

Section I

General

INDIAN COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

GENERAL

The Government of India, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare setup a working Group in 1971 comprising Professor R.S. Sharma, Patna University (Chairman); Professor Satish Chandra, Jawaharlal Nehru University ; Professor Tapan Raychaudhuri, Delhi University; Dr. S.N. Prasad, Director National Archives, Shri J. Veeraraghvan, Director (Internal Finance), Ministry of Education and Social Welfare; and Smt. S. Doraiswami, Deputy Education Advisor, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, to work out the details of such a body with its objectives, functions and organisational set up, which should not only give a proper direction to historical research in the country but also be instrumental in encouraging and fostering objective and scientific writing of history. After serious deliberations by the Working Group it was felt that Indian Council of Historical research, an autonomous body, registered under the Societies Registration Act would be such a body to help in achieving these objectives and in enunciating and implementing a national policy of historical research in the country.

With these aims and objectives and also those as are enshrined in the Memorandum of Association (MoA) the **Indian Council of Historical Research** was established by the government of India on 27th March 1972 as an autonomous body under Ministry of Education and Social Welfare duly registered, vide registration number S-5339 dated 7th March 1972 under Societies Registration Act (Act. xxi of 1860) being an Act for registration of Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies.

The primary objective of the Council is to promote and give direction to historical research and to encourage and foster objective and scientific writing of history. Realizing the importance of historical research for promoting national integration and for inculcating respect for our cultural heritage, due attention has been paid during the year 2008-09 also, like previous years, to avoid a blind acceptance of obscurantism and revivalism in historical writings. The broad aims of the Council as laid down in the Memorandum of Association (MoA) are to bring historians together and provide a forum for exchange of views between them and to give a national direction to an objective and rational presentation and interpretation of history, to sponsor historical research programmes and projects and to assist institutions and organizations engaged in historical research. The Council also awards and administers various categories of fellowships for historical research. The Council organizes National/International Seminars and Workshops on the theme of historical significance besides extending financial assistance to the professional organizations of historians in the country for organizing seminars, workshops and conferences etc. both at regional and national levels. It maintains the Library cum Documentation Centres at the Headquarters in Delhi as well as at its two Regional Centres one each functioning at Bangalore and Guwahati for the benefit of scholars and students of their respective regions, which are expanding in nature.

A cursory glance on the following comparative table regarding the academic targets achieved by the Council during the last three years would reveal how the ICHR is heading towards its goal for which it was established in 1972 (see Table on next page).

It will be seen from the above table that the number of awards made (i.e. fellows appointed as per above table) has progressively increased and likewise the grants made for conferences, publications and research related travels.

The Council has taken positive steps towards the establishment of its third Regional Centre at Srinagar (J&K) for the North by persuading both, the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir to provide the infrastructure/space and Corpus Fund and also the Government of India, Ministry of

HRD for providing additional funds and approval of seven posts as a special case for this purpose. Steps have been taken to persuade the respective authorities to expedite implementation of Council's proposal. The Council has also approved the establishment of two more regional centres one each at Kolkata for the East and at Pune for the West.

The Council brings out its own publications in addition to providing publication subsidies to research journals and other publications in history. The Council extends subsidy to the scholars to bring out theses/ manuscripts/journals/proceedings etc. on the subject of historical significance.

The Council has been bringing out regularly its biannual historical Journal-*The Indian Historical Review*. In order to attract talent and encourage historical research, the Council's two regional centres one each located at Guwahati (Assam) and Bangalore (Karnataka) continued their academic activities in their respective regions during the year under report. The libraries at both these centres have been revamped which have come up as the main centres of learning and reference libraries for the scholars of the respective regions.

S. No	Name of the Scheme	Number of cases approved for financial grant							
		2006-07			2007-08			2008-09	
		Appro- ved	On Going	Total	Appro- ved	On Going	Total	Appro- ved	On Going
1	Research Projects	31	26	57	14	31	45	30	14
2	National Fellowships	-	-	-	04	-	04	-	03
3	Senior Academic Fellowships	07	10	17	08	07	15	16	08
4	Post Doctoral Fellowships	05	10	15	21	05	26	18	21
5	Junior Research Fellowships	157	179	336	205	157	362	216	205
6	Foreign Travel Grant	19	-	19	34	-	34	64	-
7	Contingency (Study-cum-Travel Grant)	69	-	69	123	-	123	124	-
8	Publication Subsidy	44	-	44	62	-	62	60	-
9	Seminar/Symposia / Conferences etc.	60	-	60	88	-	88	103	-

In pursuance of the mandate of 1972 i.e. the academic agenda which was explicit in the founding charter of ICHR, the Memorandum of Association (MoA) to provide for "**institutional arrangement for training in research methodology**", the ICHR has successfully completed a "Workshop on Historiography and Research Methodology" in Delhi for a fortnight, from 23rd June to 6th July, 2008. For the above said Workshop, the ICHR selected thirty Ph.D. scholars and college lecturers from mainly Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, out of eighty who had applied for participation in our Methodology Workshop. They attended lectures delivered by thirty five distinguished experts (mainly from University of Delhi, Aligarh Muslim University, Bombay

University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Kurukshetra University and Jawaharlal Nehru University. The syllabus of study and lecture schedule devised by the ICHR consisted of four parts: a series of lectures on historiography from Greco-Roman, Chinese and ancient Indian tradition, through the Arabic tradition and medieval Indian Historiography to twentieth century; another set of lectures and readings addressed the growth of modern schools of historiography from colonial and nationalist to contemporary subaltern approaches; the third set consisted of lectures on history in relation to other social sciences such as economics, sociology demography etc. and finally there were lectures on varieties of historical sources ranging from archaeology to modern archives, data collection, bibliographic protocol, etc. as well as general problems of interpretation such as the notions of objectivity and bias in writing history.

The above Workshop on Historiography and Research Methodology held in Delhi was followed by another Workshop on "**Historiography and Research Methods**" between 16th February to 5th March, 2009 in our Southern Regional Centre (SRC) in Bangalore. Twenty six selected participants from the southern states of Karnataka Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Pondicherry attended the Workshop for Eighteen days workshop was divided into two sessions per day for thematic lectures/ presentation on various respects of historiography and research methods in historical research. The experts from many universities were invited to deliver lectures on various topics covered during the workshop.

An important item, on the list of objectives of the ICHR, was to undertake survey of historical research. This has been periodically done by our sister institution, the Indian Council of Social Science Research. In the 1970s the ICHR commissioned about half a dozen such surveys on selected themes of research. The ICHR has decided to resume this effort systematically.

The ICHR **Survey of Indian Historiography** has just been launched as a project. The following kindly agreed to join an Advisory Committee. Professor Romila Thapar, Professor Irfan Habib, Professor Y. Subbarayalu, Professor R. Champaklashmi, Professor Mushirul Hasan, Professor Benoy Bhushan Chaudhari, and Professor Om Prakash. About fifty articles on selected areas of study have been commissioned from area experts with a request to provide comprehensive bibliographies along with a critical review of historiography. This is likely to be of great help to young researchers who need an overview of the area they intend to specialize in. In the long run this may also help the ICHR to identify important historical works for translation into Indian languages so as to cater to the needs of a vast number of college and university students who are today virtually monolingual and limit their readings to the only Indian language they know. Further, the cumulative output of the surveys will make available an essential bibliographic aid which the ICHR can put in the public domain through our website.

The project entitled *Preparation of National Register for Martyrs* was initiated by the National Implementation Committee for the implementation of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the Uprising of 1857 and 60 years of India's independence. The ICHR accepted the execution of the project at the request of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The duration of the project is for three years with an estimated budget of Rs.1,87,28,000/-.

The Project in-charge with his Research team visited the National Archives of India (New Delhi) to get the initial information about the available Archival Records. The work on this project is progressing satisfactorily.

During the period under report the Council has made substantial progress in other special research projects, as well, such as *Towards Freedom Project*, *Documents on Economic History of British Rule in India, 1858-1947*, *Dictionary of Social, Economic and Administrative Terms in India/South Asian*

Inscriptions and The 1857 Project. A detailed Report may be seen at Section VI of the Annual Report.

COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

The Council of ICHR consists of the following members:

- An eminent historian nominated by the Government of India who shall be Chairman of the Council.
- Eighteen historians nominated by the Government of India.
- Representative of the UGC.
- Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.
- Director General, National Archives of India.
- Four persons to represent Government who shall be nominated by the Government of India and which shall include one representative each of the Ministry of Education, the Department of Culture and the Ministry of Finance and – Member Secretary.

The composition of the Council as on 31st March 2009 is shown at **Appendix-I**.

The Council has two Statutory Committees- the Administrative Committee and the Research Projects Committee. Besides, it has other committees and advisory panels, comprising members from within the Council and those co-opted from outside. These are Study-Grants Committee; Junior Research Fellowship Committee; Foreign Travel Grants Committee; Editorial Board; the Sources Committee (Ancient, Medieval, and Modern); Publication Committee; Library Committee; Administrative Reforms Committee; Advisory Committee on Martyrs Project; Economic History Committee; Advisory Committee on 1857 Project; ICHR Southern Regional Centre Advisory Committee (Bangalore) and the ICHR North-East Regional Centre Advisory Committee (Guwahati). The composition of all such committees as on 31st March 2009 is shown at **Appendices II and II(A)**.

The Council Secretariat is headed by the Member Secretary for implementation of its decisions. The total staff strength as on 31st March 2009 is shown at **Appendix III**. The ICHR has its headquarter at 35, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi-110001 and has two regional Centres named as the ICHR Southern Regional Centre (SRC) located at Law College premises, 1, Palace Road, Bangalore (Karnataka) and the ICHR North-East Regional Centre (NERC) located at Library Extension Building, Guwahati University, Guwahati (Assam).

MEETINGS HELD DURING 2008-2009

1. Meeting of the Advisory Committee on 1857 held on 15th April 2008.
2. 80th meeting of Study Grant Committee held on 23rd June, 2008.
3. Junior Research Fellowship Committee (JRF) meeting held on 23rd June, 2008.
4. IXth meeting of the Editorial Board held on 24 June 2008.
5. 116th meeting of the Research Projects Committee (RPC) held on 25th June, 2008.
6. 55th General meeting of the Council held on 26th June, 2008.
7. 50th meeting of the Administrative Committee (AC) held on 11th July, 2008.
8. 51st meeting of the Administrative Committee (AC) held on 19th August, 2008.
9. 56th (Special meeting) meeting of the Council held on 30th August, 2008.
10. 57th General meeting of the Council held on 31st October, 2008.

11. 81st meeting of the Study Grants Committee held on 17th November, 2008.
12. Junior Research Fellowship Committee (JRF) meeting held on 17th November, 2008.
13. Publication Committee meeting held on 18th November, 2008.
14. Foreign Travel Grants (FTG) Committee meeting held on 18th November, 2008.
15. 52nd meeting of the Administrative Committee (AC) held on 19th November, 2008.
16. Library-cum-Documentation Committee meeting held on 19th November, 2008.
17. 117th meeting of the Research Projects Committee (RPC) meeting held on 20th November, 2008.
18. Meeting of the Editorial Committee of the Council's Special Project entitled : *Documents of Economic History of British Rule in India, 1858-1947* held on 28th November, 2008.
19. 58th Annual General Meeting of the Council held on 18th December, 2008.
20. Meeting of the Sub-Committee-2 (ICHR Monograph series) held on 13th January, 2009.
21. Meeting of the Sub-Committee (*Indian Historical Review*) held on 15th January, 2009.
22. Meeting of the Advisory Committee on 1857 held on 16th January, 2009.
23. Meeting of the Sub-Committee-2 (ICHR Monograph Series) of the Editorial Board held on 13th February, 2009.
24. Foreign Travel Grant (FTG) Committee meeting held on 28th February 2009.
25. Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2009.
26. 82nd meeting of the Study Grant Committee (STG) held on 2nd March 2009.
27. Library-cum-Documentation Centre Committee meeting held on 2nd March 2009.
28. 53rd meeting of the Administrative Committee meeting held on 3rd March 2009.
29. 118th meeting of the Research Projects Committee (RPC) meeting held on 4th March 2009.
30. 59th General meeting of the Council held on 27th March 2009.