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ANRF-MoJS MAHA Water Mission: Launch, Outlay and Five Themes

News context: PIB, 1 June 2026. Actual publication date: 20 October 2026 | Prelims - Science & Technology and Water

Why in the News

On 1 June 2026, at the national workshop on research and development in the water sector in New Delhi, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) and the Ministry of Jal Shakti's MAHA Water Mission was launched. Per PIB, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil jointly launched it and announced an open call inviting proposals.

The news's most important limit: this is the mission's launch and open call. 200 crore rupees is the proposed outlay. Do not take it to mean the amount has been distributed or projects have been chosen. ANRF was established by the 2023 Act, not in 2026.

Diagram: pcsmantra.com 's original table-diagram based on PIB 's details.

- **Outlay:** 200 crore rupees, 5 years, joint contribution of ANRF and the Ministry of Jal Shakti (proposed)
- **Support:** maximum 20 crore rupees to a selected consortium
- **Five themes:** 1. Water resources assessment and sustainable management; 2. Drinking water; 3. Water quality and ecological health; 4. Water-use efficiency and circular economy; 5. Climate adaptation and resilience
- **The process ahead:** open call; selection and distribution not yet an outcome

What Is ANRF?

Per the Department of Science and Technology's (DST) website, ANRF was established by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023. It is described as the apex body to promote research and development in the country's universities, colleges, research institutions and laboratories. The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), created under the 2008 Act, has been subsumed into ANRF.

The Meaning of MAHA and the Water Mission

Per PIB, MAHA means Missions for Advancement in High-Impact Areas. ANRF has been reported to have started such missions in areas like electric vehicles, drones, medical technology, 6G communication and water.

The water mission's proposed outlay is 200 crore rupees over five years, from the joint contribution of ANRF and the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Selected multi-disciplinary consortia will be eligible for support of up to 20 crore rupees for technology development, field assessment, validation and deployment. The mission's five priority themes are in the diagram above.

At the same event, an open call began for product and prototype development for startups and MSMEs; a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Space/ISRO; and the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari citizen tracking and reporting portal and app (JSJB-CTR) was launched.

Which Conclusions to Avoid?

The startup, employment and space-economy figures given in the ministers' speeches are contextual statements. They are not facts of the mission, so they have not been made exam facts here. Also do not write that every project will get 20 crore rupees. It is the maximum support for a selected consortium.

Direction of Preparation from Past Questions

Towards the statement and correct-pair formats of UPSC Prelims 2023's official General Studies Paper-I, prepare the institution, Act-year and scheme components. The questions below are original practice, not actual PYQs.

Prelims Style: Practice Questions

Question 1. Consider the statements:

1. ANRF was established by the ANRF Act, 2023.

2. Per DST, SERB has been subsumed into ANRF.

3. Per PIB, MAHA means Missions for Advancement in High-Impact Areas.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None

▶ Answer and explanation

Question 2. Regarding the MAHA Water Mission:

1. The five priority themes include water quality and ecological health.

2. The 200 crore rupees had been distributed to projects by the launch day.

3. Maximum support of 20 crore rupees has been stated for selected consortia.

Which statements are correct?

(a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 and 3 (c) Only 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

▶ Answer and explanation

Question 3. Which conclusion is proper?

(a) ANRF was established in 2026 through the MAHA Water Mission (b) The June 2026 news is of a launch and an open call; it is not proof of selection or distribution being complete (c) Every selected project is certain to get 20 crore rupees (d) The minister's startup-count figures are official components of the mission

▶ Answer and explanation

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Short answer: on 1 June 2026, at the national workshop on research and development in the water sector in New Delhi, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) and the Ministry of Jal Shakti's MAHA Water Mission was launched.

Question: What is the news related to the ANRF-MoJS MAHA Water Mission?

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Question: What is ANRF?

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Question: What is the meaning of MAHA and the water mission's proposed outlay?

Per PIB, MAHA means Missions for Advancement in High-Impact Areas. ANRF has been reported to have started such missions in areas like electric vehicles, drones, medical technology, 6G communication and water. The water mission's proposed outlay is 200 crore rupees over five years, from the joint contribution of ANRF and the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Sources

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