

Top research institutes to be graded on gender

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New Delhi: When it comes to gender equality, does your institute measure up? You might know soon.

The ministry of science and technology will grade higher educational institutions and research institutes that it funds on gender equality from this academic year. While 20 institutes, including some Indian Institutes of Technology and National Institutes of Technology, have signed up to be part of the pilot, the grading system will eventually be rolled out across all institutes — over 90 — funded partially or fully by the ministry.

The ratings — gold, silver and bronze — to STEM (science, tech, engineering, mathematics and medicine) institutes will be based on the number of women occupying science faculty positions in the institute, how well the institute recognises contributions by women scientists and the number of women

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What prompted this move by DST

Only 37% of PhD awardees in science in India are women

Just 15% of science faculty positions held by women

➤ Women comprise 7% of fellows at IASc, 5% at INSA

➤ Average 15 Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awardees out of 461 are women

Methodology on gender-equality ratings

- Self-assessment process to develop accreditation
- Followed by peer review
- Surveys for data collection
- Nominated representatives of pilot groups to monitor evaluation
- Volunteering institutes will be provided mentoring
- Workshops on best practices on gender equality by DST-selected agency

What Bronze, Silver and Gold grade will mean?

- Bronze recognises institutes which are working to promote equality
- Silver recognises institutes which identified challenges, demonstrated impact
- Gold recognises institutes where beacons of gender equality achievement, role models exist

fellows sent to Indian Academy of Sciences and Indian National Science Academy. Other parameters will include PhD awardees among

women and how many women scientists returned after a sabbatical.

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