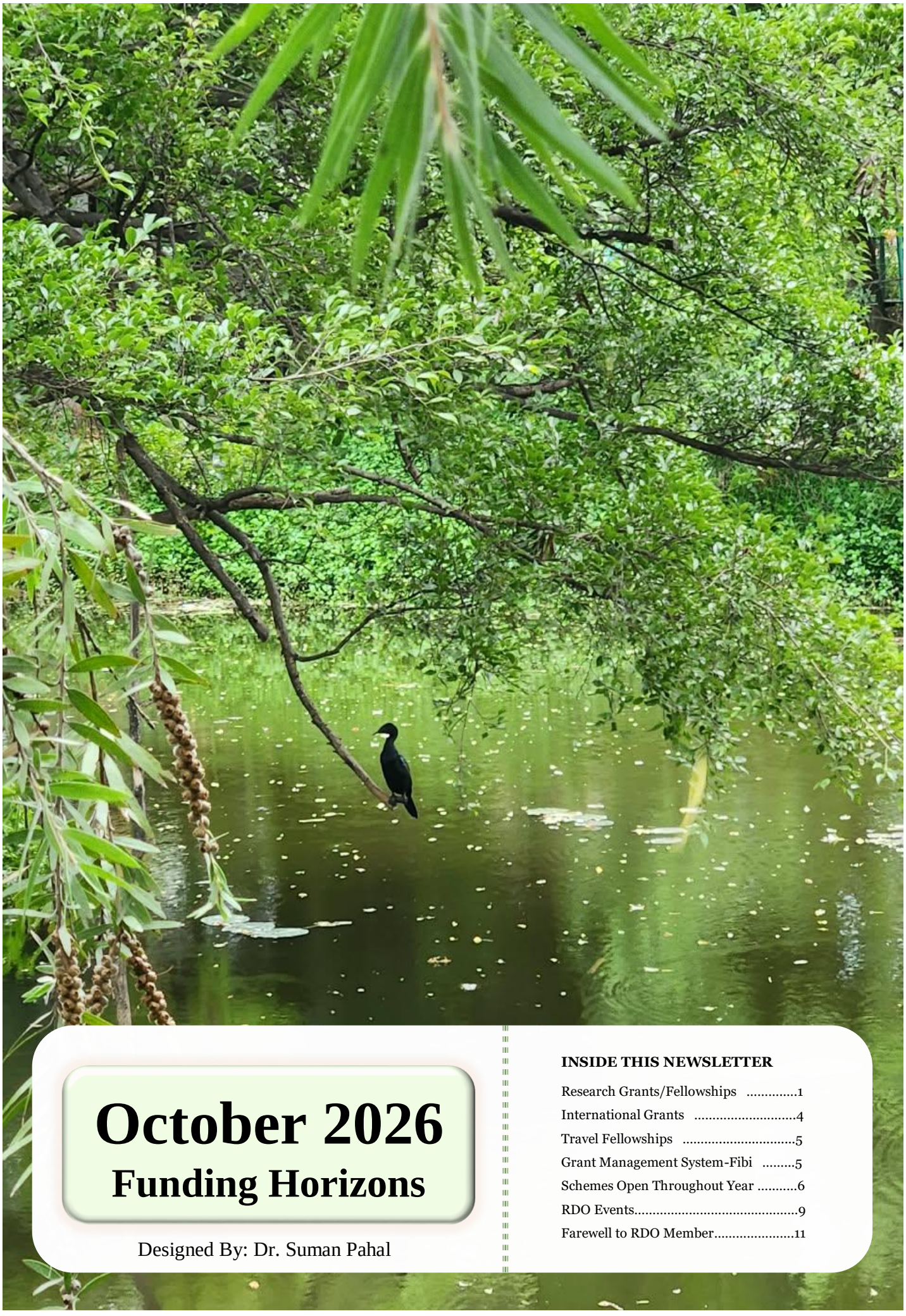


October 2026
Funding Horizons

Designed By: Dr. Suman Pahal

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

Research Grants/Fellowships 1
International Grants 4
Travel Fellowships 5
Grant Management System-Fibi 5
Schemes Open Throughout Year 6
RDO Events.....9
Farewell to RDO Member.....11

Research Grants/Fellowships

Scheme: ANRF | Impact Centres of Excellence (ACE) Programme
Details: The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) invites proposals under the Impact Centres of Excellence (ACE) programme to establish high-impact research centres in institutions aspiring to function at the forefront of global excellence in Science and Engineering. The programme seeks to strengthen research and innovation capacity, develop world-class infrastructure, attract outstanding researchers, and create vibrant ecosystems for cutting-edge research, innovation and collaboration.
Scope and Objectives of the Programme:

- Deliver world-class research excellence and impact through Impact Centres of Excellence
- Strengthen and modernize the research and innovation capacity of top-tier institutions in selected areas
- Consolidate human capital and infrastructure for world-class research in critical STEM areas
- Promote national and international collaborations in areas where institutions can achieve global excellence
- Strengthen research innovation and entrepreneurship for world-class impact
- Scale research and innovation into sustainable ecosystems and contribute to inclusive growth.
- Accelerate the emergence of Indian institutions as leading global destinations for research excellence and support significant improvement in world institutional rankings

Eligibility: The programme is institutional in nature and does not support individual-centric or small-team projects. Only one proposal per institution per call may be submitted across Categories
Key Requirement: Proposals must present a clear and compelling roadmap demonstrating how the proposed ACE Centre will achieve internationally benchmarked research excellence, generate high-impact outcomes, strengthen institutional research capacity, and contribute to an accelerated rise in global institutional rankings. A credible plan for mobilizing the required matching funds is also essential.
Funding: The programme requires mandatory co-funding from governmental and non-governmental sources.
Submission Deadline: 30th October 2026
Weblink: https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/ace_anrf

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:

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

- **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

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/. The portal will open on 7th October 2026.
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 | Microbiome and Their Implications to Human Health and Disease
Details: DBT has invited proposals under the theme "Microbiome and Their Implications to Human Health and Disease: Therapeutic Potential and Translational Opportunities", focusing on translating already-established microbiome discoveries into biotherapeutics. New discovery, exploratory profiling, or association-based studies without a defined therapeutic endpoint will not be supported.
Scope of the Call:

- Probiotic, prebiotic, postbiotic, synbiotic and other microbiome-based interventions for obesity, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, NAFLD, urinary tract diseases, and neurological/neuropsychiatric disorders
- Microbiome-based therapeutics for skin diseases
- Mycobiome-based therapeutics for fungal diseases
- Microbiome-based biomarkers for disease prediction, early diagnosis and risk stratification

Eligibility: Investigators holding regular positions in recognised academic/scientific institutions, universities/colleges, national laboratories, medical institutions and DSIR-recognised research organisations. Consortia with complementary basic, clinical and translational expertise are encouraged.
Funding & Duration: Projects will be supported for up to 3 years, extendable by 2 additional years subject to promising outcomes and milestone-based review.
Submission deadline:**15th October 2026**
Submission: Proposals must be submitted by the Project Coordinator/Lead PI through the DBT eProMIS portal (https://epms.icmr.org.in/userLogin) under the Public Health and Nutrition Division.
https://dbtepromis.nic.in/Documents/attach/20260916101916_News_Announcement.pdf

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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RDO EVENTS

Grant writing workshop for Early Career Researchers on 12th August 2026















43 Participants Attended & Their Feedback!

After attending the workshop, I got to know how to structure a proposal in the way to attract the reviewers. In addition to that I came to know the non-technical aspects like budget timeline ethics in using the AI. Over all it would be very beneficial to whomever trying for fellowships.

I think it can include somethings for final year Phd students, how to shortlist host labs when is the ideal time to start applying, how to draft mails to them, etc.

Very useful session. Please include for personalised one on one feedback sessions every 6 months.

Both the sessions were overall excellent. I personally liked the second session much useful.

The sessions were very well planned and executed

RDO EVENTS

Online workshop on "From Ideas to Funding: Securing Research Grants" on 20th August 2026

- **Dr. Suman Pahal** conducted an online workshop on "**From Ideas to Funding: Securing Research Grants**" for faculty at SVKM's Mithibai College, Mumbai.
- The workshop covered the essentials of writing competitive proposals and various grant opportunities available for faculties.





Bidding Farewell to RDO Colleague



Ms. M.C. Aruna, has played an important role in managing post-award portfolio of RDO and has worked closely with faculty members to ensure the smooth administration of post-award activities.

We would like to sincerely thank Aruna for her dedicated service, commitment, and the support she has extended to all researchers over the years, and wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

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