

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1403
ANSWERED ON 31/07/2025

ESTABLISHMENT OF NRF AND PRIVATE PARTICIPATION

1403 # SHRI TEJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of projects funded under the recently established National Research Foundation (NRF) and the extent of participation by private institutions therein;
- (b) whether projects of paramount importance related to innovation, environment and health technology are given priority under NRF;
- (c) whether the grant processing procedure of NRF has been displayed in transparent and public domain; and
- (d) whether any separate sub-wing has been established to promote research in rural universities and non-metropolitan areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), has launched several schemes/programs including the Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG), Inclusivity Research Grant (IRG), Mission for Advancement in High-impact Areas (MAHA)-EV Mission, Advanced Research Grant (ARG), and Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR), among others. As of now, the number of projects sanctioned under different schemes/programmes are as follows;

Schemes/Program	Total No. of Projects sanctioned
Inclusivity Research Grant	209
Mission for Advancement in High-impact Areas (MAHA)-EV Mission	7
Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR)	9
Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant	705
Grand Total	930

Under the MAHA-EV-Mission scheme, it is mandatory that 10% of the project cost **is contributed by the industry** as co-funding.

(b) The ANRF came into force on 5th February 2024. In its Ist meeting, the Executive Council (EC) approved the launch of mission-mode programs in two key areas: EV-Mission and Advance Material, reflecting ANRF's focus on strategic and emerging technologies. Additionally, through its competitive programmes such as IRG (Inclusivity Research Grant),

ARG (Advanced Research Grant), and PAIR (Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research), ANRF has targeted several critical domains, including innovation, environment, and health technologies.

(c) Yes, the grant processing procedure of ANRF is displayed transparently and is available in the public domain. ANRF has launched several programs such as EV-Mission, PAIR, IRG, JC Bose Grant, ARG, PMECRG, Ramanujan Fellowship, and NPDF. For each program, a detailed Call for Proposals (CFP) is published on the ANRF website, outlining eligibility criteria, application process, timelines, formats, evaluation and selection procedures, and FAQs. Proposals are reviewed by at least two independent experts, and may involve a presentation before a subject expert committee, ensuring a fair and transparent evaluation process.

(d) The ANRF is committed to promoting Research & Development (R&D) across the country through the implementation of various programmes conducted in a competitive and inclusive manner. These programmes are open to all eligible institutions, including universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories regardless of their geographical location.
