Call for proposals under
ICMR-Intramural Research Program - 2025

Overview and purpose

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under its Intramural Research Program invites biomedical research proposals from ICMR institutes intended to conduct high risk, high reward research based on respective institute's mandate and priorities. Each institute has already enlisted top priorities after a series of discussions, and the list of priorities was approved by DG-ICMR. Each project must cover one or more of these priority areas.

Each institute may be awarded between 3 to 30 crores for the projects on the priority areas based on need and quality of research proposals. The budgetary ceiling for a project will be Rs 8 crores (for entire duration of the project). Each Institute will be awarded maximum 30 crores (every year) in the priority areas based on need and quality of research proposals. In certain cases, where in the project is considered to have national priority and relevance by DG-ICMR, the budget may exceed. The list of institution-wise priorities is enclosed herewith.

The following types of research proposals will be considered. Some indicative examples of each category are given below.

Discovery research: aimed at finding novel interventions (basic research). Some examples are pre-clinical and Phase-I studies including phytopharmaceuticals and traditional medicines and genomic methods/algorithms/tools for personalized medicine etc.

Development research: aimed at developing interventions for screening, diagnosis, prevention, treatment of diseases/conditions or make existing interventions simpler, safer, more efficacious, or more affordable. Examples of such research includes development of Point of care tests/ devices, molecular diagnostic tests, animal models for diseases appropriate dosage and formulations, artificial intelligence and machine learning predictive tools/models, phase 2/3 (or equivalent phase) clinical trials of vaccine and therapeutics etc.

Delivery research: or implementation research aimed at learning how to overcome barriers in delivering effective interventions to the people who need them. This will include health system based interventions to increase access, and to successfully implement national health program or schemes, reducing inequity and improve quality of health care.

Descriptive Research: aimed to understand the disease or condition including its burden, risk factors and determinants and pathogenesis mechanism will **not** be prioritized. However, they will be funded **only** if deemed by ICMR to be critical to move towards finding solutions.

How to apply

1) Scientists from ICMR institutes are kindly requested to submit their proposal using the dedicated Intramural Project Management System (https://i-epms.icmr.org.in/) after receiving approval from the Institutional SAC (Priority disease categories for the respective institutes can be found on the Intramural project submission portal).

2) Subsequently, the projects need to be forwarded to the Director of the respective institute where the PI is working (using official e-mail id of the Director) through the scientists' login over the i-epms portal, seeking their approval for submission.

3) The Director of institute will have the convenience to review, approve, and forward the projects for final submission through i-epms portal using director's login.

Collaboration between other ICMR institutes or non-ICMR institutes is allowed under this grant. Scientists from other ICMR institutes or non-ICMR institutes can be included as Co-PI and share grant amount if necessary. Decision on collaboration with foreign investigators if needed will be at discrete of competent authority of ICMR. Scientists from Headquarters are not encouraged to be part of the research team as Co-PI/ Co-I directly. They may help PI in advising and to strengthen the proposal scientifically, if needed. The ICMR-HQ scientists may collaborate in projects from North-East Region provided they actually spend considerable time at NER project station in implementation of project.

Format for project proposal is provided in Annexure-I (Part A & B)

Proposal Review Process

Two independent external experts will review and score each project proposal. The scoring criteria are as follows:

1. Rationale of the project – is it likely to solve a priority problem?   20
2. Possible impact – is it likely to have an impact on health outcomes?   20
3. Novelty/innovation – is the study developing or testing a new idea?   15
4. Methodology – are study methods appropriate to achieve the objectives?   30
5. Implementation strategy – is the study feasible in a timely manner?   15

Project Selection Committee (PSCs) will be formed at ICMR-Hqrs in four intramural divisions and projects will be shortlisted. Multiple committees will be formed based on the topic of the proposals. The committee will rank the shortlisted proposals and provide comments that could improve the proposals. These shortlisted proposals will be reviewed by Head of Division, Addl.DG (Intramural) and DG-ICMR for final selection. Top ranked proposals in each priority area will be funded. Proposal improvement workshops may be arranged for the benefit of the applicants.

Budget review will be done by a committee of experienced researchers to increase or reduce the budget as needed. Top ranked proposals in each priority area will be funded.

Tentative Timeline

Activities	Date
Release of Call	08th-September-2025
Last date for submission of proposal	21st-October-2025

Important note for the submission of proposal:

1. Submission Portal will open from 8th September-2025

2. Open the ICMR Electronics Project Management System (i-e-PMS) portal https://i-epms.icmr.org.in/ . The user manual of i-e-PMS (under Guidelines) is available on the portal.

3. Project proposal submission is three steps process in i-e-PMS:

    Step1:PI registration/Login (https://i-epms.icmr.org.in/userLogin)

    Step 2: Verify email ID and complete/ update PI profile

    Step 3: Proposal submission

4. After completing mandatory section of PI profile, click on"Proposal submission → Click on Apply New → Fill the form step by step.

5. It is advised to carefully read the budget provision available under Guideline for Intramural Research Programme of ICMR and submit the budget in prescribed format

6. Overhead charge will not be more than 3% of staff and contingency for all type of institutes as per ICMR order F.No.Sr.ACO/Misc.4(86226)dated22/09/2020. Overhead expenditure will not be granted on equipment's and travel allowances.

7. Including of atleast one Co-PI from PI's institute is mandatory.

8. PIs are advised to submit proposal well ahead of the last date, since servers may be overloaded and slow to respond.

9. **For any queries related to the call, please contact:**

Program Officer (e-PMS)
V Ramalingaswami Bhawan,
Indian Council of Medical Research
Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029
Email: po.epms@icmr.gov.in
Contact us: 011-26589571

ANNEXURE I: Format for submission of Project Proposal under Intramural Call

PART-A

(No identifiable information should be included in part-A, Sl 1 to 15)

1. **Title of the proposed research project (up to 25 words):** should be **specific**, **concise** and yet sufficiently descriptive and informative.
2. **Summary (up to 250 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 of your institute? If yes, mention: _____
4. **Area of research (Please tick one or more as appropriate):**
   <u>Primary:</u>

   ☐ Description   ☐ Development

   ☐ Discovery   ☐ Delivery

   <u>Secondary:</u>
   - <u>Communicable Diseases</u>
   - <u>Non-Communicable Diseases</u>
   - <u>Reproductive, Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition</u>
   - <u>Epidemiology</u>

5. **Keywords:** Six keywords separated by comma which best describe your project may be provided.

6. **Abbreviations:** Only standard abbreviations should be used in the text. List of abbreviations maximum of ten may be given as a list.

7. **Problem Statement (up to 500 words):** State the currently available information to present the problem adequately.

8. **Rationale of the study (up to 250 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.

9. **Hypothesis/ Research question (up to 100 words):** Please provide details

10. **Study Objectives (up to 25 words/ objective):** Define the objectives clearly and in measurable terms; mention as primary and secondary objectives, if necessary. Do not include more than 3 objectives.

11. **Methodology:** Include objective-wise work plan under the following sub-headings:
    a. Study design
    b. Study site
    c. Methods (e.g. PICO)
    d. Sample size
    e. Implementation strategy
    f. Statistical analysis
    g. Ethical issues and strategy to overcome them

12. **Expected outcome/ Deliverables aligned with research question (up to 100 words):** _____

13. Future plan based on expected outcomes (up to 100 words):

14. **Whether the study is going to generate new intellectual property** Please provide details.

15. **Timelines with achievable targets:** GANTT/ PERT chart to be included.

PART-B

16. **Preliminary work done by the PI including the source of funding (up to 250 words):** Proof of concept (if any)

17. **Skill and experience of the research team**: Highlight only salient points (along with 5 relevant publications) that provides confidence to reviewers that team can implement the project with quality.

18. **Institutional Support/ Facilities:** Mention the efforts made to achieve inter-departmental or interinstitutional collaboration needed for study implementation, details of coordination between clinical, laboratory and data management procedures, mention:

19. **Laboratory facilities (*in-vitro*/ *in-silico*):** institutional resources such as instruments/ equipment and other physical resources available for use in the project proposed animal house etc.

20. **Budget:** Budget should be as per ICMR guidelines available on the website. Justifications for all sub-headings under budget (as per ICMR format) is to be provided in detail.

21. **Conflict of Interest Declaration (if any):** PI will be asked to submit declaration, if shortlisted.

22. Additional supplementary information including figures, tables, flow diagrams, etc. can be shared as PDF (20-30 KB).

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(Application Format)

Short Resume format (PI/Co-PI) (Maximum two pages):

Name of PI/ Co-PI	
Date of Birth	
Domain Expertise	
H Index	
Fellow of academics	
No. Of articles in PubMed (Last 10 years)	

Maximum of 10 primary research publications related to the proposal:

Publication details in AMA style	Impact Factor of Journal	Type of Author 9Corresponding/ First/ Co-author)	Name of policy/programme/ 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 research projects (funded by ICMR):

Project ID	Title of Project	Grant Amount	Start Date	Duration of Project

Format of Budget for ICMR Intramural Call
(Staff, Equipment, Contingency/Consumables and Travel allowance)

Staff/Manpower	
Sl. No.	Salary(AsperICMRProjectguidelines)
JustificationofStaff/Manpower	

Equipment				
Sl. No.	EquipmentName	Estimated cost with appropriate supporting document	Justification	Mode of Proposed disposal

Contingency	
Detail	Breakup with Justification
Year1:	
Year 2:	
Year 3:	

Consumables	
Detail	Breakup with Justification
Year1:	
Year 2:	
Year 3:	

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.