

**Research Proposal**  
**On**  
**‘Life and Legacy of Rani Abbakka in**  
**Nation Building’**

**Organised by:**  
Lokmata Study Foundation (LSF), New Delhi

### **Concept Note:**

Indian history includes many stories of bravery and leadership, often highlighting famous figures like Subhas Chandra Bose, Swami Vivekananda and Rani Lakshmibai. However, some lesser-known leaders have played important roles in shaping the country. One such remarkable figure is Rani Abbakka Chowta, the strong warrior-queen of Ullal, who fought bravely against Portuguese powers in the 16th century. Rani Abbakka Chowta ruled the small but important area of Ullal, which is in today's Karnataka. Abbakka's reign came during a time when the Portuguese were trying to gain control over the Indian coastline. The Portuguese wanted to dominate the spice trade and aimed to take control of Ullal because of its key position along the Arabian Sea trade routes.

Unlike many contemporary rulers who succumbed to the superior firepower of the Europeans, Abbakka employed unconventional guerrilla tactics, leveraging her knowledge of the local terrain and the loyalty of her subjects. She forged strategic alliances with neighboring kingdoms. One of the most remarkable aspects of Abbakka's leadership was her ability to unite diverse communities under her banner.

The legacy of Rani Abbakka Chowta extends beyond her military exploits. She stands as a symbol of resistance against colonialism and the exploitation of native lands and resources. Her story is a testament to the power of determined leadership, strategic intelligence, and the ability to inspire and unify people towards a common cause. In an era where women's roles were largely confined to the domestic sphere, Abbakka emerged as a powerful and visionary leader, challenging gender norms and societal expectations. Her story, though not as widely known as those of other Indian freedom fighters, is an integral part of India's rich historical heritage.

## **Research Proposal:**

Lokmata Study Foundation (LSF) invites research proposals from Indian academicians and researchers on the theme **‘Life and Legacy of Rani Abbakka in Nation Building’** to commemorate the 500th birth anniversary of Maharani Abbakka of Ullal.

The selected research proposals will be shortlisted and funded by the Foundation as a tribute to Rani Abbakka, the first woman freedom fighter of India. This initiative aims to honour her remarkable legacy and inspire society to draw lessons from her life, encouraging contributions toward nation building.

### **Important Dates:**

Announcement for research proposal: **15<sup>th</sup> July , 2025**

Application acceptance begins from: **15<sup>th</sup> July, 2025**

Last date for submission: **15<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

### **Key Objectives of the Call:**

- 1. To promote high-quality research that provides evidence-based insights into women warriors of Indian History.**
- 2. To support research that contributes to knowledge creation and development of database for future studies and policy implementation.**
- 3. To facilitate research that fosters inclusiveness in India and aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.**

## **Guidelines to submit research proposal**

### **1. Proposal submission**

The duration of the proposed study is 12 months. The report aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the contribution of Maharani Abbakka of Ullal. The research report should identify social, economic, political and cultural aspects of Rani Abbakka's life. Report should include maps, pictures, stories in the form of hymns and folk songs.

A research team should consist of 2 to 4 researchers from different disciplines, institutions, and regions. One of the researchers will be designated as the Project Director (PD). He will be responsible for the successful completion of the study.

### **2. Eligibility**

Researchers who are permanently employed, contractual or retired as faculty from UGC - recognized Indian Universities/Deemed Universities/ Affiliated Colleges or Research Institutions of national importance as defined by the Ministry of Education (MoE) are eligible to apply.

The project director must have quality research experience demonstrable through publications of books / co-authored books / research papers or reports. A Ph.D. Degree is a mandatory qualification for Project Director.

Research Associate / Research Assistant should hold a post-graduate/NET/Ph.D in any discipline.

### **3. How to apply**

The applications will be invited through advertisement on LSF website, social media platforms and print media.

The applicants are required to submit an online application form mentioned on the LSF website. After submitting the online application, applicants can additionally send a soft copy of the same, along with all enclosures, to [abhskpv@gmail.com](mailto:abhskpv@gmail.com) before the last date of submission.

Important submission dates are available on LSF website.

Final research proposal and final report can be either submitted in English or Hindi using Arial or Mangal Unicode (Devanagari) font.

#### **4. Procedure for awards**

All applications submitted to the LSF will undergo screening and evaluation by the expert committee using a blind review process. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interaction or presentation (in person or online).

Only the selected applications shall be informed individually through a provisional award letter clearly specifying the formalities and documents required for joining the project.

#### **5. Budget and Heads of Expenditure**

The fund allocated for the project will be more than 3 Lakhs. The funds will be disbursed in instalments based on the available resources, project phase, and duration of the study. A detailed budget estimates will be prepared by the project director. The expenditure will cover the salaries of research director, research staff; fieldwork expenses, research equipment and study material, contingencies and workshop/seminar.

10% of the budget will be allocated to the LSF.

All equipment and books purchased with the project funds will be the property of the Foundation.

#### **6. Monitoring of Research Project**

Research undertaken by a Project Director will be monitored through the submission of periodic progress reports. The project may be discontinued/terminated if research progress is found unsatisfactory.

Final report submitted by the Project Director will be evaluated by an expert appointed by the LSF before the final instalment is released.

The Project Director shall be personally responsible for the timely completion of the Project.

#### **7. Submission of the report**

Upon completion of the study, the project director shall submit the report. The report should not exceed to more than 200 pages and must include the following:

An executive summary, reference, pictures, maps, etc;

The report must be tested for plagiarism and should not exceed 12% similarity.

The report should be submitted in both soft copy and hard copy.