

Dr. Aroon Tikekar Memorial Fellowship Year 2026-28

Fellowship Subject:

Themes: The core themes chosen are from the repertoire that Dr Tikekar had worked upon during his long and illustrious career as author, historian, journalist-editor, scholar and public intellectual. The purpose in awarding the Dr Aroon Tikekar Fellowship to a scholar is for the selected person to research and explore deep into their chosen subject/theme and bring to the table newer strands or different nuances or reflective insights as a result of their research and study.

The core subjects/themes offered for the Fellowship are listed below:

1. History of Mumbai – historical to contemporary.
2. Language, literature, and Libraries: Socio-cultural expressions or relevance.
3. Journalism / Print Culture in Maharashtra with respect to newspapers, books, and periodicals.
4. Art and Ideas in shaping the ethos/culture in Mumbai/Maharashtra.

Prompt: These core subjects/themes are indicative of the broad areas in which research work may be undertaken but the scholar is expected to choose any one of the subjects/themes above and, within his/her chosen theme, narrow down the focus area of his/her research. The proposal must have a sharp focus, clear research inquiry indicated in the title, significant depth, and propose to add to the existing body of knowledge on the chosen core subject/theme. While the choice offered in subjects/themes is wide, scholars are encouraged to be conversant with the existing knowledge base and not repeat the areas of inquiry that have been addressed previously.

Terms and Conditions

1. The age of the applicant should be between 30 and 65 years as on 1 February 2026.
2. The applicant should have a demonstrated body of work in his/her field and show that the Fellowship would enable the applicant to carry it forward.
3. A) The research work funded by this Fellowship should not be part of his/her doctoral thesis or any academic endeavour or any other research work in the part or full, in the past. This research cannot be taken simultaneously with another research project in the same field or related fields by the applicant.
B) Applicants are expected to provide correct information of any previous scholarships or fellowships or grants or awards received from any other committee or sub-committee of The Asiatic Society of Mumbai. Applications of those who have received such scholarships or fellowships or grants before 31st March 2023 only will be considered for the Tikekar Memorial Fellowship 2026-28
4. The application must be submitted along with the prescribed form, duly filled in all respects, latest by **31 March 2026**. The application form can be downloaded from the official website of The Asiatic Society of Mumbai (<https://www.asiaticsociety.org.in/>).

5. (a) The research proposal must be submitted in print and online modes. In print mode, the proposal must be printed on one side of the paper, with double spaced lines on every page, leaving a good margin, in the good readable type and point size.

(b) **The proposal should be written in maximum 2,000 words. Please do not send a lengthy one as a concise project proposal is one of the critical criteria of the evaluation.**

(c) In online mode, the soft copy may be sent to asmtikekarcentre@gmail.com but it is compulsory to submit the hard copy as specified above. Proposals sent only by email will not be considered as complete.

6. The applicant may be invited by the jury for an interview, if so required, and the applicant will attend the interview at his/her cost. If feasible, such an interview might be organised through an online meeting.

7. The jury will consider each proposal on its merit. The jury's decision will be final and binding on the applicant as well as on The Asiatic Society of Mumbai.

8. The research proposal may be submitted either in English or Marathi. The research itself may be carried out and the final submission may also be made in either of the two languages.

9. If the research proposal is submitted in Marathi and if jury members request a translation of the same in English, the applicant will have to submit the translation within a week of being asked to do so. The applicant's failure to provide this translation may result in the elimination of the application from consideration in the next round of evaluation.

10. The research is expected to be completed latest by **31st December 2027** and the final publish-ready dissertation should be submitted in full to the Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies, The Asiatic Society of Mumbai by that date. There shall be no extensions to the deadline granted to the applicant except in exceptional or rare circumstances and only at the discretion of the jury members.

11. (a) The selected researcher will be given a mentor for the duration of the Fellowship to guide and elevate the quality of work if the researcher wishes to have one or the jury recommends it. The mentor will be a subject expert and the researcher will be consulted while appointing the mentor; however, the decision of the jury will be binding. (b) The researcher may work without a mentor if s/he so wishes. However, if the jury is not satisfied with the progress of the research, as seen in the first progress report, it will be mandatory to continue the work with a mentor to be appointed as stated in 11 (a) above. In the unfortunate situation that the researcher disagrees to pursue the work under a mentor, it may result in the termination of the Fellowship, and the jury's decision will be final. If the researcher withdraws from the Fellowship, or the Jury or the Tikekar Centre Committee decides to terminate it he/she would have to return the amount accepted till then under the Fellowship.

12. Use of AI Programmes:

- a. The Tikekar Centre does not encourage the use of Generative AI in any form or programme for any part of the Fellowship.
- b. However, if the selected scholar wishes to use any AI programme, it must be limited, it must not impact the integrity of the research undertaken in any manner, and it must not be used for analysis and core writing in any way.
- c. Any use of Generative AI in any form or manner at any stage of the Fellowship work must be declared in a self-declarative statement attached to the final submission, and the statement must be transparently list the tasks accomplished by using AI programmes.
- d. The jury reserves the right to question the scholar on the use of Generative AI and deem it appropriate or not.
- e. If the selected scholar is found to be violating any of the above guidelines will be disqualified and will have to refund all the financial grant reimbursed to him/her. The decision of the Jury on the disqualification cannot be challenged.

13. Disbursal of Financial grant:

The amount of the Fellowship will be Rs.5,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh only). It will be disbursed as per the schedule below:

- a. Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) along with the first intimation of the selection for the fellowship.
- b. Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) on the receipt of the research progress report and its approval by the juries. Expected date of report submission: **1 September 2026**.
- c. Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) on the receipt of the next progress report and its approval by the juries. Expected date of report submission: **1 January 2027**.
- d. Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) on the receipt of the progress report and its approval by the juries. Expected date of report submission: **1 May 2027**.
- e. Rs.50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) on the receipt of the project progress report and its approval by the juries. Expected date of report submission: **1 September 2027**.
- f. Rs.2,50,000/- Presentation of the cheque on **1 February 2028** after the final submission on **31 December 2027** and **acceptance of it by the Jury**.

14. After the final submission, the scholar will be called by the jury to Defend his/her dissertation. The scholar will have to travel to meet the Jury in Mumbai at his/her own cost.

15. The Fellowship citation will be presented on 1 February 2028 after the successful defence of the dissertation as stated in Clause 15 above.

16. The Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies will sponsor the researcher, in addition to the above financial grant, one-year Residential or Non-Residential membership of The Asiatic Library, depending on the residential status of the researcher. The exact duration of the membership, from which date to which date, will be decided in consultation with the researcher.
17. The selected candidate will be required to make a presentation on the project being undertaken on **1st February 2027** and the final presentation on the completion of the project work on **1st February 2028** at the annual function organised by the Dr Aroon Tikekar Centre at Asiatic Society of Mumbai.
18. If the researcher is unable to complete the dissertation or the quality of the report does not satisfy the jury, or if the interim reports of the researcher are not found satisfactory by the juries, the researcher may be asked to not carry out further work. In both situations, the researcher will not be awarded the Fellowship and the citation of the same and the remainder of the financial grant of the fellowship will not be disbursed
19. The copyright of the dissertation will be with the researcher. If the report is accepted by the jury, the first right of publishing it will be with The Asiatic Society of Mumbai giving the due credit to the Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies. If for any reason The Asiatic Society of Mumbai is unable to undertake the publication of the work, then the researcher is free to have it independently and privately published but with the due credit in these words: This research was done under the Fellowship granted by the Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies of The Asiatic Society of Mumbai.
20. If for any reason the dissertation is unacceptable to the jury or is in an unfinished state, publication of it by The Asiatic Society of Mumbai does not arise. However, if the researcher persists with the publication, then s/he should not mention either the Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies or The Asiatic Society of Mumbai while doing so.
21. For any clarifications and queries regarding the terms and conditions you may write to the Chairperson, Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies at asmtikekarcentre@gmail.com.