

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

ANRF is a legal body under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. Established by an Act in 2023. ANRF replaces the **Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, established in 2009.

ANRF/SERB was set up for promoting basic research in science and engineering and to provide financial assistance to scientists, academic institutions, R&D laboratories, industrial concerns and other agencies for such research.

Purpose

- ANRF/SERB's primary mandate is to support basic research in emerging areas of science and engineering.
- It aims to elevate the quality and reach of Indian science and engineering to global standards.

Key Objectives

- Promote innovative and high-impact research to contribute to national development.
- Support interdisciplinary research.
- Encourage young scientists through early-career support and fellowships.
- Facilitate international collaborations.

Functions

- It serves as a premier national funding agency.
- It provides financial assistance to scientists, academic institutions, R&D labs, and industries.
- Through its programs, it connects industry with those doing research.

Major Programs and Schemes

- MAHA – Mission for Advancement in High-impact Areas: to address priority-driven, solution-focused research in mission mode that would catalyze multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary and multi-investigator collaboration.
- PMECRG – Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant: For individual and group-led indigenous research and development.
- SRG – Start-up Research Grant: For young researchers to establish independent research.
- SUPRA – Scientific and Useful Profound Research Advancement: To fund high-risk, high-reward research.
- JC Bose and Ramanujan Fellowships: To pursue high-end research.
- TARE – Teachers Associateship for Research Excellence: For faculty to work in premier institutions.
- PRISM – Project Information System & Management: It is an online platform that promotes transparency and accountability by providing information on funded research.

Funding

Reflecting the commitment to indigenous research and development, the ANRF was allocated Rs. 966 crore in FY 2024-25. The same has been increased to Rs. 2,000 crore in FY 2025-26. Collaborating industry also contributes at least 10% to these projects.