



Indian Institute of Banking & Finance

Macro Research: 2025-26

The Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (Estd: 1928) is working with a mission "to develop professionally qualified competent bankers and finance professionals primarily through a process of education, training, examination, consultancy/counselling and continuing professional development programmes. One of the objectives of the Institute is to promote research relating to Operations, Products, Instruments, Processes, etc. in Banking and Finance and to encourage innovation and creativity among banking and finance professionals. With this in view, in 2003, the Institute had started to fund research studies on selected areas in banking and finance, known as 'Macro Research', the term macro suggesting the scope of the research and to distinguish it from the other research initiative of the Institute namely the 'Micro Research'. Under the Macro Research scheme, the Institute invites proposals from research scholars from universities, colleges and banks to take up research in identified areas.

Topics for Macro Research:

The Institute encourages empirical research in which, the researchers can test their hypothesis through data (primary/secondary) from which, lessons can be drawn for the industry (banking & finance) as a whole. In this regard, the Institute invites Macro Research Proposals for the year 2025-26 on the following topics. (See important clause on copyrights below¹)

1. Effectiveness of Credit Guarantee Schemes: India in a Cross-Country Setting
2. Changing Dimension and Patterns of Financial Savings in India
3. Effectiveness of Deposit Insurance Systems in Emerging Markets and developed countries with a Special Reference to India
4. Transformation in the Indian NBFC Sector: Prospects & Challenges
5. Business Correspondents Model: Gateway to Financial Inclusion and Social Outreach

Who can participate?

Teams sponsored/identified by research organizations/institutes, as well as individuals presently serving as regular employees in banks/corporates/research organizations/institutions having a proven track record, are eligible to apply. Research proposals from bankers are specially encouraged. The individuals applying under this scheme should not be more than 58 years as on 28.02.2026.

The winners of the macro research award during the last three years (2024-25, 2023-24 and 2022-23) are not eligible to apply for the research award. Also, those winners of macro research who have been awarded twice in the past 10 years are not eligible to apply. If the research is undertaken by individuals, the proposal should be routed through their organizations after taking requisite permission, wherever applicable.

Research Proposal:

The Research Proposal/s submitted should, among others, focus on the research objective/s, hypothesis, research design, methodology and execution plan of the proposed project.

¹ Candidates may please note that copying materials as it is from various sources should completely be avoided. Wherever information used in the proposal/report is taken from other sources, the author should acknowledge and provide complete reference of the source. It should be ensured that there is no violation of copyrights, if any.

Evaluation:

The Research proposals will be evaluated in terms of its objective, relevance and methodology. Action points flowing from the research for policy making, should be clearly listed out in the final research report to be submitted. The track record of the research organizations/researchers submitting the proposal is also taken into account for awarding the research. All the research proposals will be prima facie considered for suitability and final selection will be made after the short listed researchers make a presentation to the members of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Institute.

Research Grant:

The selected research project carries a cash award of Rs.2,50,000/- (Rupees two lakh and fifty thousand only). On commencement of the project a part (25%) of the award money will be given by way of advance as per the request of the researcher. The balance will be disbursed only on acceptance of the final report. In case a report is found unacceptable during the midterm review and final review, the research organization / researcher will not be paid the balance amount. In case a research organization/researcher abandons the project mid-way, they would be required to refund the advance availed together with interest at the prevailing MCLR of the State Bank of India (SBI).

Size of research report:

Around 200-250 pages

Time frame:

After completing the research work, the final research report should be submitted within a maximum period of six months from the time the project is awarded. **In case of delay in submission of report, the award may be forfeited.** The copyrights of the report will lie with IIBF. The report in part or full, cannot be reproduced in any form without prior approval from IIBF.

Applicant research organizations/researchers are required to submit typed proposals in English along with a brief bio-data highlighting their experience in conducting similar research through the below mentioned link:

<https://iibf.esdsconnect.com/macrosresearch/application>

The last date for submission of the proposal is **28th February 2026**.

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