



Funding hiked, social science research to get major push

ICSSR To Back Studies On Tribals, Women


Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) is set to significantly bolster social science research in India through expanded funding and inclusivity.

With a projected budget of ₹235 crore for the current financial year (excluding UG and PG research projects), ICSSR plans to support studies focused on vulnerable indigenous tribes, women-led research initiatives, and college and university student-led projects. The selected projects are expected to be announced by January next year.

Under the Centre's new di-

BOOST TO STUDIES

Research	Projects	Funding
Women-centric projects	150-200 (approx)	Up to ₹450 crore (₹30 lakh per major project, ₹25 lakh per minor project)
Groundbreaking longitudinal studies	50	Up to ₹2 crore, with a potential maximum of ₹3 crore
Studies on particularly vulnerable tribal groups	150 (approx)	(₹25 lakh per major project, ₹15 lakh per minor project)
Social science research for undergraduate & postgraduate students	500 (approx)	

rective, ICSSR will take a multi-pronged approach, including research on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India, longitudinal studies, and projects specifically for women scholars. The PVTG studies, scheduled to begin early next year, aim to cre-

ate a detailed database to inform research and policy and to document the social, cultural, and environmental practices unique to these communities. This initiative will also investigate the economic and social vulnerabilities faced by PVTGs.

According to ICSSR member secretary professor Dhnanjay Singh, the research will prioritise understanding the cultural practices, sustainable living techniques, and climate adaptation strategies of these communities, which hold insights relevant to modern challenges like equity, social harmony, and environmental sustainability. "This study will help us not only to preserve their rich heritage but also to learn from it," Singh remarked.

ICSSR's focus on PVTGs reflects a growing governmental interest in data collection on marginalised groups. The research, open to faculty and researchers across India—especially those near tribal populations in states like Odisha—will include surveys, interviews, and case studies to develop comprehensive datasets, which are at present lacking.

Full report on www.toi.in