

CALL FOR CENTRE FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH (CAR)-2025, UNDER EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

Overview and Purpose:

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

What the CAR is expected to do:

Conducting **Decisive Research** that helps in solving an important healthcare problem by a research team. ***It can have single or multiple linked research projects with clear deliverables.** It encourages in-depth research, to generate new knowledge and solutions for health problems in multiple aspects of causation, progression, management and prevention. The Research Team should have demonstrated impact of their previous research.

Priority diseases or conditions:

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 for selection as CAR.

Table-1: Priority Diseases and Conditions

<u>Communicable Diseases</u>	<u>Non-Communicable Diseases</u>	<u>Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition</u>
One Health	Cancer	Anemia & micronutrient deficiencies
AMR	Cardiovascular diseases	Childhood malnutrition
Tuberculosis	Diabetes Mellitus	Early childhood development (particularly for small and vulnerable newborns)
Vector Borne diseases	Chronic Kidney Disease	Neonatal Mortality, preterm-LBW, asphyxia, neonatal sepsis
Respiratory infections	Chronic Respiratory diseases	Genetic disorders/ Rare diseases/ congenital anomalies
Neurological infections	Neurological conditions	PCOS, Endometriosis
Gastro-Intestinal and Hepatic infections	Mental Health	Antenatal, intra-natal and postnatal care
HIV/AIDS & other STIs	Blood disorders including hemoglobinopathies	Pre-conception care, Adolescent Health
<u>Over-arching:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Counter measures development (e.g Vaccines, Diagnostics, Therapeutics) against infections with outbreak potential • Mitigating Health impacts of Climate Change • Oral Health • Ageing • Disability 		

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 Annexures below.

Important note for the submission of proposal ICM

1. Submission portal (<https://epms.icmr.org.in/>) will open from 10-June-2025.
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 – 2025 (Concept)' from the dropdown → Call for proposal/advertisement and 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	10 th June 2025
Last date for Submission of Concept Note	1 st September 2025; till 05:00 PM
Review and Shortlisting	Sept to November 2025
Full Proposal submission	8 weeks from date of shortlisting
Final Selection	Jan- March'2026

Format for submission of Concept note for Centre for Advanced Research (CAR):**1. Strength of Research Team:**

- Narrative description of skills and expertise of research team in the proposed area of research (300 words)
- 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.)
- Impact of PI and/ investigators' publications/ patents on clinical or public health. (300 words)

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

- Title of the Proposed Research/ CAR (up to 30 words): should be specific, concise and yet sufficiently descriptive and informative.
- Summary (up to 2000 words): A structured summary should contain the following subheadings:
 - Rationale/ gaps in existing knowledge (400 words),
 - Novelty (200 words)
 - Objectives (100 words)
 - Methods (750 words)
 - Expected outcome (350 words)
 - 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Skill and Expertise of Research Team ○ Relevant Publications or Patents ○ Impact of Publications on Public Health or Clinical care 	05 10 10
2.	Concept Note <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rationale and Novelty ○ Appropriateness of Methods ○ Expected Impact 	05 10 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: 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:**
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 outcome/ 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 PI including the source of funding (up to 250 words): (Proof of concept)
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. Do mention the role and responsibility of the PI and Co-PIs.
18. **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.
19. **Additional supplementary information** including figures, tables, flow diagrams, data collection tool etc. can be shared as PDF (20-30KB).
20. **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	25
2	Possible impact expected	25
3	Methodology	25
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.10words)	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		
Year1:				
Year2:				
Year3:				
Year4:				
Year5:				
Consumables				
Detail		Breakup with Justification		
Year1:				
Year2:				
Year3:				
Year4:				
Year5:				
Travel Allowance				
Detail		Justification		
Year1:				
Year2:				
Year3:				
Year4:				
Year5:				
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/>)