



अनुसंधान नेशनल रिसर्च फाउंडेशन
ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

FREE

Event under the ANRF+ Venture Center Outreach Initiative

Understanding the ANRF IP Policy

- Special focus on IP aspects of MAHA
- MedTech and AI-SE Missions

On ANRF
IP Policy



Vidula K. Walimbe, PhD, RTTP
Venture Center

On IP guidelines for MAHA
MedTech & AI-SE



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Venture Center



Monika Agarwal, PhD
ANRF



T. Thangaradjou, PhD
ANRF

Mode: Online via zoom



13th July 2026

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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**Interactive session, where
participants can engage directly
and clarify their questions.**

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13 July 2026

Today's Event

- Understanding the ANRF Intellectual Property Policy & Guiding Principles for Grantees: Dr Vidula Walimbe
- IP terms of ANRF MAHA AI-SE and Medtech Mission: Ms Meghana Bhandari
- Ask Me Anything: Dr Monica Agarwal, Dr. Thangaradjou T, Dr Premnath V

About ANRF & About MAHA Programs – AI-SE & MMM

Meghana B
Venture Center
13 July 2026

About Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

Established through Act of Parliament: **ANRF Act 2023**, to promote R&D and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's Universities, Colleges, Research Institutions, and R&D laboratories. ANRF acts as the **apex body** to provide high-level strategic direction to scientific research in India as per recommendations of the National Education Policy.

Some of its key objectives include:

- 1) **Seeding, growing, and facilitating research at academic and research institutions**, particularly at universities and colleges where research capacity is at a nascent stage, through programs such as research and development projects, fellowships, academic chairs, and creation of centers of excellence. Increasing India's role and participation in key areas of national and global importance.
- 2) **Supporting the translation of research** undertaken into capital-intensive technologies.
- 3) Assisting in the setup of research infrastructure and ecosystems for scientific pursuits on matters of **national priorities, emerging frontiers** and **strategic research**
- 4) **Encouraging collaboration** between scientists within and outside India, to enrich the Indian scientific ecosystem

About MAHA Programs – AI-SE & MMM

Mission Mode Projects: The **MAHA** program supports

- Priority-driven
- Solution-oriented research
- by
- funding large-scale,
- multidisciplinary,
- multi-institutional
- and multi-investigator projects that address India's most pressing socio-economic and technological challenges.

Although ANRF has announced other MAHA Programs such as the MAHA Drone, MAHA Water and MAHA EV Missions **our focus in today's session** will be the Maha AI for Science & Engineering (AI-SE) Mission and Maha MedTech Mission (MMM).



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Understanding the ANRF IP Policy & Guiding Principles for Grantees

Vidula Walimbe, PhD, RTTP
Venture Center
13 July 2026

Basic concepts

Introduction to Intellectual Property Rights

- **Intellectual property:** Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce.
- **Intellectual property rights:** Intellectual property rights are the rights given to persons over the creations of their minds. They usually give the creator a right to prevent others from the use of his/her creation for a certain period of time.
- Examples of formal IP rights:
 - o Patents: Novel, inventive, industrially applicable inventions
 - o Copyright: Original creative, literary and artistic works
 - o Trade Marks: Words, logos, symbols, and slogans
 - o Plant Variety Protection: New plant varieties with distinctness, uniformity and stability
 - o Designs: an industrial design constitutes the ornamental aspect of an article
- Note: Trade secrets can be protected using Confidential Agreements

A few key aspects:

Recognition of creators

Ownership rights

Commercialization rights

Notes: For ex for patents –

- Creator = Inventor
- Inventorship is distinct from ownership — inventors may not be the owners.
- Owners can choose to give commercialization to others.

How are the rights decided?

Rights	Who/ what decides?
Right to be recognized as creator (for ex: as inventor)	Decided by the law
Right of ownership of IP	- Host institution or employer's policies - Employment agreement - Funding/ grant agreement (and related policies/ scheme guidelines) - Collaboration agreements
Right to use/ trade/ commercialize IP	- Host institution or employer's policies - Funding/ grant agreement (and related policies/ scheme guidelines) - Collaboration agreements - Licensing/ assignment/ option agreements

ANRF Policies

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Anusandhan National Research Foundation

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Policies

Disclosures > Policies

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- REGULATIONS

1. Intellectual Property Policy and guiding Principles for Grantees [Download](#)
2. Health, Safety and Environment Related guidelines for projects funded by ANRF [Download](#)
3. ANRF Open License for Software, Models and Datasets [Download](#)
4. Impact Whitepaper - June 2026 [Download](#)

ANRF IP Policy & Guiding Principles for Grantees

Policy

ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY & GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR GRANTEES

ANRF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

1. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation ("the Foundation") is a statutory body established under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023 to provide high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences including mathematical sciences, engineering and technology, environmental and earth sciences, health and agriculture, and scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences.
2. In line with the vision of the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy, 2016, that creativity and innovation are stimulated by intellectual property for the benefit of all, the user objective of the ANRF IP Policy is to ensure support for research, innovation and entrepreneurship.
3. The IP arising out of the research funded by the Foundation is an asset that must be appropriately harnessed for maximizing socio-economic impact and achieving public good.
4. IP resulting from research funded by the Foundation shall vest with the grantee institution which receives the grant.
5. In respect of grants provided to an individual for internship or fellowship programmes at a host institution, the IP policies of such host institution shall apply.
6. The Guiding Principles specified in Annexure-A provide the basis on which the grantee may commercialize the IP.
7. The Foundation may specify binding principles for licensing of the IP, including open licensing, where the Foundation determines the need for wider public dissemination, or rapid technology acceleration of the research in India.
8. The Foundation may, from time to time, also specify certain deviations from the general principle of IP vesting with the grantee in exceptional situations involving grants for research in critical, sensitive or strategically important sectors, such as nuclear or atomic energy, defence, aerospace or public health.

Guiding Principles

ANNEXURE - A

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR GRANTEES

1. Following are a set of guiding principles to enable grantee to undertake wider dissemination of IP generated from their research.

General Principles

2. Grantee should make efforts to disseminate knowledge arising out of their research to the society for achieving public good. This could be in the form of peer-reviewed publication or through development of a product, process or technology for deployment on a scale through IP protection and transfer.
3. Grantee may, based on an assessment of the findings of the research undertaken, decide on the appropriate approach for IP protection. This could include an assessment of whether the research has novelty, non-obviousness and applicability capable of IP protection, or whether its relevance is in respect of developing of new concepts, understanding and financial framework.
4. It is important for the Foundation to know the outcome of research resulting from the grant provided by it. This will enhance the ability of the Foundation to leverage evidence for future policy initiatives and similar efforts. Grantees are therefore encouraged to keep the Foundation apprised of the steps taken by the grantee, including in respect of publications or development and filing of IP, and commercialization of IP.
5. Grantee are also encouraged to follow the principles set out below:
 - (a) Grantee should publicly acknowledge the Foundation's support in any submission relating to the research undertaken, including by tagging, or other similar steps as suggested by Foundation, and ensure a similar obligation in its IP licensing and transfer agreements;
 - (b) Grantee should ensure that public domain relating to the research undertaken should acknowledge the Foundation's support;
 - (c) Grantee should inform the Foundation about filing of IP applications and grant of IPRs, as well as licensing of IPRs to enable subsequent impact tracking; and
 - (d) In case two or more grantees are pursuing the research, they may enter into an IP sharing agreement, and keep the Foundation informed regarding the same.
6. Where IP protection is obtained, grantees should ensure that the products and technology are commercialized for larger societal impact.
7. Grantees may undertake any licensing in accordance with the principles explained below.

Commercialization of the IP

8. The grantee may decide the nature and mode of licensing IP, on a case-by-case basis and to a transparent manner, based on considerations like nature of the technology, technology

readiness level, market, risk assessment, investment requirement and how much development is required for a technology to be commercialized.

9. For IP developed by a grantee in a laboratory set up to be realized as a product and be deployed for public good, based on up-scaling and other development in model and this may require significant investments. The capacity and acceptance to convert promising research leads into technology and products for public good would lie in the intellectual and start-up ecosystem. Accordingly, while considering licensing, the grantee should give preference to small and medium enterprises and start-up entities that undertake manufacturing or trials.
10. Before any licensing is undertaken the grantee shall make reasonable efforts to assess the potential capability and competence of the proposed licensee (individual or corporate entity) to scale up the innovation. Timelines for commercialization may also be clearly defined in the licensing mechanism determined by the grantee.
11. Any licensing arrangement should consider preserving for the Government of India the irrevocable, royalty-free right to practice or require the licensee to grant sub-licenses to responsible applicants, on reasonable terms, when it may be necessary to fulfil public interest, including health or safety or security needs of the country. This is without prejudice to the right of the Government of India under law for compulsory licensing.
12. A standard licensing agreement framework may be developed by the grantee that would ensure a share of the revenue earned by the licensee, and inform the Foundation regarding the same.
13. If there are requests for any IP assignment, the grantee could consider undertaking such assignment based on the Foundation's prior written approval, especially where such assignment may envisage spin-outs and formation of start-ups.
14. The grantee shall give preference to non-exclusive licensing, keeping in view the objectives of encouraging competition and bringing out high quality and affordable products in the market at a earlier pace. License fees shall be decided on a case-to-case basis.
15. Where the grantee considers exclusive licensing, it shall be subject to the following principles:
 - (a) such agreements must be for a limited time period, geography and usage; and
 - (b) public interest concerns should be considered by ensuring availability of the products or technology resulting from the research in the Indian market at affordable prices, especially in circumstances where the relevant products or technologies have the potential for large scale public deployment.
16. The grantee may set up a committee comprising of experts, including from the scientific, industry, finance, legal and other relevant fields, to ensure review of IP filing, grant

status, as well as their transfer or licensing, in order to ensure that IP that has been created does not remain without being facilitated or licensed. Such committees may undertake evaluation of the IP and advise on the conditions for commercialization, and whether exclusive or non-exclusive licensing should be considered in a specific context, keeping in view the principles set out in parts 6 to 11 of these Guidelines.

ANRF IP Policy

Overall Objectives and Principles

- Core objective of the ANRF IP Policy is to ***ensure support for research, innovation and entrepreneurship*** (ANRF IP Policy Clause 2)
- The IP arising out of the research funded by the Foundation is an asset that must be appropriately harnessed for ***maximizing socio-economic impact and achieving public good***. (ANRF IP Policy Clause 3)

Ownership

- IP resulting from research funded by the Foundation shall **vest with the grantee institution** which receives the grants. (ANRF IP Policy Clause 4)
- In respect of grants provided to an individual for internships or fellowship programmes at a host institution, the **IP policies of such host institution shall apply** (ANRF IP Policy Clause 5)
- The Foundation may, from time to time, also specify **certain deviations** from the general principle of IP vesting with the grantee in exceptional situations involving grants for **research in critical, sensitive or strategically important sectors**, such as nuclear or atomic energy, defence, aerospace or public health. (ANRF IP Policy Clause 8)

Commercialization

- The Guiding Principles specified in ***Annexure-A*** provide the basis on which the grantee may ***commercialize the IP***. (ANRF IP Policy Clause 6)
- The Foundation may ***specify binding principles for licensing of the IP***, including ***open licensing***, where the Foundation determines the need for ***wider public dissemination***, or ***rapid technology acceleration*** of the research in India. (ANRF IP Policy Clause 7)

Guiding Principles: General Principles

Dissemination

- Grantees should make efforts to disseminate knowledge arising out of their research to the society for achieving public good (Guiding Principle No 2)
 - o peer-reviewed publication
 - o through development of a product, process or technology for deployment on a scale
 - o through IP protection and transfer (and eventual public disclosure)

SARAL AI (<https://saral.democratiserresearch.in/>) is an ANRF-supported tool that converts research papers into multiple formats — reels, podcasts, slides, posters, threads — along with Sarvam AI that uses Text to Speech engine to generate audio voiceovers in 21 Indian languages. It is a dissemination tool. This directly supports the "dissemination to society" objective of the ANRF policy.

Grantees to decide approach for IP protection

- Grantees may decide on the appropriate approach for IP protection (Guiding Principle No 3)
- Base the decision on an assessment of the findings of the research undertaken. Consider:
 - o Novelty, inventiveness and applicability capable of IP protection, or
 - o Relevance is in respect of deciphering of new concepts, understanding and theoretical frameworks.

Guiding Principles
Annexure A

Intimation & Acknowledgement

Intimate ANRF (Guiding Principle No 4, 5)

- Publications
- Filing of IP
- Grant of IP
- Commercialization of IP
- Partnership/Collaboration agreements

Acknowledge ANRF (Guiding Principle No 4, 5)

- Publications
- Any public forums/ media

Guiding Principles: Commercialization

IP administration and decisions

- (Implicit) Grantee is responsible for IP filing, prosecution and maintenance.
- Committee (comprising scientific, industry, finance and legal experts) (Guiding Principle No 16)
 - to review IP filing, granted status
 - to review transfer and licensing
 - evaluation of the IP and advice on the modalities for commercialisation, and whether exclusive or non-exclusive licensing

Guiding Principles
Annexure A

General principle

- Where IP protection is obtained, grantees should ensure that the products and technologies are **commercialized for larger societal impact**. (Guiding Principle No 6)
- The **grantee may decide the means and modes of licensing IP**, on a case-by-case basis and in a transparent manner, based on considerations like, nature of the technology, technology readiness level, market, risk assessment, investment requirement and how much development is required for a technology to be commercialized. (Guiding Principle No 8)

Guiding Principles
Annexure A

Preferred licensees

- While considering licensing, the grantee should give preference to **small and medium enterprises and start-up entities** that **undertake manufacturing in India** (Guiding Principle No 9)

Guiding Principles
Annexure A

Government rights

- Any licensing arrangement should **consider preserving for the Government of India the irrevocable, royalty-free right to practice or require the licensee to grant sub-licenses to responsible applicants, on reasonable terms**, when it may be necessary to fulfil public interest, including, health or safety or security needs of the country. This is without prejudice to the right of the Government of India under law for compulsory licensing. (Guiding Principle No 11)

Guiding Principles
Annexure A

Licensing terms

- A **standard licensing agreement framework** may be developed by the grantee (Guiding Principle No 12).
- The grantee shall give preference to **non-exclusive licensing** (Guiding Principle No 14).
- Where the grantee considers **exclusive licensing**, it shall be subject to the following principles (Guiding Principle No 15):
 - (a) such agreements must be for a **limited** time period, geography and usage; and
 - (b) public interest concerns should be considered by ensuring availability of the products or technologies resulting from the research in the Indian market at affordable prices
- (In ANRF Policy Clause 7) The Foundation may specify binding principles for licensing of the IP, including **open licensing**, where the Foundation determines the need for wider public dissemination, or rapid technology acceleration of the research in India.

Assignment (transfer of ownership)

- If there are requests for any IP assignment, the **grantee could consider undertaking such assignment** based on the Foundation's **prior written approval**, especially where such assignment may encourage **spin-outs and formation of start-ups**. (Guiding Principle No 13)

Good Practices

- Grantee to decide on the appropriate approach for IP protection after assessment of the research (Guiding Principle No 3)
- Check licensee capability and competence to scale up the innovation before licensing (Guiding Principle No 10)
- Define commercialization timelines in the licensing arrangement (Guiding Principle No 10)
- Consider public interest and affordable availability of products in the Indian market (Guiding Principle No 9)
- Set up a Committee comprising scientific, industry, finance and legal experts to review IP filing, granted status, transfer and licensing — to ensure IP does not remain without being transferred or licensed (Guiding Principle No 16)

MAHA MMM – IP Policy

MAHA AI-SE- Open License Policy

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13 July 2026



MAHA MMM – IP Policy & FAQs

Maha MedTech Mission follows the ANRF IP Policy

- creator credits
- ownership rights

Remain same.

Just the commercialization (in this case, utilisation) rights/terms are different

- FAQs

IP ownership:

The intellectual property (IP) generated under the महा MedTech Mission will be owned by the grantee itself.

Grant funding can cover:

Non-recurring expenses including regulatory processes and patent filings

ANRF MAHA AISE Program> Outputs

Key outputs expected from ANRF MAHA AI-SE

- Open-source model, tools and autonomous laboratories
- Open-source dataset -- data backbone built on FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) principles
- Combination

ANRF MAHA AISE Program> Creator credits & ownership

- Creator credits and attribution: Via copyright notice
- Ownership: Owned by the grantees

ANRF MAHA AISE Program > Utilization Rights

All outputs must be released under the ANRF Open License (adapted from MIT), ensuring open access, ethical use, and global interoperability.

ANRF MAHA AISE Program > ANRF Open License

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- Limitation of liability

Resources

- MIT Open License Policy : <https://opensource.org/license/mit>

National AI Strategy :

- AI for Viksit Bharat (Niti Aayog, Sep 2025) : <https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2025-09/AI-for-Viksit-Bharat-the-opportunity-for-accelerated-economic-growth.pdf>
- India AI Governance Guidelines :
<https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2025/nov/doc2025115685601.pdf>
- Responsible AI #AIForAll (Niti Aayog, Nov 2022): [https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2022-11/Ai for All 2022 02112022 0.pdf](https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2022-11/Ai_for_All_2022_02112022_0.pdf)
- UNESCO AI Ethics Recommendation : <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4062376?ln=en&v=pdf>

Thank you

