

Annexure –II
SCHEME FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT
UNDER THE RESEARCH PROTOTYPE PROCESS DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE
FOR Ph.D. RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Approved by the Board of Governors in its 70th Meeting held on 20 August 2026,
on the recommendation of the 61st Finance Committee

1. Background and Objective

National Institute of Technology Raipur is committed to promoting research, innovation, technology development and entrepreneurship among its Ph.D. Research Scholars. **The Research Prototype Process Development Initiative** provides a structured mechanism for supporting prototype development activities arising out of approved Ph.D. research work and for facilitating the translation of research outcomes into functional prototypes and technologies.

The Scheme aims to encourage prototype development, proof-of-concept, technology demonstration, patentable innovations, startup opportunities, technology transfer, commercialization and development of industry-ready products.

2. Financial Assistance and Allocation

Financial assistance under the Research Prototype Process Development Initiative shall be governed by the resolutions of the 61st Finance Committee and the 70th Board of Governors.

1. The maximum financial assistance admissible to an individual Ph.D. Research Scholar under the Scheme shall not exceed ₹2.00 lakh.
2. The total annual financial allocation under the Scheme shall not exceed ₹20.00 lakh.
3. The Institute shall submit an annual report to the appropriate authority on the utilization of funds and the outcomes/outputs achieved under the Scheme.
4. The financial assistance shall be utilized for prototype/process development activities directly related to the approved Ph.D. research work and in accordance with the prevailing financial, procurement and administrative rules of the Institute.
5. For proposals requiring financial assistance beyond ₹2.00 lakh, efforts may be undertaken by the Office of the Dean (Corporate Relations & Resource Mobilization) to mobilize additional resources through CSR contributions, industry sponsorships, alumni donations, philanthropic grants and crowdfunding initiatives, subject to availability of such funding.

3. Eligibility and Project Requirements

1. The applicant shall be a Ph.D. Research Scholar of NIT Raipur.
2. The Research Scholar shall be eligible to apply only after successful completion of the Comprehensive Examination.
3. The proposed prototype/project shall be directly aligned with the approved objectives and outcomes of the scholar's Ph.D. research work.
4. Wherever feasible, prototype development projects may be encouraged to address identified industry requirements. In such cases, the Research Scholar, in consultation with the Faculty Supervisor, may prepare a broad roadmap for commercialization of the developed technology,

indicating the prospective industry/organization for technology transfer. It is recognized that the complete commercialization roadmap may extend beyond the project duration; however, projects should endeavour to progressively advance towards higher Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), with TRL 4 being a desirable milestone at the completion of the project, wherever applicable.

5. While recommending the concerned Head of the Department shall certify that the equipment, software, facility or infrastructure sought under the proposal is not presently available within the Department/Institute or is being utilized for some other purpose within the Department/Institute.
6. Routine consumables shall ordinarily not be funded under the Scheme.
7. Preference shall be accorded to proposals that have progressed beyond the conceptual stage and have demonstrated proof-of-concept or advanced prototype readiness.
8. The proposals should target a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of at least 3.

4. Call for Proposals and Submission

Proposals under the Research Prototype Process Development Initiative shall ordinarily be invited twice every year, preferably at the beginning of each semester, through the prescribed application format.

The application shall be duly recommended by the Faculty Supervisor and forwarded through the concerned Head of the Department.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by:

1. Detailed Project Proposal;
2. Implementation Plan;
3. Budget Estimate;
4. Expected Outcomes;
5. Approved Research Objectives;
6. Proof of successful completion of the Comprehensive Examination;
7. Requisite departmental certification(s); and
8. Other supporting documents, wherever applicable.

The prescribed Application Form for Financial Support under RPD I shall form Annexure–B to the Scheme.

5. Evaluation and Selection

Proposals shall be evaluated considering the following:

- Novelty;
- Technical feasibility;
- Societal relevance;
- Commercialization potential;
- Expected outcomes; and
- Prototype readiness level.

The proposals shall be evaluated by a Committee comprising:

1. Dean (Corporate Relations & Resource Mobilization) or his/her nominee;
2. Dean (Research & Consultancy) or his/her nominee;
3. Member, Intellectual Property Cell;
4. Dean (Student Welfare) or his/her nominee; and

5. Subject Expert from the concerned Department, other than the Supervisor/Co-Supervisor.

6. Project Duration

The duration of funding for prototype development shall be limited to two years from the date of sanction or up to submission of the Ph.D. thesis by the Research Scholar, whichever is earlier.

7. Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes under the Scheme may include:

- Development of a functional prototype;
- Proof-of-concept;
- Technology demonstrator;
- Patentable innovation;
- Startup opportunity;
- Technology transfer; or
- Industry-ready product.

8. Project Implementation and Responsibilities

The Faculty Supervisor/Principal Investigator shall oversee project execution and ensure proper utilization of the sanctioned funds in accordance with Institute rules.

The Faculty Supervisor/Principal Investigator shall be responsible for:

1. Monitoring the progress of the project;
2. Ensuring achievement of project milestones;
3. Compliance with applicable procurement procedures;
4. Submission of progress reports; and
5. Proper utilization of sanctioned funds.

All procurement activities under the sanctioned project shall be undertaken by the concerned Faculty Supervisor/Principal Investigator in accordance with the prevailing procurement, financial and administrative rules of the Institute.

9. Utilization of Funds and Financial Reporting

The sanctioned financial assistance shall be utilized strictly for the purpose for which it has been approved and in accordance with the prevailing rules of the Institute.

The Faculty Supervisor/Principal Investigator shall submit the Utilisation Certificate (UC) and Statement of Expenditure (SE) along with the progress reports.

All attempts should be made for fund utilization within six months . In general, the sanctioned funds shall not be kept on hold or remain unutilized.

The Institute shall maintain the requisite records relating to utilization of funds and outcomes/outputs under the Scheme for submission of the annual report to the appropriate authority in accordance with the approved resolution.

10. Monitoring and Periodic Review

The Evaluation Committee shall undertake proposal evaluation, milestone-based monitoring and periodic review of the sanctioned projects.

The progress of approved projects shall ordinarily be reviewed every semester, including progress against the approved milestones and outcomes.

11. Intellectual Property

Any Intellectual Property generated under the Scheme shall be governed by the prevailing Intellectual Property Policy of the Institute.

The inventor(s) shall ordinarily include the concerned Research Scholar and Faculty Supervisor(s), while ownership rights shall vest with the Institute as per applicable rules.

12. Project Closure

Upon completion of the project, the Research Scholar and Faculty Supervisor shall submit a Project Closure Report along with:

1. Statement of Expenditure;
2. Outcomes achieved;
3. Prototype status;
4. Publications/patents generated, if any; and
5. Future commercialization potential.

13. Nodal Office and Coordination

The Office of the Dean (Student Welfare) shall serve as the nodal office for spearheading, coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Scheme and associated processes.

The Office of the Dean (Corporate Relations & Resource Mobilization) shall facilitate external resource mobilization, wherever required, through CSR contributions, industry sponsorships, alumni donations, philanthropic grants and crowdfunding initiatives, as provided under the approved framework.

14. General Provisions

1. Financial assistance under the Scheme shall be subject to the financial limits approved by the Finance Committee/Board of Governors and availability of funds.
2. All expenditure, procurement, utilization and accounting of funds shall be governed by the prevailing financial, procurement and administrative rules of the Institute.
3. Sanction of financial assistance under the Scheme shall not, by itself, confer any right for additional financial support beyond the amount sanctioned.
4. Implementation and monitoring of the project shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme and the conditions specified at the time of sanction.
5. Intellectual Property arising out of projects supported under the Scheme shall be governed by the prevailing Intellectual Property Policy of the Institute.

