

KIRAN and CURIE Schemes

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Research facilities in 8 women universities have been enhanced with support from the CURIE (**Consolidation of University Research for Innovation & Excellence in Women Universities**) initiative of the Department of Science & Technology (DST). Artificial Intelligence facilities have been set up in 6 women universities with support from the CURIE-AI facility initiative.

CURIE Initiative

- In the year 2008-09, DST took a special initiative, 'CURIE,' to **support women universities for improving R&D infrastructure and enhance research facilities.**
- CURIE support resulted in a significant increase of student enrolment at undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. levels in CURIE supported universities.
- It has also enhanced the number of NET/ GATE qualified students. **CURIE support** has been **extended to 8 women universities in the country.**
- Extramural funding has also been increased due to the presence of sophisticated labs, which resulted in **publications in high impact factor journals.**
- In the year 2019, DST established an **Artificial Intelligence lab** in 6 CURIE beneficiary universities with the goal of fostering AI innovations and set up AI-friendly infrastructure to prepare skilled manpower for AI-based jobs in the future.

KIRAN Initiative

- **In 2014,** the DST took a giant step forward and **brought all the women-centric schemes (including CURIE) and programs under one ambit-KIRAN.**
- The 'Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN)' scheme provides various

career opportunities for women scientists and technologists.

- It is primarily aimed to **bring gender parity in the science & technology sector** by inducting more women talent in the research & development domain through various programmes.
- A **Mobility Scheme** has been launched under KIRAN which will **address the relocation issues of women scientists** working in regular positions in government organizations. It offers a contractual research award to women scientists and enables them for independent research.
- It is aimed to provide an opportunity to women scientists who are facing difficulties in their present job due to relocation and will **act as filler while searching for other career options** at new places.
- 20 **women technology parks** have been established which act as windows for providing information, creating awareness, giving training for appropriate technologies leading to skill up gradation.
- More than 2100 women scientists have been brought back into mainstream science through the **Women Scientists Scheme**.