S.No.	Application-ID	Name of the Candidate	Gender	Affiliating Institution	Email ID	Contact no.	Address	Competition Leve	State	Competition Category	Theme	Title of Research Article	Total Marks
1	ICSSR-RAC-2026-134	Saurav Majumder	Male	Tripura University	saurav_majumder@outlook.com	8974869261	C/O Shibu Majumder, Dhaleswa	State/UT	Tripura	PhD Scholar	Skilling, Employment and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)	Sixten Departments, One Pattern: Audit-Verified Fiscal Slack Across Tripura'S	60

S.No.	Application-ID	Name of the Candidate	Gender	Affiliating Institution	Email ID	Contact no.	Address	Competition Leve	State	Competition Category	Theme	Title of Research Article	Total Mark	Overall Assessment
1	ICSSR-RAC-2026-2898	Aditya Kumar	Male	Tripura Medical College & Dr. B	akkumaraditya.21@gmail.com	9199938110	Boys Hostel -1, Tripura Medical (	State/UT	Tripura	Undergraduate/Postgradu	Social Sector Spending	Bridging The Gap: A Cag Audit Analysis Of Public Health Expenditure And Hea	82	
2	ICSSR-RAC-2026-351	Akshay Kumar Jha	Male	National Institute of Technology	akshaykumarjha552@gmail.com	9142091682	NIT Agartala,Jirania ,Tripura ,PI	State/UT	Tripura	Undergraduate/Postgradu	Social Sector Spending	From Outlays To Outcomes: Reimagining Social Sector Spending In India Throu	70	
3	ICSSR-RAC-2026-3962	Pritam Roy	Male	Ambedkar college fatikroy	anjanadaskgt1234@gmail.com	9366104307	Darchawi road,near jagarnath tem	State/UT	Tripura	Undergraduate/Postgradu	Skilling, Employment and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)	From Policy To Practice In Tripura: An Audit-Based Study Of Skilling, Employn	60	
4	ICSSR-RAC-2026-4073	Soham Majumder	Male	Holy Cross College Agartala.	sohamm097@gmail.com	8837342238	Dhaleswar ITI, Road No 1	State/UT	Tripura	Undergraduate/Postgradu	Skilling, Employment and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)	Public Investment, Institutional Capacity And Msme Development In Tripura Th	52	
5	ICSSR-RAC-2026-3978	Pritam Roy	Male	Ambedkar College, Fatikroy	anjanadaskgt12345@gmail.com	9366104307	Darchawi Road, Near Jagannath T	State/UT	Tripura	Undergraduate/Postgradu	Skilling, Employment and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)	From Policy To Practice In Tripura: An Audit-Based Study Of Skilling, Employn	0	Duplicate article ID of 3962

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

for Conducting the

CAG–ICSSR Research Article Competition

A Collaboration between the

Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India

&

Indian Council of Social Science Research

01 Purpose

This SOP lays down a standardised framework for planning, organising, and conducting the CAG–ICSSR Research Article Competition across all States and Union Territories.

The objective is to ensure uniformity, transparency, academic rigour, and effective coordination under the CAG–ICSSR collaboration.

02 Scope and Linkage with Colloquium

This SOP shall be applicable to the conduct of the Research Article Competition across **all 28 States and 3 Union Territories**.

The Research Article Competition is undertaken alongside the CAG–ICSSR Colloquium Series. While the Competition is operationally independent**,** State-level Colloquia shall serve as a platform for outreach and dissemination, enhancing participation and awareness.

03 Nodal Responsibility

1. **PPG Wing at CAG Headquarters, ICSSR** and Field **offices** shall act as the nodal authority for overall planning, execution, monitoring, and evaluation of the Competition.
2. **ICSSR** shall:
    - Facilitate development of the online platform
    - Support academic outreach
    - Provide domain experts for evaluation
3. **Field offices :**
    - Shall facilitate support at State/UT level, wherever required
    - Assist in publicity, dissemination, and award ceremonies
    - The Office of the **Accountant General (Accounts & Entitlement)** to act as the Nodal Office in each State/UT
    - Where such office is not available, the **Composite Office of AG/PAG** or office of PAG/AG-Audit I to act as the Nodal Office
    - Concerned Nodal Offices in States/UT will inform date of opening of entries 30 days in advance.

04 Mode of Conduct

1. Research Article entries shall be submitted in **online mode only**.
2. ICSSR shall prepare an online platform to facilitate submission of entries.
3. All operational components including registration, submission, evaluation, scoring, and timelines shall be aligned with the online mode.
4. No fees shall be paid to ICSSR regarding Portal Development.

05 Geographical Coverage, Language Coverage and Themes

1. The Competition shall have **All-India coverage across 28 States and 3 Union Territories**.
2. For States/UT level entries shall be accepted in **22 scheduled languages and English**. For National level mode of entries will be restricted to English and Hindi only.
3. Research Articles shall be invited on the following themes under the CAG–ICSSR collaboration:
   i. **Fiscal Federalism and Governance**
   ii. **Social Sector Spending**
   iii. **Skilling, Employment and MSMEs**
   iv. **Empowering Urban and Rural Local Bodies**
4. A list of topics covered in Audit Reports for the past five years, in respect of both State and Union Reports, has been collated by PPG Wing and may be used for identification of suitable themes and as reference material for the Competition.
5. These themes shall be uniformly applicable across all States and Union Territories.

06 Eligibility Requirements

1. The applicant must be currently enrolled in a recognised Undergraduate, Postgraduate, or Doctoral programme. Eligibility shall be determined in accordance with the category chosen by the concerned nodal office of the State.
2. At the **State level,** there shall be **two** categories of applicants, namely: (i) Undergraduate/Postgraduate (UG/PG) and (ii) Doctoral.
3. At the **National level,** there shall be **two** categories, namely: (i) Undergraduate (UG)/ Postgraduate (PG), and (ii) Doctoral.
4. The affiliating institution must be:
   - Institute of National Importance, or
   - recognised under **Section 2(f)**[1] and/or declared eligible for central assistance under **Section 12(B)**[2] of the **University Grants Commission Act, 1956**.
5. The participant must be a full-time bona fide student at the time of submission.
6. There shall be no participation fee.

07 Mode of Participation and Entry Limits

1. Only individual entries shall be allowed.
2. Only one entry per participant shall be permitted.
3. Participants may take part in both State and National level competitions.
4. Entries shall be submitted from the State of affiliating institution.
5. Co-authored entries shall not be allowed.

[1] Recognition under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 signifies that the institution is included in the list of universities maintained by the University Grants Commission. Such recognition establishes that the institution is duly constituted and meets the basic criteria prescribed for being treated as a university or higher educational institution under the Act.
[2] Inclusion under Section 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956 signifies that the institution has been declared eligible by the University Grants Commission to receive financial assistance and grants. This indicates that the institution fulfils the additional standards and requirements prescribed by UGC for funding support towards academic, research, and infrastructural development.

08 Notification Procedure

1. Themes shall be notified at the initial stage.
2. Participant's selection of theme shall be indicated at the time of submission.
3. Core parameters once notified shall not be altered.

09 Registration, Submission and Consolidation

9.1 Registration

1. Registration shall be through the online platform.
2. Participants shall be provided with link of State-specific reports (Concerned Nodal AG office will provide the link on its website); the same may also be shared in confirmation email.
3. Participants shall submit bonafide certificate as proof of enrolment.
4. A list of Audit Reports available on the CAG's website has been prepared by PPG Wing and may be used by participants as reference material for the Competition.

9.2 Submission

1. Entries shall be submitted in PDF format and Word limit for Research Articles will be decided by ICSSR
2. Submissions shall adhere to:
    - Modern Language Association (9th Edition)
    - Times New Roman, 12-point
    - Standard margins
    - Double spacing
3. Participants shall not disclose identity in the Research Article.
4. Any such disclosure shall lead to disqualification.

9.3 Acknowledgement

1. Submissions shall be acknowledged via automated email response.

9.4 Consolidation and Scrutiny

1. Screening Committees shall be constituted at State level to examine and verify the eligibility criteria by ICSSR in consultation with concerned Nodal office.
2. These shall examine and verify eligibility of participants.

10 Evaluation, Scoring and Originality

1. Evaluation shall be carried out by domain experts with language competency.
2. Evaluation shall be undertaken by ICSSR.
3. A uniform scoring framework shall be adopted across all languages.
4. Weightage shall be given to:

- Policy relevance
- Originality
- Methodological rigour
- Citations
- Analysis and interpretation

5. Submissions must be original and unpublished.
6. Any use of AI tools or plagiarised content shall lead to disqualification.
7. Evaluation shall be conducted on a blind basis.

10.1 Citation Note for Prize-winning Entries (to be provided by the Evaluators)

For all prize-winning entries, evaluators shall mandatorily provide a brief citation note of approximately 4–6 lines highlighting the key strengths, innovative aspects and overall merit of the article. The citation shall be used at the time of award conferment and shall also serve as indicative guidance on expectations/ gaps observed in the reports.

11 Timelines for Conduct of the Competition

1. A submission window of 60 days shall be provided and detailed timelines shall be notified at the time of announcement of the Competition.

1.1. State/UT Level

Activity	Timeline	Responsibility / Remarks
Launch of Publicity & Outreach	From 01 June 2026	Advertisement and awareness campaign
Submission of Entries	01 July – 31 August 2026	60-day submission window
Preliminary Screening / Shortlisting	01 July – 31 August 2026	ICSSR with assistance of concerned Nodal AG office at State level
Evaluation of Entries	01 July – 31 August 2026	By ICSSR
Announcement of State/UT Level Awards	By 15 September 2026	Declaration of results

1.2. National Level

Activity	Timeline	Responsibility / Remarks
National Level Competition Window	01 August – 30 September 2026	By ICSSR
Preliminary Screening / Shortlisting	Within the competition window	ICSSR with assistance of PPG Wing, if required
Evaluation of Entries	Within the competition window	By ICSSR
Announcement of National Level Results	By 30 October 2026	Final results declaration

12 Institutional Framework

1. The Accountant General (A&E) Offices in each State/UT shall be designated as the nodal offices to oversee the conduct of the Competition in their respective States/UTs.
2. The role of ICSSR shall primarily relate to evaluation of Research Articles and academic engagement.
3. Overall coordination shall remain with CAG.
4. Final authority for interpretation of the guidelines or any such issue shall vest with CAG and ICSSR jointly.

13 Publicity

1. State-wise promotional strategies to promote the Research Article competition to ensure maximum number of participants is to be carried out by ICSSR with assistance of Nodal offices and PPG Wing of IA&AD.
2. ICSSR will primarily handle publicity Activities which may include:
    - Social media post
    - Mail based Communication with universities and institutions

14 Financial Management

1. Expenditure shall be incurred as per approved norms and in consultation with ICSSR.
2. The financial requirement shall include:
    - Awards
    - Evaluation expenses (ICSSR experts evaluation fees)
    - Publicity and outreach
    - Miscellaneous expenditure
3. Awards at Sate/UT level and National Level:
    - Two categories of awards per State (UG/PG and Doctoral)
    - Six awards (two each) for two different categories UG/PG and Doctoral

14.3A Rationalization of Awards based on number of entries

The number of awards to be conferred in each category shall be linked to the volume of eligible entries received, as under:

1. Where the number of entries is less than 20, only one award shall be conferred.
2. Where the number of entries is between 20 and 29, up to two awards may be conferred.
3. Where the number of entries is 30 or above, the full complement of three awards may be conferred.

The estimated financial outlay is depicted in the enclosed **Annexure.**

15 Documentation and Monitoring

1. PPG shall monitor the Competition end-to-end.
2. Records to be maintained by ICSSR for onward transmission to PPG wing at CAG office:

- Participant database
- Evaluation details
- Final results

3. A consolidated report shall be submitted by PPG to the CAG within two months of completion of the competition, covering what worked well, areas for potential improvement and lessons learned

16 Post-Competition Activities

1. Modalities may be developed for dissemination of selected Research Articles, including publication, academic discussions, or other suitable forums.

Annexure: Estimated cost

I. State/UT Level (28 States and 3 UTs)

S.no.	Component	Amount (₹)	Remarks
1.	**Prize Money (Awards)**	93,00,000	Calculated as ₹1,50,000 per category × 2 categories (UG/PG and Doctoral) × 31(28 States and 3 UTs)
	Subtotal (Prize Money)	**93,00,000**	
2.	**Evaluation Expenses**	27,90,000	₹6000 per evaluator; assumption: 15 entries per evaluator × 31 (28 States and 3 UTs)
3.	**Advertisement / Publicity (including Social Media)**	23,25,000	₹75,000 per office × 31(28 States and 3 UTs)
4.	**Miscellaneous Expenses**	9,00,000	Logistics, certificates, etc.
5.	**Total (State/UT Level)**	**1,53,15,000**	

Break-up of Prize Money (State/UT Level)

Particulars	Amount (₹)
1st Prize	75,000
2nd Prize	50,000
3rd Prize	25,000
Total per Category per State/UT	**1,50,000**
Number of Categories	2 (one comprises UG/PG students and second Doctoral students)
Number of States/UTs	31
Total Prize Money	**1,50,000 × 2 × 31 = 93,00,000**

II. National Level

S.No.	Component	Amount (₹)	Remarks
1.	**Prize Money (Awards)**	6,00,000	Calculated as ₹3,00,000 per category × 2 categories (UG/PG students and Doctoral students)
2.	**Evaluation Expenses**	3,60,000	Evaluation expenses at the National Level shall depend upon the number of eligible entries received. For estimation purposes, a lower limit of ₹1.20 lakh and an upper limit of ₹3.60 lakh may be considered, based on allocation of approximately 15 entries per evaluator at an honorarium of ₹6,000 per evaluator.

2.1	**Scenario**	**Estimated Entries**	**Entries per Evaluator**	**Evaluators Required**	**Rate per Evaluator**	**Total Amount (₹)**
	Lower Limit	300	15	20	₹6,000	₹1,20,000
	Upper Limit	900	15	60	₹6,000	₹3,60,000
3.	**Advertisement / Publicity (including Social Media)**		75,000			
4.	**Miscellaneous Expenses**		1,00,000			
5.	**Total (National Level)**		**11,35,000**			

Break-up of Prize Money (National Level)

Particulars	Amount (₹)
1st Prize	1,25,000
2nd Prize	1,00,000
3rd Prize	75,000
Total per Category	**3,00,000**
Number of Categories	2 (UG/PG and Doctoral)
Total Prize Money	**3,00,000 × 2 = 6,00,000**

III. Grand Total

Level	Amount (₹)
State/UT Level	**1,53,15,000**
National Level	11,35,000
Grand Total	**1,64,50,000**