

**RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY
RONO HILLS, DOIMUKH**

F. No. RGU/REG-193/DEPT-ACT/25

Dated: 14.08.2026

CIRCULAR

Sub: Dissemination of information regarding CAG-ICSSR Research Article Competition and appointment of Faculty Coordinator - regarding.

In continuation of earlier circular of even number dated 10.08.2026 (copy enclosed), **Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar**, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Rajiv Gandhi University, has been nominated as **Faculty Coordinator** to facilitate awareness and encourage active participation of the students of the university (UG/PG), including Ph. D. Scholars, in the CAG-ICSSR Research Article Competition at the National and State Level.

The Faculty Coordinator shall facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the Competition and encourage students and research scholars to submit their research articles for participation in the Competition. The Link for the registration: **<https://app.icsse.org>**. The detailed guidelines, eligibility criteria, important dates, and submission link are enclosed with the email and the guidelines for further reference.

The contact details of Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar are as follows:

Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar Department of Social Work Rajiv Gandhi University	Faculty Coordinator	ravi.ranjan@rgu.ac.in 84148 42016 (Mob+WhatsApp)
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This is issued with the approval of the competent authority.

Sd/-
Registrar

F. No. RGU/REG-193/DEPT-ACT/25

Dated: 14.08.2026

Copy to:

7. PS to Vice Chancellor for information.
8. Member Secretary, ICSSR, New Delhi (ms@icssr.org) for information.
9. All Deans of Faculties for information.
10. All HoDs/Directors of various Departments/Institutes for information and wide circulation.
11. Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar, Department of Social Work for information and necessary action.
12. CAG Office, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh for information.
13. Webmaster, RGU for uploading the same on the university website.
14. Office copy.

(Dr. N.T. Rikam)
Registrar

**RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY
RONO HILLS, DOIMUKH**

F. No. RGU/REG-193/DEPT-ACT/25

Dated: 10.08.2026

CIRCULAR

Sub: Dissemination of information regarding CAG-ICSSR Research Article Competition

Please find enclosed herewith an email received from the Member Secretary, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, inviting research articles for the **CAG-ICSSR Research Article Competition**, with the objective of fostering critical research skills among students of colleges and universities across the country in the field of public finance and fiscal governance.

The competition invites original research articles from students under the following two categories at the **National and State Levels**:

1. **Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students**
2. **Ph.D. Researchers**

The broad thematic areas for the competition are as follows:

1. **Fiscal Federalism and Governance**
2. **Social Sector Spending**
3. **Skilling, Employment and MSMEs**
4. **Empowering Urban and Rural Local Bodies**

The winners of the competition will be felicitated on **Audit Diwas** at the Headquarters of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), and cash prizes will also be awarded.

The detailed guidelines, eligibility criteria, important dates, and submission link are enclosed with the email and the guidelines for further reference.

In this regard, all Heads of Departments (HoDs)/Directors of various Departments/Institutes are requested to disseminate the above information among all Ph.D. researchers and Undergraduate and Postgraduate students of their respective Departments/Institutes and encourage them to participate in the competition by submitting original research papers/articles.

The matter may kindly be given wide publicity among the students and research scholars.

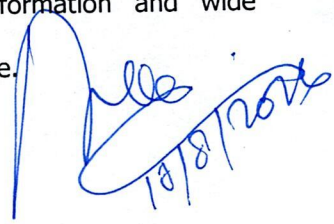
Sd/-
Registrar

F. No. RGU/REG-193/DEPT-ACT/25

Dated: 10.08.2026

Copy to:

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6. Office copy.


(Dr. N.T. Rikam)
Registrar



Registrar . <registrar@rgu.ac.in>

CAG-ICSSR Research Article Competition

1 message

Member Secretary, ICSSR <ms@icssr.org>

Mon, Aug 10, 2026 at 5:22 PM

Reply-To: ms@icssr.org

To: registrar@rgu.ac.in

Subject: Call for CAG-ICSSR Research Article Competition

Dear Madam/Sir,

Greetings from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)!

I am pleased to inform you that the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) have entered into a collaboration to organize the CAG-ICSSR Research Article Competition across 28 States and 3 Union Territories (UTs).

The key objective of this collaboration is to foster the critical and 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 UG/PG and doctoral students about the interpretation of data, research training, and capacity building to foster social science research skills among the young researchers. This is a year-long collaborative programme aimed at enhancing public understanding of audit findings, fiscal governance, and accountability.

The competition invites original research articles from students under the following two categories:

1. Undergraduate and Postgraduate

2. Ph.D

This competition is being organised at National & State Level.

The broad thematic areas for the competition are:

Fiscal Federalism and Governance

Social Sector Spending

Skilling, Employment and MSMEs

Empowering Urban and Rural Local Bodies

Winners of the competition will be awarded on the Audit Diwas at the CAG Headquarters with cash prizes. The prize money for the winners is as follows:

Prize	State Level	National Level
1st Prize	Rs. 75,000/-	Rs. 1,25,000/-
2nd Prize	Rs. 50,000/-	Rs. 1,00,000/-
3rd Prize	Rs. 25,000/-	Rs. 75,000/-

This competition provides a distinguished opportunity for undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral scholars to showcase research competence, critical analysis, and policy-oriented thinking. It promotes the creation of authentic, evidence-driven, and methodologically robust research capable of informing public policy and addressing national

development priorities. Through the advancement of rigorous scholarship and fact-based policy recommendations, the competition aims to nurture a new generation of researchers committed to contributing substantively to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 and the broader agenda of sustainable and inclusive nation-building.

In this regard, I request you to circulate the poster attached herewith containing the details of the Research Article Competition among all the departments, faculty members, and students of your university/college and encourage the UG/PG and doctoral students to participate in the Competition.

The detailed guidelines, eligibility criteria, important dates, and submission link are enclosed for your reference.

We look forward to your valuable support in making this initiative a success.

Detailed information about the competition is available on the website of ICSSR through the link <https://icssr.org/applications-cag-icssr-research-article-competition>

Warm regards,

Prof. (Dr.) Dhananjay Singh
Member Secretary
Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
JNU Institutional Area, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi - 110067
Phone: +91-11-26742059,26741833

3 attachments

 **Guidelines_for_CAG_ICSSR_Research_Article_Competition.pdf**
173K

 **Guidelines_for_CAG_ICSSR_Research_Article_Competition.pdf**
173K

 **Guidelines_for_CAG_ICSSR_Research_Article_Competition.pdf**
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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.

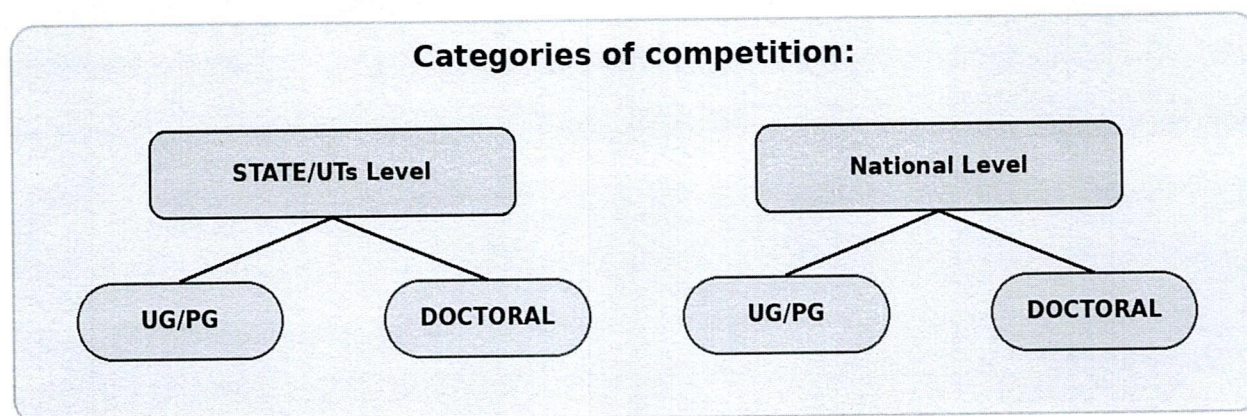
THEMES

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:



3. The affiliated institution must be any of the following:

- Institution 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,
- Institutions/colleges/universities ranked under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

4. The participant must be a full-time bonafide student at the time of submission of the Research Article.

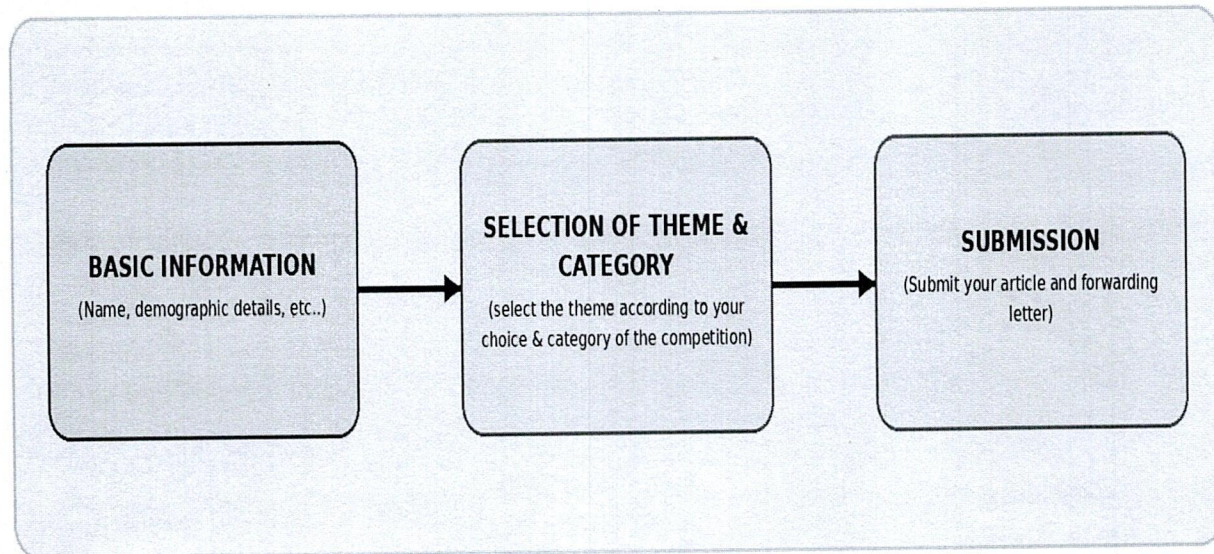
MODE OF PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY LIMIT

5. Only individual entries are allowed.
6. Only one entry per participant is permitted. However, a participant may take part in both the State/UT and National level competitions by registering separately for the State/UT and National level competitions.
7. Co-authored entries are not allowed.
8. Entries shall be submitted from the state of the affiliating institution.

HOW TO APPLY

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

9. Registration shall be from the ICSSR online platform.
10. Participants shall be provided with the state-wise report link through their registered email addresses for reference and academic study, or participants can access the state-wise audit reports of the concerned states using the link provided on the website of the CAG and the ICSSR.
11. Participant must submit a bona fide certificate as proof of enrollment in the prescribed format attached herewith.



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.

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:

	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.

OTHER CONDITIONS:

20. The Office of CAG of India and the ICSSR reserve the right to publish the Research Articles submitted under the CAG–ICSSR Research Article Competition.
21. The Office of CAG of India and the ICSSR reserve the right to reject any application without assigning any reason.
22. Incomplete applications in any respect will not be considered.
23. The final authority related to the interpretation of these guidelines or any other issue is vested with the Office of CAG of India and the ICSSR.

Important Dates:

	State level	National level
Registration Opens	01 June 2026 Onwards	1 June 2026 Onwards
Submission of Research Articles	01 July to 31 August 2026	01 August to 30 September 2026
Last Date of Submission	31 August 2026	30 September 2026

LINK FOR THE REGISTRATION: <https://app.icssr.org/>

*****BEST WISHES*****

Date:23 July 2026

Dear.....

The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG of India), in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), has launched the **CAG-ICSSR Research Article Competition, 2026** as a national initiative to encourage academic engagement on issues relating to public finance, governance, accountability and evidence-based public policy.

The Competition provides a unique platform for **Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral students** to undertake original research using the rich body of knowledge contained in the Audit Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Besides recognising outstanding research at the **State and National levels**, the initiative seeks to strengthen the interface between academia and public institutions by promoting informed policy discourse and encouraging students to engage with contemporary governance challenges.

The Competition covers the following broad themes:

- Fiscal Federalism and Governance
- Social Sector Spending
- Skilling, Employment and MSMEs
- Empowering Urban and Rural Local Bodies

To facilitate meaningful participation, this Office has hosted on its website the **Audit Reports of the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for the last five years**, organised under the above themes, together with the Competition Guidelines, publicity material and other reference documents. These resources are intended to assist students and research scholars in preparing high-quality research articles.

I shall be grateful if you could kindly extend your personal support in making this initiative a success by ensuring its widest dissemination throughout your University. In particular, I request that the enclosed communication may kindly be circulated among:

- All Schools, Departments and Centres;
- Faculty Members;
- Research Scholars;
- Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students;
- Affiliated Colleges, wherever applicable.

It would also be greatly appreciated if a **Faculty Coordinator** could be nominated by your University to facilitate awareness and encourage active participation. Your support in displaying the enclosed poster on the University website, official social media platforms and departmental notice boards would further enhance outreach.

Reg
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13/8/2026

As part of the same national initiative, the **State-level CAG–ICSSR Colloquium** is scheduled to be organised by this Office at **Itanagar on 21 September 2026**. The Colloquium will bring together academicians, researchers, policymakers and officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department to deliberate upon issues relating to **State Finances** and other themes emerging from recent Audit Reports. Faculty members, research scholars and students of your University will be most welcome to participate. A detailed programme and invitation shall be communicated separately.

I firmly believe that your University's participation will significantly enrich this national endeavour and inspire young scholars to contribute to informed public policy through high-quality research. I look forward to your valued support in motivating your students and faculty to participate enthusiastically in both the Research Article Competition and the State-level Colloquium.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

To

Prof. Shivraj
Vice-Chancellor
Rajiv Gandhi University,
Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh

Enclosures:

1. CAG–ICSSR Research Article Competition Poster
2. Competition Brochure/Guidelines
3. Guidelines for Registration
4. ICSSR Registration Portal Link
5. Link to the dedicated webpage of AG (Audit), Arunachal Pradesh
6. Contact details of the State Nodal Officer