

National Essay Writing Competition for Young Scholars

Topic: Shaheed Baji Rout: Remembering Unsung Heroes and Young Revolutionaries of India

In commemoration of the birth centenary celebrations of Shaheed Baji Rout, the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) invites entries for the National Essay Writing Competition for Young Scholars on the theme: **“Shaheed Baji Rout: Remembering Unsung Heroes and Young Revolutionaries of India”**.

The competition seeks to provide young scholars with an opportunity to explore and critically engage with the life, contributions, courage, and legacy of unsung heroes and young revolutionaries who played significant roles in India's freedom struggle, whose stories remain less represented in mainstream historical narratives. The essays are invited on the following themes:

- A. Shaheed Baji Rout: Life, Legacy and Martyrdom
- B. Unsung Heroes of Bharat's Freedom Movement
- C. Young Martyrs and the Spirit of Patriotism
- D. Contribution and Achievements of Young Freedom Fighters
- E. Leadership and Youth Empowerment

The competition will be organised in the following categories:

- 1. Undergraduate Students
- 2. Postgraduate Students

The initiative commemorates the sacrifice and legacy of Shaheed Baji Rout & inspires youth for nation-building, patriotism and selfless service. The essay competition, in revisiting the legacies of unsung heroes, also engages with the process of decolonisation of Indian history and creates greater awareness of India's freedom movement and the contributions of lesser-known heroes and young revolutionaries. The competition encourages research-oriented historical enquiry and critical study.

Important Dates

Opening date: 10th September 2026

Closing date: 30th September 2026

Entries must be submitted through the prescribed **online entry form only**. No entries submitted after the stipulated deadline will be considered.

Prizes for Each Category

- **First Prize:** ₹25,000/-
- **Second Prize:** ₹15,000/-
- **Third Prize:** ₹10,000/-

The **top 25 entries from each category** will be compiled in book form and published by the ICSSR.

Eligibility and Entry Rules

Please read the eligibility and entry rules before making the submission.

1. The participant must be a full-time bona fide student at the affiliating university/ institution on the day of submission.
2. The affiliating institution in which the participant is enrolled must be an Institute of National Importance as defined by the Ministry of Education (MoE) or a UGC Recognized Indian University/Deemed University/Institution/College under (2) F / 12(B).
3. Entries must be submitted in PDF format along with an MS Word file.
4. Entries for essays will be accepted in Hindi or English with a 1,500- word limit. The format for the essays will be as per the latest APA 7th Edition, including standard margins, 12-point font, and double spacing.
5. Submissions will undergo blind evaluation. Participants must not mention their names or institutional affiliation on the write-up or in the file. Any revelation of participant's identity will warrant disqualification.
6. The entry must be an original work of the author and should not have been published in part or in full anywhere else.
7. The content cannot be generated by AI, and the permissible limit of AI usage and similarity will be 20 % and 10 %, respectively. If AI-generated content or plagiarised material is found, the entry will be summarily disqualified.
8. Only one entry per participant may be submitted for the National Essay Writing Competition. Co-authored entries will not be allowed.
9. The deadline for submission is 30th September 2026.
10. No queries regarding the prizes will be entertained by the ICSSR secretariat until the final declaration of results, which will be placed on the ICSSR website.
11. The final authority for the interpretation of the guidelines or any such issue is vested with the ICSSR.

Evaluation criteria:

- a) Relevance to the topic and themes
- b) Originality of thought
- c) Historical accuracy
- d) Research-oriented writing
- e) Clarity, organisation and language

Submission of Entry

An online form is available at www.icssr.org.

Documents required

Forwarding letter by the head of the institution.