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IMPRESS Scheme Has Been Launched to Promote Social Science Research in the Country (Download PDF)

(February 26, 2019)

Central Govt. has announced formal launch Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS) scheme to promote research in Social Sciences. Objective of this scheme is to identify & fund research proposals in social sciences w/max. impact on governance & society. Govt. support would include total funding of Rs. 414 cr. on 1500 projects for policy themes in social sciences at cost of Rs. 20 - 25 Lakh per project.

Image Of Impress Scheme

Thematic Areas

Under scheme, support is to be provided for projects on 11 broad thematic areas as follows:

- State & Democracy
- Urban transformation,
- Media, Culture & Society
- Employment, Skills & Rural transformation
- Governance, Innovation & Public Policy
- Growth, Macro-trade & Economic Policy
- Agriculture & Rural Development
- Health & Environment
- Science & Education
- Social Media & Technology
- Politics, Law & Economics
- Sub-Theme areas will be decided on basis of Expert Groups' advice before notifying scheme & calling for applications.
- To ensure selection of projects thru transparent, competitive process on online mode.
- To provide opportunity for social science researchers in any institution in country, including all Universities (Central & State), private institutions.
- ICSSR funded/recognised research institutes will be eligible to submit research proposals on given themes & sub-themes.

Nodal Agency

- Indian Council of Social Science & Research (ICSSR) will be project implementing agency.
- Established in – 1969
- Objective is to promote research in social sciences in the country.

Modalities for Implementation

- There will be calls for proposals & process of evaluation of proposals & selection will be completed w/I 90 days from date of call for proposals.
- Experts for evaluation of proposals will be persons of eminence & selected using objective criteria.

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- There will be regular monitoring of progress of projects using online portal, in which progress can be directly updated by Project Coordinator.
- There will be 3rd party evaluation of project.

Higher Education Financing Agency

- HEFA is joint venture of MHRD GoI & Canara Bank w/agreed equity participation in ratio of 91% & 9 % respectively.
- It is for financing creation of capital assets in premier educational institutions in India as part of rising 2022.
- HEFA's scope is greatly expanded to cover school education, educational institutes under Ministry of Health, etc.
- HEFA is registered under Section 8 under Companies Act 2013 as Union Govt. company & as Non-deposit taking NBFC w/RBI.

- Published/Last Modified on: February 26, 2019

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