

CALL FOR CENTRE FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH (CAR)-2026, UNDER EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

Overview and Purpose:

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) funds Centre for Advanced Research (CAR) to promote advanced research by experienced research teams, under its Extramural Research Program.

What the CAR is expected to do:

CAR is expected to conduct **Decisive Research** that helps in solving important public health problem. It encourages in-depth research, to generate new knowledge and solutions for health problems in multiple aspects of causation, progression, management and prevention. The proposal can have single or multiple linked research projects with clear deliverables. The research team should have demonstrated impact of their previous research related to the proposal.

Multi-disciplinary research teams planning to undertake studies in finding solutions for prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment or rehabilitation of the following diseases or conditions will receive preference.

Duration of project and funding:

The budget should be between *INR 8 crores to less than INR 15 crores per CAR. Duration of project will be for a maximum period of five years.*

How to apply

A proposal can be submitted for financial support through ONLINE MODE ONLY by the Principal Investigator on behalf of the proposed team of Scientists/ professionals who have a regular employment in Medical Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges/ recognized Research & Development laboratories/ Government and semi-government organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations. The research team should have credentials for relevant skills, experience and demonstrated ability to solve health problems under consideration.

Research teams with outstanding achievements, recognition and proven excellence in the area and having the necessary infrastructure to carry out further work are encouraged to apply.

The institute and principal investigator will be supported to establish CAR with an aim that the facility so created would continue to function even after this funding gets over. CAR should develop trained health research personnel. After completion of the project, the host institute would be expected to take over activities of the center as permanent activity.

ICMR scientists/institutes are not eligible to apply under this call. ICMR scientists may be named as co-investigators in these projects, but no funds will be given for ICMR institutions or scientists in these cases. Format for project proposal is provided at [Annexure 1](#) & [Annexure 2](#).

Table-1: Priority Diseases and 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	
	Anorectal and other common surgical conditions	

Over-arching:

- 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

Important note for the submission of proposal ICMR

1. Submission portal (<https://epms.icmr.org.in/>) will open from **06th July 2026**.
2. After completing mandatory section of PI profile,
 - Go to Proposal submission → Click on 'Apply Proposal' → Select 'Call for Centre for Advanced Research (CAR), under Extramural Research Program, ICMR – 2026 (Concept)' from the dropdown → 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. PIs are advised to submit proposal well ahead of the last date, since servers may be overloaded and slow to respond.
6. For technical concerns related to the application process, please mail to po.epms@icmr.gov.in

Tentative Timeline:

Release of Call	02 nd July 2026
Last date for Submission of Concept Note	31 st August 2026; 17:00hrs
Review and Shortlisting	30 th September 2026
Full Proposal submission	30 th November 2026
Final Selection	1 st December – 31 st January 2027

ANNEXURE 1: Format for submission of Concept note for Centre for Advanced Research (CAR):

1. Strength of Research Team:

- a. Narrative description of skills and expertise of research team in the proposed area of research (300 words)
- b. Maximum 10 publications/ Patents of PI and up to 4 other key investigators relevant to the area of proposed research in previous 10 years. (Also, please include *h*-index of PI and each of the investigators above.)
- c. Impact of PI and/ investigators' publications/ patents on clinical or public health. (300 words)

2. Concept note for Centre for Advanced Research (CAR) and criteria for evaluation:

- i. Title of the Proposed Research/ CAR (up to 30 words): should be specific, concise and yet sufficiently descriptive and informative.
- ii. Summary (up to 2000 words): A structured summary should contain the following subheadings:
 - a. Rationale/ gaps in existing knowledge (400 words),
 - b. Novelty (200 words)
 - c. Objectives (100 words)
 - d. Methods (750 words)
 - e. Expected outcomes (350 words)
 - f. Specific roles and responsibilities of the PI and other investigators based on their expertise (200 words).

Experts will review and score each project proposal. The scoring criteria are as follows:

Sr. no	Criteria	Score
1.	Strength of Research Team	
	○ Skill and Expertise of Research Team	05
	○ Relevant Publications or Patents	10
	○ Impact of Publications on Public Health or Clinical care	10
2.	Concept Note	
	○ Rationale and Novelty	05
	○ Appropriateness of Methods	10
	○ Expected Impact	10
	Total	50
	Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>h</i>-index of PI is expected to be at least 20. Alternatively, PI may have multiple granted patents• A full proposal will be requested to be submitted only for shortlisted concept notes. Template for the same is available in Annexure.	

ANNEXURE 2: Format for submission of Full proposal for Centre for Advanced Research

1. **Title of the proposed research (up to 30 words):** should be **specific, concise** and yet sufficiently descriptive and informative.
2. **Summary (up to 2000 words):** A structured summary should contain the following subheadings: Rationale/gaps in existing knowledge, Novelty, Objectives, Methods, and Expected outcome.
3. Does it cover a priority area? If yes please select the most appropriate one from the list below:
Ref: Table-1
4. **Keywords:** Six key words separated by comma which best describe your project may be provided.
5. **Abbreviations:** Only standard abbreviations should be used in the text. List of abbreviations maximum often may be given as a list.
6. **Problem Statement (up to 500 words):** State the currently available information to present the problem adequately.
7. **Rationale of the proposed research (up to 300 words):** Mention how the research question addresses the critical barrier(s) in scientific knowledge, technical capability, and /or programmatic/ clinical/ lab practice and its relevance to local, national and international context with relevant bibliography.
8. **Hypothesis/ Research questions (up to 100 words):** Please provide details in PICO format as applicable.
9. **Objectives of proposed research (up to 250 words/ objective):** Define the objectives clearly and in measurable terms, mention as primary and secondary objectives, if necessary. Do not include more than 3-4 objectives. Provide specific, measurable and time bound outcomes for each objective.
10. **Methodology of proposed research (Addition of Field for Picture):**
Include objective-wise work plan under the following sub-headings:
 - a. Study design
 - b. Study area (multiple choice): Community/ Hospital/ Laboratory
 - c. Sample size estimation and sampling strategy
 - d. Project implementation plan
 - e. Design of statistical analysis
11. **Expected outcomes/ Deliverables from the project** i.e., what will be known at the end, if the project achieves all the stated objectives (up to 350 words)
12. **Immediate next steps following the end of the project (up to 100 words):**
13. **Whether the study is going to generate new intellectual property** Please provide details
14. **Timelines with achievable targets:** GANTT/ PERT chart to be included.
15. **Preliminary work** done by the Investigators relevant to the proposal including the source of funding (up to 250 words) (Addition of Field for Picture):
16. **Skill and experience of the research team:** Highlight only salient points (along with 5 relevant publications) that provide confidence to reviewers that team can implement the project with quality:
17. **Institutional Support/ Facilities:** Share a brief note on inter-departmental or inter institutional collaboration needed for study implementation:

18. **Specify the role and responsibility of PI and Co-Investigators:**
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 (20-30KB).
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.

Screening criteria and scores for Full Submission:

***Proposed Research= single or multiple linked research projects with clear deliverables)**

The Scoring Criteria for Full proposals is as follows:

Sr. No	Criteria	Marks
1	Rationale/ relevance and importance	20
2	Possible impact expected	25
3	Methodology	30
4	Strength of Research Team (score same as that at given concept note stage)	25
	Total	100

Template for Short Resume format (PI/Co-PI):

Name of PI/Co-PI	
Date of Birth	
Domain Expertise	
Number of articles in PubMed (Past10years)	
<i>h</i> -index	
Fellow of Academies	

Maximum of 10 primary research publications related to the proposal.

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

Experience as Investigator:

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

Ongoing (approved or sanctioned) research projects (funded by ICMR):

Project ID	Title	Grant amount	Start date	End date

Format of Budget:**(Staff, Equipment, Contingency/ Consumables and Travel Allowance)**

Staff/Manpower				
Sl. No.		Salary (As per ICMR Project guidelines)		
Justification of Staff/ Manpower				
Equipment				
Sl. No.	Equipment Name	Estimated cost with appropriate supporting document	Justification	Mode of Proposed disposal
Contingency				
Detail		Breakup with Justification		
Year 1:				
Year 2:				
Year 3:				
Year 4:				
Year 5:				
Consumables				
Detail		Breakup with Justification		
Year 1:				
Year 2:				
Year 3:				
Year 4:				
Year 5:				
Travel Allowance				
Detail		Justification		
Year 1:				
Year 2:				
Year 3:				
Year 4:				
Year 5:				
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.
- The template of near ideal budgets is available on ICMR-website (ref: <https://epms.icmr.org.in/>)

