



**Indian Council of Social Science Research  
Southern Regional Centre (SRC)  
Hyderabad**

**Applications are called for organizing Onsite/Online Seminar/Conference and Short Duration Research Projects under the Theme "Covid-19 Pandemic Interface with Economy, Society, and Politics: Regional Perspectives"**

**Notification :**

Applications are called for Onsite/Online Seminar/ Conference and Short Duration Research Projects (6 Months) in Social Sciences under the Theme **"Covid-19 Pandemic Interface with Economy, Society, and Politics: Regional Perspectives"** from the faculty of Social Sciences of the UGC recognized Indian University/Deemed University/Colleges from Southern Region. The last date for the submission of duly filled in application is **20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022**. The candidates who are interested may download the application form from our Website i.e., **[www.icssr-src.org](http://www.icssr-src.org)**.

**1. Introduction**

Southern Regional Centre (SRC) of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) with its primary objective to promote Social Science Research in the Southern Region, provides partial financial assistance to the faculty members of the Social Science disciplines in Universities, Colleges and Institutes in the southern region for conducting Onsite/Online Seminars/Conferences/Training and Capacity Building Programmes/ Research Methodology Courses and Short Duration Research Projects. The jurisdiction of the Southern Regional Centre extends to the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka and the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

ICSSR - SRC identified the broad theme **"Covid-19 Pandemic- Interface with Economy, Society, and Politics: Regional Perspectives"** and intends to extend partial financial assistance under the following streams:

- i) Onsite/Online National Seminars/ Conferences
- ii) Short Duration Research Projects – 6 months period

## **Overarching Theme**

### **“Covid-19 Pandemic Interface with Economy, Society, and Politics: Regional Perspectives”**

COVID-19 has wrought catastrophic disruptions around the world. COVID-19 and its consequences raise questions about the economy, work and unemployment, cultural life, mental health, education, social isolation and much more. The magnitude of the problem caught the government, health care system and people off-guard. They disrupt personal and professional lives severely and affect people and societies on several levels. The global pandemic has drastically changed our ways of living world-wide and will likely continue to change how we live in the future.

For many people, this pandemic and its aftermath struck as a shock-wave – disrupting their quotidian lives – livelihoods, education, social – cultural events and even deaths. The pandemic caused by the virus raises several challenges for science- in elucidating the nature of the virus and possible solutions to contain the virus, policy questions relating to public health, economy, and for social relations in almost all the countries of the world today.

The Government of India has been quite attentive and taken various measures to contain the spread of the virus in its first wave and efforts are also on for containing the ongoing second wave including the free vaccination drive for all.

The pandemic has several social science and inter-disciplinary & trans-disciplinary dimensions apart from the ones based on medical science and drug discovery. These social science dimensions can improve our understanding of the outbreak and response at global, national and sub-national levels as social science context can throw greater light on.

Some of the dimensions for undertaking the inter-disciplinary & trans-disciplinary research for providing policy inputs are discussed below:

Different states in India have responded to the situation. Some states are being appreciated to have handled the situation better than many other states. The insights from different strategies and governance practices may be relevant for the replication of the same elsewhere.

Risk may arise due to technological factors or factors that arise from nature. During pandemic which precipitate social, economic, and political crisis in the society and

how different sections respond to risks relating to health, economy and political domains.

Here what is technical is socially constructed and hence perceptions of risk are influenced by the social-cultural characteristics of social groups. It implies that different social groups perceive or construct risk in different ways. An understanding of the variability in perceptions of risk will provide insights into the social-cultural factors that influence perceptions of risk and associated patterns of social action. The insights into the variability will help in developing guidelines for interventions in different contexts by involving the communities.

The measures such as Curfews/ lock down worked well to minimize the spread of the disease. The nation-wide lock down impacted the economy, industrial production, capital market, commercial activities and trade and services- severely that the growth of GDP has touched the figure of less than one percent.

During the enforced lockdowns, the people have no other option than consume these media narratives. It is one thing to be infected in the body (which can be cured easily), but more problematic is the infection by the virus in the head – the minds of the people which is difficult to cure. This aspect is squarely in the realm of social scientific research!

In the absence of proven therapeutics, the policy makers and doctors had to resort measures – called euphemistically 'Non-pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs)' – such as social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands, sanitizing, the locales, avoiding gatherings etc These are in the realm of interest to social scientists and humanities researchers – to understand how people – individually or in communities – have accepted these interventions or avoided these interventions (and the beliefs and reasons for doing so) and how such actions seem to become norms.

Vaccine against Covid 19 was touted as some kind of 'Amrut' – manna to get rid of the disease. Media narratives have built these hopes from the time of first lockdowns. Have these vaccines lived up to these hopes – to bring back to normalcy in the lives of the people? Are there any hesitancy, difficulties in obtaining the vaccines (either due to price or accessing the online appointments) experience the hardships due to erratic supply chain in delivery of vaccines etc.

While one can enumerate the topics that social scientist can research and document on the effects / impacts of Covid 19 pandemic, it is important that we work together in inter-disciplinary teams – erasing our narrow 'academic silos' – to capture the multifaceted phenomena that people sustained during this pandemic.

The research based evidence on social science or inter-disciplinary dimensions could enrich the understanding of policy makers to take a more a more informed decision and respond efficiently to such situations.

**Applications are called for Onsite/Online Seminar/Conference and Short Duration Research Projects (6Months) under the following sub themes.**

The topics suggested could be guideposts of such social scientific research should be treated as tentative and not exhaustive:

**Sub Themes :**

- ❖ Pandemic- Atma Nirbhara Bharat
- ❖ Pandemic- Government of India Strategies of infusing growth in Economy
- ❖ Covid Pandemic- Science and Policy
- ❖ Covid Treatment and alternative medicines (Ayush)
- ❖ Awareness and public perceptions on Pandemic
- ❖ Federalism in the context of pandemic - centre state relations
- ❖ Interface between States and Centre during pandemic
- ❖ Media and government interface during pandemic
- ❖ Mental Health in pandemic situation
- ❖ Migration- Livelihoods and Informal Economy
- ❖ Online and Hybrid Education during Pandemic
- ❖ Organisation of public Health infrastructure
- ❖ Pandemic and Vulnerable groups- Children, Elderly and Differently Abled
- ❖ Pandemic and Public Administration
- ❖ Pandemic and Judiciary: Response of judiciary to PILs and suomoto action
- ❖ Role of Media-- Narratives
- ❖ Social Protection during Pandemic
- ❖ Strategies of Southern States to deal with pandemic
- ❖ Vaccine Production- Raw materials- IPRs
- ❖ Vaccine Diplomacy, Vaccine Trade and International Relations
- ❖ The economic impacts of the pandemic
- ❖ Social psychological and mental stress
- ❖ Changes in the behavioural patterns
- ❖ Social cultural practices associated with births, marriages and deaths
- ❖ Patterns of communication and travel,
- ❖ Pandemics, social deficits and differential community impacts: analyzing coping mechanism / survival strategies
- ❖ Pandemics, public security and risk assessments: challenges and implications for policy making

- ❖ Pandemic as health crisis and redefining of public-private and collective-individual: theoretical and policy challenges
- ❖ Pandemic and Stock market
- ❖ Pandemic and impact on Industry and Service Sector
- ❖ Pandemic- Relevant policies in emerging markets relating to capital Investments, International trade and mobility
- ❖ Pandemic and global sustainability
- ❖ Pandemic – Sustainable Development Goals

ICSSR-SRC is inviting applications for organizing Onsite/Online Seminars/ Workshops and Short Duration Research Projects (6 Months) on the above given Broad Themes and Sub Themes.

For further details like Application Form, Budget Estimation, Forwarding Letter and other guidelines please visit the webpage of ICSSR – SRC: [http://icssr-src.org/Online\\_Programmes.aspx](http://icssr-src.org/Online_Programmes.aspx) and <http://icssr-src.org/shortduration.aspx>