



## SERB-POWER Scheme

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### Why in News

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Recently, the Union Minister for Science and Technology has launched **SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research) Scheme**, which has two components of **fellowship and research grants**.

The **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, is a **statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India.

### Key Points

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- It is a scheme designed **exclusively for women scientists to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research** in various science and technology (S&T) programmes in Indian academic institutions and **research and development (R&D)** laboratories.
- It will serve as a **benchmark of recognition in the national scenario** and will **empower women scientists** and **cultivate a women-friendly culture** and **ensure more women in leadership positions** in decision-making bodies.
- **SERB-POWER Fellowship:**
  - **Target:**
    - Women researchers in 35-55 years of age.
    - Up-to 25 Fellowships per year and not more than 75 at any point in time.
  - **Components of Support:**
    - Fellowship of Rs. 15,000/- per month in addition to regular income.
    - Research grant of Rs. 10 lakh per annum.
    - Overhead of Rs. 90,000/- per annum.
  - **Duration:**

Three years, without the possibility of extension. Once in a career.

- **SERB-POWER Research Grants:**
  - **Funding under Two Categories for up to 50 Power Grants:**
    - **Level I:** Up to 60 lakhs for three years for applicants from IITs, IISERs, IISc, NITs, Central Universities, and National Labs of Central Government Institutions.
    - **Level II:** Up to 30 lakhs for three years for applicants from State Universities/Colleges and Private Academic Institutions.
  - **Regulations:**

Grants will be regulated through **terms of reference conforming to SERB-Core Research Grant (CRG) guidelines.**

## Related Government Initiatives

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- **Vigyan Jyoti Scheme:**

Launched by the DST, it aims to **create a level-playing field for the meritorious girls in high school** to pursue **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics** (STEM) in their higher education.
- **Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions Scheme:**

GATI Scheme will develop a **comprehensive charter and a framework for assessing gender equality** in STEM.
- **Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing Scheme:**

Started by the DST, KIRAN scheme **aims to bring gender parity** in the S&T sector by inducting more women talent in the R&D domain.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme:**

BBBP Scheme is the **joint initiative** of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Human Resource Development to ensure survival, protection, and empowerment of the girl child.
- **National Science Day 2020:**
  - It was celebrated on **28<sup>th</sup> February 2020** with the theme ‘**Women In Science**’.
  - Dr Niti Kumar, a senior scientist from the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Drug Research Institute** (CSIR-CDRI), Lucknow received **SERB Women Excellence Award-2020** on this occasion.

**Source: PIB**