



महाराष्ट्र शासन

सामाजिक न्याय व विशेष सहाय्य विभाग

मादाम कामा मार्ग, हुतात्मा राजगुरु चौक,
विस्तार इमारत, मंत्रालय, मुंबई - ४०० ०३२.

दूरध्वनी-०२२ २२८२०६७५

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क्रमांक:बैठक-२०२४/प्र.क्र.०३/बांधकामे

दिनांक: ३०.०६.२०२६.

प्रति,

१. आयुक्त, आदिवासी संशोधन व प्रशिक्षण संस्था, पुणे.
२. व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक, छत्रपती शाहू महाराज संशोधन व प्रशिक्षण संस्था (सारथी), पुणे.
३. महासंचालक, डॉ.बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर संशोधन व प्रशिक्षण संस्था (बार्टी), पुणे.
४. व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक, महाराष्ट्र संशोधन व प्रशिक्षण प्रबोधिनी (अमृत), मुंबई.
५. व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक, महात्मा ज्योतीबा फुले संशोधन व प्रशिक्षण संस्था (महाज्योती), नागपूर.
६. व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक, मौलाना आझाद आर्थिक विकास महामंडळ, मुंबई.
७. व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक, अण्णा भाऊ साठे संशोधन व प्रशिक्षण संस्था (आर्टी), मुंबई.
८. व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक, वसंतराव नाईक संशोधन व प्रशिक्षण संस्था (वनार्टी), नागपूर.

विषय :- अधिछात्रवृत्ती योजनेअंतर्गत विद्यार्थी निवडीचे निकष व कार्यपद्धती, अधिछात्रवृत्तीचे विषय, लाभार्थ्यांची संख्या, अधिछात्रवृत्तीची रक्कम व कालावधी याबाबत उच्च व तंत्रशिक्षण विभागाने नेमलेल्या तज्ञ समितीचा अहवालाबाबत.

संदर्भ :- १. नियोजन विभागाचे पत्र क्र. सारथी २०२५/प्र.क्र.१२१/का. १४२५-अ दि. १५.७.२०२५.

२. संकीर्ण-२०२५/प्र.क्र. (ई.१२७०७९७)/मशि-२ दिनांक-२७ फेब्रुवारी, २०२६.

महोदय/महोदया,

आदिवासी संशोधन व प्रशिक्षण संस्था(टीआरटीआय),पुणे, डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर संशोधन व प्रशिक्षण संस्था (बार्टी), पुणे, छत्रपती शाहू महाराज संशोधन व प्रशिक्षण संस्था (सारथी), पुणे, महात्मा ज्योतिबा फुले संशोधन व प्रशिक्षण संस्था (महाज्योती), नागपूर व महाराष्ट्र संशोधन व प्रशिक्षण प्रबोधिनी (अमृत), मुंबई व इतर तत्सम संस्थांमार्फत राबविण्यात येणाऱ्या अधिछात्रवृत्ती योजनेच्या अमंलबजावणीमध्ये सुधारणा करण्याकरीता उच्च व तंत्रशिक्षण

विभागामार्फत तज्ञ समिती स्थापन करण्यात आली होती. सदर तज्ञ समितीचा अहवालावर मा.मुख्य सचिव यांच्या अध्यक्षतेखालील दि. १७ मार्च, २०२६ रोजीच्या बैठकीमध्ये चर्चा करण्यात येऊन सदर अधिछात्रवृत्ती योजनेसंबंधीच्या तज्ञ समितीच्या अहवालानुसार उपरोक्त संस्थांनी अधिछात्रवृत्ती योजना राबवावी, असे निर्देश देण्यात आले आहे.

उच्च व तंत्रशिक्षण विभागामार्फत नेमलेल्या सदर तज्ञ समितीचा अहवाल मा.अपर मुख्य सचिव (वित्त) यांच्या अध्यक्षतेखाली आयोजित दि.१७ जून, २०२६ रोजीच्या बैठकीमध्ये मान्य करण्यात आलेला आहे. सबब, सदर समितीचा अहवाल यासोबत जोडून पाठविण्यात येत असून सदर अहवालानुसार अधिछात्रवृत्ती योजनेची अंमलबजावणी करण्यात यावी, ही विनंती.

आपला,



(अक्षय भोसले)

कक्ष अधिकारी, महाराष्ट्र शासन

प्रत, माहितीस्तव

१. मा. अ.मु.स. (वित्त) महोदयांचे स्वीय सहाय्यक मंत्रालय, मुंबई
२. प्रधान सचिव (सा.न्या. व वि.स.) यांचे स्वीय सहायक, मंत्रालय, मुंबई
३. सह सचिव (बांधकामे) सा.न्या. व वि.स. यांचे स्वीय सहायक, मंत्रालय, मुंबई
४. निवडनस्ती-बांधकामे



महाराष्ट्र शासन

उच्च व तंत्र शिक्षण विभाग

4 था मजला, मादाम कामा मार्ग, हुतात्मा राजगुरु चौक, मंत्रालय, मुंबई-400 032.

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क्रमांक:-संकीर्ण-2025/प्र.क्र.(ई.1270797)/मशि-2 दिनांक-27 फेब्रुवारी, 2026

प्रति,

1. सहसचिव
नियोजन विभाग (कार्या-1425-अ)
मंत्रालय, मुंबई -32
2. उप सचिव
सामाजिक न्याय व विशेष सहाय्य विभाग
मंत्रालय, मुंबई -32

विषय:-सारथी या महामंडळामार्फत राबविण्यात येणाऱ्या छत्रपती शाहू महाराज अधिछात्रवृत्ती योजनेअंतर्गत विद्यार्थी निवडीचे निकष व कार्यपद्धती, अधिछात्रवृत्तीचे विषय, लाभार्थ्यांची संख्या, अधिछात्रवृत्तीची रक्कम व कालावधी याबाबत तज्ञ समितीचा अहवाल सादर करणेबाबत.

संदर्भ:-नियोजन विभागाचे पत्र क्र. सारथी 2025/प्र.क्र.121/का.1425-अ दि. 15.7.2025

महोदय,

सारथी या महामंडळामार्फत राबविण्यात येणाऱ्या छत्रपती शाहू महाराज अधिछात्रवृत्ती योजनेअंतर्गत विद्यार्थी निवडीचे निकष व कार्यपद्धती, अधिछात्रवृत्तीचे विषय, लाभार्थ्यांची संख्या, अधिछात्रवृत्तीची रक्कम व कालावधी याबाबत तज्ञ समितीचा अहवाल मा. मुख्य सचिव यांच्या अध्यक्षतेखालील समिती समोर सादर करणेकरिता सोबत जोडून सादर करण्यात येत आहे.

आपला,

Digitally signed by
Hemant Sudhakar Pathak
Date: 27-02-2026
12:22:01

सोबत: - वरीलप्रमाणे

(हे.सु.पाठक)
अवर सचिव, महाराष्ट्र शासन



महाराष्ट्र शासन
महाराष्ट्र राज्य शैक्षणिक व संशोधन परिषद
उच्च व तंत्र शिक्षण विभाग

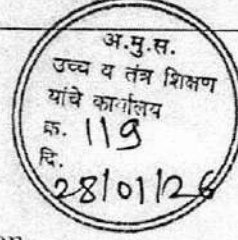
४१२-ब, बहिरट पाटील चौक, मॉडेल कॉलनी, पुणे - ४११ ०१६

ई मेल- mahasarc.hted@gmail.com

दुरध्वनी क्र. ०२०-६९०४५५५५

MahaSARC/Adm/2025-26/DDI

Date: 21.01.2026



To,
The Additional Chief Secretary,
Department of Higher and Technical Education,
Government of Maharashtra

Subject: Resolution regarding the Fellowship Schemes for Ph.D. Students in Maharashtra

Reference: Submission from the Department of Higher & Technical Education (dated Oct 01, 2025) concerning the review of SARTHI, BANRF, MAHA-JYOTI, TRTI & other state-level fellowship schemes

Sir,

The above mentioned subject was discussed in detail during the MahaSARC meeting and the below mentioned resolution was passed:

Members unanimously agreed that the Review Report prepared by Prof. Dr. Vijay L. Maheshwari, Vice-Chancellor, Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon, on 'Fellowship Schemes for Ph.D. Students in Maharashtra' (Annexure I) is comprehensive and would form the basis for the consolidated recommendation to the Higher and Technical Education Department, Government of Maharashtra for forwarding to concerned Ministries.

The attached detailed report is submitted for your kind perusal.

(CE) (संशोधन)
D.S.(Uni)
21/1

(Dr. Rajendra Bharud)
Vice-Chairman, MahaSARC
Maharashtra State Academic
And Research Council
(MahaSARC)

अ.स. (संशोधन-२)

संकाय संवाक्यन संकाय करार

४/०२/२६

D.S.(M)/12
21.01.26

Report on Review of Fellowship Schemes for Ph.D. Students in Maharashtra

The Government of Maharashtra has initiated several fellowship schemes to encourage doctoral research and support students belonging to various sections of society. While these schemes have widened access to higher education and research, their outcomes in terms of quality publications, patents, innovation, and societal impact require a systematic review.

In this context, the present report is prepared in two parts:

- **Part A: Rules and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree in the Universities**
This section presents an overview of the University Grants Commission's *Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree Regulations, 2022* (Gazette of India Notification No. 544, dated November 07, 2022). It outlines the framework for admission, coursework, research supervision, progress monitoring, evaluation, and final award of the Ph.D. degree. **These rules provide the foundation for ensuring quality, transparency, and uniformity across universities in India.**
- **Part B: Suggestions for Implementation of State Level Research Fellowships**
This section **reviews the existing state fellowship schemes and identifies key challenges** such as weak selection processes, low research output, and lack of monitoring mechanisms. It proposes a set of revised guidelines aimed at ensuring that fellowships are awarded to genuine, meritorious students with proven research aptitude. The suggestions emphasize merit-based selection, effective monitoring, accountability, and outcome-linked funding, while also safeguarding equity and inclusivity.

Together, Part A and Part B present a comprehensive framework: the first highlighting the regulatory standards for the award of Ph.D. degrees, and the second providing actionable recommendations for improving the implementation of State Level Research Fellowships. The objective is to maximize the impact of government investment in research, enhance the quality of doctoral output from Maharashtra's universities, and align the fellowship schemes with national benchmarks of excellence.

Part - A

Rules and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. degree in the Universities

(Reference: University Grants Commission's minimum standards and procedure for awards of Ph.D. degree Regulations, 2022 published in the Gazette of India, No. 544 dated November 07, 2022 in Part III, Section 4.)

The university in India must follow the regulations of UGC, New Delhi for award of M.Phil./Ph.D. degrees, the brief overview of this regulation is as below :

Introduction:

The rules and procedures for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programme, align with the University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations of 2009, 2016, and 2022, alongside subsequent state and institutional notifications. These rules govern all stages of doctoral research - from admission eligibility and coursework to thesis submission and final defence - ensuring academic excellence, transparency, and adherence to national standards.

The framework emphasizes inclusivity, ethical research, and socio-economic relevance, while also creating robust systems for supervision, monitoring, and evaluation.

Eligibility for Admission

Admission requires a Master's degree or an equivalent professional qualification with at least 55% aggregate marks (or grade B on UGC's 10-point scale). Reserved categories, differently-abled candidates, and those with Master's degrees prior to 1991 benefit from a 5% relaxation. M.Phil. graduates, candidates awaiting final viva, or those holding equivalent foreign qualifications may also apply.

International candidates are assessed through the University's International Students Cell, which ensures their compliance with statutory equivalences.

Research Guide Eligibility and Supervision

Only full-time, regular faculty of University Schools or affiliated Post-Graduate colleges may serve as Ph.D. guides. Co-guides from other departments, institutions, or disciplines are permitted for interdisciplinary research, ensuring multi-perspective supervision. Supervisory capacities are capped at 8 candidates per Professor, 6 for Associate Professors, and 4 for Assistant Professors.

RACs (Research Advisory Committees), consisting of the guide, co-guide, and subject experts, periodically monitor candidate progress, review research design, and approve titles. RACs also hold the authority to recommend cancellation, if progress is unsatisfactory.

Programme Duration

The programme requires a minimum of 3 years (including coursework) and a maximum of 6 years. Extensions up to 8 years may be granted, while female scholars and differently-abled candidates ($\geq 40\%$ disability) may extend up to 10 years. Female scholars also receive 240 days of maternity/childcare leave during the programme.

Admission and Entrance Test

Admission is through the Ph.D. Entrance Test (PET) or exemptions under UGC provisions. The PET comprises:

Paper I: Research methodology, aptitude, reasoning, and linguistic skills.

Paper II: Subject-specific content.

Exemptions apply to candidates who have cleared UGC-NET, JRF, SET, GATE, GPAT, or equivalent fellowships. From 2024, UGC-NET results categorize eligibility into three groups:

Category 1: Eligible for JRF, Assistant Professorship, and Ph.D. admission.

Category 2: Eligible for Assistant Professorship and Ph.D. admission.

Category 3: Eligible for Ph.D. admission only.

Title Recognition Procedure

Confirmation of admission requires successful completion of coursework, followed by a Research Proposal Presentation before the Research and Recognition Committee (RRC). Candidates must:

Present a brief outline of the proposed research. Justify relevance, methodology, and feasibility. Incorporate RRC's suggested improvements within one month, with guide approval. If the title is rejected, the candidate must resubmit a revised or new title in the next RRC meeting. The date of title approval by the RRC is considered the formal date of registration.

Coursework

All provisionally registered candidates must complete one semester of Pre-Ph.D. Coursework (12 credits):

PP-01: Research Methodology and Publication Ethics (4 credits)

PP-02: Subject-specific paper (4 credits)

PP-03: Research area-based seminars and review (4 credits)

Successful completion of coursework, combined with RRC approval of research title, leads to confirmed admission.

Progress Report Procedure

Monitoring research progress is a continuous process, coordinated by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC). Candidates must:

Submit a progress report every six months through the RAC, endorsed by the guide and co-guide.

Submit each progress reports within one month of each six-month cycle.

If progress is unsatisfactory, RAC prescribes corrective measures. Failure to comply can result in cancellation of registration.

Registration Validity and Fees

Registration lasts 6 years, extendable by 2 years with demonstrated progress.

Thesis Submission and Evaluation

Synopsis submission requires at least 24 months post-title approval, successful coursework completion, positive RAC reports, one good quality research publication, and two conference presentations. The thesis must undergo plagiarism check ($\leq 10\%$) and be submitted both in print and digitally to Shodhganga (UGC-INFLIBNET).

Pre-Submission of Ph.D. Thesis: Before submitting the final thesis, the candidate must deliver a **pre-submission presentation** to a committee as per norms, comprising of Chairman, Subject expert, representative of concerned Borad of Studies and the Research Guide.

The presentation shall be open to all faculty and research students for feedback, corrections suggested thus must be incorporated into the thesis before submission of final thesis for evaluation.

Evaluation involves two external examiners (one from Maharashtra, one from outside). If their reports conflict, a third examiner is appointed. Positive reports are mandatory to proceed to viva-voce.

Viva-Voce and Award of Degree

The final viva-voce is an open defence attended by faculty and research scholars. It evaluates the candidate's research quality, defence ability, and contribution to knowledge. The committee consists of the Chairman, one external examiner, and the research guide.

Upon successful defence, the degree of Doctor of Philosophy is awarded, and the thesis is archived in UGC repositories.

Conclusion

The regulations, implemented in letter C spirit, provide a robust framework that balances inclusivity with rigor. The Title Recognition process ensures thematic clarity and socio-economic relevance, while the Progress Report mechanism enforces accountability and sustained engagement. Coursework, supervision, and evaluation systems are structured to develop competent, ethical, and impactful researchers.

"With the above overview of the rigorous UGC regulations (Part A) for the award of the Ph.D. degree which are followed by the universities, Part B below provides additional requirements that candidates must fulfil to become eligible for the award and continuation of State Level Research Fellowships, thereby ensuring effective monitoring and quality research outcomes."

Part - B

Suggestions for Implementation of State Level Research Fellowships

1. Introduction

The Government of Maharashtra has instituted multiple fellowship schemes to support Ph.D. and higher research, particularly for students from disadvantaged communities. These include the *Government Research Adhichatra*, *SARTHI/BANRF/MAHA-JYOTI/TRTI Fellowship*, *National Fellowships for Persons with Disabilities*, among others.

While these initiatives represent a significant financial commitment, outcomes in terms of quality research output, publications, patents, societal benefit, and employability have not been as expected. A review of guidelines is, therefore, necessary to ensure that fellowships are awarded to genuine merit students with proven research aptitude.

2. Key Issues Identified

1. **Weak Selection Process** - Fellowships are often awarded without rigorous academic or research aptitude assessment.
2. **Low Research Output** - Many fellowship recipients do not publish in quality journals, complete Ph.D. in time, or contribute to innovation/patents.
3. **Misuse of Fellowships** - Some candidates take the fellowship but remain inactive in research or extend Ph.D. duration unnecessarily.
4. **Lack of Monitoring** - No effective tracking of progress, publications, or utilization of funds.
5. **Mismatch with National Standards** - Current guidelines are not fully aligned with UGC/CSIR norms for research fellowships.

3. Suggested Guidelines for Reform

A. Eligibility & Selection

- Fellowship applicants must qualify NET/SET/GATE/GPAT/ any equivalent national/state/ university research entrance test (PET) with prescribed cut-off or funding agency can award fellowships to candidates qualifying in any of the above exams.
- Minimum **B+ at PG level** (relaxation as per reservation norms) to apply.

B. Academic and Departmental Assistance

- **Academic assistance:**
A JRF shall assist the department with academic tasks such as lectures, conducting lab/ demonstrations/supervising fieldwork/guiding group seminars etc.
- **Departmental Assistance:**
Perform any other departmental work as directed by the PI or Head of the Department.
- **Time Limit:**
This assistance should not exceed ten hours per week and must not interfere with the JRF's primary research program.

C. Documents to be submitted at the time of joining or with every progress report

The candidate must be asked to submit following additional documents.

- Biometric attendance certified by Guide, HoD and Principal/Registrar.
- Submission of **Undertaking** about "non-acceptance/holding any paid appointment; full time, part time or on CHB, or receive emoluments, salary, stipend, fellowship, consultancy fee, honorarium or any other mode' signed by the student, guide, HoD, and Principal at the time of joining as well as with every progress report.
- **Certificate** about involvement in 'Academic and Departmental Assistance' - Signed by HoD and Principal/Director (for colleges), HoD/Director and Registrar (for Universities).

D. Fellowship Tenure s Renewal

- Fellowship to be granted initially for 2 years (JRF equivalent).
- Renewal for subsequent period (SRF equivalent) only upon:
 - Submission of annual progress reports,
 - At least one publication in Web of Science / Scopus-indexed journal preferably Q1/Q2 or from Clarivate's Arts C Humanities Citation Index (AHCI), ABCD index for Science, Engineering, Art, Economics, Management, Medical or a standard peer reviewed journal,
 - Positive biannual review by Research Advisory Committee (RAC) constituted by the University/College as per UGC norms.
- Maximum duration: 5 years; no extension beyond this.

E. Monitoring s Accountability

- Each fellow to submit biannual progress reports countersigned by Guide and Principal.
- University Research Advisory Committee to conduct bi-annual performance reviews.
- Online Fellowship Tracking Portal to be created by Government for uploading progress, publications, patents, and thesis status.
- Fellowship disbursement to be linked to progress milestones (research publications, coursework completion, synopsis approval, etc.).

F. Outcome-based Funding

- Prioritize support in state identified areas spread across all the faculties in the vision document of Government of Maharashtra.
- Encourage fellows to publish in standard indexed, peer-reviewed journals with some minimum citation standards.
- Incentivize patent filing / innovation / start-up creation.
- Fellowship completion certificate to include details of research output (papers, patents, societal impact).

G. Institutional Responsibility

- Research Centres should submit annual consolidated reports of fellowship students to the Government.

H. Special Provisions for Equity

- Provide mentoring, training, research skill workshops to help students from weaker backgrounds compete fairly.

4. Expected Benefits of Revised Guidelines

- Ensure that only genuine, research-oriented students benefit from fellowships.
- Improve quality and quantity of research output from Maharashtra universities.
- Enhance visibility of state universities in national/international rankings.
- Promote a culture of accountability and performance-linked funding.
- Reduce misuse of government funds and ensure value for money.
- The practice of engaging fellows as mentioned in Part B - Section 3 (B) above, will provide the prospective teachers, hands on experience of the domain.

5. Conclusion

The fellowship schemes of the Government of Maharashtra are visionary and socially inclusive. However, their impact on research quality can be enhanced significantly through **merit-based selection, strict monitoring, and outcome-linked disbursement**. These reforms will ensure that the state's investment in fellowships yields measurable academic, scientific, and societal returns.