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**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

## Surge in applicants for 'Back to Lab'

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: As the International Day for Women and Girls in Science is being observed on Saturday, the state can heave a sigh of relief that women, even after a break in their career following childbirth, are making it big in science through the 'Back to Lab' programme.

This year, there is a surge in the number of women applicants for scientific research in the state.

This year, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) has received 49 applications from women for research and post-doctoral research under the Back to Lab programme.

The programme launched by the women scientists division of KSCSTE in October 2010 began in a modest pace and only one applicant was selected a year in the first two years.

In the next two years, seven applicants were selected and last year too, seven proposals got sanctioned.

In all, about 33 proposals have been sanctioned, so far, in the past six years and of these 10 proposals have been completed, while the remaining are on.

This year, about 16 proposals are likely to be selected for funding from among the 49 proposals received, KSCSTE officials said. Currently, the programme gets a state funding of Rs 1.2 crore and the officials expect an increase in the upcoming state budget on March 3.

"The proposals will be vetted by a committee of five reviewers including one reviewer from a reputed institute outside the state. A maximum of 20 proposals would be selected, based on technical competency and quality, particularly from women willing to pursue their research work in Kerala," said KSCSTE women scientists' division head Dr K R Lekha.

Dr Sreeja Purushothaman, a post-doctoral researcher under the programme, has unravelled mitochondria-specific antioxidants to prevent cardiac hypertrophy or thickening of heart muscle due to high blood pressure.

Similarly, a post-doctoral fellow under the programme, Dr Sandhya V Satheesh successfully developed a hybrid bio-active molecule 'aminothiozoles' with anti-oxidant and anti-cancer properties.

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# Kerala revives gender budgeting manual

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Ahead of the state budget to be released on March 3, Kerala has revived its gender budgeting manual. With that, the Plan panel members expect that more than 10% of the state budget plan outlay would be set aside for gender-based schemes.

However, according to Kerala State Planning Board (KSPB) members, in view of the demonetisation of high-value currency notes and drought and allied crisis, allocation to women specific schemes and social sector may face a cut.

KSPB member Mridul Eapen said, "The government has revived the gender budgeting manual released last year and it is expected to address women healthcare, child care, maternity benefits and other women specific issues. Taking a step further, the unpaid household work of women is expected to be recognised, by ensuring proper benefits," she said. In the 9th five year plan, women component plan (WCP) was introduced, earmarking 10% of local body funds for women specific schemes. In the 12th five year plan, a gender responsive budget was declared with two parts - Part A for total women specific schemes and Part B in which 30% of allocation from various departments for schemes that would benefit women.

"Though the macroeconomic policy is gender blind, specific allocation based on gender budgeting will help women. In the revised state budget 2016, finance minister T M Thomas Isaac had set aside 10% of the budget outlay for women specific schemes. But, it should reach the deserving and that can happen only through timely allocation of funds," said another member of KSPB.

Gender budgeting aims at making the government and society aware of women's role in household work and care and the need to ensure that the deprived sections such as unwed mothers, tribal women issues are addressed through maternity benefits, community kitchen and other schemes.

The women specific schemes also include more funding for programmes such as the 'back to lab' scheme for women in science who can continue their scientific pursuit even after taking a break in their career due to child birth.

Malayala Manorama  
04/05/2016

KERALA STATE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

"BACK TO LAB" RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP  
PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE



NOTIFICATION 2016-17

KSCSTE invites application for the award of **Research and Post-Doctoral Fellowship to unemployed** women who have break in their career due to family commitments and who would like to come back to mainstream scientific research.

The scheme offers Research and Post-Doctoral fellowship @ Rs. 20000/- and 32000/- respectively along with a project grant not exceeding Rs. 30 Lakhs for carrying out research in reputed R&D or Academic institution in Kerala.

Applicants should hold P.G Degree or Ph.D in any of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Medicine) areas.

Eligible candidates may apply in the prescribed format with the relevant supporting documents for consideration under the programme. The details on the award of fellowship including Guidelines, Terms & Conditions etc., are available in KSCSTE website [www.kscste.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kscste.kerala.gov.in) under 'Programmes for Women in Science'.

For enquiries, e- mail at [womenscientistkerala@gmail.com](mailto:womenscientistkerala@gmail.com) or call us @ 0471-2548208, 2548346

Last date for receipt of applications : 30-05-2016

14221/D3/2016/I&PR

Mol. Mub. Humu  
04/05/2016

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*K. Vinod*  
*04/05/2016*