

ICSSR Invites Applications from Indian Researchers under "Special Call for Collaborative Research Projects on Vision Viksit Bharat@2047"

Guidelines

As envisaged by domain experts, policymakers, and think tanks, Bharat is poised to become a developed nation by 2047. Bharat's sustained growth and advancement will be based on dynamic characteristics of socio-economic, cultural, political, and technological advancement which are largely dependent on resource endowments and capabilities for research and innovation among the youth.

Social science research, being interdisciplinary and employing mixed methodologies such as inductive and deductive approaches, case methods, exploratory and experimental designs, and based on both primary and secondary data, can identify the problems, potential issues, and challenges that need to be addressed by policymakers for the country to achieve the goal of becoming a developed and sustainable nation.

To realize this vision within the stipulated time, Bharat requires strategic policy intervention and research-based reforms that will expedite the assessment of the potential talent and capabilities of its citizens in various fields of life. Hence, the ICSSR proposes to contribute to the 'Vision Viksit Bharat@2047' initiative by inviting applications from Indian researchers under "Special Call for Collaborative Research Projects on Vision Viksit Bharat@2047" on the themes and sub-themes of priority for policy intervention and strategic action. Collaborative Research Teams, comprising researchers from various fields of Social Sciences, (as well as Natural Sciences and the Humanities, in specific earmarked areas), are typically expected to come with specific and evidence-based policy suggestions and area of improvement in various sectors and sub-sectors for socio-economic growth and development.

1. Framework for Vision Viksit Bharat@2047 Research Proposal

The team for the Collaborative Research Project may comprise four to six scholars. The ICSSR encourages multiple institutions to come together and propose a collaborative study. This study should offer a comprehensive assessment of a particular theme, sub-theme, or initiative over an identified region,

such as Northern India, Eastern India, Western India, Southern India, Northeast India, Union Territories, and special category states, etc. The area of study can also be outlined based on geographical boundaries, political divisions, or economic characteristics.*¹ * The research in the proposed area aims to provide evidence-based solutions for development in different sectors, and build frameworks of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India. It requires researchers to think and act differently, breaking away from conventional approaches. They are expected to provide evidence-based ideas or suggest new strategies, models, programs, and policies aimed at shaping and developing the plan to optimize the country's human and natural resources for making India a developed nation.

Researchers are required to explore the themes and subthemes and collaborate with researchers from different institutions by creating greater synergy between their respective areas of expertise. This involves identifying and utilizing a large and diverse ecosystem of assets as laboratories of change, where experimentation and innovation flourish. They shall conduct experimental and longitudinal research aiming to discover new pathways to achieve the target of becoming a developed nation.*

The proposals must aim to ensure that the study area encompasses a significant sample size for research and assess a particular theme/area of research for potential development in the identified region. Geographical coverage (villages/blocks & districts covered) with details about the location of field units/offices, and locations of the project handled should be specifically shown in the chart form.

The proposals should have scope for fact-based and action-oriented futuristic research for Vision Viksit Bharat@2047 covering the background of the specific research theme, a very pertinent literature review leading to meticulously evolved hypotheses, objectives, research questions, scientific and systematic research methodology (specifying sampling types and sources of research data, interview schedule/questionnaires and tools and software to be employed for arriving results) with specific scope and limitation covering mitigation strategies. The proposed study should encompass both quantitative and qualitative approaches, aimed at action-oriented, applied, and experimental analysis. This includes assessing the impact of leading practices from both national and international perspectives. †ICSSR will not consider any research proposal solely based on informative, descriptive, or awareness-based research design unless it demonstrates outstanding justification or research potential contributing

* Addition of detailed description

towards strategizing policies for holistic development of the nation.^{†2}

Themes that demand robust multidisciplinary methodologies and frameworks in social science research will necessitate teams consisting of both social scientists and natural scientists collaborating to submit proposals.

There are two types of Collaborative Research Projects (CRP) to be funded by ICSSR:

- A. Explorative and Applied Collaborative Research Project
- B. Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Collaborative Research Project
- A. Explorative and Applied Collaborative Research Project**

The researchers may form a team of 4-6 researchers to conduct collaborative research from different disciplines of different institutions and different regions. One of the Project Directors (PDs), would act as the Project Coordinator of the collaborative study and the project shall be housed in the institute which he/she represents. The Project Coordinator will be responsible for the successful completion of the study.

[†] Addition of description

The research grant will be transferred to the PFMS account of the affiliating institution of the Project Coordinator.

Field Survey: The sample size for the proposed field survey will be determined by the demographics of the population under study and the specific research questions to be addressed. However, the proposed sample size may not be less than 20% of the survey population which should be equally and proportionately distributed within the selected region and among different categories.

CRP team shall prepare a standard interview schedule/questionnaire for the collection of required data. The data collection instruments must be authenticated and validated with reliability.

B. Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Collaborative Research Project

In addition to the research framework mentioned above for Category ‘A’, the research team which is willing to apply for Category ‘B’ shall also prepare the proposal covering sources available on existing technology /innovations already made under the selected theme/area of research. The purpose of this exercise is to identify available technology/innovation that is lying unused and which can be effectively put to public use to realize its revolutionary life-changing capacity.

Thus, the documentation of available technology/ innovation*³ and application of technology shall be done at a primary survey level.

After identifying the scope of existing technology, scaling of identified technology/innovations, and customizing the technology/ technology/innovations as per the requirement of the region are to be the key features of research.

The results derived at primary survey level/lab investigations will be deployed for public use and feedback from minimum 20% of survey population is to be obtained.

Based on the findings, the focus will be on technology delivery and enterprise creation for improving livelihood efficiency in next five years.

Considering the research's broad and collaborative framework, it is mandatory for the team to include at least one Project Director with a background in natural sciences and one Project Director from Research

* to be read as technology/innovations for entire page 4

and Development vertical of any of the corporate houses of Bharat, both specializing in pertinent areas.

The details regarding potential research methods and suggested research areas for Categories 'A' and 'B' are provided below in tabular form.

A. The identified themes and sub-themes of the studies under ‘A’ Exploratory and Applied Research are as follows

Themes and Sub-themes	Type of Research	Areas of Research
1. Economic Prosperity and Sustainability		
1.A Natural Resource and Regional Development		
Strategies for Promotion of Geographical Indications (GIs) Products	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Access and International Trade of GI Products • Digital Platforms and E-commerce for GI Product Promotion • Consumer Perception and Preferences of GI Products
Agri-tech - Transforming Indian Agriculture	Applied and Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT Solutions for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) • Blockchain for Supply Chain Traceability and Quality Assurance • Biotechnology Innovations for Crop Improvement
Potential Livelihood Studies in the North-East	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecotourism and Community-Led Tourism Ventures • Ethnobotanical Knowledge and Medicinal Plant Conservation • Policy Support for Traditional Healers and Healing Practices
1.B Economic Prosperity		
India in Global Trade and Finance	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the Indian diaspora in global trade and finance, including their contributions to remittance flows, investment linkages, knowledge transfer, and cultural connections between India and its overseas communities • Sustainable Trade and Environmental Governance • Cross-Border E-commerce and Digital Trade • Trade Disputes and Investor-State Disputes with resolution framework.
Potential Global Service Sector	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fintech Innovations and Digital Financial Services • E-Learning Platforms of Bharat • Digital Health Services and Telemedicine referring to the BPO services sector • Impact of KPO's on innovation in service sector industries like IT, Healthcare, and finance

Infrastructure and Logistics	Explorative, Applied, and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) • Logistics Cooperative Networks and Supply Chain Efficiency • Infrastructure Development and Resource-Based Economies (transportation networks and energy systems, in facilitating resource extraction and promoting economic diversification)
Supply Chain Management	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply Chain Digital Twin and Simulation Modeling (including demand fluctuations, capacity constraints, and supply chain disruptions) • Supply Chain Finance and Working Capital Management • Digital Transformation in Sustainable Supply Chain Management
Financial Independence and Labour Force Participation	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Family Structure and Social Norms on Labor Force Participation • Impact of Education and Skills Training on Labor Force Participation • Gender Disparities in Financial Independence and Labor Force Participation • Unraveling the Gender Wealth Disparity: Investigating Influential Factors in Financial Autonomy • Flexible Work Arrangements and Work-Life Balance: Effects on Labor Force Participation
Tourism and Livelihood	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Entrepreneurship and Indigenous Communities (Cultural, Business, Medical, Wildlife, Space, Rural) Tourism Informality and Livelihood Security
Sustainable Livelihood and Rural Transformation	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Occupational and Livelihood Diversification Strategies • Changing Scenario in Employment • Digital Technologies and Rural Livelihoods, rural Tourism
2. Human Resource, Holistic Growth and Development		
2.A Inclusive Social Development		
Demographic Shifts	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing Family Structures: Trends and Effects; Employment Trends Among Different Age Groups: Opportunities and Challenges
Nari Sashaktikaran: Women Empowerment and	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues related to the gender gap in the workplace; • Gender empowerment; Strategies to glass ceiling (The phrase glass ceiling is an invisible barrier to the

Entrepreneurship		<p>professional advancement of women and minorities— barriers to high-paying careers, promotions, leadership positions, equal pay, and freedom from workplace discrimination) to eradicate gender discrimination;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies for the eradication of gender-based violence; Eradicating Trafficking: A Holistic Approach Addressing Root Causes and Promoting Gender Equality
Capacity Building and Entrepreneurship Development for Youth	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectiveness of entrepreneurial Education in fostering youth entrepreneurship skills and mindset, Digital entrepreneurship that enables the youth in Ventures, Social entrepreneurship that enables the youth in Ventures
Health and Wellness for All	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectiveness of preventive healthcare interventions, Exploring the prevalence and consequences of mental health disorders, Examining the role of health literacy in schools & universities
Social Security and Ageing Population	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserving Dignity: Strengthening social security for aging citizens; Sustaining social welfare in aging societies: Ensuring security for all
Equitable and Inclusive Society; Children, Divyangjan, Transgender, Senior Citizen and Vulnerable Sections	Exploratory, Applied Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaving No One Behind: Encouraging equality and inclusion for vulnerable populations
Sports Infrastructure	Exploratory and Applied Research with best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fit for the future: Modernizing sports facilities for health and wellbeing; Analysis of accessibility and inclusivity in sports infrastructure projects

2.B Education and Skilling		
Strategies for NEP 2020 Implementation	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building and Professional Development: Investigating strategies for building the capacity of teachers, school leaders, and education administrators to effectively implement NEP 2020 initiatives. This may include research on teacher training programs, leadership development initiatives, and continuous professional learning opportunities • Curriculum Reform and Pedagogical Innovation: Exploring approaches for redesigning curriculum frameworks and promoting pedagogical innovation to align with the principles of NEP 2020, such as holistic and multidisciplinary learning, competency-based education, and experiential learning opportunities
Employment Generation, Skills Development	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and Employment: Exploring gender disparities in labor markets, including differences in employment rates, occupational segregation, wage gaps, and barriers to women's participation in the workforce. This could involve research on gender-sensitive policies, childcare support, maternity leave provisions, and initiatives to promote women's entrepreneurship.
Indian Knowledge System including Janjatiya Knowledge Practice as Model for Development	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation and Preservation of Indigenous Knowledge: Research methods for documenting and preserving indigenous knowledge systems, including oral traditions, cultural practices, medicinal knowledge, agricultural techniques, and ecological wisdom. This may involve studying indigenous languages, ethnobotany, ethnomedicine, and traditional ecological knowledge.; • Integration of Indigenous Knowledge into Development Policies and Programs: Investigating strategies for integrating indigenous knowledge into mainstream development initiatives, including agriculture, healthcare, natural resource management, and disaster risk reduction. This may include research on policy frameworks, institutional mechanisms, and community-led development approaches.
Social Emotional Education	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent and Family Engagement in SEL: Investigating strategies for involving parents and families in promoting social-emotional development at home and in partnership with schools. This may include researching parent education programs, family-school partnerships,

		and home-based SEL activities to support children's social-emotional growth.
Culture and Heritage	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Heritage Preservation and Conservation: Investigating strategies for preserving and conserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage sites, artifacts, monuments, and traditions. This may include research on heritage conservation techniques, restoration methods, and sustainable management practices.
3. Effective Governance		
3.A Vishwa Mitra Bharat		
India in the Global Market	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Value Chains in terms of textiles, spices, pharmaceuticals etc. • Manufacturing potential "Make in India" strategy
Innovative Partnership	Exploratory, Applied and Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-tech System • Clean Technology etc.
Strategic Partnership	Exploratory, Best Practices and Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-disciplinary Collaborations • International Collaborations • Investigating how strategic partnerships facilitate the transfer of research findings from academia to industry, and the role of partnership in bringing innovations to market • Joint funding and resource allocations
National Security	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defense System surveillance technology • Cyber Securities • Counter-terrorism tactics
India - Middle East Europe Economic Corridor	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating Trade of Local Products • Tourism, Economic partnership
3.B Law and Governance		
Constitutional, Legislative and Judicial Reforms	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional Reforms and its Impact • Legislative and Judicial Reforms and its Impact • Election Reforms • Reform to the criminal justice system • Access to justice, • legal pluralism etc.
Bhartiya Model of Inclusive Governance	Explorative, Best practices and Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency and Accountability • Bhartiya Model of Inclusive Governance; model recognizes the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental dimensions of development

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphases on Sustainable Development Practices that balance economic growth in terms of market growth, people, and governance
Upscaling Local Self-Government	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-governance, inclusive governance, Gender-sensitive Government in villages, decentralization etc.
Policing Reforms	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforms in Executive governance law and order reforms Learning from global best practices
4 Research, Innovation, and Development		
4.B Indigenous Innovation		
Indigenous Innovation	Explorative,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documenting Indigenous artisanal and craftsmanship practices for economic development Exploring indigenous-led enterprise and economic empowerment

B. The identified themes and sub-themes of the studies under 2. CRP Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Research Studies are as follows

Themes and Sub-themes	Type of Research	Areas of Research
1. Economic Prosperity and Sustainability		
1.A Natural Resource and Regional Development		
Sustainable Agriculture Practices	Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agroecology and Agroforestry Systems Policy and Institutional Support for Sustainable Agriculture Value-Chain Approaches to Sustainable Agriculture (including market linkages, value addition, farmer cooperatives, and fair-trade initiatives, and assess their impact on small holder livelihoods and rural development.)
Food Security and Nutrition	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community-Based Food Security Interventions Urban Agriculture and Micronutrient Access (e.g., rooftop gardens, community gardens, vertical farming) Gender Dynamics in Food Security
AI for Agriculture and Rural Development	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Extension Services for Rural Communities (e.g., mobile apps, chatbots, interactive voice response systems)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Infrastructure Planning and Optimization (e.g., road networks, irrigation systems, market facilities)
Sustainable Livelihood and Rural Transformation	Exploratory and Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Occupational and Livelihood Diversification Strategies Changing Scenario in Employment Digital Technologies and Rural Livelihoods, rural Tourism
1.B Economic Prosperity		
Green and Blue Economy	Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Research	<p>Blue Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Carbon Ecosystems and Climate Change Mitigation Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) - (Explore how MSDI can enable data-driven innovation and entrepreneurship in sectors like marine tourism, biotechnology, and marine transportation, by providing access to spatial data (type of data that directly or indirectly references a specific geographical area or location) for market analysis, infrastructure planning and investment decision-making) Sustainable Fisheries Management in EEZs <p>Green Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Building Technologies and Sustainable Design (e.g., passive solar design, green materials, energy-efficient HVAC systems) Green Transportation and Mobility Solutions (e.g., electric vehicles, bike-sharing programs, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure) Green Finance and Impact Investing (e.g., green bonds, social impact funds, green venture capital)
Industry 4.0	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of Industry 4.0 Technologies in Indian Small Micro Enterprises (Investigate the barriers and facilitators to the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies (e.g., IoT, AI, cloud computing) among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in India, considering technological readiness, organizational capabilities, and socio-economic factors influencing adoption decisions) Ethical and Societal Implications of AI and Data Analytics

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological Innovation and Resource Development (automation, remote sensing, and data analytics) in industries with large economies of scale. • AI for administration, elections, and local self-governments
Cities & Sustainability	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transit Oriented Development and Sustainable mobility • One city, One product • Law and Order maintenance in cities • Water Security and Sustainable Urban Water Management • Informal Settlement Upgrading and Slum Rehabilitation • Balanced approaches for city development • AI-based smart technologies for green infrastructure and urban biodiversity conservation for improved quality of life
Technology, Manufacturing & Global Value Chain	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clusters and Industrial Agglomeration in Manufacturing • Industry-Academia Collaboration for Technology Innovation • Technology Transfer and Knowledge Spillovers • Vocal for Local
2. Human Resource, Holistic Growth and Development		
2.A Inclusive Social Development		
Digital Public Infrastructure	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative study in the use of digital technologies in rural and smart cities; • Strategies for bridging the digital divide through Access, Literacy, and Accessibility Initiatives
AI and Advanced Skills	Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI for Adaptive Skill Training: Exploring the use of AI-driven adaptive learning technologies to tailor skill training programs to individual learners' needs, preferences, and learning styles. This could involve researching adaptive assessment techniques, intelligent tutoring systems, and personalized feedback mechanisms.

Yoga and Ayurveda	Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoga and Ayurveda Education and Training: • Investigating pedagogical approaches, curriculum development, and competency-based training programs for yoga instructors, • Ayurveda practitioners, and integrative healthcare professionals. This may involve research on teacher training standards, accreditation processes, and continuing education requirements in the fields of yoga and Ayurveda.
3. Effective Governance		
3.B Law and Governance		
Courts Management	Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforms in the Case management system for tracking progress reports of the delays
Disaster Management and Sustainable Infrastructure Development	Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate-smart Agriculture according to soil and weather • Coastal Protection measures
4. Research, Innovation, and Development		
4.A Technology and Innovation		
Technology and Innovation	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of the urban innovation of technologies on sustainable urban development • Digital divide and inclusivity • Role of emerging technologies for entrepreneurships.
Innovations for Social Development	Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community technology based on tourism initiatives • Exploring online using platforms for education
Access to clean and affordable energy	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing clean indoor cooking • Role of public-private partnerships in Energy access • Grid integration of renewable energy sources.
Digital Transformation and Building Resilient Eco-Systems	Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem restoration and conservation • Promote supportive ecosystems for digital entrepreneurs.

Solar Mission	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of self-sustaining knowledge networks • Developing eco-friendly 'chulhas'.
Cyber Security	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the human aspects of cyber security • Researching techniques to protect individual's privacy • Methods to collect and analyze data about cyber threats, attackers
Waste to Wealth	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways to extract value for waste materials by transforming them into high-demand products and commodities • Designing eco-friendly packaging solutions • Developing technologies to recycle waste materials.
Empowering Startups Ecosystem	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing workshops, mentorship programs, and educational initiatives to equip aspiring entrepreneurs • Explore the dynamics of funding and support systems in empowering start-up ecosystem • Examine diversity and inclusivity
4.B Indigenous Technology Innovation and Development		
Indian Science and Technology	Explorative and Experimental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the advancement and use of technology in agricultural and sustainable farming practices • Explore the technological uses in innovating medical and health devices and interventions to improve healthcare access.
Indigenous Medicine	Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore traditional healing that encompasses various practices, knowledge systems, and therapies • Explore the influence of spiritual practices on health
Indigenous Innovation	Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documenting Indigenous artisanal and craftsmanship practices for economic development • Exploring indigenous-led enterprise and economic empowerment.

1.1 Duration of the Project

For Category 'A', 'Explorative and Applied Collaborative Research Project,' the study's duration will range from 8 to 12 months, focusing on selected themes or research areas.

Whereas for Category 'B' Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Collaborative Research Project,' the duration may be further extended from three to *five ^{4*} years, on the grounds of satisfactory progress and potential of ongoing research in producing tangible periodic outcomes.

(a) ICSSR may ask the researcher to make necessary changes as identified in the potential proposal of collaborative research and resubmit the same as per the directive received by the monitoring and evaluation committee.

(b) During the evaluation process, ICSSR may consider expert suggestions and subsequently change the proposal's status from Category 'A' to 'B', or vice versa. ICSSR reserves all the rights to enhance or decrease the duration and budget of any project.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1 The Project Coordinator and Project Director(s) affiliated with ICSSR Research Institutes/institutes of national importance as defined by the Ministry of Education /UGC-recognized Indian universities/deemed universities under 12 B/2f are eligible to apply. However, scholars from other registered organizations with established research and academic standing may collaborate with any of the above-mentioned institutions for said purpose.
- 2.2 The Project Coordinator and all the Project Directors (except the members from the corporate houses) must be regular faculty and must possess a Ph.D. degree with a proven track record of high-quality research and publications.
- 2.3 Civil servants, officers from Defense services, and other professionals with a social science perspective having not less than 20 years of regular service and demonstrable research experience through publications of books/research papers/reports/policy documents, etc. may also apply, preferably in collaboration with a faculty in a social science discipline from institutions given in clause 2.1.
- 2.4 †For both Category A (Exploratory and Applied Research) and B (Explorative, Experimental, and Longitudinal Research Studies), the Project Coordinator (Principal Investigator) shall be from the fields of Social Science or Humanities. However, in the collaborative framework of Category B, it is imperative for the team to also include at least one Project Director with a background in Natural Sciences and another from the Research and Development vertical of any corporate house in Bharat. Both Project Directors should specialize in pertinent areas.^{5†}

⁴ * Change in maximum duration of the project from three to five years.

⁵ †Addition of sub clause 2.4

3. How to Apply

- 3.1 The proposal can be submitted online through our website www.icssr.org. The application form will be uploaded on the ICSSR website on 22 April 2024. The last date for submission of application will be 31st May 2024. The aspirants shall submit an online application which includes the research proposal in the given prescribed format along with other required documents. They are also required to submit the hard copies of their application and annexures, duly forwarded by the competent authorities of the affiliating university/college/institute, within 10 days of the last date of online submission.
- 3.2 Applications will be accepted only in online mode through the ICSSR website. In case, the hard copy of the application with all required documents is not received, the candidature of applicants shall be treated as withdrawn/canceled.
- 3.3 Research proposals should either be in English or Hindi (use Unicode to fill application forms in Hindi).
- 3.4 The collaborative research proposal is to be submitted by the Project Coordinator using his/her email address.
- 3.5 For the collaborative research projects, the detailed CV duly signed by each member should be attached along with the detailed address for communication.

4. The Procedure of Awards

- 4.1 (a)*All applications submitted to the ICSSR will be screened and evaluated by the expert committee following a blind review process. Shortlisted applicants shall be invited for interaction/presentation at ICSSR (in person or online). The expert committee(s) shall make recommendation(s) for award of studies and also suggest the budget for the proposed studies.⁶

(b)† In Category B, there will be two rounds of interaction. During the first round, scholars will present their proposals to a panel of experts. Outstanding proposals will be identified based on the potential demonstrated in the planned research. Scholars with such outstanding proposals will then be directed to further develop their proposal incorporating suggestions and recommendations given by the experts to improve the research plan. After integrating the recommendations and suggestions, scholars will give a second and final presentation to the team of experts. Following this presentation, projects will be recommended or not recommended for the award of grants by the experts to ICSSR. Thus based on the recommendations of the experts ICSSR will declare the awards. Based on the recommendations of the experts, ICSSR will announce the awards. †

⁶ * 4.1 to be read as 4.1.(a) and 4.1 (b) † is added

- 4.2 The project award will be granted solely based on the proposal's excellence and merit as per the recommendation of expert committee (s), strictly following ICSSR guidelines.
- 4.3 Upon the approval, list of awardees will be published on our website www.icsr.org.

5 Budget Duration and Value

- 5.1 The projects will be for a duration of 08 to 12 months. However, the research project mentioned under 1.1 may further be extended depending upon the performance and relevance of the research.
- 5.2 The study has to be commenced immediately after the award of the project.
- 5.3 The Project Coordinator will propose the budget, subject to the following broad expenditure sub-heads

S. No.	Heads of Expenditure	Value
1	Research Staff: Full-time/Part-time/Hired Services	Not exceeding 40% of the total budget.
2	Fieldwork: Travel/Logistics/Boarding, Survey Preparation or Consultancy etc.	Not exceeding 30%
3	Organizing the Seminar/Conference towards the beginning of the Project to accumulate the ideas (25 Best Research paper presentations only)	Up to 15% (not exceeding INR 2.25 lakh)
4	Equipment and Study Material:	Not exceeding 10%
5	Contingency	Not exceeding 5%
6	Institutional Overheads (over and above the total cost of the project)	Affiliating Institutional overheads @ 7.5 % of the approved budget

5.4 ^{*7}Estimated Budget for the Research Project

- a. For Category A- up to INR 25.00 Lakh
- b. For Category B- up to INR 2.00 Cr.*

⁷ *5.4 is a new sub-clause added

6 Remuneration and Emoluments of Project Staff

6.1 Project staff could be engaged by the Project Director on a full/Part-time basis during the research work and the duration/consolidated monthly emoluments of their employment may be decided by the Project Director within the limits of the sanctioned financial allocation and as per the ICSSR rules.

6.2 **Research Associate @ Rs.47,000/- p.m.**

(Qualification - Postgraduate in social science discipline only (55% minimum) with NET /M.Phil./ Ph.D. and 2 years of research experience)

6.3 Research Assistant @ Rs.37,000/- p.m.

(Qualification-Ph.D./M.Phil. /Postgraduate in a social science discipline with a minimum of 55%)

6.4 Field Investigator @ Rs.20,000/-p.m. (not exceeding 6 months)

(Qualification- Postgraduate in a social science discipline with a minimum of 55%).

6.5 The Institution may re-appropriate expenditure within the head up to 10% of the sanctioned budget with the prior approval of the ICSSR.

6.6 Selection of Research Staff should be done in a competitive mode.

6.7 For all field work-related expenses of the Project Director and project staff, rules of affiliating institutes/universities shall be followed.

6.8 All equipment and books purchased out of the project fund shall be the property of the affiliating institution. However, ICSSR may ask for books or/and equipment, if, it so requires.

6.9 No publication/presentation in any form related to the awarded research shall be made by the researcher or any member of the research team without prior approval of the ICSSR.

7 Joining and Release of Grants

7.1 The Project Director has to join the project immediately after receiving the award letter. To join, the scholar has to submit an 'undertaking' form, date of commencement, and grant-in-aid bill towards the release of the first instalment. The ICSSR reserves the right to appoint a Monitoring and Advisory Committee for this Special Call.

7.2 The sanctioned grant for the research project will be released in instalments as indicated in the Sanction Letter.

7.3 The grant will be released to the affiliating institution of the Project Coordinator and he/she would decide on the distribution of funds among the participating researchers.

8 Monitoring of Research Study

8.1 Research undertaken by a Project Director may be reviewed through the Monitoring and Advisory Committee constituted by the ICSSR and the project may be discontinued/terminated, if research

progress is found unsatisfactory or any ICSSR rules are violated.

- 8.2 The Project Coordinator would organize a Seminar/Conference at the beginning of the research project to collect the ideas related to the theme selected for Vision Viksit Bharat@2047. The Seminar/Conference would focus on the presentation of high-quality research papers not exceeding 25 papers ready for publication. There shall be an ICSSR representative on the editorial board.
- 8.3 ICSSR expects the Project Coordinator to submit a final report of high quality which is worth publishing by a reputed publisher. Depending upon the recommendation for publication of the Final Report as a book, with suggested modifications or improvements, the ICSSR will have the first right to publish under its rules and policy.
- 8.4 All project-related queries will be addressed to the Project Coordinator of the Affiliating Institution for timely reply.
- 8.5 The ICSSR may, at any time, ask for verification of accounts and other relevant documents related to the Project.
- 8.6 ICSSR may have Mid-term Appraisal or regular review meetings of the Research Project through its team of experts.
- 8.7 ICSSR reserves the right to affiliate a study with any of its Regional Centres or Research Institutes or any other institute of national importance to ensure quality and convenience in the completion of the study.
- 8.8 In case, the Project Coordinator does not submit the periodic/final project report as per the schedule with adequate justification, the scholar may be debarred from availing all future financial assistance from ICSSR and the complete amount released has to be refunded with penal interest.

9 Other Conditions

- 9.1 The contingency grant may be utilized for stationery, computer typing-related costs, specialized assistance such as data analysis, consultation for field trips, etc., related to the research project.
- 9.2 Retired teachers and government/defense officers can also apply under the scheme however, they are

required to affiliate with ICSSR Regional Centres/Research Institutes/institutes of national importance/UGC-recognized Indian university/deemed university of his/her choice.

- 9.3 Defaulters of any previous fellowship/project/grant of the ICSSR will not be eligible for consideration until the applicant obtains clearance from the concerned administrative division.
- 9.4 There will be a gap of a minimum of two years between the two ICSSR research projects. It is mandatory to mention the Projects undertaken in the application form by the researcher in the past. Concealing of information may lead to cancellation of the project.
- 9.5 No scholar will be allowed to take up a research project along with any ICSSR fellowship.
- 9.6 Foreign trips are not permissible within the scheme. However, the Project Director may undertake data collection outside India in exceptional cases and if warranted by the needs of the proposal. For this he/she is required to apply separately for consideration under the Data Collection Scheme of the ICSSR International Collaboration Division but any rejection there should not have any bearing on the study and cannot be taken as an excuse.
- 9.7 Request for additional grants in excess of the sanctioned budget will not be considered.
- 9.8 The Project Coordinator /Project Director shall be personally responsible for the timely completion of the Project.
- 9.9 The Project proposal/final report cannot be submitted for the award of any University degree/diploma or funding by any Institution by any member of the project staff, including the Project Director.
- 9.10 Purchase of equipment/ assets for the research project is permissible only if it is originally proposed and approved by the ICSSR during the award and does not exceed the permissible amount and follows the rules of the affiliating institution.
- 9.11 The Project Coordinator /Project Director shall report to the ICSSR, in case he/she makes any:
 - a) changes in the research design at any stage. No major change can be made therein, without the prior approval of the ICSSR.
 - b) Regarding the transfer of a project/appointment of a substitute Project Director.
 - c) On the request of a university/institute, the ICSSR may permit the appointment of a substitute Project

Coordinator /Project Director in exceptional circumstances.

- d) The ICSSR may also appoint a substitute Project Coordinator /Project Director if it is convinced that the original awardee of the project will not be in a position to carry out the study successfully.
- e) The ICSSR may transfer the place of the Project from one affiliating institution to another subject to submission of the following:
- Satisfactory progress report (s);
 - No objection certificate from both the previous and the new university/institute;
 - Audited statement of account and utilization certificate along with unspent balance, if any.
- However, no transfer of Project Coordinator/Project Director should be requested in the last three months of the study.
- f) Overhead charges will be proportionately shared among the institutes as per the grant released or as may be finally decided by the ICSSR.
- 9.12 In case of superannuation of the Project Coordinator /Project Director and if the rules of the institution so require the transfer of the project to a serving faculty member may be considered with prior approval of the ICSSR. The credit of the project shall belong to the original submitting Project Coordinator /Project Director.
- 9.13 The proposals submitted under this Special Call shall not be considered under any other call(s) and require a fresh proposal submission as per the conditions laid down therein.
- 9.14 The ICSSR reserves the right to reject any application without assigning any reason and will not be responsible for any postal delays/loss.
- 9.15 Incomplete applications in any respect will not be considered.
- 9.16 The final authority related to the interpretation of the guidelines or any issue is vested with the ICSSR.
- 9.17 No queries will be entertained by the ICSSR until the final declaration of results against Call. Any lobbying for an award will lead to disqualification.
- 9.18 ICSSR makes positive efforts to encourage less represented sections such as women, people belonging to Educationally Backward Areas/Districts, Minorities, Differently Abled, etc.

- 9.19 The researcher should not have been subjected to any disciplinary/legal action/proceedings/ financial penalties in his/her career/research career.
- 9.20 The final report submitted by the scholar will be considered satisfactory only after the final recommendation of acceptance by the expert/experts appointed by the ICSSR.
- 9.21 The ICSSR reserves all rights to publish the project funded by it, provided the work is recommended for publication by the ICSSR-appointed expert/experts.
- 9.22 The ICSSR reserves the right to change the affiliation if it is found that the affiliating institute is not cooperating with the scholar and it is not facilitating the timely completion of the study.
- 9.23 As per the directions of the Ministry of Education (MoE), the amount of grant sanctioned is to be utilized within the duration of the project. Any amount of the grant remaining unspent shall be refunded to the ICSSR immediately after the expiry of the duration of the project. If the grantee fails to utilize the grant for the purpose for which the same has been sanctioned/or fails to submit the audited statement of expenditure within the stipulated period, the grantee will be required to refund.

10 Completion of the project

- 10.1 On completion of the project, the scholar should submit the draft final report and executive summary of the Project. Draft report will then be sent for the evaluation to the expert committee. After receiving the satisfactory remarks from the committee the scholar will be required to submit three hard copies along with executive summary and a soft copy to ICSSR.

If ICSSR approves the publication of the research work, the scholar should acknowledge that the project has been sponsored by the ICSSR, in all publications resulting from the project output (Research Paper, Books, Articles, Reports, etc.) and should submit a copy of the same to the ICSSR during the study or even after its completion.

11. Obligations of the Affiliating Institution

- 11.1 The affiliating institution is required to give an undertaking in the prescribed format contained in the Application Form to administer and manage the ICSSR grant. It is required to open a dedicated account for fund transfer under PFMS.
- 11.2 It is also required to provide the requisite research infrastructure to the scholar and maintain proper accounts.
- 11.3 Affiliating institution of the Project Coordinator will be under obligation to ensure the submission of the final report and an Audited Statement of Accounts and Utilization Certificate, (in the prescribed Proforma GFR 12-A) duly certified by the Competent Authority of the institution.
- 11.4 The affiliating institution shall make suitable arrangements for the preservation of data such as filled-in schedules, tabulation sheets, manuscripts, reports, etc. relating to the study. The ICSSR reserves the right to demand raw data, or such parts of the study as it deems fit.