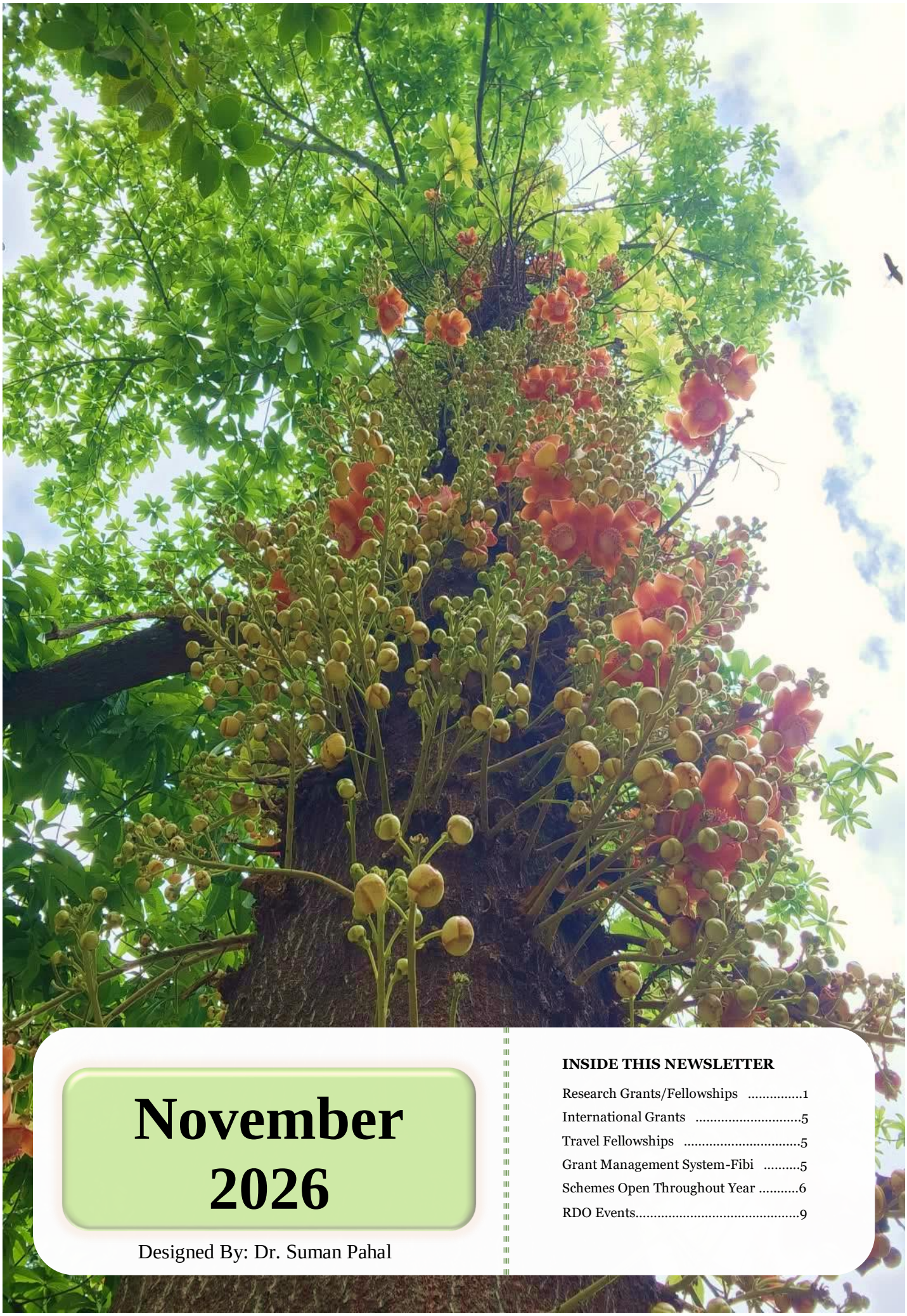


November 2026

Designed By: Dr. Suman Pahal

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Research Grants/Fellowships

Scheme: ANRF | Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PM-ECRG)
Details: ANRF, has announced the call for proposals for the scheme-**Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PM-ECRG)** for early career faculty. The scheme supports early career researchers holding a regular academic/research position in a recognized academic institution with age limit of 42 years (relaxable by 3 years for women candidates). The applicant is eligible to apply within two years of joining the institution. The applicant should not have received YSS, ECR, SRG, CRG or any other grant of the erstwhile SERB or ANRF.
Scope of this Call: The purpose of PM-ECRG is to assist researchers in all STEM areas to initiate their research career in a new institution with a flexible budget and progressive initiatives for ease of doing research.
Budget: Projects will receive funding support upto ₹60 Lakhs plus overheads for a period of three years. Travel head is limited to ₹3 lakhs for three-year project. International travel for project-related work is permitted within the travel head. The expenditure under the contingency head is limited to ₹3 lakhs for a three-year project. Contingency funds can be utilized for registration charges for international conferences.
Project Duration: 3 years maximum
Submission deadline: **2nd December 2026**, 05:00 pm IST
Weblink: Applicants can register in the ANRF online portal www.anrfonline.in to complete the user profile and proposal details.

Scheme: ICMR | First in the World Challenge Grants 2026
Details: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has invited investigator-initiated research proposals under the First in the World Challenge Grants 2026, supporting high-risk, high-reward ideas with the potential to develop first-of-its-kind biomedical innovations, technologies, vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics or interventions. Incremental research or process innovations will not be considered. Proposals should demonstrate genuine "First in the World" potential, substantial impact, novelty, and a clear pathway towards technology development, validation and translation.
Funding & Duration:

- Proof of Concept: Up to ₹1 crore | Up to 2 years
- Prototype Development: Up to ₹4 crore | Up to 3 years
- Final Product/Implementation Model: Up to ₹8 crore | Up to 4 years

Eligibility: Scientists/faculty from government medical colleges, INIs, ICMR institutes, universities, recognised R&D laboratories, eligible NGOs, private research institutions, and Indian startups/MSMEs/industry can apply. Team applications must designate one PI, and at least one Co-PI from the PI's institute is mandatory.
Submission Deadline: 30th November 2026, 5:30 PM
Submission Link: Proposals must be submitted through the ICMR e-PMS portal: https://epms.icmr.org.in/.
https://www.icmr.gov.in/icmrobject/uploads/Call/1790846907_call_fiw_2026.pdf

**** Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before submission deadline for RDO to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.***

Scheme: DBT | Emerging Frontiers in Biotechnology
Details: This program is designed to catalyze transformative research endeavours encompassing a diverse array of biotechnological domains, by way of handholding and providing research support to active researchers to undertake research and development projects in the Emerging Frontiers of Biotechnology. This program will have two verticals namely Biomedical Sciences and Biological Sciences.
Budget: Up to INR 100 lakhs (The duration of the project is 3 years)
Submission Deadline: 15th November 2026
Weblink: Apply on https://dbtepromis.nic.in/Login.aspx
https://dbt.gov.in/scientific-directorates/emerging-frontiers-in-biotechnology

Scheme: ICMR | Centres for Advanced Research (CAR) – NIRMAN–AT Special Call 2026
Details: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has announced a special call for the establishment of Centres for Advanced Research (CAR) under the National Initiative for Reliable Medical Device Development and Assessment Network – Assistive Technology (NIRMAN–AT). The initiative aims to establish multidisciplinary translation hubs to accelerate the development, assessment and adoption of reliable, affordable and context-appropriate assistive technologies for Indian users. The programme will support the complete translational pathway, including clinical need identification, co-design with end users, engineering development, usability and human-factors assessment, clinical evaluation, regulatory compliance, manufacturing translation and adoption.
Scope of the call: Applicants are expected to propose a coherent five-year CAR programme centred on a portfolio of approximately 5–8 assistive technologies. Proposed technologies may address one or more of the following domains:

- **Mobility, Transfer & Accessibility:** Wheelchairs, tricycles, walkers/rollators, crutches, canes, walking sticks, portable ramps and transfer-assistance systems.
- **Prosthetic, Orthotic & Musculoskeletal Technologies:** Prostheses, orthoses, therapeutic footwear and adaptive/supportive devices.
- **Vision & Accessible Information Technologies:** Visual aids, optical/digital magnifiers, assistive canes, Braille technologies, tactile/audio signage and accessible digital systems.
- **Hearing & Communication Technologies:** Hearing aids, cochlear implants, electrolarynx and communication-assistance technologies.
- **Self-care, Safety & Independent Living:** Modified commode chairs, fall-detection/prevention systems, incontinence-management products and technologies supporting ageing and independent living.
- **Other Assistive Technologies:** Communication software/boards, screen readers, pressure-relief cushions/mattresses, standing frames, emergency alarms, pill organisers, travel aids, video-communication devices and related technologies.

Proposals may incorporate **digital, sensor-based, AI-enabled or smart functionality**. Solutions should be affordable, accessible and suitable for healthcare, community and home settings, including resource-constrained environments. Where relevant, preference may be given to edge-deployable, offline-capable or intermittently connected systems.
Funding & Duration: Up to **₹15 crore per CAR** for maximum **5 years**
Submission Deadline: 15th November 2026, 5:00 PM
Submission Link: Proposals must be submitted through the ICMR e-PMS portal:
https://epms.icmr.org.in/
https://www.icmr.gov.in/icmrobject/uploads/Call/1790827202_carnirman-at202601102026.pdf

**** Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before submission deadline for RDO to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.***

Scheme: DBT | Translational Biotechnology Research Networks
Details: The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has invited Letters of Intent (LoIs) for mission-mode Translational Biotechnology Research Networks, supporting promising, innovative and high-impact biotechnology research with potential for translation, application or transformative scientific discovery. Proposals should demonstrate a clear pathway from discovery to application, including proof-of-concept, technical feasibility, scale-up/deployment potential and a clearly defined unmet need. Discovery-driven frontier research with potential for significant scientific advances is also encouraged.
Scope of the Call:

- Health and life Sciences
- Agriculture, food and bioresources
- Environment, climate and sustainability
- Industrial, manufacturing and materials biotechnology
- Emerging and frontier areas including computational biology, synthetic biology, engineering biology and genomics

Funding: No pre-defined upper limit; funding will follow applicable Department of Expenditure (DoE) guidelines based on the project scope and cost.
Submission: A concept note of not more than 500 words may be submitted anytime through the DBT e-ProMIS portal: https://epms.icmr.org.in/userLogin. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit full proposals, with DBT providing guidance and expert mentoring during development.
https://dbtepromis.nic.in/Documents/attach/20260907174013_News_Announcement.pdf
Important: Submission of an LoI/concept note does not constitute a funding commitment.

Scheme: Syngene | Early Career Research Grants 2026-27
Details: Syngene International Limited invites applications from Junior Faculty (Assistant Professors or equivalent) engaged in life sciences Research at Indian research institutes and universities for Syngene Early Career Research Grant (SECRG) 2026-2027. These grants are intended to help promising junior faculty establish research independence and work on high risk-high reward projects to foster innovative solutions for healthcare. Applicants must be Assistant Professors or Junior Research Faculty with experience **not exceeding 8 years after PhD as of December 2026**.
Scope of the Call: This call is open to Junior Researchers working at the intersection of biology, chemistry, technology, and computation to address key challenges in modern drug discovery. Applications are invited for research in life sciences that advance innovation in drug discovery and development, with a focus on (but not limited to):

- **Novel technologies** for chemical synthesis, chemical or biologics manufacturing, therapeutic intervention, and target validation. Example: Green chemistry initiatives, new cell and gene therapy approaches, high protein yielding cell lines, etc.
- **Translational research** that helps reduce the use of animals. Example: human organoid work for efficacy and toxicology.
- **Novel Mechanisms of biomarkers, assays, and disease models** that improve the predictability of clinical outcomes. Example: identification of novel biomarkers using omics platforms, humanized mouse disease models etc.
- **Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)** to accelerate discovery, analysis, and decision-making. Example: Use of AI/ML to help expedite target selection, discovery workflows, de novo discovery and manufacturing efficiencies.

Funding: Each Syngene Early Career Research Grant offers funding of **INR 50 Lakhs** to support high-risk, high-reward research of the grantee.

**** Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before submission deadline for RDO to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.***

Submission: Application can be submitted using the link: https://www.syngeneintl.com/secrg26-27/
Deadline: 30th November 2026

Scheme: ANRF | AI for Science and Engineering (AI-SE) Mission (Preproposals)
Details: The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), under its Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA), invites research proposals under the AI for Science and Engineering (AI-SE) Mission. The initiative aims to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into scientific discovery and engineering innovation through interdisciplinary collaborations, advanced AI methods, and domain-specific models to address high-impact scientific and societal challenges.
Scope of the Call: The mission supports collaborative research integrating AI with core scientific and engineering disciplines. Proposals are invited under the following categories:
Category A – Open Calls: Research proposals are invited in four thematic areas:

- AI for Science and Science of AI
- AI for Engineering Design and Accelerated Materials Development
- AI for Earth, Atmosphere and Ocean Sciences
- AI for Bio and Life Sciences

Priority areas under Bio and Life Sciences include biomanufacturing, AI-assisted strain selection and yield optimization, enzyme design and biocatalysis, AI for drug discovery, cell and gene therapies, computational biology, protein and mRNA biologics, therapeutics, vaccines, and multi-omics in plant and animal sciences.
Category B – Challenge Statements: Proposals are invited to address defined challenges, including AI for maternal, newborn and child health; infectious disease screening and surveillance; drug discovery and development; AI-ready datasets and biobanks; programmable laboratories; and AI-driven experimental workflows.
Eligibility: Proposals must be submitted in consortium mode, involving at least two funding-eligible institutions. The Principal Investigator (PI) must hold a regular position at an eligible Indian academic institution, national research laboratory, or private research laboratory with valid DSIR-SIRO recognition. Applicants must be Indian citizens or OCI holders and possess a PhD or an eligible equivalent medical degree.
Each proposal must include: At least one Co-PI from a different eligible institution. An AI researcher with demonstrated expertise in developing, implementing, or deploying modern AI/ML models. At least one translational partner, such as a startup, MSME, industry, hospital, non-profit organisation, or international entity.
Funding: Research grants of up to INR 30 Crores for a period of 3 years may be awarded. In exceptional cases, funding of up to INR 50 Crores may be considered, commensurate with the projected deliverables and impact of the proposal. The grant may support research personnel, AI/cloud computing, software tools, datasets, experimental infrastructure, consumables, travel, contingency, and institutional overheads as per ANRF norms. GPU usage will be supported through MeitY's GPU-as-a-Service. Direct purchase of GPUs or HPC systems is not permitted.
The application process involves two stages: pre-proposal submission followed by full proposal submission for shortlisted applicants.
Deadline: Yet to be announced
Submission: Proposals must be submitted through the ANRF online portal: https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/aise_anrf

**** Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before submission deadline for RDO to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.***

International Grants

Scheme: Healthy Ageing: A Complex Systems Approach to Healthy Ageing
Details: This call invites the research proposals that advance an integrated understanding of how modifiable environmental and contextual factors interact to shape functional ability in later life**.** The call seeks to move beyond single-cause or single-domain approaches and encourages systems thinking, interdisciplinary research, and the translation of findings into scalable, context-sensitive solutions. Proposals should examine interactions between factors, pathways of risk and resilience, and modifiable environmental features. Applicants are encouraged to use established research designs such as longitudinal, life-course, qualitative or mixed-methods approaches, or complex-systems methods such as systems mapping, agent-based modelling and network analysis.
Scope of the Call: Changing the narrative of age and ageing – Research examining how media, policy, family/community and technological environments shape perceptions of ageing, older adults' agency, contribution and wellbeing. Research quantifying the economic costs of ageism alongside the social and economic contributions of older adults is particularly encouraged.
Heat and out-of-home mobility and activity in later life – Research on how older adults can maintain mobility and everyday activities outside the home under increasing heat exposure due to climate change, including the interaction of environmental and contextual factors that support independence and participation.
Funding & Duration: Up to CHF 75,000 per year for Project duration of 1–4 years
Submission Deadline: 24 November 2026 (23:59 CEST)
Weblink: https://veluxstiftung.ch/funding-areas/healthy-ageing/
https://veluxstiftung.ch/wp-content/uploads/HealthyAgeing-Call-for-proposals.pdf

Travel Fellowships

Scheme: EMBO – Scientific Exchange Grants
Details: This program funds research exchanges between laboratories in EMBC Member States, EMBC/EMBO global partners (Chile, India, Singapore, Taiwan). The grants facilitate collaborations with research groups with expertise, techniques, or infrastructure that is unavailable in the applicant's laboratory.
Budget: It contribute towards travel costs and subsistence of the fellow but not of any dependents. (The duration of the project is up to 3 months)
Submission deadline: Application is accepted throughout the year. However, it is recommended to apply three months before the proposed starting date.
Weblink: https://www.embo.org/funding/fellowships-grants-and-career-support/scientific-exchange-grants/

Grant Management System-Fibi

To facilitate a smooth grant submission process, applications to RDO will now only be routed through the new **Grant Management System-Fibi**. The Fibi portal can be accessed with the link - https://fibi.ncbs.res.in/fibi using the NCBS email login credentials. Please choose the relevant "**Grant call** " under the "Grant call" module to initiate the submission to RDO.

If you face any difficulty or need guidance, please don't hesitate to contact the RDO team at **rdo@ncbs.res.in**

Schemes Open Throughout Year

Scheme	Area	Weblink
(National) Research Grants/Fellowships		
The Habitats Trust – THT Seed Grant	To fill an urgent and critical gap in conservation action, focussing mostly on lesser-known species and critical habitat	https://www.thehabitatstrust.org/tht-seed-grant.php
Ministry of Food Processing Industries – Application for Research & Development	To undertake demand driven R&D work for the benefit food processing industry in terms of product and process development, efficient technologies, improved packaging, value addition etc. with commercial value along with standardization of various factors viz. additives, colouring agents, preservatives, pesticide residues, chemical contaminants, microbiological contaminants and naturally occurring toxic substances within permissible limits.	https://www.mofpi.gov.in/Schemes/human-resources-and-institutions/research-development-food-processing-sector
DST – Abdul Kalam Technology Innovation National Fellowship	Fellowships to outstanding engineers to recognize, encourage and support translational research by individuals to achieve excellence in engineering, innovation and technology development	https://dst.gov.in/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20for%20Abdul%20KalamTechnology%20Innovation%20National%20Fellowship.pdf
BIRAC-Early Translation Accelarator (ETA)	Catalyzing transformation of young academic discoveries (publications/patents) with possible commercial and societal impact into economically viable ventures and technologies	https://www.birac.nic.in/cfp_view.php?id=81&scheme_type=14
DST – Innovation & STEM Demonstration	To consider and recommend new proposals and communication initiatives in Innovation and STEM	https://dst.gov.in/sites/default/files/stem.pdf
DST – Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) - Societal Challenges with Opportunities (SCOPE) Fellowship Program	To provide opportunity to Women Scientists and Technologists who have completed Ph.D. and want to utilize their S&T knowledge and expertise for the benefit of society	https://dst.gov.in/callforproposals/call-proposals-under-wise-scope-fellowship
(International) Research Grants/Fellowships		
Humboldt Research Fellowship	Own research topic in collaboration with a German host researcher	https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/humboldt-research-fellowship#h1268

**** Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before submission deadline for RDO to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.***

Humboldt Research Fellowship for postdocs and experienced researchers	Researchers from abroad to spend extended periods of research in Germany. Scientists and postdocs from all disciplines and countries may apply	https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/humboldt-research-fellowship#h1268
Waitt Foundation – Rapid Ocean-Conservation Grants	ROC Grants provide small grants with a quick turnaround time for solutions to emerging conservation issues and ocean protection in support of island nations	https://www.waittfoundation.org/roc-grants
Amphibian Survival Alliance - Emergency Grants Program	To provide rapid financial support for on-the-ground conservation efforts for the survival of amphibian species or populations	https://www.amphibians.org/what-we-do/funding/emergency-grants-program/
Amphibian Survival Alliance – Disease Mitigation Grants	To support projects that aim to develop effective strategies against amphibian diseases	https://www.amphibians.org/what-we-do/funding/asa-disease-mitigation-grants/
Amphibian Survival Alliance – Conservation Start-up Grants Program	To support projects aiming to improve the survival rates of amphibians, particularly those that are globally Threatened or Data Deficient	https://www.amphibians.org/what-we-do/funding/conservation-grants/
CEPI- Innovations CfP_Focus Area 2: Vaccine candidates for priority pathogens and viral families	Broad range of vaccine innovations for pathogens with Epidemic or pandemic potential	https://cepi.my.site.com/call-for-proposal?id=a1zP3000001Dz3VIAS
Collaborative/ Exchange Research Grants/Fellowships		
DST – ASEAN-India Science & Technology Cooperation program	To support collaborative Research & Development related to AI & HPC Marine Science and Technology Materials Science	http://aistic.gov.in/ASEAN/aistdfCollaborative
DST – ASEAN-India Research Training Fellowships	To promote mobility of scientists and researchers from the ASEAN-Member Countries to India and provide them opportunity to work at Indian R&D/ academic institutions to upgrade their research skills and expertise	http://aistic.gov.in/ASEAN/aistdfFellowship
DST – Technologies /Innovation/ Idea for support under ASEAN-India S&T Development Fund	Projects leading to Inclusive Innovation	https://aistic.gov.in/ASEAN/aistdfInnovatPltm
IGSTC- Small Immediate Need Grants	Innovation, applied research, technology development, and entrepreneurship with a focus on Indo-German industrial R&D	https://www.igstc.org/home/sing
Organizing Workshop/Meeting Grants		
DHR – Workshops Funding Grant in Biomedical Research	Support will be provided to scientific/professionals/association bodies engaged in the field of medical research for undertaking various activities/events	https://schemes.dhr.gov.in/staticweb/pdf/DHR/Downloads/HRD/amended%20HRD%20Guidelines%20merged.pdf

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ANRF Seminar/Symposia Grants	All STEM areas	https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/seminar_symposia
Indo-German Bilateral Workshops	Proposals for organising Indo-German workshops on areas of mutual interest with an aim towards creating platforms for substantive interactions between scientists / researchers from academia and industry	https://www.igstc.org/home/open_call
Travel		
DHR – International Travel Grant Support for Non-DHR/ICMR Scientists & Researchers	Support will be provided to scientific/professionals/association bodies engaged in the field of medical research for undertaking various activities/events.	https://schemes.dhr.gov.in/staticweb/pdf/DHR/Downloads/HRD/amended%20HRD%20Guidelines%20merged.pdf
ANRF International Travel Support (ITS)	All STEM areas	https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/its
The Company of Biologists – Travelling Fellowships	Travelling Fellowships of up to £3,000 to graduate students and post-doctoral researchers wishing to make collaborative visits to other laboratories. These are designed to offset the cost of travel/accommodation and other related expenses	https://www.biologists.com/grants/travelling-fellowships/
CSIR – Travel Grant Scheme	Scheme is aimed at providing financial assistance to Young Indian Researchers (Ph.D. Students, Research Associates, resident Doctors, etc.) and Emeritus Scientists / other non-regular researchers for participation / presenting their research papers in international Scientific Events such as conferences/ Seminars/ Symposia/ Workshops/ Short-term School/ courses/ training programs	https://csirhrdg.res.in/Home/Index/1/InPage/51/14
Others		
EMBO – Women in Science Lectures	Funding to cover travel and accommodation costs of the speaker	https://www.embo.org/funding/lecture-travel-and-childcare-grants/women-in-science-lectures/
Department of Scientific & Industrial Research – Technology Development and Utilization Programme for Women	The program is aimed to meet specific needs of women and to enhance their contribution towards technology capability building	https://www.dsir.gov.in/technology-development-and-utilization-programme-women-tdupw
BIRAC – Product Commercialization Program Fund	To hasten the market launching and large-scale commercialization process of BIRAC supported products/ technologies from Start-ups having high commercial potential or societal impact by providing financial assistance by way of Grant-in-Aid assistance	https://www.birac.nic.in/cfp_view.php?id=39&scheme_type=29

**** Applicants are requested to allow at least 2 weeks before submission deadline for RDO to carry out necessary due diligence on outgoing applications.***

RDO EVENTS



RDO has organized one-of-its-kind residential workshop aimed at capacity-building for large collaborative research project management in India.









RDO EVENTS

21 Participants from **12 Cities Across India** (as shown below) including Program Managers & Scientists/Faculties Attended the Workshop



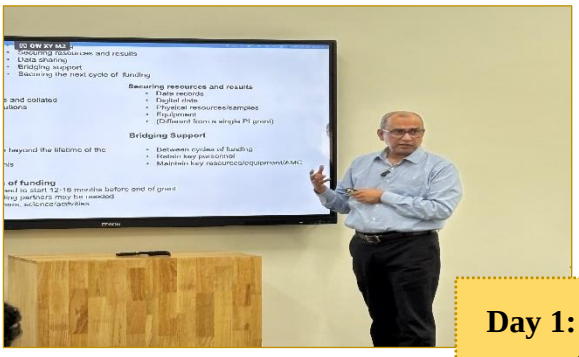


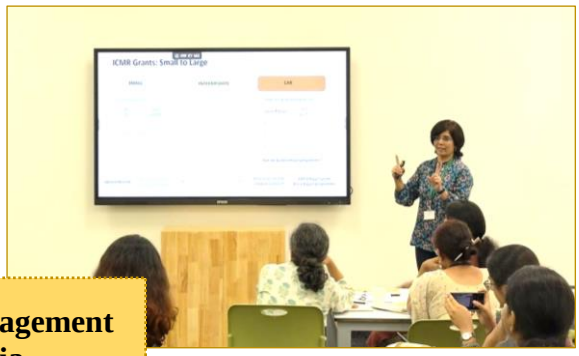




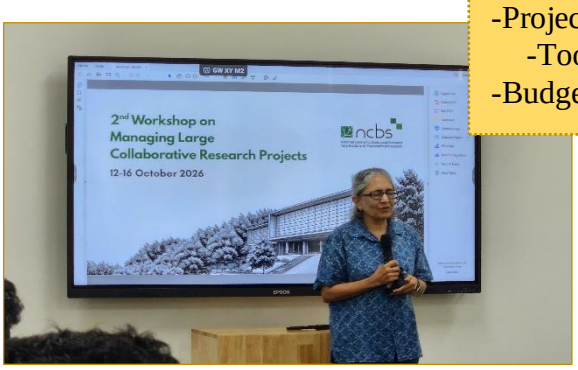


RDO EVENTS





Day 1: Pre-Award Management of Large Consortia
-Project Design & Partner selection
-Tools for Grant Management
-Budgeting & Financial Structuring





Day 2: Post-Award
-Finance Management
-Regulatory/Statuary Compliance







Day 3: Research Ethics, Integrity & Culture
- Aligning Data Management, AI & Research Integrity
-Science Communication & Policy

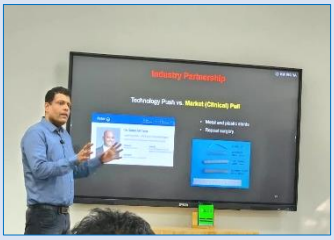






RDO EVENTS

Day 4: Advanced Module
Clinical/public Health Collaborations, Industry Academia Collaborations
PI Perspective: Building & Managing Collaborations




Day 5: Advanced Module
International Collaborations




Participants Feedback

One of most relevant, well planned and educational workshops on research management that i have attended based on Indian funding agency context. It showed the years of experience and learnings from the organisers and the speakers. I would definitely attend the future editions.

The most practical learning was the importance of advance budget planning, timely coordination with Finance, and regular monitoring of project expenditure to ensure effective utilisation of research funds. I will apply these insights by strengthening the implementation of existing SOPs, improving coordination between Principal Investigators and administrative teams, and identifying potential budgetary or documentation issues early to avoid delays in project execution and financial reporting.

Overall Excellent. Thanks to the experts and organisers. Thanks again.

The Hands-on approach to case studies gave great insight about possible problems that one might encounter in large consortia grants. Thank you for the informative workshop! Looking forward to the next iteration.

The workshop covered the most relevant aspects of multi-lab collaborative projects. It was very helpful. Everything was so perfectly organised and co-ordinated. Make it an annual programme now.

RDO EVENTS





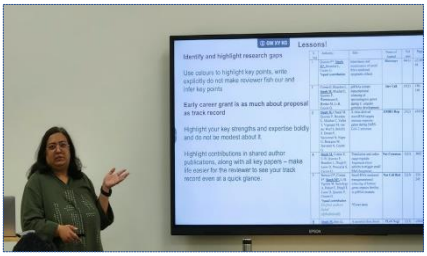
RDO and IndiaBioscience, in collaboration with Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), has organised peer-driven proposal development workshop for early-career life-science researchers/facultiespreparing to apply for the upcoming ANRF PMECRG call

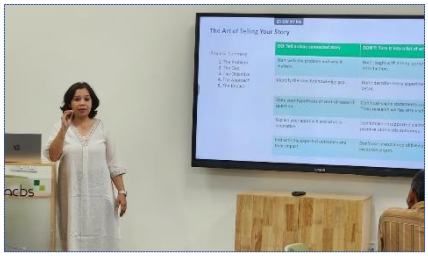












The session has brought together prospective faculty applicants, current/recent PMECRG grantees and experienced researchers for **practical discussion, peer learning and mentoring**. The session was intended to support participants in developing and refining their research ideas and understanding the proposal-development process through researchers' experiences.