SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTION OF INDIA
लोकहितार्थ सत्यनिष्ठा
Dedicated to Truth in Public Interest

ICSSR

CAG-ICSSR

RESEARCH ARTICLE COMPETITION

(A Nationwide Research Initiative for Young Scholars)

COVERING 28 STATES & 3 UNION TERRITORIES

Office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) in collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) is conducting National & State level Research Article Competition on the following themes:

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

COMPETITION STRUCTURE

TWO LEVELS OF COMPETITION

STATE/UT LEVEL
BASED ON STATE/UT AUDIT REPORTS
- UG/PG Category
- Doctoral Category

NATIONAL LEVEL
BASED ON UNION AUDIT REPORTS
- UG/PG Category
- Doctoral Category

SCHOLARS CAN PARTICIPATE IN BOTH THE STATE/UT LEVEL AND THE NATIONAL LEVEL OF THE COMPETITION

IMPORTANT DATES

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES

STATE/UT LEVEL	NATIONAL LEVEL
31 AUG, 2026	30 SEP, 2026

AWARDS FOR BOTH LEVELS & CATEGORIES		
AWARD	(STATE/UT LEVEL)	(NATIONAL LEVEL)
1st Prize	₹ 75,000	₹ 1,25,000
2nd Prize	₹ 50,000	₹ 1,00,000
3rd Prize	₹ 25,000	₹ 75,000

For more details please visit
cag.gov.in www.icssr.org

Research Today.
Influence Tomorrow.

SCAN ME

CAG – ICSSR RESEARCH ARTICLE COMPETITION 2026

Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India | Indian Council of Social Science Research

Nodal Office: Office of the Pr. Accountant General (Audit), J&K, Srinagar

NATIONWIDE ACADEMIC INITIATIVE

CAG-ICSSR Research Article Competition

A national platform encouraging academically rigorous, policy-relevant, and original research based on audit findings and public finance issues.

CAG India
Office of Comptroller & Auditor General

ICSSR
Indian Council of Social Science Research

Scope
28 States & 3 Union Territories

Detailed Eligibility & Participation Mode

Detailed Eligibility Criteria

- **Bona Fide Students:** Open exclusively to full-time bona fide students currently enrolled in recognised institutions across India.
- **Eligible Levels:** Undergraduate (UG), Postgraduate (PG), and Doctoral (Ph.D.) research scholars.
- **Mandatory Document:** Participants must submit an official **Bonafide Certificate** from their institution as proof of enrolment.

Mode of Participation

- **Individual Entries Only:** Submissions must be authored solely by one individual. Co-authored entries are strictly not allowed.
- **Online Portal Access:** Entries are accepted purely through the official online registration portal.
- **Single Entry Limit:** Exactly one article submission per participant is permitted for the competition.

Core Mandated Research Themes

1. Fiscal Federalism & Governance

Research centered on State and Union finances, revenue sharing, public financial management, and fiscal accountability mechanisms.

2. Social Sector Spending

Empirical policy evaluation of public expenditure in healthcare, education, social welfare programs, and tribal development.

3. Skilling, Employment & MSMEs

Evaluating government initiatives in youth skill development, job creation models, MSME growth, and industrial promotion.

4. Empowering Urban & Local Bodies

Strengthening democratic decentralization, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and Municipal Bodies governance and finance.

Participants may utilize official CAG Audit Reports linked on the portal as reference material for selecting themes and developing research articles.

Competition Levels, Awards & Deadlines

Award Position	State / UT Level (Deadline: 31 Aug 2026)	National Level (Deadline: 30 Sep 2026)
1st Prize	₹ 75,000	₹ 1,25,000
2nd Prize	₹ 50,000	₹ 1,00,000
3rd Prize	₹ 25,000	₹ 75,000
Basis of Entry	Based on State / UT Audit Reports	Based on Union Audit Reports

UG / PG & Doctoral

SEPARATE AWARD CATEGORIES

Dual Participation

SCHOLARS CAN ENTER BOTH STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Submission Guidelines & Evaluation

Formatting Standard: Research articles must be submitted in PDF format, following Modern Language Association (9th Edition), Times New Roman 12pt font, double spacing, and standard margins.

Anonymity Clause: Identity of the author must NOT be disclosed anywhere within the article body to facilitate unbiased review.

Academic Integrity: Submissions must be original and unpublished. Use of AI tools or plagiarized content will lead to immediate disqualification.

Blind Evaluation Process: Carried out by domain experts on a blind basis evaluated for policy relevance, originality, methodological rigour, citations, and analytical clarity.

Important Instructions & Portal Access

Language Guidelines

State / UT Level: Submissions accepted in 22 scheduled languages of India and English.

National Level: Submissions restricted strictly to English and Hindi.

Official Portals & Access

Registration Portal: app.icssr.org/user/register

CAG Official Site: cag.gov.in

ICSSR Research Portal: www.icssr.org

"Research Today. Influence Tomorrow."

Submit your research articles within the notified window for National Level: 01 August 2026 – 30 September 2026

Submit your research articles within the notified window for State/ UT Level: 01 July 2026 – 31 August 2026

QR Codes for Registration and Audit Reports for Essay Competition:

Registration for Essay Competition

National Level Audit Reports

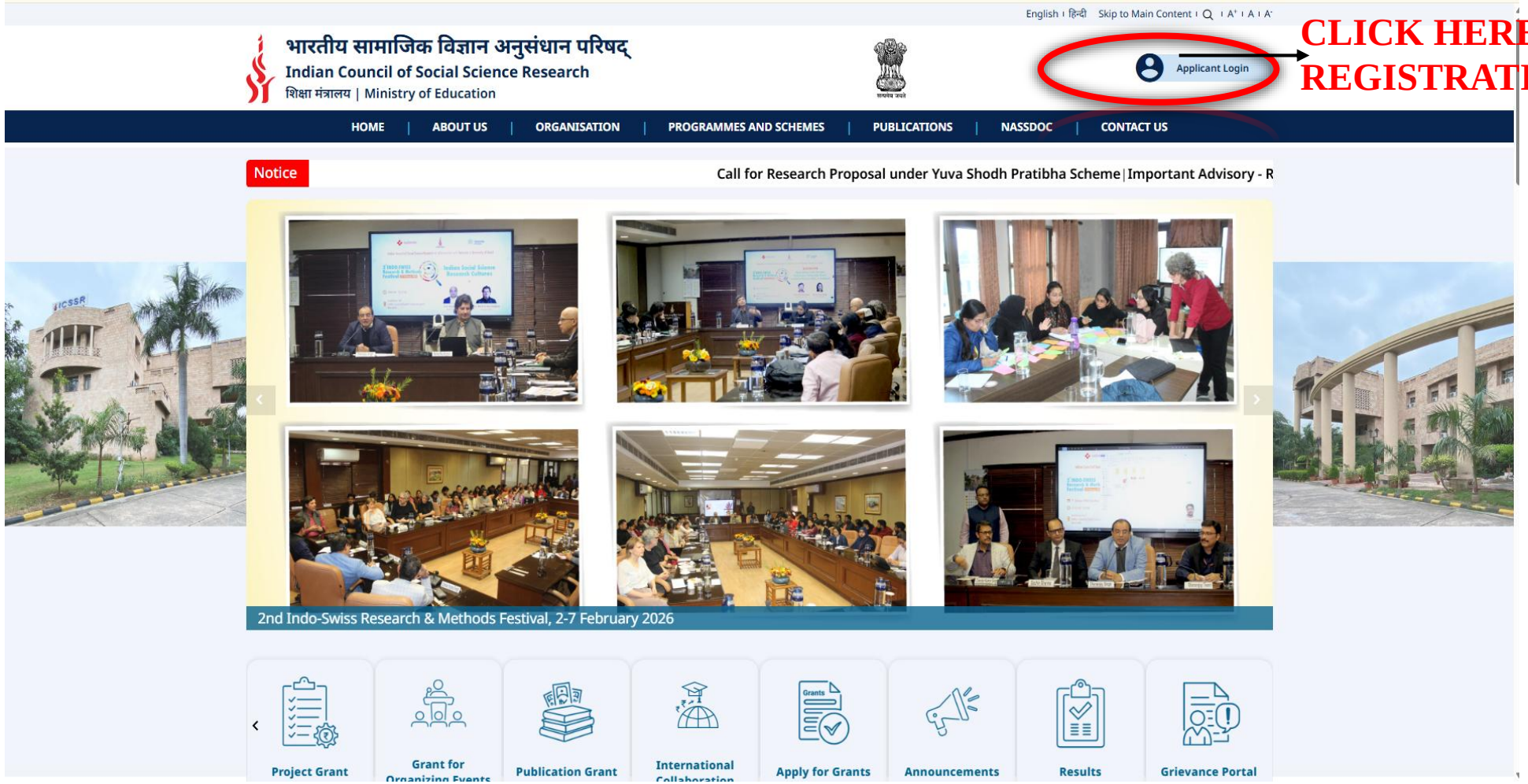
State/UT Level Audit Reports

J&K Audit Report

CAG-ICSSR RESEARCH ARTICLE WRITING COMPETITION

STEPS FOR REGISTRATION & SUBMISSION

1. VISIT ICSSR'S WEBSITE: www.icssr.org



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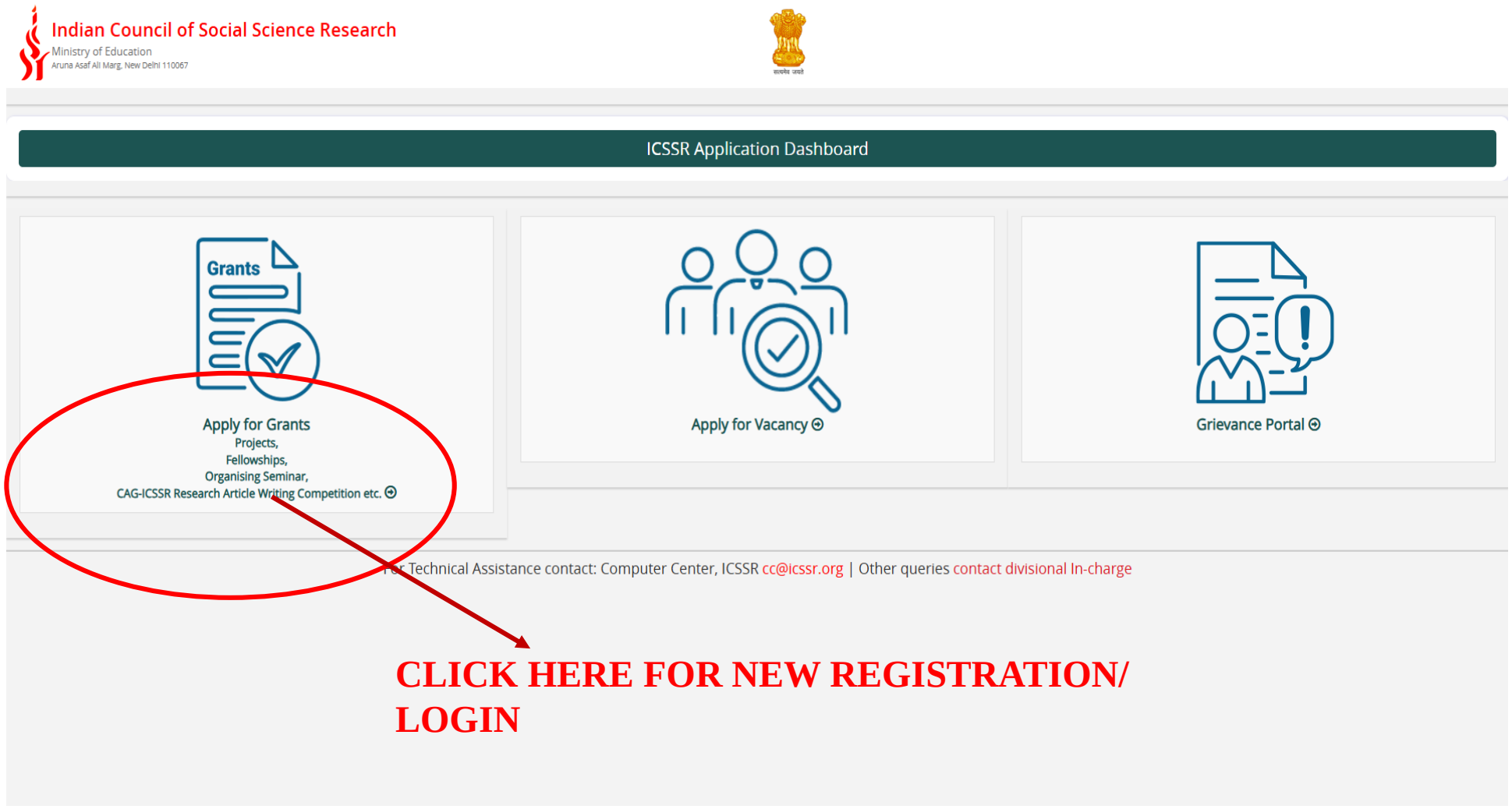
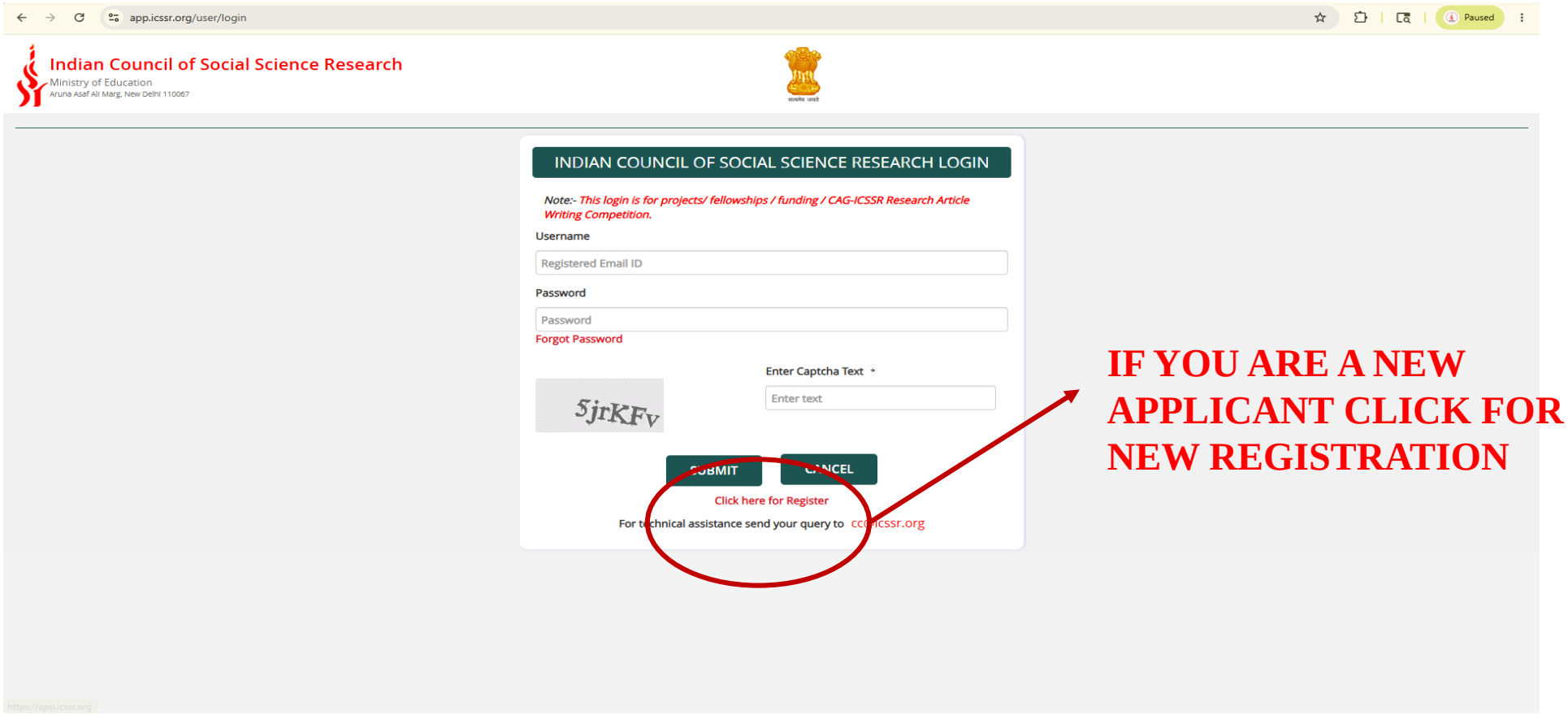

Indian Council of Social Science Research
Ministry of Education
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi 110067
ICSSR Application Dashboard
Grants
Apply for Grants
Projects,
Fellowships,
Organising Seminar,
CAG-ICSSR Research Article Writing Competition etc.
Apply for Vacancy
Grievance Portal
For Technical Assistance contact: Computer Center, ICSSR cc@icssr.org | Other queries contact divisional In-charge
CLICK HERE FOR NEW REGISTRATION/ LOGIN

3.


app.icssr.org/user/login
Paused
Indian Council of Social Science Research
Ministry of Education
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi 110067
INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH LOGIN
Note:- This login is for projects/ fellowships / funding / CAG-ICSSR Research Article Writing Competition.
Username
Registered Email ID
Password
Password
Forgot Password
Enter Captcha Text *
5jrKFv
Enter text
SUBMIT
CANCEL
Click here for Register
For technical assistance send your query to
IF YOU ARE A NEW APPLICANT CLICK FOR NEW REGISTRATION

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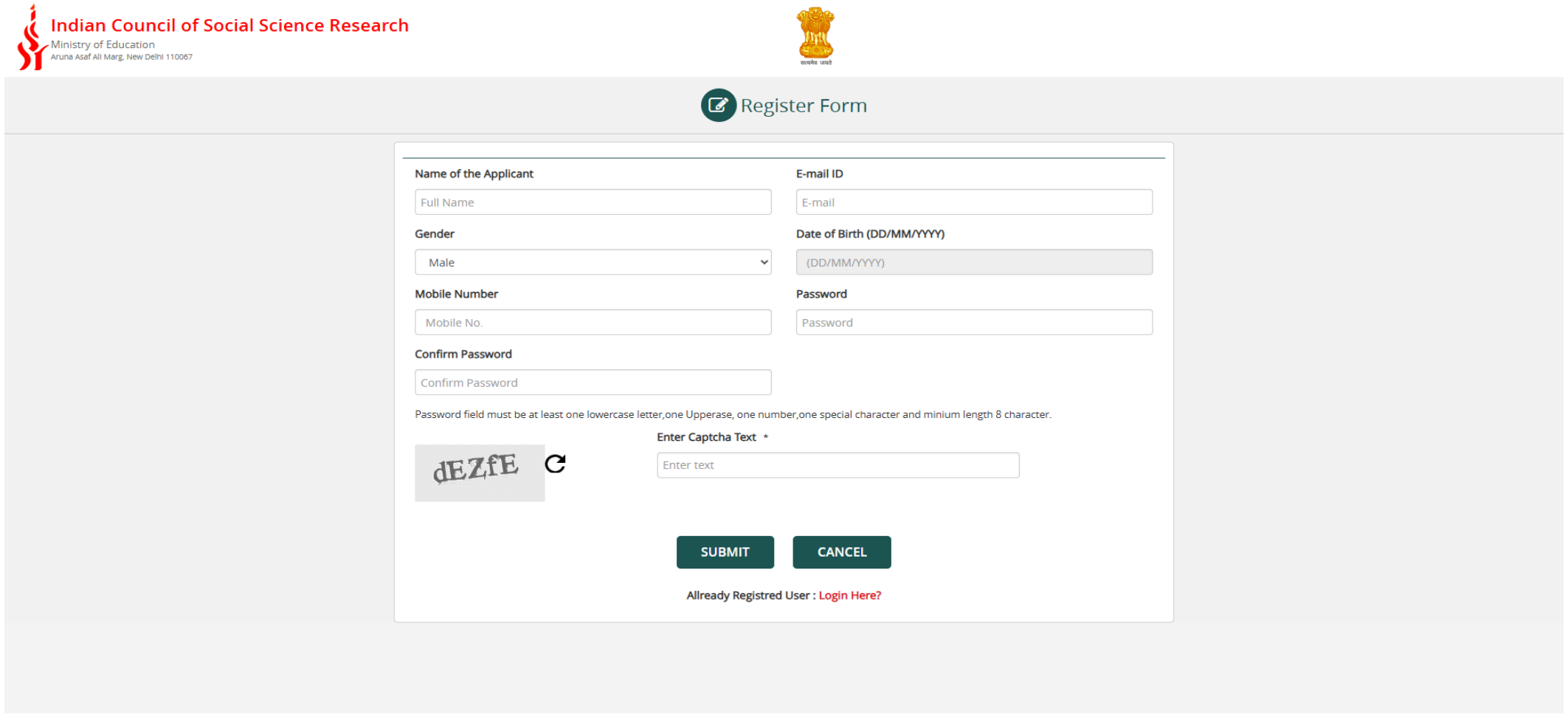
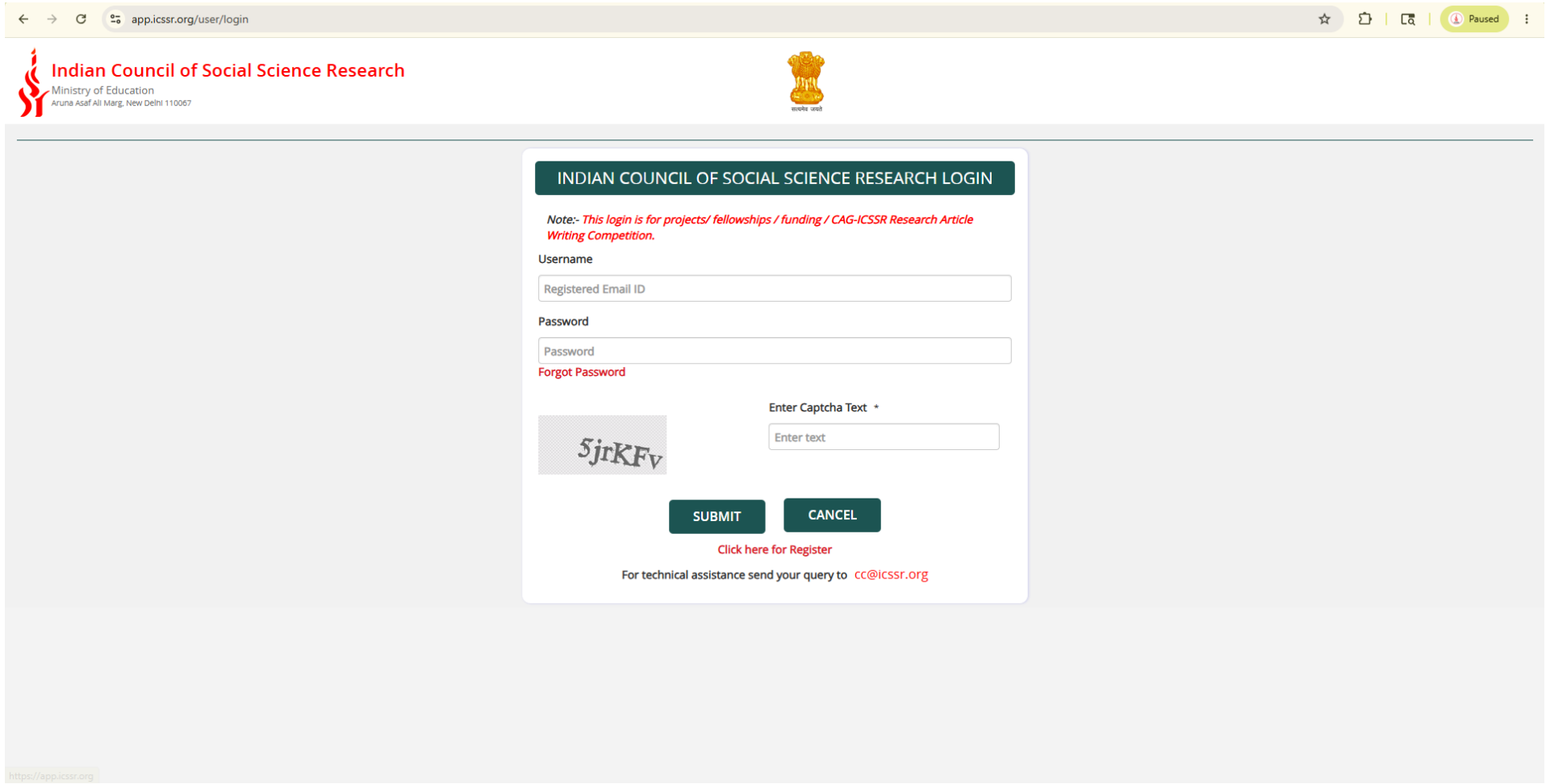


PLEASE FILL IN YOUR DETAILS. THE APPLICANT WILL RECEIVE A VERIFICATION EMAIL AT THEIR REGISTERED EMAIL ADDRESS. KINDLY CLICK THE LINK PROVIDED IN THE EMAIL TO COMPLETE THE VERIFICATION PROCESS.

5.



KINDLY LOGIN USING YOUR REGISTERED EMAIL ID AND PASSWORD

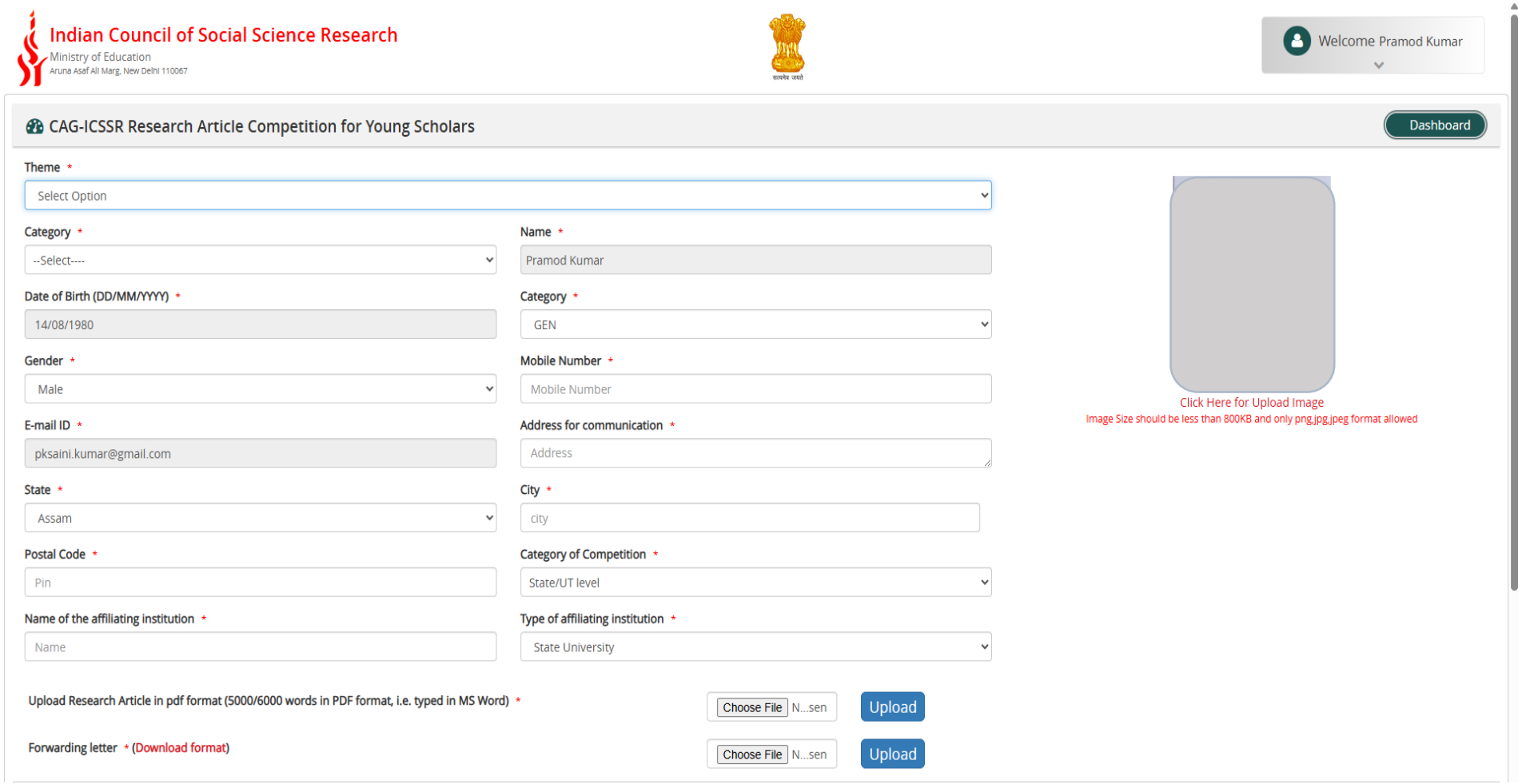
6.

CLICK " DETAILS" TO READ THE GUIDLINES

7.

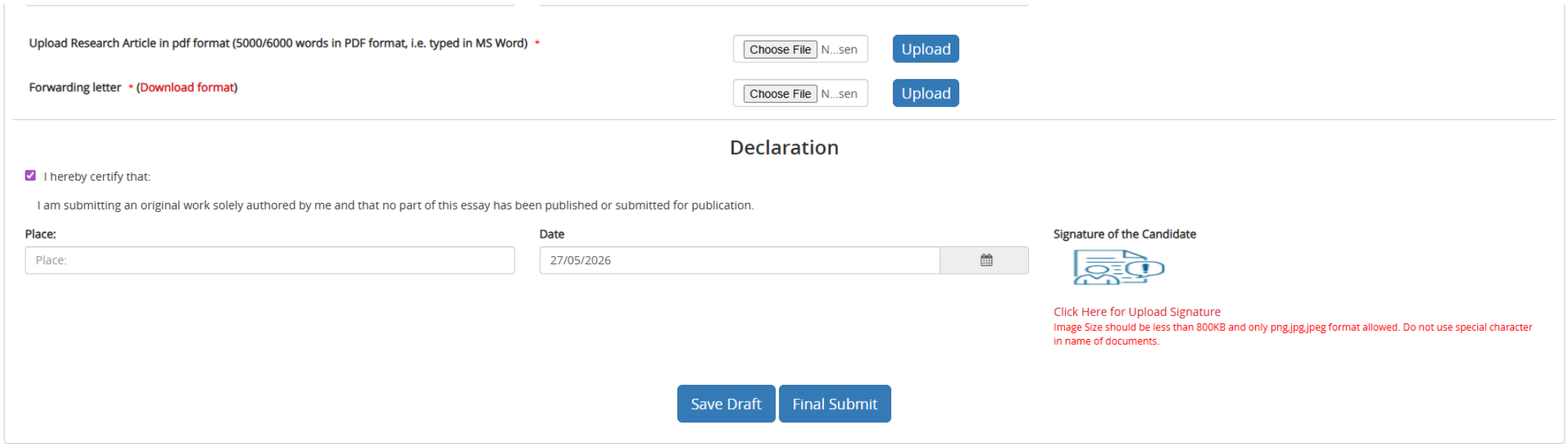
CLICK HERE TO APPLY FOR RESEARCH ARTICLE COMPETITION

8.



KINDLY COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM AND SUBMIT THE FORWARDING LETTER.YOU MAY SAVE THE APPLICATION AS A DRAFT AND EDIT THE DETAILS UNTIL THE FINAL SUBMISSION OF THE RESEARCH ARTICLE. ONCE THE FINAL SUBMISSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED, NO FURTHER CHANGES TO THE RESEARCH ARTICLE OR BACKGROUND INFORMATION WILL BE PERMITTED.

9.



SUBMIT THE DOCUMENTS AND UPLOAD YOUR SIGNATURE

10.

AFTER SUBMISSION, YOU MAY VIEW YOUR DETAILS ON THE DASHBOARD.PLEASE NOTE THAT ONCE THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN FINALLY SUBMITTED, NO FURTHER EDITS WILL BE ALLOWED. AFTER THE FINAL SUBMISSION, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION FORM.

ALL THE BEST

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 strengthenes 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.

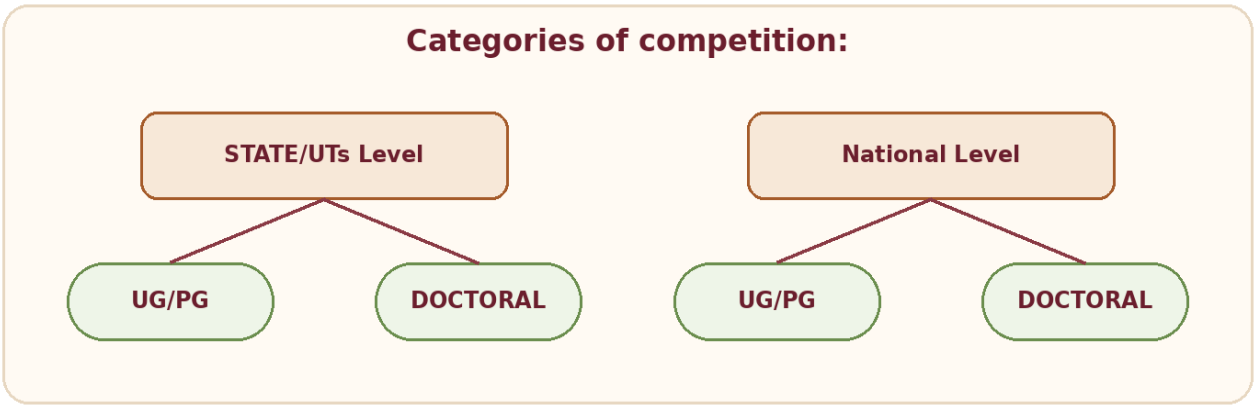
THEMES

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.

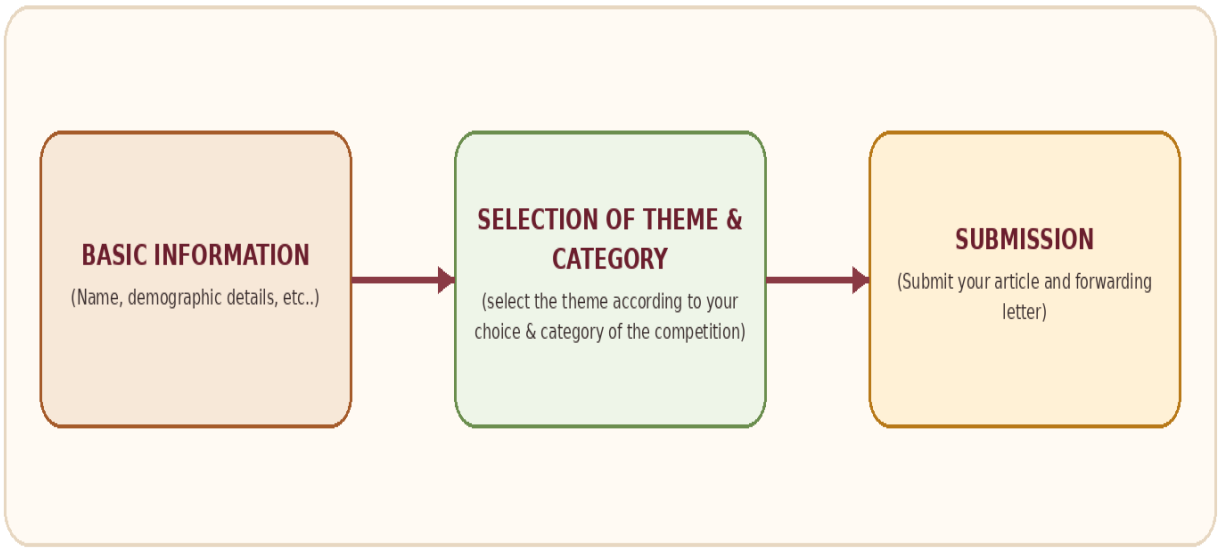
MODE OF PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY LIMIT

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***************