Request for Application
For
Prof. M. K. Bhan Mid-Career Research Fellowship Program

Jointly supported by

Department of Biotechnology,
Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India
&
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

A funding opportunity under
Grand Challenges India
Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council
(A Government of India Enterprise)

I. Background

A. Grand Challenges India (GCI)

Grand Challenges India (GCI) launched in 2012, is the flagship program under the partnership of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), where both parties agreed to collaborate on scientific and technological research to alleviate some of the world's most critical health and development issues for benefiting the people in India and other developing countries. The Program Management Unit at BIRAC (PMU-BIRAC) was set up under this partnership to bring together global funders with national stakeholders to a single platform. PMU-BIRAC is responsible for implementing, managing, and providing technical and financial oversight of jointly funded projects and initiatives.

B. About the fellowship:

This fellowship has been instituted in memory of Padma Bhushan Prof. Maharaj Kishan Bhan, the renowned pediatrician, an eminent scientist and former Secretary, DBT and Chairperson, BIRAC, Government of India. Prof. Bhan was a luminary of Indian public health who contributed immensely to this field and revolutionize the biotechnology landscape in India. The development of the indigenous Rotavirus vaccine was one of his significant contributions that continues to save lives of millions of children in India and globally. Prof. Bhan instituted various initiatives to foster research, collaboration and implementation capacity of India. Prof. Bhan believed in investing and encouraging biomedical research and innovation to derive excellence and leadership in science. Prof. Bhan continuously worked to encourage, engage and train the next generation of researchers and committed leaders of the science fraternity within India, who would steer and contribute to the improvement of public health in the country. To honor the legacy of Prof. Bhan and embolden his goals, the Grand Challenges India (GCI) partners have instituted the Prof. M. K. Bhan Mid-Career Fellowship Program, implemented by GCI at BIRAC.

C. Aim of the fellowship:

The aim of the Fellowship is to continue Prof. Bhan's vision for research and innovation in public health, by
i) Identifying and supporting extraordinary emerging scientific leaders in India while solving country's most pressing health and development challenges.
ii) Providing opportunities to mid-career researchers empowering them as independent investigators.

D. Core-elements:

- The Fellowship is designed specifically for well-established mid-career researchers with at least fifteen years of work experience post-Ph.D. in Global Public Health research and Healthcare Sector and are looking for financial support to derive transformational and innovative research.

- The Fellowship is looking for excellent researchers with established track records as evidenced by peer-reviewed publications in leading scientific journals, technologies developed, patents (if any) and/or other societal impacts of their research.

- Fellows who have already established their scientific bona fides and are positioned to leverage this program to accelerate their careers into senior-level science leaders are encouraged to apply.

E. Mandate areas:

Under the ambit of Grand Challenges India, public health research focuses on several health and development priorities such as infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, vaccines, point-of-care or rapid diagnostics, nutrition and health, and agriculture along with other areas of national concern. The focus areas under fellowship may be referred in *Annexure A*. Fellowship aim to support basic, translational and implementation research as well as product development within the fellowship duration.

F. Nature of Support:

- The ultimate goal of the program is to support up to 9 fellows (5 Fellowships in first year and 4 Fellowship in second year) in the first cohort for a period of up to five years (60 months) for funding up to INR 2.20 crore (US$ 275,000 per fellowship).

- The allowable cost for the Fellowship will include the following budget heads with the percentage cap.

Particulars	Heads	Allowable costs
Direct Costs	Salary for Fellow	The maximum allowable amount is INR 2,00,000/- per month with 10% yearly increment during the course of the Fellowship ~~based on the approved work plan.*~~
	Research costs (including the Consumables, equipment, and accessories, Support Staff manpower for project, Outsourcing, Other costs ~~including publication~~)	The percentage allowable is 20%-30% of the total Fellowship. The consideration for the cost proposed in "Others" Budget head will also consider the relative percentages proposed in the other budget heads
	Travel/Meeting (Inclusive of International) travel)	The percentage allowable is 4 .0% of the total Fellowship.
Ind irect Costs	Including institute Overhead, research contingency and miscellaneous	Not more than 10% of Direct cost or actual expenditure of the respective financial year

* *Note:*
  ➢ *Costs requested on the application (under appropriate heads/subheads) should be*

commensurate with the proposed research and must be supported with scientific justification. Failure to do this may result in budget cuts. In case of recommendation for support, the Funding Committee's/relevant committee would decide if the requested item/cost is appropriate. Applicants may be asked to revise budget requests at the discretion of the Funding Committee/relevant Committee.

➢ *List of equipment, if required and justification in relevance to the project activities (Quotations supporting proposed equipment and accessories, may be asked at a later stage)*

➢ *Any aspect not included in the RFA regarding budget may be proposed with due justification that will be subject to recommendation by the relevant committee after thorough review.*

Please note the following details carefully:

1. **Salary for Fellow**:

The salary refers to gross salary (Basic + all allowances) drawn during the Fellowship. The Fellowship will support the Fellow's salary for a maximum amount of INR 2,00,000/- per month for the duration of the Fellowship, including the current salary drawn.

  a. *If the current drawn salary is equal to or above INR 2,00,000/- per month the Fellowship will provide the honorarium of 10% of the total allowable salary per month.*

  b. *If the current drawn salary is less than INR 2,00,000/-, the Fellowship will provide a top-up to bring the salary to INR 2,00,000/- per month for the duration of the Fellowship.*

  c. *Fellows will be eligible for regular research grants through extramural and other schemes of various S&T agencies of the Govt. of India. However, they can take salary from only one source.*

2. **Research Costs**

  a. *Justifications to be provided for roles of each aspect of consumables, equipment, and accessories, Support staff for Research (manpower), will be required in the Application Part II and before the final decision is taken regarding the shortlisting of the Fellowship.*

  b. *Salary for the support staff will have to be as per existing Government of India norms. The Fellowship will allow upto 4 positions, clearly justified. Additional Manpower can be considered in case of field trials/intervention trials, however these will have to be justified.*

  c. *Any purchase of equipment or accessories within the non-recurring budget sanctioned in the Fellowship will be in the name of the institution for the "Prof. MK Bhan Public Health Research Cell".*

3. **Indirect Costs- Institutional Costs**

  a. *The total proposed cost will also include the Institute Overhead Cost (not more than 10% of Direct cost or actual expenditure of the respective financial year)*

4. **Travel and Meetings**

  a. *National and international travel (only for the Fellow and not staff)*

    i. *International travel may be budgeted within this head but will require prior requesting and approval from GCI-BIRAC.*

5. **Attending trainings/ workshops/ seminars**

- *Fellows can attend the trainings/workshops/seminars relevant to their fellowship with prior approval from GCI-BIRAC.*
- *Requisition for the approval should be sent at least a month prior of the event.*

G. Eligibility for application:

1. This RFA is exclusively India-led and the call is open to Indian researchers only (not including Overseas Citizens of India).

2. The applicant should possess a Ph.D. in any branch of Public Health/ Life Sciences/ Biotechnology/ Biomedical Engineering/ Nutrition/ allied areas with at-least fifteen years of work experience post-Ph.D in Global Public Health Research **OR** MD with at-least fifteen years of work experience in the Healthcare sector.

3. The applicant may have a full-time regular position in an organization with established research set-up in India. In case the applicant doesn't have full-time regular position in an organization, he/ she must identify a host institute where s/he proposes to do the Fellowship work. Fellowship costs will be sanctioned to the Fellow through the Host Institution. Please refer the eligibility rules for Host Institute in *Annexure B*.

4. The applicant should be able to show:
   - Track record of holding independent funding such as project, programme or fellowship support, as a lead faculty or senior researcher.
   - Important contributions to the proposed area of research, for example publications, patents, technology or product or software development or an impact on health policy or practice
   - That the proposed work is important, original, contributing to the knowledge in the field and has impact in India.
   - The work is aimed at improving the quality of life or health for people in India and comparable geographies.

5. The Host Institute may be contacted separately as a part of the eligibility/due diligence process.

6. Both the Fellow and the proposed Host Institute will have to satisfy BIRAC's requirement of legal eligibility.

7. The upper age limit will be 50 years as on the closing date of the submission of the application.

8. Applicants cannot have more than one fellowship at a given point of time.

H. Expectations from the Fellows

- Commitment of at least 75% of the time for this fellowship and willingness to travel
- Fellows should advocate for the needs of their communities, and affect change in the R&D ecosystem to accelerate impact

I. Benefits of Fellowship:

- Opportunity to pursue creative projects and develop into leaders that can build extraordinary teams
- Funding for host organizations up to INR 2.20 crore (inclusive of applicable taxes) for five years
- Opportunities for networking with fellows, programmatic leads and partners

II. Instructions to applicants

A. Application details:

a. **Schedule:** Key dates and deadlines

Key dates	Events
Call Opens IST	2nd February 2024; 5:00 P.M. IST
Application closure	30th April' 2024; Application portal closes 5:00 P.M. IST
Application triage	May-June' 2024
Selection Committee meeting with presentations	June-July' 2024
Expected Announcement of selected Fellows	July-August' 2024

b. **How to Apply**

Applications will be solicited via the BIRAC portal, and will close on 30th April' 2024 (5:00 PM IST).

c. **Warranty and Declaration**

The Fellowship applicants shall warranty and declare that the statements and particulars contained in both applications and supporting documents are true and correct. They have to further warrant that they are under no contractual restrictions or legal disqualifications or any other obligations which would prohibit them from undertaking the present fellowship project, entering into any Agreement in this regard etc.

d. **Documents to be submitted with the duly filled application**
1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Authorization Letter and No Objection Certificate from the proposed Host Institute in favor of the applicant, issued by the Head of the Institute

3. NOC from Host Institute
   4. Warranty and declaration (as above)
   5. Copy of current Indian passport

B. <u>**Key selection aspects:**</u>

The Application will be reviewed on 2 major aspects:
   A) The **Fellow's academic strengths and research contributions** as an independent researcher and their capability
   - Is the proposed Fellow qualified, appropriately trained, experienced, and positioned to carry out this work?
   B) On the **work proposed for the 5-year duration** which includes, but is not limited to, questions such as:
      - **Relevance of area chosen and the importance of the question:**
        Is the area and question proposed relevant and important in the understanding of the field.
      - **Approach and methodology:**
        Is the hypothesis and rationale given for the project scientifically robust? Is there clarity in the objectives and work plan? Is the proposed plan feasible in the proposed time frame? Does the project plan adequately cover the requirement of different expertise/collaborations for the project output?
      - **Sustainability and adaptability of the proposal:**
        Does it have applicability to wider or different settings? Does the proposed solution take into account the complexity of the proposed geographical setting? Are the proposed timelines and milestones appropriate, feasible, and technically sound? Is there a high likelihood of the objectives being completed in the given timeframe?
      - **Future Deliverable/Translational Feasibility**:
        Relevance and clarity of anticipated outcomes. Does the proposal have the capability to be developed at a later stage into a useable intervention or technology in a larger context?
      - **Best value:**
        Is the cost of the proposed effort reasonable relative to the complexity of the proposed work and the degree of risk and advancement in understanding that is claimed?

C. <u>**Selection Process:**</u>

The application will be reviewed by 2 committees:

1. **The Area Review Panel:** is composed of experts in the fields. The panel will score the applications via a minimum weighted average score methodology.
   a. The application will first be scored on the proposed Fellow's credentials and capabilities.
   b. The top 75% of the applications based on the above scoring will be considered for proposal evaluation.
   c. The scores on the work proposed in the proposal submitted by the Fellows will then be

considered.

    d. The top 20 proposal scores with this combined scoring will then be selected for the presentation to the Steering Committee.

2. **Steering Committee:** this is the overarching committee of the Fellowship. The top 20 applications selected in the previous step will present to the committee who will make the final selection of the three Fellows.

D. <u>Discretion of the funding partners:</u>

Selection or rejection at any phase of the selection process will be done as per the relevant criterion developed by the concerned Committee. The decisions of the committees and sanctions of GCI- BIRAC will be final and binding on the applicants.

E. <u>Fellowship monitoring</u>:

The Fellowship monitoring shall be done as follows:

- After the fellowship is awarded, an expert committee (the Fellowship Montoring Committee composed of 2 technical members and 1 financial member and a member of the GCI team as facilitator and representatives of the funding partners) will assess the progress of the individual projects on the basis of the half yearly progress report (both technical and financial). Members of the FMC may also be members of the larger Steering Committee as well as external members. Members of the FMC will automatically be part of the Steering Committee meetings, but may not be members of the Steering Committee.
- There will be a separate FMCs for each Fellow's project.
- Other than the half-yearly FMC review, the committee or a sub-group consisting of financial experts will conduct a surprise audit of financial utilization of all the projects. This may also include the CA from BIRAC or an empaneled agency or the FMC committee themselves.
- Before the final release of the funds, the committee will conduct an audit for all the projects.
- Any of the FMC meetings may be conducted as a site visit/ in the form of a virtual meeting.

F. <u>Fund release mechanism Periodic Release</u>

- In the first 3 years of the program- Yearly meetings of the Steering Committee/any other sub-group committee including the FMC, to assess the progress of the Fellows project on technical progress and financial updates will be conducted. On the basis of the recommendation of these committees, the release of funds for the next year will be made.
- In the last two years of the program- there will be quarterly/ 6 monthly meetings (FMC or Steering Committee or combined as appropriate)- to assess the progress of the project on a technical and assess financial status and recommend releases on a half-yearly basis as appropriate.
- In case a no-cost extension is granted to the project, then the review will be conducted on a 6 monthly basis as above, or at an interval as decided by the committees.
- The fund disbursement and project implementation shall be governed by the specific funding agreement/contract that will be duly executed.

G. <u>Research Ethics and Regulatory Approvals</u>

The Fellows shall be responsible to obtain all requisite approvals, clearance certificates, permissions and licenses from the Government/local authorities for conducting its activities/ operations in connection with the Project.

H. Project Intellectual Property

i. Projects and investigators funded under initiatives shall make Global Access commitments to ensure the fruits of their research are available to those most in need. This will include, but not limited to, the ability to license any technology developed under this agreement to manufacturers in India subject to these global access commitments and to the relevant provisions of the Indian laws including specific requirements on licensing under the Patents Act 1970.

ii. To this end, project IP means intellectual property generated during the conduct of the Project by the GCI applicants, but excluding the intellectual property generated before initiation of this Project and any IP generated outside the scope of this Project even during the term of this Project. The ownership and control of the intellectual property shall remain with the GCI cost recipient(s), or other collaborating organizations or institutions as agreed with the cost recipient, subject to any applicable local policies and the collaborative process described above, including arrangements between the cost recipient and other individuals or institutions.

iii. The GCI cost recipient(s) agree to conduct and manage the Project and the resulting products, services, processes, technologies, materials, software, data or other innovations (collectively, "Funded Developments") and any IP that arises in the manner that ensures "Global Access."

iv. Global Access plans must clearly outline a plan for meeting the following minimum criteria to be eligible for funding under the Fellowship program.

o Knowledge and information gained from the Project will be promptly and broadly disseminated in line with DBT-MoST, GoI, and Gates Foundation policies.

o Funded Developments will be made available and accessible at an affordable price to maximize benefit to patients within developing countries and beyond.

o Funded Developments are the products, services, processes, technologies, materials, software, data, other innovations, and Intellectual Property resulting from the Project (including modifications, improvements, and further developments to background technology).

o The Global Access plan must cover efforts to make Funded Developments available within India and to relevant countries outside of India

v. Establishing suitable Global Access agreements among the GCI cost recipients will be a condition of receiving funding.

vi. The Funders (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India) shall become third party beneficiaries to the sub-grant agreements/sub-contracts for the specific purpose of enforcing humanitarian license to the extent necessary for implementing the above Global Access Principles.

vii. During the term of this Agreement and for 5 years after, the cost recipient(s) will submit upon request annual intellectual property reports related to the Funded Developments, Background Technology, and any related agreements using BIRAC's templates or forms, which the we may modify from time to time.

I. Confidentiality

- During the tenure of the fellowship, BIRAC will undertake to maintain strict confidentiality and refrain from disclosure thereof, of all or any part of the information and data exchanged/generated from the Project for any purpose other than purposes in accordance this RFP.
- Please note that all applications, documents, communications and associated materials submitted (collectively, "Submission Materials") will become the property of BIRAC and will be shared with other funding partners or potential funding partners.
- Number of applications received and the sources from which they originated will be published. The applications will be subject to confidential external review by independent subject matter experts and potential co-funders,
- GCI-BIRAC has the right to the technical data generated during the project or fellowship for all the GCI funded projects.
- The fund recipient shall permit GCI-BIRAC through its authorized representative access to the premises, during regular business hours, where the Project/Fellowship is being/shall be carried out/availed and provide all information and produce or make available the concerned records for inspection and monitoring of the Project activity, required by BIRAC or the concerned committee under the RFP. GCI-BIRAC will as needed share this data with a Steering group/expert or with the funding partners.

J. Indemnification

- The GCI applicants shall, at all times, indemnify and keep indemnified the Funding Agency/ BIRAC against any claims or suits in respect of any losses, damages or compensation payable in consequences of any accident, death or injury sustained by the employees of the Agency or by any other third party resulting from or by any act, omission or operation conducted by or on its behalf. Further GCI applicants shall, at all times, indemnify and keep indemnified PMU or Funding Agency/ BIRAC against all claims/damages etc. by any infringement of any Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) while carrying out its responsibilities/work under the Project and this Agreement.
- The GCI applicants shall share the complete health information which develops through observational studies, surveys or other limited datasets for the validation of the proposed solution into the programme setting and the like (the "Data") that would be beneficial to furthering the research goals with funders and global partners.
- In the event of data sharing, there shall be separate governing terms in compliance with the requirements of DP laws in all aspects.

K. Dispute resolution and Arbitration:

- In the event of any dispute or difference between the Parties hereto upon or in relation to or in connection with this RFP, such dispute or difference, shall be resolved amicably and in good faith by mutual consultation.
- If such resolution is not possible, then the unresolved dispute or difference whatsoever arising between the Parties out of or relation to the construction, meaning, scope, operation or effect of this RFA or the validity the breach thereof or in respect of any

defined legal relationship associated therewith or derived therefrom dispute shall be submitted for arbitration to International Center for Alternate Dispute Resolution (ICADR), an autonomous organization working under the aegis of the Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Legal Affairs, Government of India. The Authority to appoint the arbitrator(s) shall be the ICADR. The Arbitration under this Clause and provision of administrative services by ICADR shall be in accordance with the ICADR Arbitration Rules, 1996. The fellowship made in pursuance thereof shall be binding on the Parties. The venue of arbitration shall be New Delhi and the arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in English Language. The provision of this Clause shall not become inoperative notwithstanding the Contract expiring or ceasing to exist or being terminated or foreclosed.

Formats

All the forms related to the program will be available on the BIRAC website.

Contact us:
Grand Challenges India
Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance
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Okhla Industrial Estate,
New Delhi, 110020
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Grand Challenges India website: www.birac.nic.in/grandchallengesindia
Telephone: +91-11 2438 9600

For enquiries:
For any query related to MK Bhan fellowship, write to us with the subject line ' **Grand Challenges India- Prof. MK Bhan Fellowship Program'** at mdpmubmgf@birac.nic.in (Mission Director, Grand Challenges India) and/or at user-24@birac.nic.in (Senior Program Officer, Grand Challenges India).

FOCUS AREAS IN THE MANDATE

Under the ambit of Grand Challenges India, public health research focuses on several health and development priorities such as infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, vaccines, point-of-care or rapid diagnostics, nutrition and health, and agriculture as well as other areas of national concern. The focus areas under fellowship may be referred in Annexure A. Fellowship aim to support basic, translational and implementation research as well as product development within the fellowship duration.

i. Structural and computational approaches to drug design and discovery

Computational approaches play a major role in drug discovery. Structure-guided drug design has increased in prominence as more protein structures of validated drug targets become available, algorithms for drug design improve, and cloud computing power is more readily accessible. The application of artificial intelligence/machine learning to drug discovery is impacting the process at many steps, from identification of drug targets, selection of lead molecules through efficient lead optimization to predicting optimal drug combinations, and also re-purposing of drugs. The fellowship is seeking to increase capacity in structural and computational approaches to drug discovery. This could include both wet lab and computational approaches focusing on the priority areas in Indian context. Research proposals exploring innovative platforms and methodologies, and integrating cutting-edge technologies in drug discovery are encouraged.

ii. Data science

Innovative approaches to data analytics of existing evidence can improve public health decision-making. Advances in the high-quality collection of large electronic health data-sets, computational methods, novel devices and digital systems has led to the opportunity to build a 'precision health approach' in global health. This program recognizes the opportunities for innovative research in data science enabling the effective utilization of data to unravel and improve understanding of mechanisms such as pathogen transmission to disease progression and interaction with host and its immune responses as well evolution of pathogens. The new gained knowledge could be used to develop new and improved diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.

Researching and developing these novel technologies along with discoveries in basic science (e.g., through omics platforms) could transform health outcomes by designing better and targeted patient-centric care and allocating the limited resources effectively as well. Fellows can look for innovative approaches to data analysis and modeling that can be applied to independently or publicly available databases. Proposals on infectious diseases, surveillance and monitoring, maternal and child health, nutrition and health and pandemic preparedness are encouraged under this program.

iii. Bio-medical and translational research

Over the past few decades, electronic health records have led to an impressive growth of

biomedical digital data. A more comprehensive understanding of these data would be beneficial to translational research and could result in better health care outcomes for the population as a whole. Analyzing primary healthcare data distribution and quality, and its relation with health outcomes especially in newborns, infant and maternal health is one of the focus areas of fellowship. Applications evaluating the present prospective scenarios in infant and maternal health, in terms of populational and epidemiological trends to support the planning of programmatic activities and the identification of opportunities for interventions are encouraged.

New translatable and scalable innovations enabling fast screening and diagnosis of infectious diseases as per pressing requirement of healthcare tiers in India for better patient care and improved patient outcome are solicited. Applications focusing on the development of monitoring, visualization, simulation, and health indicator and predictor and diagnostics that support the management of public health concerns covered under the ambit of GCI will be considered. All phases of translational research, ranging from experimental models and genomics to translational epidemiology will be considered for fellowship.

iv. **Interventional trials to test interventions to improve nutritional and/or MNCH outcomes**

The opportunity to design, and implement interventions performed in Primary Health Care and community settings, to control dietary risk factors for chronic conditions and nutritional problems in women, children and during pregnancy; and analysis of the supply and quality of Primary Health Care and its relationship with outcomes in maternal, neonatal and child health with nutrition. Applications which plan to design and develop predictive and risk stratification models for outcomes related to the double/ triple burden of malnutrition, especially on women and children in controlled and uncontrolled settings are encouraged. Designing of the intervention trial for the best practices of breastfeeding and/or food intake and nutritional and health outcomes (nutritional status, deaths, hospitalizations) based on publicly available datasets and from other health information systems, preferably those that assess vulnerable populations at different stages of their lives.

Applications are solicited on combining cutting-edge research in immunology, microbiology, pharmacology and novel omics methodology with scope of translational and implementation research. Proposals on new-generation vaccines, respiratory infections, drug repurposing, cell-based therapies, new efficient models for vaccine studies, drug resistant infections especially gram-negative infections concerning in Indian context, improved diagnostics for improved diagnosis of infectious pathogens are encouraged under this fellowship program.

HOST INSTITUTE ELIGIBILITY CRITERION AND CONDITIONS

Eligibility Criterion

The Host Institute should mandatorily be an organization with a legal entity in India and should have established research set up. The Host Institutions may be research institutions, society, trusts and foundations. Please read the following carefully to understand the category you will be applying under and the documentation* required for legal eligibility.

i.   **Indian institution/ universities/ public research organization**
- Any institution that is established by a Central or State Government Act.
- Academic institutions established in India and having NAAC/ UGC/ AICTE or any equivalent recognition certificate or any other Public/Government supported organization

   Documentation required
   1. Affiliation/registration certificate.
   2. Details regarding in-house R&D facility, if any
   3. If the institution/public research organization are registered under/as Society or Trust, then they have to submit the documents as mentioned in the case of Society/Trust.

ii.   **Society/ Trust/ NGO/ Foundation/ Association**
- Society/ Trust/ NGO/ Foundation/ Association established in India under the relevant Indian Law having at least half of the stakeholders (partners/ trustees/ members/ associates etc.) as Indians.
- Documentation required:
   a) Society:
   - i. Society registration certificate.
   - ii. Details regarding in-house R&D facility, if any / Incubation agreement.
   - iii. CA certificate (supporting the fact that half of the members of the society are Indian)

   b) Trust:
   - i. Trust deed.
   - ii. Details regarding in-house R&D facility, if any / Incubation agreement.
   - iii. CA certificate (supporting the fact that half of the members of the trustees are India

   c) NGO/ Foundation/ Association: -
   - i. Registration details/certificate.
   - ii. Details regarding in-house R&D facility, if any / Incubation agreement.

Note:
- *The legal eligibility check shall be based on the status of documents as on the closing date of the call.*

- *Further, in case of advancement in the review process additional documentation will be requested for financial due diligence and other processes.*

Conditions

- The Host Institute must administer the fellowship for the full duration of the Fellowship.

- The Institute shall commit resources in order to fulfill the objectives proposed in the fellowship application and will give the Fellow full access to research facilities.

- The Authorization Letter that will be passed by the Organization during the stage of application or issuance of No Objection Letter or before final application, shall authorize the Fellow to be the signatory for all the documents that shall be required or executed with GCI-BIRAC.

The host organization must guarantee, through the No Objection Certificate that:

- Fellow is supported to lead his/her own independent research team under the Fellowship

- The space and resources that the Fellow will need to carry out the sanctioned project

- The Fellow will be the primary driver of the project and will be authorized for submission, attending the scrutiny, presenting the application and all activities related to the functioning and implementing of the project.

- The Institution shall allow/permit GCI-BIRAC for financial audit, if required for project related expenditure.

Note: All above points should be mentioned clearly in No Objection letter that that must be submitted with the application. Submission of the NOC in the specific format is mandatory, failing which the application of the applicant will become infructuous and will be treated as withdrawn.