

KRISHNA RAJ SUMMER TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP 2026

Applications are invited for Summer Travel fellowships under the Krishna Raj Summer Programme.

This programme was initiated by the Sameeksha Trust and Centre for Development Economics (CDE) in the memory of Krishna Raj, former student of the DSE and editor of Economic and Political Weekly. The main purpose of this programme is to provide students with the opportunity to carry out independent research through fieldwork and/or field surveys during the summer months.

Guidelines for applicants to the Krishna Raj Fellowship

Eligibility:

1. The scholarship is open to M.A. (P) students of the Economics, Geography and Sociology departments of the Delhi School of Economics. Students are free to work individually or form teams within and across departments.

Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged.

2. Smaller teams (up to 4 students) may be given preference over bigger teams (5 or more).

Proposal:

3. The proposal (either for a team project or individual project) should be one to two pages long, not exceeding 500 words.

4. The proposal has to be for a well-defined short-term project, involving field-based research. It should formulate a research question that is empirically verifiable. An area (or two areas, if the project has a comparative component) should be identified where the individual/team will do field work and collect data. Data can be a combination of quantitative and/or qualitative data.

5. There is no restriction on the topic, as long as some field exposure (in either rural or urban areas) is involved. However, preference may be given to proposals that have a social orientation, or involve the application of knowledge acquired by the applicant through his/her course material.

6. Students are encouraged to identify faculty advisor for their research project. If the proposal has been developed in consultation with a faculty member from DSE, it should be clearly mentioned in the application.

7. We would want very clear evidence of the group's fieldwork. This is especially true if the fieldwork is proposed either in your home town/state OR in a tourist area. A simple summary of issues/ideas from publicly available sources might lead to a rejection of the report (this might entail a withdrawal of the fellowship amount).

8. The proposal should include a tentative budget.

Selection:

9. Shortlisted teams will be called for an interview. If a group submits the proposal, all members of the group have to present at the interview. Absent members will not be recognized as a part of the team.

10. Selected teams will have to be present for a mandatory Research Ethics and Fieldwork orientation; dates will be communicated later. ALL members of the selected teams have to be present at the Research Ethics and Fieldwork Orientation.

Budget:

11. The exact amount for each proposal will vary according to the nature of the project and the area of study. Sanctioned budget will be announced along with the final selection. In forming groups, keep in mind the following:

- The larger the group, the lower will be the per-head budget.
- The larger the group, the more difficult it is to coordinate logistics.
- If a certain budget is allocated for a team and if some members drop out before the field visit, the budget would be reduced proportionately.
- All members have to be in the field together (i.e. cannot take turns and the work cannot be divided such that some members go to the field and others do the analysis).
- Food and incidentals may be covered by a per-diem (common to all teams). All other expenses – tickets (only second sleeper or bus fares would be reimbursed), accommodation and other big expenditures are eligible for reimbursement on production of receipts.

Fieldwork:

12. Fieldwork should involve at least two weeks being spent in the field by the individual or by ALL team members together, in case of a team project.

13. Students who have or expect to have summer internships should make sure that they either begin the internship after the field work is over OR finish the internship before the field work, leaving two clear weeks for field work. We typically check with the placement cell on summer internships. If an individual team member misinforms us about their internship status, the selection committee reserves the right to review their decision and in exceptional cases, might even decide to withdraw the fellowship.

Report and Presentation:

14. After returning to Delhi, students are expected to analyse the data and submit a complete written report, which should be roughly 8000 words long.

15. The project reports will have to be formally presented sometime in the first week of December 2026. The exact date will be announced.

16. The report has to be submitted in the fourth week of December, 2026 (exact dates will be shared later).



17. Payment will be made in installments and the final payment will be released only on successful completion, defined as follows:

- a. ALL team members attend the orientation and the presentations on all days, regardless of when their presentation is scheduled.
- b. If the advisory committee feels that the report is based on secondary material (and not on an original survey), the group risks disqualification.

Important Dates:

Submission of proposal: On or before 18th July 2026

Interview: 20 July 2026 (venue to be announced later)

Research Ethics and Fieldwork Orientation for selected groups: To be announced later

Pre submission presentation: First week of December, date will be announced later.

Report Submission: Fourth week of December, 2026 (exact date will be shared later)

Submission

- The applications (proposal and tentative budget) should be sent via email to stars@econdse.org
- Please enclose your CV with the names of two possible referees.
- If any clarifications are required, please write to stars@econdse.org

KRF Committee