity, exclusivity, repeatability, reproducibility)
   - Any additional requirements (Eg: animal studies/assays)
   - Quality controls
   - Data analysis plan
   - Ethical considerations

   b. Drugs for treatment and prevention:
   - Product characterization
   - Plan for Animal efficacy studies
   - Plan for Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics studies
   - Plan for Dose ranging studies
   - Plan for Toxicity studies, short and longer-term (at least two animal species as applicable)
   - Details of Chemistry, Manufacturing and Control
   - Other applicable pre-clinical studies as per New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019
   - Details of facilities including status of GLP accreditation, especially for animal toxicity studies
   - Plan for GMP grade test batch manufacturing
   - Quality controls
   - Data analysis plan
   - Ethical considerations

7. **Timelines & Milestones (provide Gantt chart).**
8. **Expected Outcomes & Impact.** *(Describe the anticipated outcomes and impact of the proposed solution towards addressing current challenges in tuberculosis detection, treatment, or infection prevention. Its relevance to public health, and potential for large-scale implementation at the national level)*
9. Any potential risk & challenges to success of this project and how you plan to address them
10. **Financial Proposal**
    - *Estimated Budget (Provide an activity-wise breakdown of the estimated budget required for the proposed project.)*
    - *Funding Support Expected from ICMR (Specify the amount and nature of financial support requested from ICMR)*
    - 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 *(Provide a detailed breakdown of the estimated budget required for the proposed project).*

	Item	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Total**	**Justification**
A	**Manpower**				
	Total [A]				
B	**Consumables**				
1					
2					
	Total [B]				
C	**Contingencies**				
1					
2					
	Total [C]				
D	**Travel**				
	Total [A+B+C+D]				

Annexure-2

Concept note format 2

Note

- This format is applicable for submission of an Expression of Interest (EoI) for evaluation of investigational products under the diagnostic, treatment, or preventive categories, as detailed above and implementation/operational research
- The products/tools/solutions should be at least TRL 5 level
- Kindly provide the information as detailed below (section A and section B)
- (If any of the sections are not applicable or relevant to your proposal, please write 'Not Applicable' in that section)

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. Rationale of study (up to 250 words) including Novelty and Potential for Impact:
4. Key Research question(s):
5. 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).
6. Methodology: Describe the research methods that could best achieve the study objectives under the following sub-headings as per applicable domain:
    a. **Domain: Diagnostics**
        - Study design
        - Study sites and setting
        - Study Population/Participants including inclusion and exclusion criteria
        - Reference test/Comparator test
        - Definitions (Eg: index case/contact/presumptive TB/latent TB etc)
        - Description of the diagnostic test
        - Type of test/technology/platform (Eg: LAMP/RT-PCR/RNA based etc)
        - Blinding of tests
        - Sample sizes
        - Source of clinical specimens/cultures/samples
        - Reference standards/positive/negative controls
        - Other laboratory methods or tests required (Eg: Microscopy/culture/NAAT etc)
        - Equipments/ specialized equipments/storage facilities required (if any) (Eg: heat block/water bath/vortex/centrifuge/refrigerators etc)
        - Quality controls
        - Data management plan
        - Data analysis plans
        - Ethical considerations

b. Domain: Clinical trials/evaluations for treatment / preventive regimens

- Study design
- Study Area or Settings
- Study Participants including inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Intervention(s) including details such as therapeutics, regimens, primary or adjunct nature, dosage, duration, concomitant medications, etc.
- Comparison arm details
- Outcomes
- Definition of primary and secondary endpoints
- Randomization details
- Blinding / allocation concealment details
- Adverse event management
- Sample size estimation and sampling strategy
- Data Collection methods, instruments used, measurements
- Data quality assurance methods
- Data management plan
- Data analysis plans
- Ethical considerations

c. Domain: Implementation / Operational research in TB management / prevention

- Description of intervention that is being implemented
- Implementation strategy, including framework/Model and how it is expected to achieve its effects
- Critical gap in current health delivery system that will be addressed by the implementation strategy
- Study design
- Characteristics of the targeted 'site(s)' (e.g locations/personnel/resources etc.) for implementation and any eligibility criteria
- Population targeted by the intervention and any eligibility criteria
- Description of stakeholders involved and their roles and responsibilities
- Primary and secondary outcome(s) of the implementation strategy, and plan for their assessment
- Process evaluation objectives and outcomes related to the mechanism by which the strategy is expected to work
- Data Collection methods, instruments used, measurements
- Data quality assurance methods
- Data management plan
- Data analysis plans
- Ethical considerations

7. Project Implementation plan along with milestone chart (objective wise deliverable &

timelines e.g. Gantt/ PERT chart)

8. Any potential risk & challenges to success of this project and how you plan to address them.
9. 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).
10. References (In Vancouver referencing style)

PART-B

1. Details of Preliminary work done by the PI including the source of funding (up to 500 words): Proof of concept (if any)
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 *(Provide a detailed breakdown of the estimated budget required for the proposed project)*.

	Item	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Total**	**Justification**
A	**Manpower**				
	Total [A]				
B	**Consumables**				
1					
2					
	Total [B]				
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	Total [C]				
D	**Travel**				
	Total [A+B+C+D]				