

12th General Meeting of Board of Trustees

Date: 28th December 2025, 3:00 pm

Attendees: All trustees - in-person at Bombay (Adarsh Patil, Netra Gorbhal on Whatsapp)

Agenda: Consideration of applications received for the Dr. M. R. Gorbhal 4th Year Ph.D. Scholarship (2025–26) and review of related administrative matters.

1. Review of Applications Received

The Trust noted that applications were received from the following departments of Karnatak University, Dharwad:

Department of Physics (3 applications):

Mr. Kiran Gadivaddar (5th year Ph.D.)

Ms. Veda Gudihal (4th year Ph.D.)

Ms. Neha K. H. (4th year Ph.D.)

Department of Chemistry (1 application):

Ms. Namrata Nagesh Mundargi (4th year Ph.D.)

2. Discussion and Evaluation

The Trustees discussed each application in detail and undertook a comparative assessment based on the established evaluation framework. The discussion focused on academic coursework performance, consistency of academic track record, clarity and maturity of the research problem, demonstrated progress in the research process, and tangible research outcomes such as peer-reviewed publications.

3. Decisions and Resolutions

After due deliberation, the Trust resolved the following: **Ms. Neha K. H.** was selected as the primary recipient of the Dr. M. R. Gorbhal 4th Year Ph.D. Scholarship from the Department of Physics.

Mr. Kiran Gadivaddar, though not meeting the standard eligibility criteria due to being in the 5th year of his Ph.D. programme, was approved for exceptional support in view of his advanced stage of research and the objective of enabling successful completion. A reduced stipend was approved as a one-time measure.

From the Department of Chemistry, as only one eligible application was received, **Ms. Namrata Nagesh Mundargi** was approved for full scholarship support for the 4th year.

4. Communication to the Department

The Trustees resolved that the following text shall be formally communicated to the concerned departments to justify the Trust's decisions. The text below is approved verbatim text:

After careful review and internal deliberation, the Trust evaluated the applications received for the Dr. M. R. Gorbhal 4th Year Ph.D. Scholarship with emphasis on academic rigor, demonstrated research capability, and maturity of the research process.

Based on these criteria, **Ms. Neha K. H.** was identified as the most meritorious candidate. Her academic record includes an A+ grade in Ph.D. coursework with an aggregate of 308 out of 400 marks, reflecting strong grounding in research methodology and experimental practice. Further, her publication in the *Journal of Indian Chemical Society*, a reputed journal with an Impact Factor of 3.4, provided objective evidence of her ability to carry research through rigorous peer review to recognized scholarly dissemination. The Trust is confident that this award is a fair, merit-based decision aligned with the objectives of the Foundation. The **full scholarship amount of ₹10,000 per month** will be awarded to Ms. Neha.

The Trust also considered the application of **Mr. Kiran Gadivaddar**, who is currently in the **fifth year of his Ph.D. programme** and therefore does not strictly fall within the standard eligibility criteria of the scholarship. However, after discussion, the Trust resolved to make a **special and exceptional provision** in this case, recognizing that he is at an advanced and critical stage of his doctoral work. His application and departmental endorsements indicate satisfactory academic progress, completion of coursework, and sustained engagement with his research programme. Taking into account the risk of discontinuation at this late stage and the financial constraints noted in the application, the Trust decided to extend a **reduced scholarship support of ₹5,000 per month** to Mr. Kiran Gadivaddar as an encouragement to complete his Ph.D. degree. This support is intended as a facilitative, one-time measure and does not constitute a precedent.

The Trust notes that **only one application was received from the Department of Chemistry** for the Dr. M. R. Gorbhal 4th Year Ph.D. Scholarship. After review, the Trust resolved to award the **full scholarship support of ₹10,000 per month** to **Ms. Namrata Nagesh Mundargi**, in recognition of her satisfactory academic progress, successful completion of coursework, and continued engagement with her doctoral research. Her application and departmental endorsements indicate steady advancement toward completion of the Ph.D. programme, and the Trust is confident that this support will enable her to continue and conclude her research effectively in the final year.

1. **Website and Administrative Updates**

Update on website deployment. It was recorded that Netra is currently working on uploading the latest changes to the web host machine, and that Netra and Adarsh will jointly ensure the website is fully updated and ready prior to the upcoming conference. 6. Conclusion There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting concluded with consensus on all resolutions.

2. **Conclusion**

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