

# SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)

October 30, 2020

In news

Union Minister for Science & Technology launches DST initiative SERB – POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)

What is SERB – POWER?

- It is a **scheme to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research funding** in various S&T programs in Indian academic institutions and R&D laboratories
- It is designed exclusively for women scientists, in a function today on an e-platform

Components of SERB POWER

SERB – POWER Scheme will have two components namely (i) SERB-POWER Fellowship (ii) SERB- POWER Research Grants

Salient features of the 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; and Overhead of Rs. 90,000/- per annum.
- **Duration:** Three years, without the possibility of extension. Once in a career.

Salient features of the SERB – POWER Research Grants :

1. POWER Grants will empower women researchers by funding them under the following two categories:
  - Level I (Applicants from IITs, IISERs, IISc, NITs, Central Universities, and National Labs of Central Government Institutions): The scale of funding is up to 60 lakhs for three years.
  - Level II (Applicants from State Universities / Colleges and Private Academic Institutions): The scale of funding is up to 30 lakhs for three years
3. POWER Grant will be regulated through terms of reference conforming to SERB-CRG(Science and Engineering Research Board-Core Research Grant) guidelines.

While a Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted for the purpose will help in identifying the POWER Fellowship, the existing Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) mechanism will be used to select the POWER Research Grants.

It is proposed to institute 25 POWER Fellowships annually. A total of 50 Power Grants each will be sanctioned in Level I & Level II per annum.