

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) for ICAR Examinations  
AIEEA-PG/AICE-JRF/SRF(PhD) - 2023**

**IMPORTANT : All Candidates are requested to read COVID-19 related guidelines/advisory available on NTA website/Information Bulletin.**

This document is merely an attempt to provide answers to some common questions posted to us, by the candidates. However, this list is neither exhaustive nor does it purport to be a source of complete information on the subject. Hence candidates are advised, in their own interest to refer to the “Information Bulletin” on this site, besides referring to the ICAR website for detailed information, and ensure that they meet eligibility criteria. FAQs may be referred for a quick reference only.

**Part A - Common Questions [AIEEA-PG/AICE-JRF/SRF(PhD)]**

S No	FAQ	Response of NTA
<b>Registration, Online Application and Payment Related</b>		
1	What are the dates of the ICAR Exams?	Exam dates will be announced on the NTA website. Candidates are advised to be in touch with the NTA website for the dates of the exam.
2	Is there direct admission to ICAR AUs through nomination, without qualifying in <b>AIEEA-PG/AICE-JRF-SRF(PhD)]</b> ?	There is no provision of direct nomination for admission through ICAR in any programme without qualifying in <b>AIEEA-PG/AICE-JRF-SRF(PhD)]</b>
3	What are different modes to apply for <b>AIEEA-PG / AICE-JRF-SRF(PhD)]</b> ?	Application Forms can only be submitted through online mode on the website <a href="https://icar.nta.nic.in">https://icar.nta.nic.in</a> . The Application Form other than online mode will not be accepted.
4.	Can I submit more than one application form for the exam?	NO. Only ONE application is to be submitted by a candidate for appearing in the exam.
5.	What documents or certificates do I need to upload along with the Application Form?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates need to upload <b>scanned images of photograph, signature and thumb impression</b>, with the Application Form.</li> <li>• No certificates are required to be uploaded along with the Application Form at the time of online submission.</li> <li>• PwBD certificate and category certificates are to be uploaded, if applicable, while applying.</li> <li>• The documents / certificates etc., shall be verified directly at the time of admission by the admitting university.</li> </ul>

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6.	How can I pay Application Fee?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fee can be paid using <b>SBI/Canara /HDFC Bank Payment Gateway</b> through Debit Card/Credit Card/Net Banking/UPI. Candidates need to keep proof of fee paid.</li> <li>• In case the Confirmation Page is not generated after payment of fee then the transaction is cancelled, and amount will be refunded to the candidate's account.</li> <li>• However, the candidate has to make another transaction, in case the Confirmation Page is not generated.</li> </ul>
7	Do I need to send Confirmation Page to NTA/ICAR?	<p>The Candidates are <b>NOT</b> required to send/ submit the Confirmation Page of Online Application Form (or any document) to the NTA/ICAR. However, they are advised to retain the following documents with them for any future reference/correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of the Confirmation Page of Online Application Form (Download, save and Print at least 3 copies)</li> <li>• Proof of fee paid (Download, save and Print at least 3 copies)</li> <li>• Photographs (same as uploaded on the Online Application Form)</li> </ul>
8	If I have made any mistake(s) while registering/applying, can I make changes later in the Application Form?	<p>Once 'Final Submit' button has been clicked, the candidate's details cannot be edited/changed.</p> <p>However, NTA shall open the "Correction Window" as per the schedule and Correction in particulars of Application Form can be incorporated on the website only during "Correction Window".</p> <p>No corrections shall be allowed after the closure of correction window and all particulars entered by the candidate would be considered as final.</p>
9	I have made the online payment but my confirmation page has not been generated. What to do?	<p>Such problem occurs because of drop in connectivity from Banks' server on which NTA website has been hosted. You are advised to wait for 24 hours if such problem has been faced by you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In case the Confirmation Page is not generated after payment of fee then the transaction is cancelled, and amount will be refunded to the candidate's account.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In such cases, the candidate has to make another transaction, to confirm and complete the application process.</li> </ul>
10	I have made the online payment but my status is not updated on the system.	If it is not updated within 24 hours, raise a query in Query redressal system or send a mail at <a href="mailto:icar@nta.ac.in">icar@nta.ac.in</a> giving details of your mobile number, application number, payment reference number and proof of payment
11	I have made double payment of exam fee. When will I get refund of extra payment made by me?	Any extra payment made by you will be refunded to you, after due verification, before issue of admit cards. In case you do not receive the refund as stated above, you may write to NTA at <a href="mailto:icar@nta.ac.in">icar@nta.ac.in</a> stating your application number, name, email ID, phone number, payment reference number, name of the bank through which payment was made.
12	I carried out corrections and submitted. After submission, I found that still there is some more correction to be done. Can I do so?	After submission of corrections, you cannot reopen the application and add more corrections. Please check the corrections before submission.
13	Why am I asked to pay additional fee after making corrections, in the correction window?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No fee is charged for making corrections in the details of application form, if there is no change in the Category.</li> <li>As amount of exam fee depends on the Category to which a candidate belongs, an additional fee may be applicable in certain cases when a candidate changes his category.</li> <li>Please check the Information Bulletin for the amount of fee payable by different Categories.</li> </ul>
14	What should candidate do, when 'continuous timeout', 'Server Error' or 'file not found error' occurs while making correction in Application Form of ICAR exams-2023?	Use updated version of Mozilla Firefox/Internet Explorer and good internet connection while filling application form. In case of continuous time out, one can clear cookies and history of the browser and fill during off-peak hours
15	I am not able to verify my email ID or mobile number. What should I do?	It is possible that there could be an error in the mobile number or email ID provided in the application form. Correct it and try again.
16	Will I get a refund of fee in case I change my category from General to others, in the correction window?	No
17	I have forgotten my application number. How do I get it?	On the log in screen of the portal, click the "forgot application number" button and follow the procedure given there. You will get your application number.

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<b>18</b>	Can I use my friend's email address when registering for?	No, you need to use a valid and unique email address of applicant only. Because, all communications are through registered e-mail ID or SMS.
<b>Related to Admit Card and How to Appear in the Examination</b>		
<b>19</b>	How will I get my admit card?	The admit card will be uploaded on NTA website <a href="https://icar.nta.nic.in">https://icar.nta.nic.in</a> as per the schedule communicated through the website.  Candidates need to check the admit card carefully for all particulars eg Roll No. Name, Subject Group, Date of Birth, Gender, Examination Centre Name, City, and Category, etc.
<b>20</b>	If I do not get my Admit Card, whom should I contact?	You can call 011-4075 9000 or send a mail at <a href="mailto:icar@nta.ac.in">icar@nta.ac.in</a>
<b>21</b>	Whom can I contact in case my admit card has some issue, or I am not able to download my admit card?	In case of any problem related to Admit card, please contact the given helpline numbers between 10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. or send a mail at <a href="mailto:icar@nta.ac.in">icar@nta.ac.in</a>
<b>22</b>	Where can I get the details of test centre?	The name of test centre along with the address will be mentioned in admit card.
<b>23</b>	Can I change my test city after receiving admit card?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No, you will not be allowed to change your test city once admit card has been issued.</li> <li>• While applying candidates have to select any four cities of their choice. Efforts will be made to allot city of examination to the candidates in order of the choice opted by them in their application form. Please select your preferred choices carefully.</li> <li>• However, NTA reserves the right to change the city based on the feasibility.</li> <li>• The Examination City, once opted, shall not be changed.</li> </ul>
<b>24</b>	What is the reporting time at the centre?	Candidates are advised to report as per staggered entry slot mentioned on their respective admit Card in order to avoid crowding during verification of the admit cards, registration, frisking, etc
<b>25</b>	What is the last time for entry?	Candidates are required to be in the exam centre latest, half an hour before the commencement of the exam.
<b>26</b>	What documents do I need to carry to the examination centre on the day of examination?	Candidates MUST bring the following documents on the day of examination at the test centre.

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	<p>What are the things allowed to be carried or not to be carried to the examination centre?</p>	<p>I. Admit Card along with Undertaking downloaded from the NTA website (a clear printout on A4 size paper)</p> <p>II. Any one of the original and valid Photo Identification Proof issued by the government – PAN card/Driving License/Voter ID/12th Class Board Admit or Registration card/Passport/ Aadhaar Card (With photograph)/ E-Aadhaar/ Ration Card./ Aadhaar Enrolment No. with Photo. All other ID/Photocopies of IDs even if attested/scanned photo of IDs in mobile phone will NOT be considered as valid ID Proof.</p> <p>III. PwBD certificate issued by the Competent Authority, if claiming relaxation under PwBD category, if applicable.</p> <p>IV. One sanitizer bottle( small)</p> <p>V. Drinking water in a transparent bottle</p> <p>VI. A simple transparent pen</p> <p>VII. A passport size photograph for affixing in the designated space in the attendance sheet.</p> <p><i>Note: Candidate will not be allowed to take personal items such as mobile phones, digital/analogue watches, food items, study material, lockets, bags, electronic gadgets or any other prohibited items into the testing room. You are advised not to bring these to the test centre.</i></p>
<p>27</p>	<p>What precaution should I take while carrying document?</p>	<p>The name on the photo identification must match with the name as shown on the Admit Card.</p> <p>If the name has been changed due to events such as marriage, candidate must show the relevant document like Marriage Certificate / Divorce / Decree / Legal <b>Name Change Document at the time of examination.</b></p>
<p>28</p>	<p>Should I carry a paper to the exam hall for doing some rough work?</p>	<p>No. Blank Sheets for doing rough work/calculations will be provided to the candidates at the exam centre. All calculations/rough work are to be done only in the Blank Sheets provided at the Centre in the Examination Room/Hall. On completion of the test, candidates must drop these rough sheets along with Admit card and Undertaking in the designated box, as instructed by the invigilator on duty.</p>

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<b>29</b>	How do I answer questions in the computer based mode?	Detailed guidelines on the Procedure for appearing in computer based tests are given in the Information Bulletin. You may go through them.
<b>30</b>	Will the question paper be bi-lingual or only in English?	The question paper for ICAR-AIEEA-PG 2023 and ICAR AICE(JRF/SRF)(PhD) – 2023 will be available in English only.
<b>31</b>	Can I take the exam from any computer?	No, a candidate will have to appear for the exam on a pre-assigned workstation of the test center allocated to him/her.
<b>32</b>	Can I move back and forth between the questions?	Yes, candidates will have the option to navigate between the questions by following instructions available on the User Interface.  They may change even answer options, anytime before they enter submit button.
<b>33</b>	What precautions do I need to take during the examination?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please ensure that name of the subject on the screen is the same as per your admit card. In case of any discrepancy please inform Invigilators immediately.</li> <li>• The candidates must attempt subjects as per their choice in the Application and indicated on their admit card.</li> <li>• Attempting different paper would lead to rejection of the candidature.</li> </ul>
<b>34</b>	What if I could not appear in the examination on scheduled date?	No candidate will be allowed to appear at the examination centre/date/timings other than that allotted to them in their Admit card.  Important: For those who are unable to appear on the scheduled date of test for any reason, retest shall not be held by the NTA under any circumstances.
<b>35</b>	Can I cancel the exam?	No, under no circumstances a cancellation / refund shall be allowed.
<b>36</b>	If I do not take my exam, will I be eligible for a refund?	No, your fees will not be refunded in case you do not appear in the exam.
<b>37</b>	What will I be provided with during the exam?	At the test centre, each candidate will be allotted a desk with a computer terminal and white sheets for rough work.  Rough work cannot be done on any other paper/sheet, as no other material will be allowed inside the

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		<p>examination room. On completion of the exam, candidates will have to drop these sheets in designated boxes as instructed by the invigilator.</p> <p>Every candidate would also be offered a mask. They would be provided material for hand sanitization too.</p>
<b>38</b>	How do I know when the exam time has ended?	There will be an on-screen timer on the top right corner of your screen which will count down for the allocated time. Candidates are advised to check this timer regularly and allocate their time carefully.
<b>39</b>	Will I be able to leave early if I finish the exam before the allocated exam time has ended?	No, candidates will not be allowed to leave until the entire duration of the exam is over with the exception of genuine medical emergency.
<b>40</b>	In case of any technical problems with the computer system, at the exam centre, what should I do? Will I lose time?	NO. In case of any technical problems with the computer at the exam centre, and you are not able to continue the exam, inform invigilator. He/She would fix the issue or will map you to another PC through a proper process. Your exam time in the next session will commence from the time you discontinued your exam, There would be no loss of time for you.

**POST EXAM RELATED**

<b>41</b>	What is the “Answer Key Challenge” process?	<p>After the exam is over, the question paper, responses of the candidates, and the provisional answer keys will be hosted on the NTA website and challenges regarding answer keys will be invited from candidates .</p> <p>Candidates who appeared in the exam can challenge the answer keys by paying a non refundable fee of Rs 200/- per answer key challenged, online.</p> <p>This online Challenge facility window will be open for a period for 3 days.</p> <p>Exact date of such facility will be announced on the NTA website.</p> <p>Candidates are advised to be in touch with NTA website for such dates.</p> <p>Challenges will be verified with experts and answer keys will be finalised thereafter.</p> <p>No individual communication regarding the outcome of challenges will be sent to the candidates who</p>
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		<p>challenged the answer keys. Results will be processed based on such answer keys which are verified by experts.</p>
42	How will I come to know the final answer keys based on which the results are ultimately processed	Final answer keys based on which the results are processed, will be hosted on the NTA website before results.
43	Will there be negative marking for a wrong answer?	Each question carries 4 marks. One mark will be deducted for a wrong answer.
44	What are the exception handling criteria?	<p><b>In ICAR AIEEA (PG) exam, following criteria will be adopted:</b></p> <p>In case more than one answer are correct after verification of answer keys, those who had marked any of the correct answers will be given full marks.</p> <p>In case the question has to be dropped since the question is wrong or none of the answers is correct or for other technical reasons, those who appeared in the exam will be given full marks.</p> <p><b>In ICAR AICE JRF/SRF (Ph.D) exam, following criteria will be adopted:</b></p> <p>In case more than one answer are correct after verification of answer keys, those who had marked any of the correct answers will be given full marks.</p> <p>If none of the options is correct/Question is found to be wrong – Question to be dropped and percent equivalence to be established based on the remaining questions.</p>
45	How will I come to know my score?	Score cards of candidates will be hosted on NTA website. Candidates are advised to be in touch with the website.
46	If the tests are held in multiple shifts across various dates with different question papers, how do you normalise the marks secured by the candidates	Please refer to the procedure prescribed in this regard given in the Information Bulletin hosted on NTA website
47	Will the Score Cards give raw marks or percentile?	In ICAR AIEEA(PG) and ICAR JRF/SRF(Ph.D) Score cards will give raw score.
48	What is NTA Score?	NTA score is a percentile score of the candidate in the test in which he appeared. It indicates his position vis-à-vis others who appeared in it. It is not mark. It is an indicator of the relative position of the candidates amongst those who appeared in the test.

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<b>49</b>	How is NTA Score calculated?	Please refer to the Annexure on the subject in the Information Bulletin for details regarding the computation of NTA Score.
<b>50</b>	Will the Score Card contain rank also?	No.
<b>51</b>	Is there any criteria for qualifying in the exam?	There is no concept of qualifying or otherwise in the exam. Each candidate will be given a Score Card giving details of the NTA score/raw Marks he/she had secured.
<b>52</b>	Can I apply for rechecking or re-evaluation of my marks?	No. There is no provision for rechecking or re-evaluation.
<b>53</b>	What will happen if many Candidates get the same scores?	Such situations will be addressed by ICAR as per its rules/regulations. Please check the website of the ICAR for more details.
<b>54</b>	Who will determine the final merit list for Admission?	ICAR will prepare the Merit List as per the laid down criteria.
<b>FAQs- Miscellaneous</b>		
<b>55</b>	What are the contact details of NTA?	Help Desk: 01140759000, 011 6922 7700 Email : <a href="mailto:icar@nta.ac.in">icar@nta.ac.in</a>
<b>56</b>	I am a PwBD candidate, eligible for a scribe. What relaxations am I entitled to?	PwBD candidates with benchmark disabilities are eligible for compensatory time( Extra time) at the rate of 20 minutes for each hour of exam. They are also eligible for a scribe if they have a limitation to write the exam and upload a certificate to that effect from the prescribed Medical Authority. Candidates are required to indicate their status and whether they need a scribe or not in their application form while applying. <b>NTA will provide a scribe. Candidates are not allowed to bring their own scribe.</b>

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**Part B – ICAR AIEEA (PG) 2023**

S No	FAQ	Response of NTA
1	What is the purpose of <b>AIEEA (PG) 2023</b> ?	<p>1. Admission in Master degree programmes in AUs in different disciplines of Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry, Veterinary, Animal Sciences, Agricultural Engineering, Community Science (erstwhile Home Science), Fisheries, Dairy Science and other allied sciences - Students for 30% seats in Master degree programmes in AUs are admitted through AIEEA (PG). All (100%) seats of the four ICAR-DUs namely, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) and Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), CAUs- RLBCAU, Dr RPCAU are also filled up through the same examination.</p> <p>2. <b>For postgraduate studies, ICAR-PG Scholarship</b>, shall be awarded to limited candidates based on merit in this examination as per their overall merit-rank and seat availability in different disciplines.</p>
2	Who is eligible to take <b>AIEEA (PG) 2023</b> ?	Please refer to the Information Bulletin hosted on <a href="https://icar.nta.nic.in">https://icar.nta.nic.in</a>
3	When will be <b>AIEEA (PG) 2023</b> conducted?	Exam dates will be announced on NTA website in due course. Candidates are advised to be in touch with the NTA website to check updates about date/timing of examination
4	What is the duration of the examination?	Duration of the examination is 120 minutes (2 hours). Timing will be indicated on the admit card.
5	What is the test format of <b>AIEEA-PG 2023</b> ? How many questions would be there in the test?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each test would consist of 120 questions (items).</li> <li>• All Questions shall be Multiple Choice with 4 options.</li> </ul>
6	What subject areas are assessed in the test?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tests shall be administered in 20 major subject-groups (Please refer to the Information Bulletin).</li> <li>• Candidates should select one Major Subject Group among the subjects given in for appearing in the Entrance Examination, based on the compatibility with their own subject area at graduation (UG) level (Please refer to the Information Bulletin)</li> <li>• The sub- subject choices, within the Major Subject-Group in which the candidate qualifies the entrance examination, will be available at the time of online counseling.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates must check their subject or discipline-specific criteria before selecting subject or discipline for admission.</li> </ul>
7	Is there any negative marking?	<p>Yes. Scoring pattern is given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 marks for each correct response</li> <li>• -1 mark for each incorrect response (negative scoring)</li> <li>• 0 for non-attempt</li> </ul>
8	What is the syllabus of the Examination?	The Questions in the test shall be based on the syllabus prescribed by the ICAR, which is available at the website <a href="http://www.icar.org.in">www.icar.org.in</a> .
9	In which cities would be AIEEA (PG)-2023 conducted in India?	ICAR AIEEA (PG)-2023 examination for the academic session 2023-24 will be conducted at 89 cities. (Please refer to Annexure-I of the Information Bulletin)
10	What precaution is necessary while taking the examination?	<p>Candidates need to ensure that they are taking test in the same subject that is printed on the admit Card that they have chosen as per their Eligibility Conditions for different PG Programs mentioned in the Information Bulletin.</p> <p>Attempting different paper would lead to rejection of the candidature.</p>
11	What is Number of Seats Available for Admission through AIEEA (PG)-2023?	The numbers of ICAR seats and ICAR PG Scholarship/NTS (PG) in various subjects/Sub-subjects for the Academic Session 2023-24 will be displayed on ICAR website <a href="http://www.icar.org.in">www.icar.org.in</a> at the time of counselling.

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**Part C – ICAR AICE-JRF/SRF(PhD) 2023**

S No	FAQ	Response of NTA
<b>1</b>	What is the purpose of <b>AICE-JRF/SRF(PhD) 2023</b> ?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> For the academic session 2023-24, admissions to 30% seats (100% seats of Dr. RPCAU, Pusa and ICAR-DUs, viz ICAR-IVRI, IARI, CIFE and NDRI) of accredited doctoral degree programmes at accredited colleges in accredited Agricultural Universities under the ICAR-AU system is through <b>AICE-JRF/SRF(PhD) 2023</b>.</li> <li><b>2.</b> ICAR JRF/SRF(PhD) shall be awarded to limited candidates based on merit in this examination as per their overall merit-rank and seat availability in different disciplines. However, fellowship is granted only after the Counseling, when the candidate gets admitted and pursues Ph.D. degree in an AU other than the one from where he/she has passed Bachelor's or Master's degree.</li> </ol>
<b>2</b>	Who is eligible to take <b>AICE-JRF/SRF(PhD)</b> ?	Please refer to the Information Bulletin hosted on <a href="https://icar.nta.nic.in">https://icar.nta.nic.in</a>
<b>3</b>	When will be <b>AICE-JRF/SRF(PhD)</b> conducted?	Exam date will be announced on the NTA website later. Candidates are advised to visit NTA website to check updates about date of examination.
<b>4</b>	<b>What is the duration of the examination?</b>	Duration of the examination is 120 minutes (2 hours).
<b>5</b>	What is the examination scheme? What is the test format of <b>AICE-JRF/SRF(PhD)</b> ? How many questions would be there in the test?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each test would consist 120 Multiple Choice Questions with 4 options.</li> <li>• The test would consist of 3 sections:  <b>Section A</b> – First 20 based on general knowledge in the domain of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Allied Sciences, etc. including current events and matters of everyday observation and experience/reasoning ability.  <b>Section B</b> – 50 MCQs will be from the Core Group (Please refer to Table 1 of the Information Bulletin) containing the specialized Subject opted by the candidate for pursuing Ph.D.  <b>Section C</b> - 50 MCQs will be from the specialized Subjects ((Please refer to Annexure-III of the Information Bulletin) opted by the candidate for pursuing Ph.D.</li> </ul>

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<b>6</b>	What subject areas are assessed in the test?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tests would be conducted in 72 different subjects in which Doctoral degree programmes are offered by AUs as given in the Information Bulletin.</li> <li>• Based upon eligibility and compatibility with their subject areas at the post graduation level, the candidates should select one Subject of specialization mentioned in the Information Bulletin for appearing in the Examination.</li> <li>• Candidates must check subject or discipline-specific criteria before selecting subject or discipline for admission.</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	Is there any negative marking?	<p>Yes. Scoring pattern is given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 marks for each correct response</li> <li>• -1 mark for each incorrect response (negative scoring)</li> <li>• 0 for non-attempt</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	What is the syllabus of the Examination?	The Questions in the test shall be based on the syllabus prescribed by the ICAR, which is available at the website <a href="http://www.icar.org.in">www.icar.org.in</a>
<b>9</b>	In which cities would be <b>AICE-JRF/SRF(PhD)</b> conducted in India?	ICAR <b>AICE-JRF/SRF(PhD)</b> examination for the academic session 2023-24 will be conducted at 89 cities. (Please refer to the Information Bulletin)
<b>10</b>	What precaution is necessary while taking the examination?	<p>Candidates need to ensure that they are taking test in the same subject that is printed on the admit Card that they have chosen as per their Eligibility Conditions for different Programs mentioned in the Information Bulletin.</p> <p>Attempting different paper would lead to rejection of the candidature.</p>
<b>11</b>	How many seats are available for Admission through <b>AICE-JRF/SRF(PhD)</b> ?	The number of ICAR seats of JRF/SRF(PhD) in different Subjects for the Academic Session 2023-24 will be displayed on ICAR website <a href="http://www.icar.org.in">www.icar.org.in</a> at the time of counseling.