

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEME OF PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP FOR
SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS STUDYING IN CLASSES 9TH & 10TH.

(APPLICABLE FOR 2019-20)

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**SCHEME OF PRE MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHEDULED CASTE
STUDENTS STUDYING IN CLASSES 9TH & 10TH
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1. BACKGROUND

Article 46 of Part IV ("Directive Principles of State Policy") of the Constitution enjoins upon the State to promote, with special care, the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Article 38(2) of the same Part also enjoins upon the State to minimize inequities in income and to endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations.

2. OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the scheme are:

- (a) To support parents of SC children for education of their wards studying in classes IX and X so that the incidence of drop-out, especially in the transition from the elementary to the secondary stage is minimized, and
- (b) To improve participation of SC children in classes IX and X of the pre-matric stage, so that they perform better and have a better chance of progressing to the post-matric stage of education.

3. SCOPE

Scholarship under the Scheme will be available for studies in India only and will be awarded by the Government of the State/Union Territory to which the applicant belongs i.e. where he/she is domiciled.

4. CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

- (i) Student should belong to Scheduled Caste.
- (ii) His/ her Parent's/Guardian's income should not exceed Rs. 2.50 lakh per annum.
- (iii) A scholarship holder under this scheme will not hold any other educational scholarship for the purpose of studying in class IX and X. If awarded any other educational scholarship for studying in class 9th and 10th, the student can avail of

either of the two scholarships as per his /her choice and should inform the awarding authority through the Head of the Institution about the option made.

(iv) The conditions stipulated in this Ministry's notification no.428 dated 16.02.2017 relating to provisions contained in Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act 2016 are to be followed with further stipulation that if, for any reason, the authentication of Aadhaar fails in respect of any applicant, such an individual should be permitted to establish his/her identity by any other means so that genuine persons are not deprived of their benefits.

(v) She/ he should be a regular, full time student studying in a Government School or in a School recognized by Govt. or a Central/State Board of Secondary Education.

(vi) Scholarship for studying in any class will be available only for one year. If the student has to repeat a class, she / he would not get scholarship for that class for a second (or subsequent) year.

5. ANNUAL PARENTAL/GUARDIAN'S INCOME

Scholarships will be paid to the students whose parents/guardian's income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 2, 50,000/- (Rupees two lakh fifty thousand oniy) per annum.

NOTE 1: So long as either of the parents is alive, only income of the parents, as the case may be, from all sources has to be taken into account only and of no other member even though they may be earning. In the form of income declaration, income is to be declared on this basis. Only in the case where both the parents have died, the income of the guardian, who is supporting the student in his/her studies, has to be taken. Such student whose parent's income is affected due to unfortunate death of one of the earning parents and resultantly comes within the income ceiling prescribed under the scheme, shall become eligible for scholarship, subject to his/her fulfilling other conditions of eligibility, from the month in which such sad incidence takes place. Applications for scholarships from such students can be considered even after lapse of last date of receipt of applications, on compassionate grounds.

NOTE 2: House rent allowance received by the parents of a student shall be exempted from the computation of 'income' if the same has been permitted to be exempted for the purpose of Income tax.

NOTE 3: Income certificate is required to be taken only once i.e. at the time of admission to courses which are continuing for more than one year.

6. VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIP

The value of scholarship includes the following for complete duration of the course:-

- (i) scholarship and other grant,
- (ii) additional allowance for students with disabilities studying in private un-aided recognized Schools.

Rates of scholarship and other grants are as follows:

Item	Day Scholars	Hostellers
Scholarship (Rs. p.m.) (for 10 months)	225	525
Books and Ad hoc Grant (Rs. p.a.)	750	1000

(iii) Additional Allowances for SC students with disabilities studying in private unaided Schools-

Under the Centrally-sponsored Scheme of 'Inclusive Education of the Disabled at Secondary Stage' (IEDSS) implemented by the M/o HRD, financial assistance is already being given under its "Student Oriented Component" to students with disabilities studying at the Secondary stage in Govt., local body and Govt. aided schools. However, students in un-aided schools are not covered under IEDSS.

Therefore, SC students with disabilities, studying in classes IX & X in private un-aided recognized schools, will be eligible for allowances under this Scheme, as follows:

Allowances for students with disabilities studying in Private un-aided Schools	Amount (In Rs.)
(i) Monthly Reader Allowance for Blind students	160
(ii) Monthly Transport Allowance for students with disabilities (as defined in the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995), if such students do not reside in the hostel which is within the premises of the Educational Institution.	160
(iii) Monthly Escort Allowance for Severely Disabled (i.e. with	160

80% or higher disability) Day Scholars/Students with low extremity disability.	
(iv) Monthly Helper Allowance admissible to any of the hostel willing to extend help to a severely orthopaedically handicapped student residing in the hostel of an Educational Institution who may need the assistance of a helper.	160
(v) Monthly Coaching Allowance to Mentally Retarded and Mentally ill Students.	240

Note: The disability as defined under the schedule read with clause (zc) of section z of the Right of the Persons with disabilities Act, 2016. The appropriate Government shall designate persons, having requisite qualifications and experience, as certifying authorities, who shall be competent to issue the certificate of disability.

7. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

- (i) All eligible Scheduled Caste candidates will be given scholarships as prescribed in this Scheme.
- (ii) Candidates belonging to one State/UT but studying in another State/UT will be awarded scholarships by the State/UT to which they belong and will submit their applications to the competent authority in that State/UT.

8. DURATION AND RENEWAL OF AWARDS

- (i) The scholarship will be payable for 10 months in an academic year.
- (ii) The award once made will continue subject to good conduct and regularity in attendance. It will be renewed for Class X after the student passes Class IX. These provisions may be read with conditions of eligibility specified in para 4 of the scheme.

9. PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

- (i) Scholarship is payable from 1st April or from the month of admission, whichever is later, to the month in which the examinations are completed, at the end of the academic year (including scholarship during holidays), provided that if the scholar secures admission after the 20th day of a month, the amount will be paid from the month following the month of admission.

- (ii) In case of renewal of scholarship, it will be paid from the month following the month up to which scholarship was paid in the previous year.
- (iii) The State Government / Union Territory Administration, to which the beneficiary students belong, will pay the scholarship money to them mandatorily in their bank accounts only, in accordance with the procedure laid down by them in this regard,
- (iv) Scholarship to students should be released in the following order of priority:
 - a) Students studying in Centre/State/UT Government Educational Bodies.
 - b) Students studying in Government aided Schools.
 - c) Students studying in Private school affiliated to Centre/State.
 - d) Students studying in other institutions.

10. CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF THE AWARD

- (i) The scholarship is dependent on the satisfactory progress and conduct of the student. If it is reported at any time by the Head of the Institution/School that a student has, by reasons of his/her own act of default, failed to make satisfactory progress or has been guilty of misconduct such as resorting to or participating in strikes, irregularity in attendance without the permission of the authorities concerned etc., the authority sanctioning the scholarship may either cancel the scholarship or stop or withhold further payment for such period as deemed fit.
- (ii) If a student is found to have obtained a scholarship by false statements, his/her scholarship will be cancelled forthwith and the amount of the scholarship paid will be recovered at the discretion of the concerned State Government/ UT Administration. Other administrative action including blacklisting/debarring the students for such scholarship will be taken.
- (iii) A student may be liable to refund the scholarship amount at the discretion of the State Government/ UT Administration, if during the course of the year, the studies for which the scholarship has been awarded, is discontinued by him/her.

11. PUBLICITY OF THE SCHEME & INVITING APPLICATIONS

11.1 The Scheme will be implemented through State Governments/U.T. Administrations. All the State Governments/UT Administrations will, at the appropriate time, suitably publicise the Scheme and invite applications by issuing an advertisement in local language, in the leading newspapers of the State and through their respective websites and other media outfits. The applicant should submit the

completed application to the prescribed authority, as mentioned below before the last date prescribed for receipt of applications.

11.2 State Govt. would prescribe a suitable application form in the local language and place it on its websites. School authorities will get these forms filled by the eligible students and send them to Block / District level authorities. State Governments/UT Administrations will delegate powers to sanction scholarships under the scheme to appropriate Block/ District level authorities/ Heads of Institution, as appropriate.

12. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- (i) An application for scholarship can be made online on the respective State/ UT scholarship portal where available and in hard copy otherwise. While applying on line, the documents may be scanned and uploaded. Hard copy of application uploaded will be submitted as per the requirement of portal where application has been made. Every application, either online or in hard copy, will compulsorily include:
- a. One copy of the application for scholarship in the prescribed form.
 - b. One passport size photograph with signature of the student thereon (for fresh scholarship).
 - c. One self attested copy of certificates, diploma, degree etc. in respect of all examinations passed.
 - d. A certificate of Caste duly signed by an authorized Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar.
 - e. Income declaration of self employed parents/guardian should be in the form of a certificate issued by Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar. Employed parents/guardians are required to obtain income certificate from their employer. Employed parents/ guardians should obtain consolidated certificate from Revenue officer for any other additional source of income.
 - f. In pursuance to the provision of Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act 2016, a student is required to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar or undergo Aadhaar Authentication. If not yet enrolled for Aadhaar, student is required to make application for Aadhaar enrolment.
 - g. Application for scholarship should be submitted by the student by 30th November of the academic year in which he/ she is studying, provided that for valid reasons State authorities may extend the last date.

(Note: Where hard copy is submitted, all copies should be self attested.)

(ii) Application complete in all respects, shall be submitted to the Head of the Institution/School, being attended or last attended by the candidates and shall be forwarded by the Head of Institution, after scrutiny and with his recommendation, to the sanctioning authority, mentioned in para 11.2.

13. MODE OF DISBURSAL OF SCHOLARSHIP

In order to ensure timely and correct payment of scholarship amount to the beneficiaries, State Governments/UT administrations should ensure payment of scholarship through their accounts in post offices/banks. All State Govts/UT Administrations will implement a computerized management system of scholarships, including 'e-payment' system. The Ministry of Social Justice vide notification number 428 dated Feb,16,2017 has notified Aadhaar as identity document under Section 7 of Aadhaar Act 2016 for all Scholarship Schemes w.e.f. 16th February 2017. The States will henceforth make provisions for capturing details of Aadhaar, aadhaar EID and other alternative documents as provided for in the said notification on their respective Scholarship portals or otherwise.

14. PATTERN AND CONDITIONS OF CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (CA)

14.1 The Scheme is implemented by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations and is Fund Limited Scheme under which 'Notional Allocations will be made to the States based on their SC population. The States shall receive 60% of their total Annual Demand under the scheme (i.e. scholarship amount required towards all eligible students enrolled in Class IX and X) or the Notional Allocation, whichever is less, as Central assistance from Government of India. The balance 40% requirement will be borne by the States/UTs by making provision in their own State Budget. For North Eastern States, the sharing pattern of 90:10 between Central and State Government is to be adopted.

14.2 State Government/UT Administration will give priority for disbursement of scholarships under the Scheme to students in Government schools, then Government aided schools and lastly to private schools.

14.3 Savings if any, due to less funds required by any States/UTs in a financial year shall be distributed among those States where 60% of the demand for the year is higher than the Notional Allocation.

14.4 The revised pattern will be applicable for 2019-20 only.

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14.5 Upto 1.5 % of total Central expenditure towards Scholarship would be utilized on administrative expenditure, Management, Monitoring & Evaluation etc. The funds would be utilized for this purpose by the Central Govt. inter alia, for establishing a Technical Support Group at the Central level which shall provide the technical and other support to the Department and the States/UTs for better implementation of the scheme. A part of this fund would be released to States/UTs, over and above the Scholarship amount, on the basis of proposals received from them in this regard. However, no new posts would be created under this component.

15. PROCEDURE FOR CLAIMING AND RELEASE OF CENTRAL ASSISTANCE (CA)

15.1 CA will be released to the States/UTs, in two installments. First installment of CA would be released on ad-hoc basis, as far as possible, during the first quarter of the financial year (April- June) subject to satisfactory utilization of Central Assistance, released prior to the previous year. State Governments/UT Administrations will be expected to submit their complete proposals for CA in the prescribed format under the Scheme by 31st December, which would be released to them, subject to fulfillment of all the conditions, including the audit UC for the previous year. Demand for CA submitted beyond 31st December will not be entertained. The demand for the current Financial Year should be in respect of student's scholarship for the corresponding academic year. Arrears due to non release of CA of previous years should be shown separately.

15.2 State Governments/ UT Administrations will be expected to ensure timely and regular disbursement of scholarships to students through Bank /Post office accounts, preferably on a monthly basis. Pending release of CA, the scholarships would be expected to be paid out of the State Budget, against which reimbursement can be claimed. In no case the disbursement of the scholarship to students should be held up due to any delay in the release of CA.

16. MONITORING:

State Governments and Union Territory Administrations implementing the scheme will:

- i) Furnish data of beneficiaries and expenditure under the scheme, to Government of India, regularly in the Monthly Progress Reports whose proforma would be

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separately prescribed. Financial assistance given under the scheme shall not be utilized for any other purpose.

ii) make beneficiaries database which may be integrated with UIDAI by (a) embedding Aadhaar numbers (UID numbers) in it, (b) using the UIDAI enabled bank account (UEBA) for crediting the scholarships and (c) using the UIDAI authentication services for beneficiary identification.

iii) ensure that an institution-wise list of awardees, with necessary particulars, for award of scholarships is displayed on the web-site of NIC at District level.

iv) designate Grievance Redressal Officers (GROs) at the State and District levels to redress students' scholarship-related grievances.

17. CHANGE IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE SCHEME:

The provisions of this Scheme can be changed at anytime at the discretion of the Government of India.

18. EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION/ ALTERATION OF MODALITIES

a. For the purposes of effective implementation of the Scheme, States/UTs may formulate guidelines for assessing eligibility of beneficiaries & institutions and modalities for Direct benefit transfer, which shall be in accordance with the objectives of the Scheme provided that the States shall not be at liberty to impose any guideline which enhances or has the effect of enhancing the liability of the Centre under the Scheme.

b. The Centre may call for reports from time to time and issue guidelines for effective implementation. The guidelines and eligibility norms of the scheme may also be changed by Central government as deemed necessary.

19. EVALUATION

The learnings from implementation of the scheme in 2019-20 will be utilised by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (GOI) while drafting proposal for extension of the scheme for next Finance commission Cycle.
