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CIRCULAR

Subject: Participation of UG and PG Students in CAG-ICSSR Research Article Competition (Extended Deadline)

All Heads of Academic Departments (HoDs) are hereby informed that, The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), has invited research articles from undergraduate and postgraduate students for the national and state-level CAG-ICSSR Research Article Competition. The initiative aims to develop analytical and research skills in public finance, audit analysis, and fiscal governance.

All Heads of Departments are requested to actively disseminate this circular among Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) students, mentor eligible candidates, and ensure maximum participation. Key Highlights of the Competition are:

- **Eligibility:** Full-time, bona fide UG and PG students. Only individual submissions are permitted (co-authorship is strictly disallowed).
- **Thematic Areas:** 1. Fiscal Federalism and Governance
2. Social Sector Spending
3. Skilling, Employment, and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
4. Empowering Urban and Rural Local Bodies

Submission Guidelines & Article Structure

- **Word Limit:** 4,000 to 5,000 words (PDF format; typed only).
- **Formatting:** MLA 9th Edition, Times New Roman (12 pt), standard margins, double spacing.
- **Structure:** Must include Introduction, Theoretical Background, Problem Statement, Objectives, Methodology, Data Analysis & Findings, Discussion, Conclusions, and Policy Suggestions/Way Forward.
- **Review Policy:** A strict blind peer-review is followed. Articles must not contain author names or any identifying details.

Awards & Cash Prizes: Winners will be felicitated at CAG Headquarters on Audit Diwas:

Category	State / UT Level	National Level
First Prize	₹75,000	₹1,25,000
Second Prize	₹50,000	₹1,00,000
Third Prize	₹25,000	₹75,000

Important Dates & Registration

- **Extended Deadline (State/UT Level):** 15 September 2026 (Extended from 31.08.2026)
 - **Submission Deadline (National Level):** 30 September 2026
 - **Registration & Submission Portal:** <https://app.icssr.org/>
 - **Official Information & Guidelines:** <https://icssr.org/applications-cag-icssr-research-article-competition>
- HoDs are advised to arrange departmental briefings and provide students with necessary forwarding support for their submissions. (Ref. Enc: CAG-ICSSR RESEARCH ARTICLE COMPETITION Guidelines)

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[Signature]
Principal

Copy to: AI&DS _____ Civil Engg. _____ CS&E _____ Electrical _____ E&C(ACT) _____
E&CE _____ EE-VLSI _____ Mech. Engg _____ S&H _____ PG Coordinator _____

CAG-ICSSR RESEARCH ARTICLE COMPETITION

(Guidelines for Applicants)

INTRODUCTION

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, the Supreme Audit Institution of India, has been providing evidence-based audit reports that ensure transparency, accountability, and good governance. The Office of the CAG of India, in a first-of-its-kind initiative, prepared a decadal publication of State Finances from the financial years 2013-14 to 2022-23. The publication provides fiscal data for all 28 states and 3 UTs across numerous fiscal parameters, including revenues, expenditure, public debt and liabilities, deficit indicators, and guarantees. This initiative significantly strengthens the democratisation of public finance data, enabling policymakers, researchers, analysts, and citizens to engage with reliable fiscal information with greater ease and transparency. The CAG and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) have entered into a collaboration to conduct the CAG-ICSSR Research Article Competition.

OBJECTIVE

The key objective of this collaboration is to foster and improve research skills of students in colleges and universities in the country in the field of public finance and fiscal governance. The collaboration aims to generate informed awareness among Undergraduate (UG)/ Postgraduate (PG) and Doctoral students about the interpretation of data, and capacity building to foster social science research skills among the researchers. The programme aims at enhancing public understanding of Audit products, fiscal governance, and accountability.

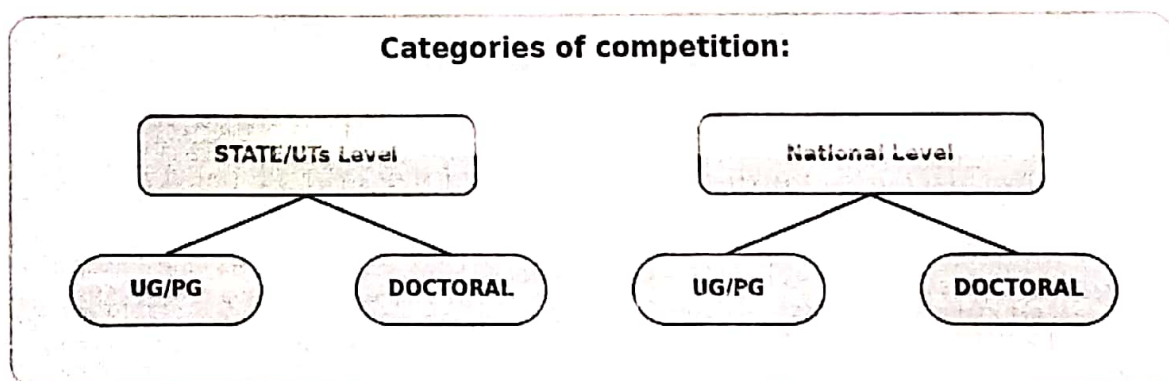
THEMES

The themes for the competition will be:

1. Fiscal Federalism and Governance
2. Social Sector Spending
3. Skilling, Employment and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
4. Empowering Urban and Rural Local Bodies

ELIGIBILITY

1. The applicant must be a bona fide student of an Undergraduate/Postgraduate or Doctoral Programme.
2. Categories of competition:



SUBMISSION

12. Entries should be submitted in PDF format (Must be typed, not handwritten or scanned), and the word limit for the Research Article will be:

- UG/PG: 4,000 to 5,000 Words
- Doctoral Programme: 5,000 to 6,000 Words

13. The article should contain:

- Introduction
- Conceptual and theoretical background
- Statement of the problem
- Objectives
- Methodology (covering methodological approach, variables, tools employed)
- Data analysis and findings
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- Policy Suggestions and the Way Forward

14. Submission shall adhere to:

- Modern Language Association (9th edition)
- Times New Roman, 12-Point
- Standard margins
- Double spacing

15. Participants must ensure that the Research Article does not contain any information revealing the identity of the author(s). Inclusion of such identifying details shall result in disqualification from the review process.

PROCEDURE FOR AWARDS

16. The procedure for the award of the research article will be in multiple phases before the declaration of final results. All applications submitted to the ICSSR will be scrutinised and evaluated by Experts/Committees following a blind review process.

17. The expert committee will evaluate the article, and based on that, the top three research articles will be awarded.

18. Awards will be:

AWARDS	STATE LEVEL	NATIONAL LEVEL
1ST PRIZE	75,000/-	1,25,000/-
2ND PRIZE	50,000/-	1,00,000/-
3RD PRIZE	25,000/-	75,000/-

19. The final authority for the interpretation of the guidelines or any such issue is vested with the Office of CAG of India & ICSSR.