# **Article**

A Case Study on e-SARTS (e-Scholarship-Fellowship Award Registration Tracking System)
Abhishek Kumar, Scientist-C (CS) and Dharmesh Shah STA-I (CS)

The article provides details of a single-window platform for all scholarship/fellowship available to students, scholars and faculties under various schemes of University Grants Commission. The article delves on various features and functionalities of e-SARTS platform, methodology involved, role of INFLIBNET Centre and a brief write-up on each of the 13 scholarships / fellowships that are covered under e-SARTS. The article aims to reach out to eligible students, scholars and faculties who can benefit from these schemes.

# ♦ Scholarship/Fellowship

A scholarship is generally an amount paid or allowed to a student in an educational institution for the purpose of study. A fellowship is generally an amount paid to an individual for the purpose of research. Most fellowships are not based on need. They are usually based on skill, GPA, and qualifications to work in a given field.

Fellowships can also be called scholarships, but the term fellowship is more frequently associated with funding provided for postgraduate studies or research, whereas the word scholarship is applied commonly at the undergraduate level. Unlike scholarships, fellowships rarely take into account the financial need or economic background of an applicant and instead focus more strictly on academic merit.

#### ◆ About e-SARTS

e-SARTS is a single window online platform for all scholarships and fellowships offered by the UGC to students and research community in India. With implementation of e-SARTS the UGC has taken a very bold step and great leap towards e-governance for the benefit of students, scholars and faculties.

Assignment for designing and developing a system for different UGC schemes including scholarships/fellowships/research-awards and major/minor projects were given to INFLIBNET Centre. The INFLIBNET Centre developed a platform named e-SARTS where students, scholars and professionals can register them self for respective schemes. Besides platform, also provides features of admin login to UGC for manipulating and managing the applications received. The INFLIBNET Centre developed the process as per waterfall model of software development life cycle. The Centre acquired the requisite information for development of interface from the UGC. After testing beta version of interface, Centre has hosted the interface at BSNL/INFLIBNET data-centre for providing access to the user community.



e-SARTS: Home Page (http://www.ugc.ac.in/ugc schemes)

# **♦** Methodology

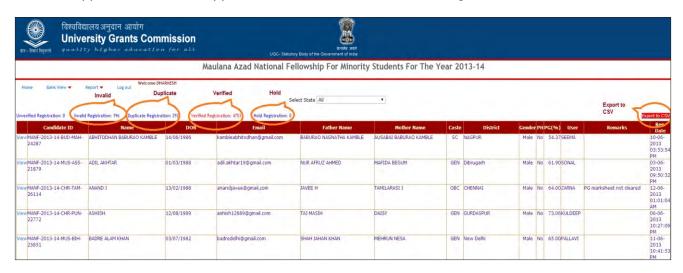
e-SARTS is a web-based user-friendly Graphical User Interface (GUI) for registration tracking that facilitates applicants to apply online and track status of their application. The interface provides all necessary information for individual schemes including about schemes, eligibility, amount of scholarship/fellowship, link for registration, result, download award letter, current status of the application, etc. The process of execution of a scheme is as follow:

I. **Registration of the Candidates:** The students are required to apply online through the interface. The interface captures personal details, qualifications, publications and research information of the candidates.



**Online Registration Page** 

- II. **Filteration of the Applications:** The Centre receives few thousand applications for every scheme from across the country. Some candidates apply more than once and some apply with dummy data. The INFLIBNET Centre scrutinize all applications and categorize them into four categories, namely
  - i) verified applications (application filled properly in all respect as per guidelines);
  - ii) invalid applications (dummy or fake information given by the candidates);
  - iii) duplicate applications (application filled more than one times); and
  - iv) applications on hold (applications that need for decision-making from UGC).



**Process of verification for online applications** 

- III. **Submission to the UGC Committee:** After filteration of applications, list of candidates is sent to the UGC. The UGC convene meetings of expert committee who take the final decision on selection of candidates based on parameters listed in the guidelines of a given scheme.
- IV. **Result** / **Award Letter:** List of candidates short-listed/selected by the Committee is upload on e-SARTS platform. Selected candidates can download their award letters.
- V. **Payment Details:** Details of amount of scholarship/fellowship for selected candidates goes directly to bank along with instructions for releasing of installments. e-SARTS provide a login zone for bank personal who can view details of candidate, amount payable, documentation required, etc.

# Major Schemes

Major schemes available under e-SARTS are as follows:

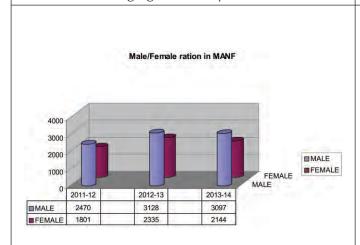
◆ Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students: The objective of the Fellowship is to provide integrated five year fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students from minority communities, as notified by the Central Government to pursue higher studies such as M. Phil and Ph.D. The fellowship under Maulana Azad National Fellowship for minority students is on the pattern of UGC Fellowships awarded to research students pursuing regular and full-time M. Phil and PhD courses. The fellowship holders under this Fellowship will be known as Ministry of Minority Affairs scholars. For more information please visit <a href="https://www.ugc.ac.in/manf/">www.ugc.ac.in/manf/</a>

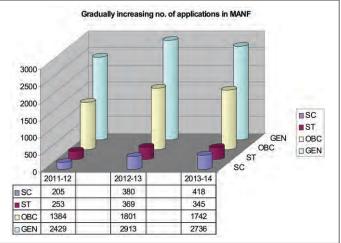
# **Total Allotted Slots**

There are 756 slots every year for all the subjects. 3% fellowships are reserved for Physically Handicapped candidates belonging to Minority Candidates.

# **Amount of Fellowship**

Rs.16, 000/- p.m. for initial two years (JRF) Rs.18, 000/- p.m. for remaining tenure (SRF)





# **Statistics of MANF**

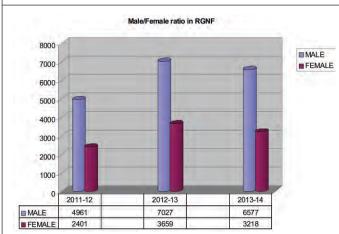
◆ Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC/ST Candidate: The Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) Scheme for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes is formulated and funded by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The scheme is open to candidates who belong to Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe and wish to pursue higher studies such as regular and full-time M.Phil. And Ph.D. degrees in Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences and Engineering & Technology. For more information please visit www.ugc.ac.in/rgnf/

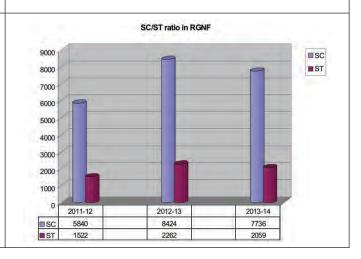
# **Total Allotted Slots**

There are 2000 slots for Scheduled Caste and 667 slots for Scheduled Tribe candidates every year for all the subjects.

# **Amount of Fellowship**

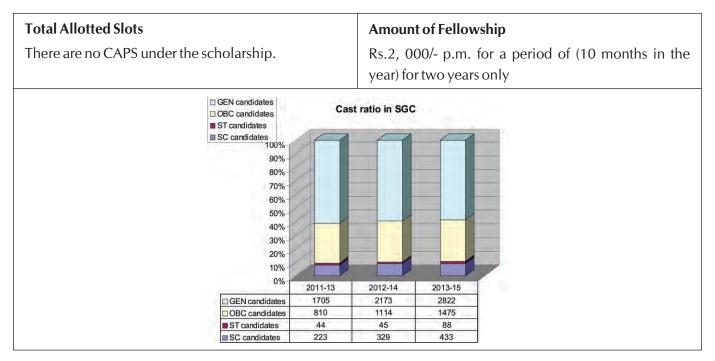
Rs.16, 000/- p.m. for initial two years (RGNJRF)
Rs.18, 000/- p.m. for remaining tenure (RGNSRF)





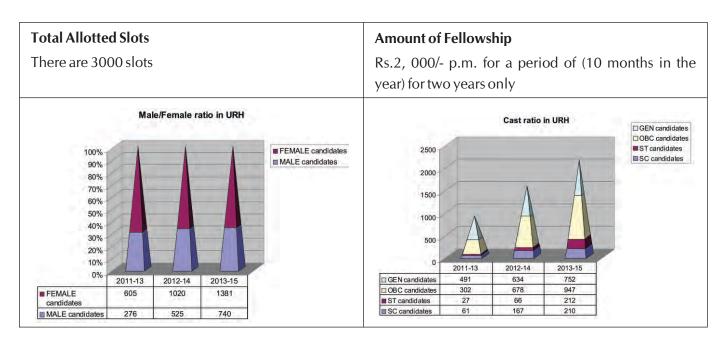
**Statistics of RGNF** 

Post-Graduate Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child: It is observed that number of girls as against boys in certain states is declining which is a matter of great concern. The females are even forced to give birth to male child. In such circumstances education of women needs to be used and effective means for their empowerment and education will prepare them to have a control over their lives. Post-Graduate Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child is launched with the purpose of supporting post-graduate education through scholarships to such girls who happen to be the only child or girl who are twin daughters/ fraternal daughter in the family. For more information please visit <a href="https://www.ugc.ac.in/sgc/">www.ugc.ac.in/sgc/</a>



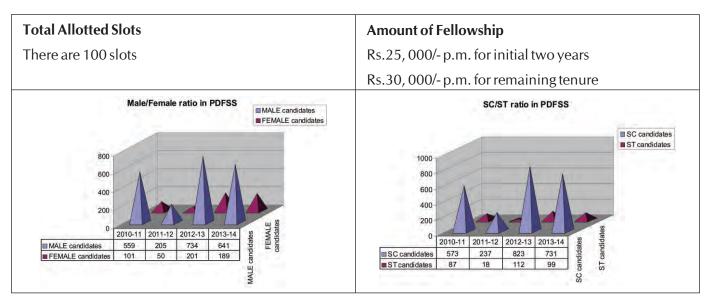
**Statistics of IGNF** 

◆ Post-Graduate Merit Scholarship for University Rank Holder: The Scholarship may be tenable for a period of two years to enable the rank holders of each university at undergraduate level to pursue their Master's Degree. All universities/degree awarding institutions would be required to issue rank certificates to the toppers of the university in B.A., B.Sc. and B.Com. The purpose of this scheme is to attract talent for pursuing post graduate studies besides strengthening the basic subjects at Undergraduate level. The awardees, under this scheme, can pursue their Postgraduate programme in any area of specialization in any institution of higher learning in the country. For more information please visit www.ugc.ac.in/urh/



#### Statistics of URH

Post-Doctoral Fellowship to SC/ST Candidates: This scheme was initiated keeping in view the social background of the candidates from the deprived section of the society and to provide them an opportunity to undertake advanced studies and research in Science, Engineering & Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences in Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges. For more information please visit <a href="www.ugc.ac.in/pdfss/">www.ugc.ac.in/pdfss/</a>



# **Statistics of PDFSS**

Post-Graduate Scholarships for Professional Courses for SC/ST Candidates: The Scheme was initiated keeping in view the social background of the candidates from the deprived section of the society and to provide them opportunity to undertake postgraduate level studies in professional subjects like Engineering & Technology, Management, Pharmacy etc. in Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges. For more information please visit <a href="https://www.ugc.ac.in/pgsprof/">www.ugc.ac.in/pgsprof/</a>

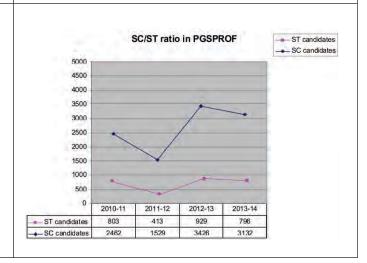
#### **Total Allotted Slots**

There are 1000 slots

#### FEMALE candidat Male/Female ratio in PGSPROF MALE candidates 5000 4500 4000 3500 3000 2500 2000 1500 500 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13 2013-14 FEMALE candidate 912 659 1315 1190 → MALE candidates 3040

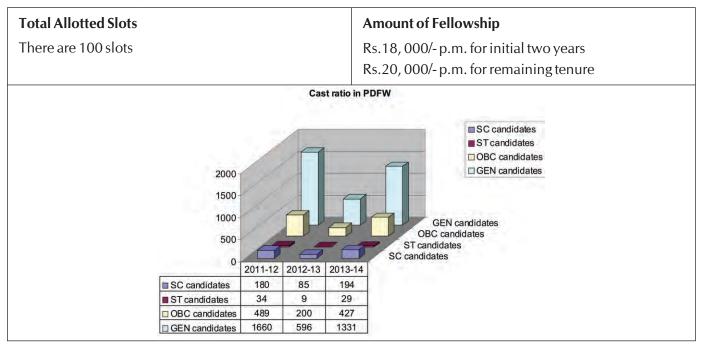
# **Amount of Fellowship**

Rs.5, 000/- p.m. for (M.Tech.) with the contingency of Rs.15, 000/- p.a. For other courses Rs.3, 000/- p.m. and contingency grant of Rs.10, 000/- p.a.



# **Statistics of PGSPROF**

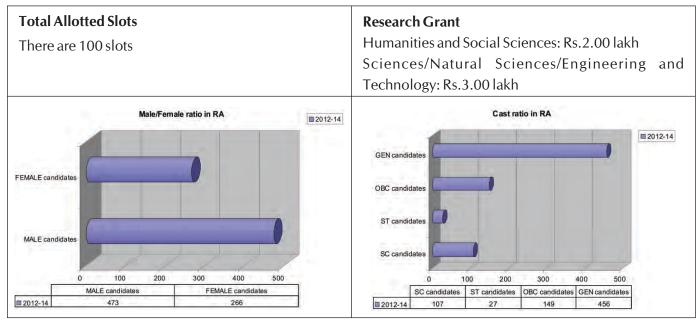
◆ Post-Doctoral Fellowship to Women Candidates: The UGC has changed the name of the old scheme entitled "Part Time Research Associate ship for Women" as "Post-Doctoral Fellowship for Women candidates". The scheme benefits unemployed women candidates holding Ph.D. degree in their respective subject areas with an aim to accelerate the talented instincts of the women candidates to carry out the advanced studies and research. For more information please visit <a href="www.ugc.ac.in/pdfw/">www.ugc.ac.in/pdfw/</a>



# **Statistics of PDFW**

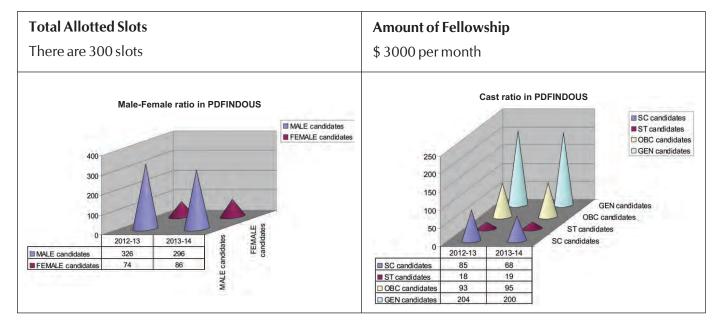
◆ Research Awards for the Teachers: Teachers who have a doctorate degree and have shown excellence in their fields are considered for the award. The Research Award is given to only those lecturers, senior lecturers, and

selection-grade lecturers, readers and professors who are in continuous regular service in a recognized institution on permanent posts and are under 45 years of age at the time of submission of their application. The awardees will be eligible to avail of the Research Award only once. For more information please visit <a href="https://www.ugc.ac.in/ra/">www.ugc.ac.in/ra/</a>



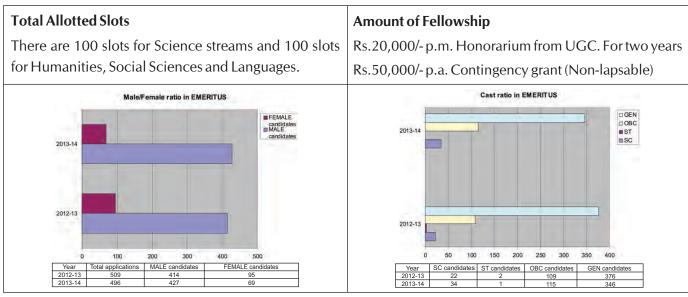
Statistics of RA

◆ Raman Fellowship for Post-Doctoral Research for Indian Scholars in USA: This award will provide s an excellent opportunity to young Indian researchers (permanent faculty), under the age of 40 years to interact with the American academic/scientific community and get firsthand information of the developments taking place at the international level and acquaint themselves with new academic and scientific research methods and to participate in collaborative research projects. It enables young Indian researchers to carry out a clearly defined research project and/or acquire newly emerging research techniques and technologies at a place of their choice in USA for a period of up to 12 months. For more information please visit <a href="www.ugc.ac.in/pdfindous/">www.ugc.ac.in/pdfindous/</a>



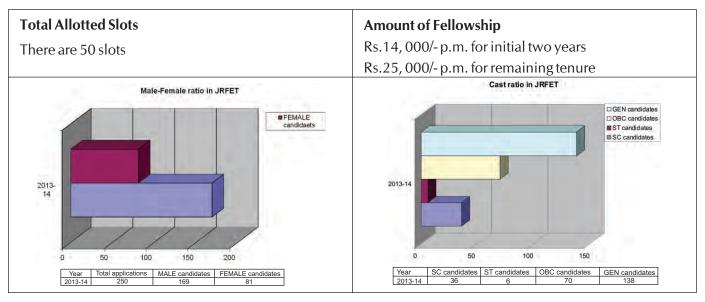
**Statistics of PDFINDOUS** 

◆ Emeritus Fellowship: The University Grants Commission floated the Scheme entitled "Emeritus Fellowship" in order to provide an opportunity to the superannuated teachers of universities, colleges and institutions approved under Section 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act who have been actively engaged in research and teaching programme in the preceding years to undertake research, without any restriction of position or pay scales. For more information please visit <a href="https://www.ugc.ac.in/ef/">www.ugc.ac.in/ef/</a>



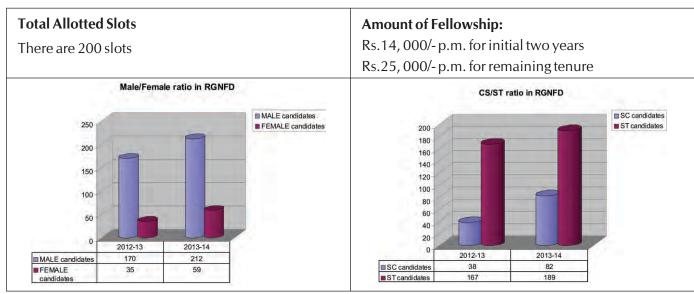
#### **Statistics of EMERITUS**

▶ Junior Research Fellowship in Engineering & Technology: Junior Research Fellowship in Engineering and Technology Scheme is meant for candidates who wish to pursue research leading to a Ph.D. degree in engineering and technology. As of date, the University Grants Commission (UGC) or the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are not conducting National Education Testing (NET) examinations in these fields. Therefore, M.Pharma and M.E., M.Tech. Students are given this opportunity, through direct interview conducted by the Commission. For more information please visit <a href="www.ugc.ac.in/jrfet/">www.ugc.ac.in/jrfet/</a>



Statistics of JRFET

Pajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities: Government of India has launched a Central Sector scheme namely, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) during the financial year 2012-13 to increase opportunities for the students with disabilities for pursuing higher education leading to degrees such as M. Phil. and Ph.D. The scheme caters the requirements of the students with disabilities for pursuing research degree in universities, research institutions and scientific institutions. This not only enables them to be eligible for employment for the posts of Lecturers lying vacant in various colleges and universities but also equip them to effectively take advantage of the growing opportunities at the national and international level in the context of the new economic order. For more information please visit <a href="https://www.ugc.ac.in/rgnfd/">www.ugc.ac.in/rgnfd/</a>



#### **Statistics of RGNF Disabilities**

◆ Major Research Project: The University Grants Commission strives to promote teaching and research in emerging areas of Humanities, Social Sciences, Languages, Literature, Pure Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Pharmacy, Medical, and Agricultural Sciences, etc. The emphasis is to support such areas that cut across disciplines and subjects such as health, gerontology, environment, biotechnology, nanotechnology, stress management, WTO and its impact on economy, history of science, Asian philosophy and many other areas as would be identified by subject experts. There are disciplines such as defence and strategic studies which include national security affairs, insurance and banking, economics and world trade which in a true sense are multidisciplinary in nature, cutting across disciplines of sciences, humanities and social sciences, and are of importance in a rapidly changing global scenario. For more information please visit www.ugc.ac.in/mrp/

Total Allotted Slots	Amount of Fellowship
Depends on Received Applications and decision of the Committee.	Rs.20.00 lakhs For Engineering & Technology, Medical, and Pharmacy Agriculture etc.
	Rs.15.00 lakhs For Humanities, Social Science, Languages, Literature, Arts, Law and allied disciplines

#### Reference

1. http://www.ugc.ac.in (UGC Website)