

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION No. \*472  
ANSWERED ON 25/03/2026**

**OPERATIONALISATION OF ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION**

**\*472. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has operationalized the Anusandhan National Research Foundation aimed at strengthening research and innovation ecosystem in the country;**
- (b) the details of funds allocated and released under the Foundation so far;**
- (c) whether mechanisms have been put in place to promote collaboration between academic institutions, research organisations and industry under the Foundation and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure wider participation of universities and research institutions across States in research programmes supported by the Foundation ?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

**STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 472 FOR 25.03.2026 REGARDING  
“OPERATIONALISATION OF ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION”**

**(a) The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has been operationalized.**

**The ANRF Act, 2023 was passed by both Houses of Parliament and received the assent of the Hon’ble President on 12th August 2023. The Act was notified in the Gazette of India on 14th August 2023 and came into force with effect from 5th February 2024.**

**Subsequently, the first meeting of the ANRF Governing Board, chaired by the Hon’ble Prime Minister was held in September 2024, wherein the Executive Council was authorised to develop and implement programmes aligned with the objectives of the Act.**

**ANRF has since initiated programmes to support both fundamental and mission-oriented research. Support for investigator-driven research is being provided through schemes such as Prime Minister’s Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG), Advance Research Grant (ARG), Inclusivity Research Grant (IRG) and Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR). In addition, mission-mode programmes under the Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA), including initiatives in areas such as electric mobility, artificial intelligence, MedTech and critical raw materials, have been taken up to address national priorities.**

**(b) In FY 2025–26, as on 23.03.2026, financial assignments amounting to ₹961.35 crore have been completed under the budget head of ANRF. The details are as follows:**

**(Rupees in crore)**

<b>F Y</b>		<b>BE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>RECEIVED</b>	<b>ASSIGNED</b>
<b>2025-26</b>	<b>ANRF</b>	<b>2000.00</b>	<b>1948.00</b>	<b>1506.00</b>	<b>961.35</b>

**(c) The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has put in place multiple mechanisms to promote collaboration between academic institutions, research organisations and industry. The ANRF Act provides enabling provisions for co-funding and joint programmes with participation from industry and philanthropic partners.**

**ANRF brings together government, academia, industry, start-ups and international partners under a unified framework and is designing programmes to facilitate both top-down partnerships with non-government contributors and bottom-up participation through academia-led consortia.**

**Further, collaboration is being actively promoted through mission-mode programmes under the Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA), where projects are supported in consortium mode with industry participation, including co-funding. For example: in the Electric Vehicle (EV) Mission, a network of industry partners has been engaged as co-creators across the project lifecycle. Similar partnership models have been extended to other mission-mode programmes and initiatives such as the ANRF Translational Research and Innovation (ATRI) programme.**

**In addition, ANRF is undertaking structured engagements with industry, Corporate R&D, and philanthropic organisations to scale up private sector participation in research and innovation.**

**(d) The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has undertaken several initiatives to ensure wider participation of universities and research institutions across States.**

**Under the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) programme, a mentorship-driven hub-and-spoke model has been adopted to strengthen research capacity in relatively less-endowed institutions by linking them with leading institutions. Seven PAIR networks, comprising 7 hub and 42 spoke institutions, have been approved with funding support of up to ₹100 crore each over five years. In addition, 11 networks (11 hubs and 62 spoke institutions) have been provided one-year bridge support to deepen collaborative engagement.**

**Further, the Prime Minister Professorship programme has been launched to place eminent scientists in less-endowed institutions for mentoring and capacity building. So far, 20 Professorships have been approved across 19 States and one Union Territory.**

**These initiatives are aimed at promoting inclusive, collaborative and geographically distributed research participation across the country.**

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