Announcement of Opportunity (AO) for Indian Microgravity Experiments-2026 (iMEx-2026)

January 29, 2026

1. Introduction to IMEx

Indian Human Space Programme is making steady progress in developing short duration human space mission under the Gaganyaan missions, leading to a sustained human presence in LEO through the evolution of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) ultimately targeting crewed mission to moon. These missions are not merely for technology demonstration but are aimed at enabling Indian research community to carryout cutting-edge microgravity research in the domains such as Materials Science, Biotechnology, Fluid dynamics, and related areas.

The programme is a national initiative to enable and mentor researchers in India to conceptualise, design, develop, qualify, and conduct experiments on various microgravity platforms. The outcomes of such experiments are expected to foster a thriving microgravity research ecosystem generating scientific inputs for sustained human presence in space and commercial opportunities that can be leveraged by Indian start-ups and other stakeholders.

In response to this AO, researchers ('PIs') may submit proposal for experiment they wish to conduct in microgravity and for which they can demonstrate scientific feasibility of the experiments in laboratory conditions. After successful demonstration of scientific feasibility, the promising proposals will be supported for validation on relevant terrestrial microgravity platforms. Further, based on the maturity, potential science outcome, and feasibility, selected proposals may be considered for ISRO-enabled LEO flight opportunities, including BAS.

Human Space Flight Centre(HSFC)/ISRO is the nodal agency for executing this AO.

2. Eligibility

Applications are open to researchers affiliated with government-recognised academic & research institutions/laboratories and Indian start-ups & industries.

3. Scope

This AO encourages proposals spanning all microgravity disciplines, including but not limited to:

- Space biology and bio-manufacturing
- Space agriculture
- Pharmacology and drug research
- Materials science

- Fluid physics and thermal transport
- Combustion & fire-safety
- In-space manufacturing

4. Support from ISRO

Principal Investigators (PIs) are expected to demonstrate scientific feasibility to HSFC/ISRO, using the financial support and laboratory infrastructure of their affiliated or associated institutions. HSFC may consider offering support in the form of technical know-how and laboratory infrastructure, and any other resources, subject to availability and justifiable need.

After the successful demonstration of science feasibility, the preparation for next phase of validation on terrestrial/space based microgravity platforms will commence. Platform constraints, expected quality of scientific outcomes, domain diversity, safety considerations, and feasibility will be key factors in considering proposed experiments for flight opportunities. HSFC will lead the engineering and coordination activities until completion of the experiment, in collaboration with the PIs and their affiliated institutions.

All such arrangements will be formalised through Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between HSFC and the PI institutions/entities.

5. Proposal Submission

Proposals shall be e-mailed to imex2026-hsfc@hsfc.gov.in with the details sought in annexure-1 by February 28, 2026.

6. Terms and Conditions

- Proposals addressing every aspect of the format will only be considered.
- PIs should be ready to accommodate the changes, if any, suggested by the experts.
- All proposals would undergo a thorough evaluation under the mechanisms established by HSFC/ISRO. In all matters, the decision of HSFC/ISRO would be final and binding.
- All PIs need to submit the statutory declaration forms in a prescribed format prior to the evaluation.

Annexure-1:

Format for submitting the proposals to iMEx-2026

1. **Title of the Proposal**

2. **Abstract (300 words)**
   a) Experiment objective
   b) Microgravity relevance
   c) Expected science outcomes
   d) Potential application domains

3. **Details of Principal Investigator**
   a) Affiliation: Academic institution/ Research laboratory/Entity (include Name, Postal address, telephone number, website)
   b) Contact details: Name, designation, phone, mobile, email

4. **Details of Co-Principal Investigators (if any):**
   a) Affiliation: Academic institution/ Research laboratory /Entity (include Name, Postal address, telephone number, website)
   b) Contact details: Name, designation, phone, mobile, email

5. **Details of proposed experiment**
   a) Detailed objectives
   b) Scientific and technological justification
   c) Lab-model demonstration description
   d) Proposed experiment approach and methodology
   e) Expected outcomes and significance, and success criteria
   f) Proposed plans for data processing, storage, and analysis
   g) Has same/similar experiment is conducted already, globally? If yes, what is the value addition proposed.
   h) Any other relevant information

6. **Availability of relevant infrastructure available with the institute(s)**
   a) Design & computational facility
   b) Process facility
   c) Monitoring & measuring facility. Mention if traceable to NABL/ISO
   d) Testing & characterisation facility. Mention if traceable to NABL/ISO
   e) Biological, chemical, radiation, ethical etc. certifications & regulatory clearances, if applicable

7. **Support Requested from ISRO/HSFC**
   Mention the support needed with justification

8. **Past Experience of PI and Team**
    a) Summary of relevant experiment design/development experience
    b) Past microgravity experiment involvement, if any
    c) List of publications or patents relevant to this proposal

9. **Declaration**

A signed statement by PI and Head of Institution affirming truthfulness and willingness to comply with ISRO guidelines and terms.