

INDIAN COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

An Autonomous Organization Under
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF INDIA
35, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi – 110001

Notification No: 01-1/2025-26/JRF Exam/ICHR

Date: 20.03.2026

Notification for ICHR Junior Research Fellowships (JRF), 2025-2026

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the Junior Research Fellowships (JRF) of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi. The selected fellows will be awarded fellowship of **Rs.17,600/-** (Rupees Seventeen Thousand and Six Hundred only) per month with Contingency Grant of **Rs.16,500/-** (Rupees Sixteen Thousand and Five Hundred only) per annum for a period of **Two years**.

1. General Information:

- The maximum number of Junior Research Fellowships (JRF) to be awarded for 2025-2026 is **eighty (80)** only, applying the usual reservation for **SC, ST& PwD**.
- The Fellowship is a whole-time engagement for research work and cannot be combined with any other whole-time or part-time work. *(for details see the ICHR Research Funding Rules available on our official website i.e. www.ichr.ac.in)*
- The period of the Fellowship shall be for a maximum period of **Two** years extendable up to one more year without any financial commitment under special circumstances.
- Award of JRF will be based on an **online Entrance Test (Stage- I)** and **Presentation-cum-Interview (Stage- II)**.
- As per the guidelines prescribed by Government of India, the candidate who are Visually Impaired (blind / low vision) or orthopedically challenged (Whose writing speed is adversely affected permanently by cerebral palsy) may use services of a scribe as per the rules at their own cost during the online examination.

2. Important Dates:

- Online Application Commences : 20/03/2026
- Last date for online submission : 10/04/2026
- Last date for submitting printouts of filled application form: 17/04/2026
- Date of the online entrance test and : Notify soon
- Presentation-cum-Interview : Notify soon
- Admit Card available : Before the Examination

3. Eligibility:

- Candidates who have registered in recognized universities for Ph.D. Programme in historical studies are eligible to apply for the ICHR Junior Research Fellowships (JRF).

4. Examination Format:

- The examination will be conducted in 02 Stages- Stage I (Online) and Stage II (Presentation-cum-Interview).

Stage- I: (100 Marks)

- a. Stage-I examination will consist of 100 online objective type questions. Each question will carry 01 mark.
- b. There will be no negative marking.
- c. The candidate has to choose his/her area of specialization (Ancient/ Medieval/ Modern India) at the time of filling online JRF application form. All the questions in the examination will be based on the area of specialization opted by the candidate in the application form. (**Annexure A**)
- d. Questions will be in both language English & Hindi i.e., bilingual.

Stage- II: (60 Marks)

- a. The candidates shortlisted on the basis of merit of Stage- I examination will be called for the Stage- II (Presentation-cum-Interview).
- b. Each shortlisted candidate will make a presentation based on his/her registered Ph.D. research topic (8-10 minutes, preferably on Power Point) followed by an interview.
- c. Stage- II (Presentation-cum-Interview) will carry a maximum of 60 marks.
- d. All shortlisted candidates should bring their Hall Tickets issued for Stage- I entrance exam while coming for the Presentation-cum-Interview.

5. Mode of Selection:

- Merit will be drawn on the basis of aggregate marks of Stage-I and II, that is
100 Marks (Stage- I) + 60 Marks (Stage- II) = 160 Marks (total marks).

6. Examination Centres:

- **The Stage- I (Online) Examination** will be held in following cities:
 - New Delhi (Delhi)
 - Bengaluru (Karnataka)
 - Guwahati (Assam)
 - Pune (Maharashtra)
- **The Stage-II (Presentation-cum-Interview)** will be conducted at the ICHR's Headquarter, New Delhi in **hybrid** mode.

***Note:** Shortlisted candidates on the basis of merit of Stage- I examination will be called for the Stage II (Presentation-cum-Interview). For the Stage- II examination, Second class (sleeper) Railway or bus fare chargeable by the shortest routes from Railway Station/Bus Stand nearest to their normal place of residence or from where they actually perform the journey, whichever is nearer to the place of will be reimbursed to the SC, ST and PwD candidates on production of original ticket(s), provided that the distance travelled is not less than 30 kms.*

7. How to Apply:

- a. Eligible and interested scholars may apply online through the ICHR website www.ichr.ac.in
- b. Hard copy of the application generated after filling of online application form (with auto generated number) duly signed and along with the requisite documents should be submitted.
- c. The applicant should enclose self-attested copies of the Ph. D. registration certificate, certificates of educational qualifications, experience certificate and signed copy of check list (Annexure B) etc., and send by post to the following address:

To,
The Member Secretary
Indian Council of Historical Research
35, Ferozeshah Road,
New Delhi - 110001

- d. An application fee of Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred only) shall be paid through online only. (Candidates belonging to SC/ST/Persons with Disability (PWD) category are exempted from payment of the fee).
- e. Submission of application both online and printout of the same along with computer generated unique ID number is mandatory. Hard copies of applications without unique Id. Number will not be accepted.

8. General Conditions:

- a. All applicants should apply through proper channel (recommended by the Research Supervisor and forwarded by the Head of the Department/Centre/Principal). Besides the Hall-tickets, the candidates are required to produce their photo ID card authenticated by their respective Colleges/ Universities.
- b. **Indian Council of Historical Research reserves the rights:**
 - i. To fix criteria for screening the applications of the candidates for their suitability to take examination;
 - ii. To decrease or increase (backlog) the number of fellowships on its own discretion;
 - iii. Not to award any of the advertised fellowships.

- c. Application of Reservation rules in the award of Fellowships is subject to certain clarifications to be received from the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
- d. Applications for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) 2025-26 should be submitted along with non-refundable fee of Rs.500/- through online payment. (Any deviation from the prescribed mode of payment will not be acceptable.)
- e. Incomplete applications as well as the applications received after the prescribed date will be rejected.
- f. Online submission of application is mandatory and can be done via ICHR website (www.ichr.ac.in).
- g. Ph. D. Registration Certificate is must to produce at the time of presentation-cum-interview (stage- II).

Note: For any queries please contact us on jrf@ichr.ac.in or ms@ichr.ac.in .

Sd/-

Member Secretary (Officiating)

SYLLABUS FOR ICHR-JRF STAGE- I (ONLINE) EXAMINATION**Unit- I: Ancient Indian History (From Earliest time up to 12th Century)**

1. India: Geography, physical features, environment, flora-fauna, concept of Bharatvarsha and Vrihadbharata (Greater India).
2. Sources of ancient Indian history literary sources, archaeological sources, inscriptions, coins, Monuments and sculptures, foreign travellers' accounts, ancient Indian historians and great personalities.
3. Archaeology: Definition, excavation and survey methods, preservation of antiquities, dating methods, tools and technology, pottery traditions, recent excavations, new researches, new archaeology, Iconography & Iconology.
4. Pre-history of India: Origin and evolution of human being, Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic Age.
5. Chalcolithic culture: Ahara, Kayatha, Malwa, Jorwe.
6. Saraswati-Indus civilization: Origin, urbanization, extent and decline, dating, economy, society, script, town planning, art and architecture and religion.
7. Megalithic age: Origin, extent, Potteries, Social life; Iron in India.
8. Vedic culture: Literature, political, economic and social life, religion and philosophy.
9. Shramana Traditions: Bauddha, Jaina, Ajivaka, Tapas and Gairika- literature, origin and evolution, religious and social life, art and architecture.
10. Political and cultural history of North India: Second urbanization in India (6th Century BC), Mahajanapadas and Ganarajyas, rise of Magadha, Haryankas, Shishunagas, Nandas, Mauryan Empire, Shungas-Kanvas, Andhra-Satavahanas, Chedis, Indo-Greeks, Shaka-Kshatrapas, Pahlavas, Kushanas, Vakataka Dynasty, Gupta empire, Toramana Huna, Yashodharma of Malwa, Maitrakas, Maukharis of Kannauja, Later Guptas of Malwa, Vardhan Dynasty, Varmanas of Kamrupa, Dynasties of Kashmir, Palas, Senas, Gurjara-Pratiharas, Gahadavalas, Chahamanas, Parmaras, Chandelas, Kalchuri of Tripuri and Solanki Dynasty (Chaulukyas).
11. Political and cultural history of South India: Sangam Period, Chalukya, Rashtrakutas, Pallavas, Gangas, Kadambas, Chola Dynasty, Cheras Pandyas and Yadavas.
12. Social, religious, economic and cultural history of ancient India.
13. Art, architecture, scripts, science and technology in ancient India.
14. Expansion of Bharatiya culture: with special reference to Asia.
15. Research Methodology, research aptitude and computer applications.

Unit- II: Medieval Indian History

1. Sources of Medieval Indian History: Literary Sources- Persian, Sanskrit, Regional Languages & Foreign Travellers' Accounts; Archaeological Sources- Archaeological, Epigraphic & Numismatic; and Historiographical developments.
2. Historical Geography of Medieval India.
3. Indian resistance against Arab and Turkish Invasions (712-1192 AD).
4. The Ahom Kingdom.
5. Delhi Sultanate - Polity, Society, Economy, Religion, Art, Architecture, Science & Technology.
6. Regional Powers Gujarat, Jaunpur and Bengal.
7. Kakatiyas, Hoyasalas, Yadavas, Cholas and Pandyas Polity, Society, Economy, Religion, Art, Architecture, Science & Technology.
8. Vijayanagar Empire Polity, Society, Economy, Religion, Art, Architecture, Science & Technology; and Nayakas.
9. The Baharnani and Deccan Sultanates (Bijapur, Golkonda, Bidar, Berar and Ahmadnagar) - Rise, Expansion and Decline; the Gond Kingdom.
10. Mughal Rule Polity, Administration, Economy, Visual and Performing Art, Architecture and Literature, Society and Education; Sher Shah Suri-Innovations & Administrative Reforms.
11. Rise of the Marathas & the foundation of Swaraj by Chhatrapati Shivaji, expansion of Maratha Power, Maratha Administration.
12. Rural Society & Economy, Peasantry, Agricultural Productions & Cottage Industries.
13. Urban Economy: Trade, Commerce, Craft, Merchants & Banking Systems.
14. Development of Literature, Music, Art, Architecture, Education and Science & Technology.
15. Consciousness Religio-philosophical movements- Dvaita, Advaita, Visishtadvaita, Suddhadvaita; Bhakti, Sufi and Sikh.
16. Hindu Resistance to Muslim Domination with special reference to Rajputs, Marathas, Jats, Bundelas & Sikhs.
17. Research Methodology, research aptitude and computer applications.

Unit-III: Modern Indian History:

1. Sources of Modern Indian History and Historiographical developments.
2. Advent of European Powers in India: Cultural and economic bases of colonialism.
3. East India Company & Consolidation of the British power.
4. Institutional Changes during the colonial times (Revenue; Education: Idea, content and vision; Judiciary: Army; Bureaucracy: Police).
5. Resistance with special reference to Peasants & Tribal Protests during the company and the Britishraj.
6. The first war of Independence 1857: its impact and geographical extent.
7. Socio-Religious reform movements: Reforms breaking away from the traditions and reforms in defense of the traditions.
8. Shift of Mercantilism to capitalism and Rise of Swadeshi.
9. Concept of Nation and Nationalism in India and its new features in later 19th Century.
10. Nationalist activities - 1858-1920, (i) Revolutionary movement in India and abroad.
(ii) Constitutional agitation by Indian National Congress and the Swadeshi Movement, Reactions to colonial milieu: Tilak's idea of 'Swaraj' and Sri Aurobindo's Political Philosophy, Early Gandhian Movements.
11. Nationalist Activities 1920-1947
 - (i) Gandhian Movements
 - (ii) Revolutionary activities in India and abroad.
 - (iii) Peasants, tribal and trade Union Movements.
 - (iv) Political philosophy of the communists in context to the Indian National Movement.
 - (v) Fallout with the congress and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, INA and the impact of the trial of INA on Indian National Movement.
12. Philosophy and vision of Periyar, Narayan Guru, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Madan Mohan Malaviya, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Sir Saiyyad Ahmad Khan, Hanuman Prasad Poddar, Subramania Bharati, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Manabendra Nath Roy, CB Ramaswami Aiyar.
13. Contribution of Women in the Indian National Movement.
14. Research Methodology, research aptitude and computer applications.

Checklist of documents to be enclosed with the ICHR JRF application form:

1. Ph.D. registration certificate. ☐
2. Certificates of educational qualifications. ☐
3. Research Proposal forwarded by Supervisor. ☐
4. Category Certificate (SC/ST/Physically Challenged), if applicable. ☐
5. Published Research Papers, if any ☐
6. Certificate of Supervisor/Head of Department regarding the suitability of the candidate for the award of fellowship. ☐
7. Application form should be recommended by the Research Supervisor and forwarded by the Head of the Department/Centre/Principal. ☐

Note: All the documents should be self-attested.

(Signature of Applicant)