

CSIR-FIRST Scheme

Fundamental and Innovative Research in Science of Tomorrow

A CSIR competitive funding initiative supporting promising scientists in cutting-edge, futuristic R&D that addresses fundamental scientific questions and generates long-term national benefits.

1 Eligibility Criteria

Affiliation: Principal Investigator (PI) must be in regular employment at CSIR labs, institutes, or recognized units.

Project Merit: Research must address unique fundamental questions in science and technology.

Track Record: Evaluated on program feasibility and past research track record of applicant/institution.

2 Benefits

Financial Support

Competitive funding, historically capped at up to ₹50 Lakhs per annum.

Research Advancement

Covers manpower, consumables, travel, contingencies, and equipment costs.

3 Documents Required

Structured Proposal: Detailed Project Report (DPR) and SFC/EFC proforma

Authentication & Vetting: Layout prepared by PI, authenticated by PME division, vetted by Finance section of the lab

Clearance/Endorsement: Signatures from authorized signatories of the institution

4 Validity

Up to 2 Yrs

GRANT DURATION

Funding rounds are tied to specific **fiscal-year blocks** (e.g. FY 2026-28). CSIR periodically opens **calls for proposals** on its online portal.