

GUIDELINES
FOR THE PROGRAMME OF
DR. BASHI RAM BODO DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
FOR BTR STUDENTS
(With effect from 2024-2025)



BODOLAND TERRITORIAL REGION GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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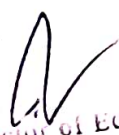
1. Introduction

The Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship is a prestigious initiative by the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Government, aimed at supporting promising doctoral students from BTR pursuing research in reputed Indian universities and higher educational institutions. With a focus on fostering academic excellence and promoting research on issues relevant to the region, this fellowship provides financial assistance to deserving scholars, enabling them to pursue multidisciplinary research. The fellowship underscores the commitment of the BTR Government to empowering the region's intellectual and academic development.

2. Objectives:

- 1) **Promote Higher Education:** Encourage students from the BTR to pursue doctoral studies.
- 2) **Financial Support for Research studies:** Provide financial assistance to meritorious students of the BTR, enabling them to pursue higher education in research.
- 3) **Encourage Academic Excellence:** Motivate students to achieve academic excellence by alleviating financial burdens, allowing them to focus on their studies and research.
- 4) **Foster Research and Innovation:** Support doctoral research that contributes to the academic and socio-economic development of the BTR, encouraging innovative solutions to local and regional challenges.
- 5) **Community Development:** Enable doctoral candidates to engage in community-oriented research, promoting the application of their findings to benefit the BTR and beyond.
- 6) **Honour the Legacy of Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo:** Celebrate and perpetuate the legacy of Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo by nurturing the next generation of scholars and leaders from the Bodo community and other communities within the BTR.

The Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship will be administered by the Department of Education, Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Government, through the Office of the Directorate of Education, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Kokrajhar. The fellowship is open to students from BTR who are pursuing doctoral studies at reputed universities and higher educational institutions across India. Recipients of this fellowship will be designated as BTR Government Education Department Scholars.


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3. Scope of the Fellowship

The Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship aims to support deserving students from the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) who are pursuing Ph.D. programmes at reputed universities and higher educational institutions across India. The fellowship seeks to promote advanced academic research and development by providing financial assistance to students, enabling them to focus on their doctoral studies without financial constraints. Recipients of the fellowship, designated as BTR Government Education Department Scholars, will receive funding for a period of two years, extendable by one additional year, to facilitate their research endeavours in various fields of study.


4. Implementing Agency

The Office of the Directorate of Education, Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar, will serve as the nodal agency for implementing the Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship. It will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the fellowship, including issuing notifications, managing the selection process of fellows, disbursing stipends, and monitoring the progress of the fellowship throughout the year.

5. Eligibility

A candidate has to fulfill the following conditions to be eligible for award of fellowship:


- 1) The candidate must be admitted to a Ph.D. programme with confirmed registration, approved by the Research Advisory Committee, at any reputed Indian university and higher educational institution.
- 2) The candidate must have cleared the interviews conducted by the Department of Education, BTR Government, and have a clearly defined and approved Ph.D. research topic.
- 3) Candidates who have already received prestigious fellowships such as UGC Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), National Fellowship for Higher Education of Scheduled Tribes (NFHEST/NFST), Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF), ICSSR, ICAR, CSIR, ICPR, ICMR, ICHR, Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Foundation Fund Fellowship (JNMF), or any other major doctoral fellowship are **ineligible to apply**.


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- 4) Government employees or those holding government jobs will not be eligible for this fellowship.
- 5) Only candidates who have not received any fellowship or scholarship specifically for their doctoral studies up to the **date of application are eligible**.
- 6) The candidate must be a permanent resident of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).
- 7) A detailed research proposal outlining the intended area of doctoral research, its significance, and its potential impact on the community is required.
- 8) Candidates should be from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Proof of financial need may be required.
- 9) Candidates are eligible for this Fellowship if the annual income of their parents/guardians or self does not exceed **INR 4,00,000 (Four Lakhs)**.
- 10) The candidate should not be more than 35 years of age at the time of application. A relaxation of 5 years is provided for SC/ST/PWD candidates.
- 11) For the period of 2024–25, and until further notice or the adoption of a new decision by the Authority, candidates who enroll in or are admitted to Ph.D./doctoral programs at private universities during this time shall be **deemed ineligible** for the Dr. Bashi Ram Doctoral Fellowship.
- 12) The candidate's research should be able to benefit the BTR community and contribute to its socio-economic development.

6. Mode of Selection

- 1) A Managing Committee (MC) shall be constituted by senior officials of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) government in collaboration with the Director of Education, Office of the Directorate of Education, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Kokrajhar.
- 2) The Managing Committee shall form a Selection Committee (SC), consisting of eminent academicians and selected heads of departments from higher educational institutions within BTR.


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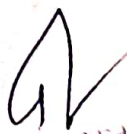
- 3) The Selection Committee shall be granted full autonomy to oversee the entire process of implementing the fellowship, including the selection of deserving fellows from BTR who are pursuing doctoral studies at recognised Indian universities and higher education institutions.
- 4) The Department of Education, under the guidance of the Managing Committee of the Fellowship Programme, shall widely announce the opening of the fellowship through all available advertising channels and agencies to invite applications through an online portal.
- 5) Upon receiving a sufficient number of applications within the stipulated period, candidates shall be shortlisted for either a personal interview or a written examination, as determined by the Selection Committee at its discretion and in accordance with what is deemed most suitable.
- 6) The final list of selected candidates shall be publicly announced on the official website of the fellowship programme and through various media outlets.

7. Number of Fellowship Slots

- 1) The fellowship shall offer a **total of 50 slots yearly**, which will be awarded by the Department of Education, Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Government.
- 2) Although the fellowship encourages multidisciplinary research across diverse fields of study, preference shall be given to research that addresses issues pertinent to the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).

8. Reservation Policy

- 1) Scheduled Tribes (ST) Reservation: 70% of the fellowships are reserved for candidates from the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category.
- 2) Scheduled Caste (SC) Reservation: 5% of the fellowships are reserved for candidates from the Scheduled Caste (SC) category.
- 3) Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PWD) Reservation: 2% of the fellowships are reserved for candidates who are Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PWD).


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- 4) General, OBC, OMBC, and Other Castes Reservation: 23% of the fellowships are reserved for candidates from General, Other Backward Classes (OBC), Other Most Backward Classes (OMBC), and other categories not specified above.
- 5) A horizontal reservation of 30% for women will be tried out to maintain, when applicable across all categories.
- 6) The reservation policy is flexible, allowing open competition if suitable candidates from reserved categories are not found.

9. Duration of Fellowship

- 1) The fellowship is initially awarded for a period of two years.
- 2) The fellowship may be extended for an additional year based on the scholar's work progress and performance, as evaluated and recommended by the Managing Committee.

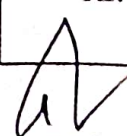
10. Rate of Fellowship

The rate of the fellowship under the Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship shall be as follows:

- 1) Each fellowship awardee shall receive a stipend of Rs. 90,000 (Rupees Ninety Thousand) payable every six months.
- 2) The stipend shall be disbursed biannually (sixth monthly in two times), amounting to a total of Rs. 180,000 (Rupees One Lakh Eighty Thousand) per annum.

Stipend Disbursement Patterns Over (2 + 1) Year Duration

<i>Description</i>	<i>Installment Amount [Sixth Monthly (INR)]</i>	<i>Yearly Amount (INR)</i>
Total Stipend Allocation per Year		Rs. 180,000
<i>Stipend Distribution Pattern</i>		
First Year [Initial two installments]	Rs. 90,000	Rs. 180,000
Second Year [Subsequent two Installments]	Rs. 90,000	Rs. 180,000
Total for two Year fellowships Duration		Rs. 360,000


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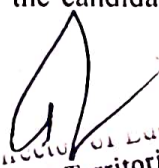
Extension Year [(if applicable) (Additional two installments)]	Rs. 90,000	Rs. 180,000
Total Amount with an Additional Extension Year		Rs. 540,000

11. House Rent Allowance and Contingency

- 1) The fellowship shall not include the provision for House Rent Allowance (HRA). Therefore, recipients of this fellowship shall not be entitled to claim HRA at any time during the tenure of the fellowship.
- 2) The fellowship does not provide for any annual contingency grants. Accordingly, fellowship recipients shall not be eligible to claim contingency grants for the entire duration of the fellowship.

12. Implementation of Programme

- 1) The Office of the Directorate of Education, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Kokrajhar, shall serve as the nodal agency for implementing the Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship Programme for students of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), as defined by the Government of Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR Gov) from time to time.
- 2) The selection for the Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship (BRBDF) shall be conducted on the basis of merit, determined through a rigorous selection process, which may include examinations/interviews. The fellowship shall be awarded **once in year**.
- 3) The decision of the Managing Committee of the Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship regarding the awarding of the fellowship to students of BTR shall be final, and no appeal shall be entertained against any decision made by the Managing Committee.
- 4) The income ceiling for eligibility for the Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship shall be **Rs. 4.00 lakhs per annum**, inclusive of the income of the candidate, their parents, or guardians.


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- 5) If any candidate is found to have obtained the Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship fraudulently, the fellowship shall be automatically cancelled, and the disbursed amount shall be recovered with interest at the prevailing **State Bank of India rate for student loans**.
- 6) If a research scholar is found to be engaged in full-time employment, including but not limited to contractual assistant teacher or research assistant roles, or any form of employment providing a regular monthly salary, their fellowship shall be immediately discontinued. An undertaking to this effect shall be obtained from the candidates by the Managing Committee of the Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship.

13. Administrative Expenses

- 1) The Office of the Directorate of Education, Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar, as the implementing nodal agency for the fellowship program, shall be permitted to allocate up to **10% of the annual budget** under the scheme to cover administrative expenditures. This includes costs associated with meetings, consultations, and honoraria for the Selection Committee members and subject experts invited by the department to conduct interviews or examinations in the selection of deserving fellows.
- 2) The Selection Committee shall also be responsible for tracking the progress of the academic courses of each of the 50 fellowship awardees, monitoring their advancement from time to time.
- 3) In exceptional cases where fellowship awardees encounter issues at their respective universities or institutions, the Managing Committee may authorise a delegation from both the Managing Committee and the Selection Committee to visit those institutions to address such concerns.
- 4) In light of the potential financial needs arising from such visits and other administrative requirements, the BTR Government shall authorise the Office of the Directorate of Education to set aside the **10% allocation for these purposes**.

14. Monitoring and Evaluation


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- 1) The Selection Committee, composed of highly accomplished academicians, shall be entrusted with the authority to oversee the entire process of the Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship.
- 2) The 50 fellowship awardees shall be equally distributed among the members of the Selection Committee, with each member designated as a mentor. Each mentor shall be responsible for monitoring the research progress of their assigned scholars on a regular basis.
- 3) Scholars are required to submit quarterly progress reports through the online system, which will be reviewed by their respective mentors. Only upon satisfactory evaluation of these progress reports will the next stipend installment be processed for direct transfer to the scholar's account.
- 4) At the end of each year, scholars must submit a consolidated yearly progress report via the online portal. If a scholar's performance over the two-year fellowship period is found to be highly satisfactory, their fellowship may be renewed for an additional year at the same fellowship rate.


15. Procedures for Disbursing Stipend

- 1) The Department of Education, Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Government, through the Office of the Directorate of Education, shall disburse the fellowship amount to the selected candidates via the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
- 3) The fellowship stipend will be credited to the fellowship awardee's account every six months, preferably in the middle of each six-month installment period.
- 4) Stipends will be disbursed through the PFMS to ensure that selected candidates do not receive financial support from multiple sources.

16. Acknowledgment and Intellectual Property Rights

- 1) Awardees retain the intellectual property rights to their research findings and publications.
- 2) However, they may be required to acknowledge the support received from the Dr. Bashi Ram Bodo Doctoral Fellowship in their academic work.

17. Resignation and Transfer Provision


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- 1) If any fellow under this fellowship programme resigns or relinquishes the fellowship before the completion of the tenure, the concerned university or institution shall submit this information through the designated web portal. The "*stop payment*" option shall be utilized at the time of the six-monthly confirmation.
- 2) A request for the transfer of the research institution may be considered at the discretion of the Managing Committee of the fellowship programme, provided that the concerned university or institution submits valid reasons along with supporting documents through the designated web portal using the relevant link available therein.

18. Cancellation of Award

- 1) Awardees must adhere to the code of conduct and ethical standards expected of scholars and researchers.
- 2) Awardees must submit all required reports, documentation, and declarations as requested by the fellowship administration.
- 3) Failure to comply with reporting requirements may result in the suspension or termination of the fellowship.
- 4) Any misconduct or violation of the fellowship terms may result in the termination of the fellowship.
- 5) The fellowship may be terminated or rejected if awardees fail to meet the terms and conditions outlined in the fellowship guidelines.
- 6) The decision of the Managing Committee regarding fellowship termination or rejection will be final.

19. Modification in the Fellowship Guidelines

The Department of Education, Bodoland Territorial Region Government, reserves the right to make minor modifications to the fellowship programme as deemed necessary during its implementation, provided such changes do not carry any financial implications and are made in the interest of ensuring the smooth administration of the programme.


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