

Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

ANRF Catalytic Partnership Program

ANRF Catalytic Partnership Program is a highly selective funding scheme intended to catalyse the establishment of new, large-scale research and innovation institutions or centres through deep and sustained public–private partnerships. The program enables the development of new institutional platforms, such as world class research laboratories, venture-builder institutions, and collaborative research centres anchored with universities, national research laboratories, research parks or in partnerships with other Ministries, Departments and State Governments.

The program is designed to provide limited but high-leverage funding to enable research that would not otherwise materialise at the proposed scale without the involvement of ANRF.

ANRF’s support is intended to anchor, de-risk, and unlock substantial non-governmental investments and facilitate the creation of enduring institutional capabilities of national importance.

Objectives

The program seeks to:

- Create new and differentiated research and innovation institutions with long-term mandates and global ambition.
- Establish deep research partnerships between academic/research institutions, private capital, regional or other support.
- Enable transformational research and translational outcomes at scale, including deep-tech innovation ecosystems.
- Promote financial self-sustainability.
- Enable structured pathways to take technologies from research stage to industry use.
- Build long-term talent through PhD training, postdoctoral opportunities, and industry-linked research exposure.

All proposals must be broadly aligned with the objectives and mandate of ANRF as a national apex research funding institution.

ANRF ‘Catalytic’ Support

For the purpose of this program, ‘catalytic’ support refers to ANRF’s role in enabling or accelerating the establishment of new institutional partnerships and research entities by:

- Enabling convergence of multiple public, private, and philanthropic partners into a single institutional platform.
- Anchoring governance frameworks that enhance credibility and investor confidence to participate in national research ecosystems.
- Supporting early stage institutional stabilisation and capacity building.

The burden of evidence shall rest on the applicant institution to demonstrate that ANRF's involvement is essential and catalytic to the proposed partnership.

Eligibility

1. The program is strictly institutional in nature. No individual-centric projects will be supported.
2. Only one proposal per institution per call shall be permitted.
3. Proposals shall be submitted by the Head of the Institution.
4. Recognized academic institution (including private institutions with valid UGC / AICTE / PCI approval) or National Research Laboratory or not-for-profit recognized research organisation in India (with a valid DSIR-SIRO recognition) are eligible to host the program.
5. The proposal submitted shall constitute the sole institutional submission under this program for the relevant call cycle.
6. Only projects demonstrating a minimum program cost of Rs. 100 crore (In-cash), before accounting for ANRF contribution, will be considered.

Given the strategic nature of the program, only a limited number of proposals shall be supported in each call.

Nature of Proposals

Proposals must clearly demonstrate:

- Alignment with national priorities and areas of long-term national relevance.
- Net newness of the proposed objectives and partnership structure.
- That the proposal does not represent an extension, reconfiguration, or incremental scaling of existing institutions, centres, laboratories, or partnerships.

Nature of Supported Partnerships

Supported proposals shall result in the establishment of a new institutional entity (centre, laboratory, or institute).

Partnerships may involve academic institutions, national research laboratories, industry, philanthropy, other public agencies, or combinations thereof.

Proposals should clearly outline the governance structure of the proposed entity, including leadership, decision-making bodies, and the roles and responsibilities of participating partners.

Nature of Support

1. ANRF support shall typically constitute 10–20% of the total program cost and shall be disbursed over a period of up to five years.
2. Non-ANRF funding may include private capital, CSR funding, philanthropy, alumni or diaspora endowments, infrastructure support, and in-kind contributions.

3. All supported entities shall acknowledge ANRF support and be designated as “Catalysed by ANRF” in official communications.

Utilisation of ANRF Funds

The ANRF contribution shall be utilised to drive collaboration and institutional upliftment of emerging Tier II and Tier III research institutions, with particular emphasis on State Universities.

Such support shall include:

1. Research visitorships enabling faculty and researchers from Tier II/Tier III institutions to spend significant periods (typically three months to one year) at the supported centre or institution.
2. Capacity building, mentorship, and institutional development mechanisms designed to strengthen research capability in partner institutions.
3. Shared access to infrastructure and facilities established under the program.

The depth of outreach and institutional upliftment activities shall constitute a key evaluation and performance metric under this program.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals submitted under this program must clearly articulate:

- The expected catalytic role of ANRF in the proposed partnership.
- The expected outcomes, including institutional, scientific, and translational outcomes.
- Alignment with the objectives and mandate of ANRF.
- The funding structure, including committed and prospective non-ANRF contributions.
- The proposal must clearly demonstrate that the proposed initiative is distinct from and does not duplicate or overlap with activities supported under other schemes of ANRF.

Evaluation and Selection

1. Proposals shall be evaluated by an Expert Committee comprising members from different domains.
2. The Committee shall assess proposals on proposed ANRF’s role in the partnership, net newness, strategic alignment, governance robustness, and long-term sustainability.
3. The recommendations of the Expert Committee shall be placed before the ANRF Executive Council, which shall be the final deciding authority.

Terms and Conditions

1. Governance and Oversight

The supported institution shall establish an appropriate governance structure for the proposed entity, clearly defining leadership, decision making bodies and the roles of participating partners. ANRF may nominate one representative or member to the governing or advisory bodies overseeing the program.

2. Financial management and Audit

ANRF funds shall be maintained in a separate account and utilized strictly for the approved purposes of the program. The institution shall submit audited financial statements, utilization certificates and other documents as required by ANRF and applicable Government of India financial rules.

3. Compliance with National Regulations

All activities supported under this program shall comply with applicable national regulations, including those related to research ethics, data governance, national security, and export control, where relevant. The applicant institution is responsible for ensuring such compliance.

4. Modification or Termination of Support

ANRF reserves the right to modify, suspend or terminate support in the event of non-performance, misuse of funds or violation of program guidelines.

5. Branding and Acknowledgment

All supported entities must be designated as:

“Catalyzed by ANRF”

and must prominently display ANRF branding and logo in communications.

6. Non-ANRF funding Commitments

The host institution and partners shall ensure timely mobilization of the committed non-ANRF funding as indicated in the proposal. Any significant change in partner commitments shall be communicated to ANRF.

A defined portion of the non-ANRF financial contribution shall be backed by evidence of firm commitment and not only expressions of interest.

7. Establishment of the institutional entity

The supported partnership shall establish the proposed Centre, Laboratory or Institutional platform with a defined identity, governance and long-term mandate.

Mode of Application and Selection

The Principal Investigator is eligible to apply only one proposal during a call.

The call for applications will be notified on the ANRF website www.anrf.gov.in and online portal "www.anrfonline.in". The selection will be based on the recommendation of the committee constituted by ANRF for this program.

Documents required

- Other Technical Details [Download Template]
- Biodata (under user profile section) [Download Template]
- Endorsement letter [Download Template]
- Certificate from Head of the Institution [Download Template]
- Contribution Commitment Letter [Download Template]

Other technical details

1. Strategic Vision and National Relevance (300–400 words)

Explain the long term vision of the Centre and how it supports national development priorities and strategic science and technology goals. Clearly identify the important gaps or challenges the Centre aims to address. Highlight how the proposed work can create meaningful economic and social benefits at a large scale, including potential outcomes such as technology development, industry adoption, job creation or public benefits.

2. Distinctiveness and Global Positioning (300–400 words)

Describe what makes this Centre different from existing national initiatives. Emphasize the new knowledge, capabilities or approaches it will bring. Provide brief comparisons with leading global research institutions to show that the Centre can compete and collaborate at international standards.

3. Governance and Institutional Structure (250–350 words)

Describe how the Centre will be organized and operated as an independent entity. Explain the governance system, leadership structure, decision making process and accountability mechanisms that will ensure smooth and transparent functioning. Clarify the roles of governing bodies, advisory boards and participating institutions in overseeing the Centre's activities.

4. Financial Plan and Long term Sustainability (300–400 words)

Present a practical plan for generating diverse revenue streams to support long term operations. This may include partnerships, technology licensing, consultancy, training programs or philanthropic support. Explain how the Centre will gradually reduce dependence on public funding and remain financially stable after initial support.

5. Partnership Structure and Partner Contributions (400–500 words)

Explain how each partner will contribute to establishing the Centre, including infrastructure support, shaping research priorities, participation in governance or translating research into usable technologies. Demonstrate shared ownership, mutual benefits, long term commitment and that core capabilities are distributed across the participating partners and are not concentrated within a single institution.

6. Research and Technology Development Plan (700–900 words)

Describe the main research themes and how technologies will progress from basic ideas to practical applications. Outline development stages using technology readiness levels, key milestones and plans for commercialization. Describe strategies for prototype development, technology validation and pathways for commercialization or societal deployment. Explain how research outcomes will eventually reach industry or benefit society.

7. Infrastructure and Ecosystem Development (300–400 words)

Describe the major physical and technical facilities that will be developed. Mention the expertise available for managing these facilities and how researchers will access them. Include plans to support smaller or less resourced institutions through partnerships and shared research programs.

8. Implementation Plan and Catalytic Role of ANRF (400–600 words)

Provide a five year phased plan showing major activities and targets each year. Explain why catalytic funding from ANRF is important and how this funding will help attract additional investments from other partners. Clearly justify the level of support sought from ANRF. Request seeking a relatively higher share (more than 10% of total cost of the project) should be supported by strong justification demonstrating the need for such catalytic support.

Describe how ANRF support will promote collaboration and strengthen emerging Tier II and Tier III research institutions, particularly State Universities, through initiatives such as research visitorships, mentorship, capacity building, and shared access to infrastructure.

9. Role of the Host institution (200–300 words)

Explain the host institution's commitment to supporting the Centre. Include support such as providing space, administrative assistance, policy support and strategic alignment with the institutions long term growth plans. Describe how the host institution will facilitate coordination among partners and help ensure the long term sustainability of the Centre.

PROFORMA FOR BIO-DATA (to be uploaded)

1. Name and full correspondence address
2. Email(s) and contact number(s)
3. Institution
4. Date of Birth
5. Gender (M/F/T)
6. Category Gen/SC/ST/OBC
7. Whether differently abled (Yes/No)
8. Academic Qualification (Undergraduate Onwards)

	Degree	Year	Subject	University/Institution	% of marks
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					

9. Ph.D thesis title, Guide's Name, Institute/Organization/University, Year of Award.

10. Work experience (in chronological order).

S.No.	Positions held	Name of the Institute	From	To	Pay Scale

11. Professional Recognition/ Award/ Prize/ Certificate, Fellowship received by the applicant.

S.No	Name of Award	Awarding Agency	Year

12. Publications (*List of papers published in SCI Journals, in year wise descending order*).

S.No.	Author(s)	Title	Name of Journal	Volume	Page	Year

13. Detail of patents.

S.No	Patent Title	Name of Applicant(s)	Patent No.	Award Date	Agency/Country	Status

14. Books/Reports/Chapters/General articles etc.

S.No	Title	Author's Name	Publisher	Year of Publication

15. Any other Information (maximum 500 words)

Certificate from Head of the Institute

It is hereby certified that:

1. The proposed project has not been submitted elsewhere for financial support in the same form.
2. We undertake that the research facilities, knowledge resources, datasets, and other non-capital assets generated under the ANRF Catalytic Partnership Program will be shared, wherever feasible and permissible, with the wider research community in accordance with institutional policies and ANRF guidelines.
3. We agree to participate in all monitoring, review, appraisal, or evaluation meetings organized by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) during the project tenure and, if required, after its completion, and to present the progress and outcomes of the program.
4. We undertake to obtain and submit all statutory and regulatory clearances, as required under Government of India norms, before initiating activities that demand such approvals.
5. We agree that any sensitive findings, strategic outcomes, or new knowledge emerging from this Programme will not be disclosed to media or external agencies without prior approval of ANRF, wherever applicable.
6. The proposed work under the ANRF Catalytic Partnership Program does not duplicate research already completed or currently being carried out elsewhere, to the best of our knowledge, and does not overlap with activities supported under other schemes of ANRF.
7. All publications, reports, policy briefs, intellectual property, and other outputs arising from this programme will duly acknowledge the support of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) under the ANRF Catalytic Partnership Program.
8. We agree to abide by all terms and conditions governing the ANRF Catalytic Partnership Program.

Name and signature of Head of the Institute

Contribution Commitment Letter

This is to certify that _____ (Name of Organisation/Donor) agrees to support the proposal titled: _____ submitted by _____ (Name of Host Institute) under the ANRF Catalytic Partnership Program.

Category of Contributing Body (Non-ANRF)

(Please tick one)

- Private Capital / Industry Partner
- Corporate CSR Contributor
- Philanthropic Foundation / Trust
- Alumni Endowment
- Diaspora Endowment / International Donor
- Infrastructure / In-Kind Contributor
- Host Institution Contribution
- State/Regional/Ministries

Details of Contribution

- Nature of Contribution: Cash / In-kind / Both
- Total Cash Contribution (in Rs.): _____ (Note: Only in-cash contributions will be counted toward the minimum program cost requirement of Rs. 100 crore over five years)
- In-kind Contribution (Description & Estimated Value): _____
- Percentage of Total In-Cash Programme Cost: _____ %
- Proposed Timeline of Contribution: _____

We confirm that this contribution represents a genuine institutional commitment toward the establishment, development, and long-term sustainability of the proposed Centre under the ANRF Catalytic Partnership Program.

In-kind contributions, where applicable, are additional, have been reasonably estimated, and are not counted toward the minimum eligibility threshold.

The above commitment has been duly approved by the competent authority within the organisation, and the organisation confirms that the committed funds/resources will be made available in accordance with the proposed timeline.

Authorized Signatory: _____

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Organisation: _____

Official Seal: _____

Date: _____

Endorsement Letter

This is to certify that:

I. The _____ (Name of Institution) supports the proposal submitted under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Catalytic Partnership Program.

II. The proposal constitutes the sole institutional submission from this institution for the relevant call cycle under the ANRF Catalytic Partnership Program.

III. The programme shall commence from the date of issue of the grant sanction/assignment letter by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), New Delhi.

IV. The grant-in-aid provided by ANRF shall be utilized strictly for the approved objectives and duration of the program, as indicated in the sanction order.

V. The institution shall provide the required infrastructure, administrative support, governance framework, and oversight necessary for effective implementation of the institutional program.

VI. All assets and resources created or acquired under this programme shall be recorded in the institutional records and managed in accordance with ANRF guidelines.

VII. The institution shall assume full financial, administrative, and compliance responsibility for the programme from its commencement until final settlement and closure, including submission of audited accounts and utilization certificates within the prescribed timeline.

VIII. ANRF will have no administrative or other liability after completion of the project duration.

Seal

Signature

Registrar of University / Head of Institution / Head of Organization

Date:

Place:

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the ANRF Catalytic Partnership Program about?

The ANRF Catalytic Partnership Program is designed to help create new, large-scale research and innovation institutions in India.

The program encourages bold initiatives that bring together academia, industry, and private/philanthropic partners to build world-class research ecosystems with long-term national impact.

2. What does “catalytic support” actually mean?

ANRF’s role is not to fully fund projects. Instead, it acts as a strategic enabler.

ANRF funding is meant to:

- Bring multiple partners together
- Reduce early-stage risk
- Build credibility for the initiative
- Unlock much larger non-governmental investments

Applicants must clearly show that without ANRF’s involvement, the initiative would not materialise at the proposed scale.

3. Who can apply?

This program is meant for institutions and not individuals.

Recognized academic institution (including private institutions with valid UGC / AICTE / PCI approval) or National Research Laboratory or not-for-profit recognized research organisation in India (with a valid DSIR-SIRO recognition) are eligible to host the program.

Only one proposal per institution per call. Submission must be by the Head of Institution. Individual research proposals are not supported under this program.

4. Is there a minimum size requirement?

Yes. This is a large-scale initiative. Only projects demonstrating a minimum program cost of Rs. 100 crore (In-cash), before accounting for ANRF contribution, will be considered. This ensures that supported initiatives operate at transformational scale.

5. How much funding will ANRF provide?

ANRF typically supports 10–20% of the total project cost, for up to five years. The ANRF contribution is additional to the total project cost, which shall be no less than Rs.100 crore (In-cash) in any case, funded through other contributions.

The remaining funding must come from non-ANRF sources such as:

- Industry partners
- Private capital
- CSR
- Philanthropy foundations
- Alumni/diaspora endowments
- Any other contributing partner
- State/Regional/Ministries

A portion of this funding must be backed by firm commitments, not just letters of intent. Significant Non-Govt. support is expected.

6. Can an existing centre apply for expansion?

No. This program is meant to create a genuinely new institutional entity and not expand, rebrand, or restructure an existing centre or laboratory.

The proposal must demonstrate clear “net newness.”

7. Are partnerships mandatory?

Yes, strong public–private partnerships are central to this program.

Proposals should demonstrate:

- Co-created research agendas
- Shared infrastructure investments
- Active industry or philanthropic participation in governance

This is not a conventional grant; it is a long-term institutional partnership.

8. How should ANRF funds be used?

ANRF funding should primarily support:

- Institutional upliftment of Tier II/Tier III institutions
- Research visitorships (3 months to 1 year)
- Mentorship and capacity-building programs
- Shared research infrastructure access
- Strengthening the national research ecosystem

Outreach and institutional strengthening will be an important evaluation metric.

9. What kinds of outcomes are expected?

Supported initiatives should aim for:

- Establishment of a new institution with a long-term mandate

- Transformational research capabilities
- Clear pathways from research to industry deployment
- Startup incubation and technology translation
- Talent development (PhD scholars, postdocs, industry-linked research exposure)
- A roadmap toward financial sustainability

10. What does financial sustainability mean in this context?

Applicants must show how the institution will sustain through:

- Competitive research contracts
- Industry-sponsored programs
- Intellectual Property (IP) licensing
- Technology Commercialisation
- Executive training and other revenue streams

The goal is to create enduring institutions, not permanently grant-dependent centres.

11. How will proposals be evaluated?

Proposals will be reviewed by an Expert Committee across domains.

Evaluation will focus on:

- Clarity of ANRF's catalytic role
- National relevance and strategic alignment
- Degree of Net newness
- Governance strength
- Financial sustainability
- Strength of partnerships
- Institutional upliftment strategy

Final approval rests with the ANRF Executive Council.

12. How long will support last?

ANRF support may be provided for up to five years, with clearly defined annual milestones.

13. What about sensitive technologies?

If the proposal involves sensitive technologies, institutions must comply with applicable national security, export control, and data governance regulations. Compliance responsibility lies with the applicant institution.

14. How do we apply?

The call will be announced on:

- www.anrf.gov.in

- www.anrfonline.in

Applications must be submitted online in the prescribed format.

15. How many proposals will be selected?

Only a limited number of proposals will be supported in each call, given the strategic and high-investment nature of the program.

16. Any branding and acknowledgment requirements?

All supported entities must be designated as:

“Catalyzed by ANRF”

and must prominently display ANRF branding and logo in communications.

17. What are the expectations from non-ANRF funding commitments?

The host institution and partners shall ensure timely mobilization of the committed non-ANRF funding as indicated in the proposal. Any significant change in partner commitments shall be communicated to ANRF. A defined portion of the non-ANRF financial contribution shall be backed by evidence of firm commitment and not only expressions of interest.

18. What happens if project milestones are not met?

Projects are expected to meet the milestones during the five year support period. ANRF may review the progress periodically and may modify, reduce or discontinue support if the project does not demonstrate satisfactory progress.