

Call for Proposals: 'Research for Strengthening and Enhancing Quality of Medical Education'

A Joint Initiative of ICMR and NMC-2026

No. ICMR/NMC/EPMS/call-for-proposal/2026

Dated: 18th June 2026

Background and Rationale:

Medical Education in India has undergone significant reforms with the introduction of 'Competency-based Medical Education' (CBME) for undergraduate training in medical colleges. This framework also emphasizes upon ethics and research orientation amongst medical graduates.

However, structured and systemic research mechanisms for strengthening and enhancing quality of medical education system remain limited to a few Indian medical colleges. With the ever-evolving education techniques and technology, there is a need for a continuous enhancement of the medical education with research-based approaches. Therefore, research for strengthening and enhancing quality of medical education is essential for creating research-oriented healthcare professionals.

In view of the above, the joint call for research proposals of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Medical Commission (NMC) aims to strengthen and enhance the quality of medical education by, developing and evaluating innovative approaches and methods towards teaching and training for integrated clinical research.

Objective:

To develop and evaluate innovative approaches for strengthening and enhancing quality of medical education. Interventions to improve quality of medical education may include but not limited to, newer ways of instilling scientific knowledge using digital technologies and improving required competencies and skills of undergraduate (UG), post-graduate (PG) and doctoral students.

Eligible Institutions:

This call is open to all the medical colleges/Institutions. The Head of institution must provide necessary endorsement and administrative support for the proposed research.

Eligible Investigators:

Principal Investigators (PIs) must:

- Hold regular faculty positions in eligible medical institutions;
- Possess relevant qualifications (MBBS/MD/MS/DM);
- Have demonstrated some research experience/efforts in medical education.

Duration:

The project duration will be up to a maximum period of 3 years (for Anveshan/ Small Grant) or 4 years (for Nishayak Anveshan/ Intermediate Grant). For preparatory activities (without additional costs), additional period of up to 6 months may be considered as a part of the project proposal.

Submission Mechanism:

- Detailed project proposal (as per ICMR format available on EPMS portal);
- Curriculum vitae of PI and Co-PI, if any;
- Institutional endorsement letter from Head of Institution;
- Ethical clearance certificate or proof of submission to IEC/Budget justification (detailed breakdown of costs).

Selection Process:

- Peer Review: Each proposal will be reviewed by at least two independent expert reviewers with expertise in medical education research using standardized scoring criteria
- The Project Selection Committee will give final scores taking into account reviewer's scores and comments of all Committee members.

General Conditions:

- If the same research team submits similar projects in the same call, the last submitted proposal will be considered for reviewing, and the others will be rejected without review.
- The PI must not have more than five ongoing research proposals or the sum of grant amount of more than ₹25 cores from the ongoing research projects.
- 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.
- Addition of CVs of PI & 3 Co-PIs permitted.
- The outcomes of the study should be published in the indexed (PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science) journals. Publishing in Indian journals e.g IJMR is encouraged. ICMR & NMC must be acknowledged in all the publications.

How to Apply?

All proposals must be submitted ONLINE ONLY through ICMR Extramural Project Management System (e-PMS): <https://epms.icmr.org.in>

- After completing mandatory section of PI profile, click on:

Proposal submission → Click on ‘**Apply Proposal**’ → Select the call "**Call for Proposals on Research for Medical Education: A joint initiative of ICMR and NMC-2026**" from the dropdown → Click on ‘**Apply New Proposal**’ → 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 (e-PMS Portal Issues)	For Scientific Queries (Proposal related)
Email: po.epms@icmr.gov.in	Dr. Gunjan Kumar Email: gunjank.hq@icmr.gov.in

Timelines:

- Release of Call Date:** 18th June 2026
- Application Start Date:** 25th June 2026
- Submission Deadline:** 21st August 2026, 5:00 PM

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Format for project proposal

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. Keywords: Six keywords separated by comma which best describe your project may be provided.
4. Abbreviations: List of all the abbreviations (maximum of 10) used in the proposal may be provided.
5. Background, including problem statement, and rationale of study (up to 1000 words).
6. Key Research question(s):
7. 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).
8. 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
 - Animal experiments?
 - Humans as study participants?
 - Biosafety concerns e.g. pathogens, recombinant microorganisms, radiations, etc.?
 - CDSCO approvals e.g. for investigational new drugs, vaccines, devices, diagnostics?
 - Any others (please specify)
- 9. Project Implementation plan along with milestone chart (objective wise deliverable & timelines e.g. Gantt/ PERT chart). [Textbox & picture]
- 10. Any potential risk & challenges to success of this project and how you plan to address them.
- 11. 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
 - Proof-of-Concept
 - Prototype Development
 - 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).
 - 12. Please describe what the immediate next steps after the end of the project if study objectives are successfully achieved.
 - 13. 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)
 - 14. References (in American Medical Association (AMA) style)
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PART-B

1. 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]
 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. Additional supplementary information including figures, tables, flow diagrams, data collection tool etc. can be shared as PDF (maximum size 10 MB).
 6. 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.
 7. List up to two non-preferred reviewers for assessing your project:
 - a) First Name
 - b) Middle Name
 - c) Last Name
 - d) Designation
 - e) Affiliation
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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			
S.No.		Salary (As per ICMR Project guidelines)	
Justification of Staff/Manpower*			
b) Equipment			
S.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.*
