(1)

No.K-11017/1/2022-SCD-V
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Social Justice & empowerment

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Date: 5th October, 2023

To,
Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary/
Additional Secretary/Incharges/
Social Welfare Department/SC/OBC Welfare Department
All States/UTs as per list

Subject: Instructions regarding Implementation of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme (SC) Students and Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students & Others for AY:2023-24.

Respected Madam/Sir,

With reference to implementation of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme (SC) Students and Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students & Others for AY:2023-24, it is informed that in addition to the Instructions issued to all States/UTs vide letter dated 26thSeptember 2022 (copy enclosed), the following decisions have been taken-

Pre-requisites:

1. Disbursement of scholarship rates and allowances strictly as per guidelines under both the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes for SCs: All those States which are still disbursing the lesser scholarship rates and allowances against the rates prescribed in the scheme guidelines are requested to adopt the revised rates at the earliest. The States/UTs can, however, do the top-ups above the Central rates and allowances as specified in the scheme guidelines, if desired;
2. Integration with UIDAI for demo-authentication of students;
3. Integration with NPCI to verify Aadhaar seeding status with the Bank Accounts of the beneficiaries.
4. Mandatory integration with UDISE·/AISHE & other similar databases for authentication of School/Institutions from 2024-25
5. Integration with PFMS (DBT) for disbursement of State Share amount;
6. Integration with NSP–PMS SC Portal for sending the beneficiary data for disbursement of Central Share;
7. Mandatory Integration with DigiLocker/API Setu/State Database for Digital verification of eligibility certificates from 2024-25

Additional modifications in the process flow for both the SC scholarship schemes i.e., Post Matric Scholarship Scheme (SC) Students and Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students & Others have been recommended which need to be incorporated by all States/UTs on their respective State portals as listed below:

1. **Aadhaar-based Biometric eKYC for all INOs/HoI/DNOs/SNO:**

   a. Geo tagging of Institutes and Aadhaar based eKYC of all Institute Nodal Officers(INO), Head of Institute and District Nodal Officers (DNO) to be undertaken at utmost priority.

   b. State Nodal Officer will conduct the Bio-metric authorization of District Nodal Officer. Bio-metric authorization of Institute Nodal Officer (INO) & Head of Institute (HoI) will have to be conducted physically in the presence of District Nodal Officer. Special camps should be organized at District Head Quarters in mission mode and the exercise should be completed at priority.

   c. Any change in incumbent Institute Nodal Officer (L1), District Nodal Officer (L2) can only be affected on completion of afresh Aadhaar based eKYC and with the approval of the competent authorities.

   d. States are suggested to strengthen the verification processes. States should have provision to randomly physically check upto 10% of applications.

   e. If any application is found fake by L2 (DNO) authority, the System shall immediately mark/inform this to the concerned INO (L1) and treat that as suspended. All applications associated with that INO shall automatically be moved in suspended mode (except whose payment is already in-process/processed). The DNO is required to examine the issues. On inquiry, after satisfying himself, if L2 (DNO) finds irregularities or non-compliance, he may report this to the State Nodal Officer and also remove the concerned INO from the System and ask the Institute to nominate a new INO (L1) and complete his/here KYC as mentioned above.

   f. To enhance the efficiency and accuracy of data, the States/UTs are recommended to complete the Aadhaar based Bio-metric eKYC for INO, HoI, DNO and SNO preferably from 2023-24. NSP API will mandatorily accept data for Central share payment for those institutions whose eKYC of the INO and HoI has been done. NSP API will also have parameter/field to check if eKYC of SNO, DNO, HoI and INO has been done at State Portal.

2. **Aadhaar based eKYC for all Beneficiaries**

   a. It will be mandatory for all the students/applicants to provide their Aadhaar during registration. Payment would only be made in the Aadhaar seeded bank account through Aadhaar Payment Bridge

System (APBS) through PFMS. The students/applicants who do not have an Aadhaar number, will be given an option to register through their EID numbers and will be given 30 days' time to obtain the Aadhaar number. On receiving the Aadhaar number, students/applicants are required to update that on the scholarship portals and seed their Aadhaar number in to bank account. Aadhaar based bio-metric authentication and eKYC will be mandatory from 2024-25. However, in order to ensure smooth transition, States/UTs are suggested to preferably start One-Time password (OTP) based Aadhaar eKYC of the students/applicants for 2023-24.

b. For minor applicants (age lesser than 18 years) who do not have Aadhaar, it will be mandatory for parent or Legal guardian to provide their Aadhaar. For such cases minor would open a joint bank account with parent/legal guardian and it would be seeded with parent/legal guardian Aadhaar.

Scholarship disbursement in such cases would be made in the joint bank account with Parent/Legal guardian's using ABP. States are however, requested to encourage the applicants to get their Aadhaar number.In all such cases INO/HoI would validate the relationship of Parents/Legal guardian with the minor. NSP API will have parameters/fields to check if INO/HoI has validated the relationship of Parents/Legal guardian with the minor.

3. Real Time Integration of State Portals with NPCI

a. It is required that State Portals be integrated with NPCI for real-time validation of Aadhaar seeding status on NPCI mapper. Students registering themselves with Aadhaar or EID should not be asked to provide their bank account details. On successful validation, the NPCI System will inform the seeding status of Aadhaar with bank account.

b. In case of failure, necessary support, in the form of FAQ/documents/Audio-Visual content be made available on the State Portals and be provided to assist students on Aadhaar seeding on NPCI mapper.

4. Integration with UDISE+/AISHE & other similar databases

State Portals should be integrated with UDISE'/AISHE and other similar databases to verify students' records and students of such institutes be eligible for the scholarships. This will be mandatory from 2024-25.

5. Capturing the Institute type

The Scholarship Portals should also capture the Institute type (Govt/Govt Aided/Private) during the application registration process. It is imperative that the API be updated to include additional mandatory parameter that captures the type of institution from the State/UT. This includes distinguishing between **Government, Government Aided, and Private Institutions**. API for Central share will mandatorily accept data which has above parameter.

6. Online verification of Uploaded Documents

For online verification of eligibility certificates/documents, States/UTs should use DigiLocker/API Setu extensively for eligibility verification after obtaining appropriate consent.It is recommended that integration among the different databases and other State departments with the State Scholarship Portals is completed at the earliest.The basic eligibility documents specially the Caste Certificate, Income Certificate and Domicile Certificate required for applying for the scholarships should preferably fetched online. This will be mandatory from 2024-25.

7. Disbursement of State Share

All the States/UTs to release Scholarship amount mandatorily through Aadhaar Based Payment Bridge System through PFMS and strictly no direct bank account-based disbursements to be made.

8. Integration with NSP-PMSC Portal

After disbursement of State share, the States will push the data to the Central Portal through a designated API provided by DoSJE.

प्रवीण कुमार थिंद /PARVEEN KUMAR THIND
निदेशक /Director
सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय
M/o Social ... & Empowermen
सामाजिक न्याय ...
D/o Social Jus...
शेल्टर ...
She...

States/UTs are suggested to:

a. Consume all the APIs as provided by DoSJE to push the State share paid data on NSP–PMSC portal & also for pushing statistical data.
b. To mandatorily install schedulers for all APIs, to automatically push the required data on regular intervals without any manual intervention.
c. Capture all necessary data fields from student as mentioned in shared API document.

9. IEC and Capacity Building

For the activities related to IEC & Capacity Building, States/UTs are suggested to drive suitable & adequate mass awareness programmes which may be undertaken regularly to ensure that the beneficiaries/institutions/Department officials are aware of these requirements. State must make regular efforts to educate stakeholders specially the beneficiaries about the Aadhaar Seeding Process, DBT & other relevant information.

10. Clearing pending applications and efforts to purify database

States are to mandatorily clear all the pendency of AY:2021-22& 2022-23 i.e., scrutiny of applications pending at L1/L2, Disbursement of State Share, Applications marked under objection and credit failure cases if any. States/UTs must also ensure data purification exercises are undertaken at regular intervals so that all redundant data, dummy data, duplicate data and incomplete data is removed from the system and scholarship portals.

11. Pending Utilization Certificates

States are also requested to submit the pending Utilization Certificates for Administrative Funds issued in AY:2021-22& 2022-23

12. **Audit Observations and paras**

States are requested to take necessary and appropriate steps on priority to address the concerns raised by the CAG in its Performance Audit reports and other State specific studies/surveys/audit reports if conducted by the State Governments to improve upon the systems.

Yours faithfully,

5.10.23

(Parveen Kumar Thakur)

Email:- pk.thakur@nas.gov.in

Copy to:

1. Chief Secretary, All States/UTs as per list; for information pls.
2. Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/Secretary, Additional Secretary/Incharges of the Department of School Education, All States/UTs as per list; for necessary cooperation and directions to all concerned for taking action on related aspects at the earliest.
3. Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/Secretary/ Additional Secretary/Incharges of the Department of Higher Education, All States/UTs as per list; for necessary cooperation and directions to all concerned for taking action on related aspects at the earliest.
4. Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/Secretary/ Additional Secretary/Incharges of the Department of Medical Education, All States/UTs as per list; for necessary cooperation and directions to all concerned for taking action on related aspects at the earliest.
5. Commissioner/Director, Department of School Education, All States/UTs as per list; for necessary follow up and action.
6. Commissioner/Director, Department of Higher Education, All States/UTs as per list; for necessary follow up and action.
7. Commissioner/Director, Department of Medical Education, All States/UTs as per list; for necessary follow up and action.
8. HoG, National Scholarship Portal (NSP), NIC HQ.

2022/SCD-V

No. K-11017/1/2022-SCD-V
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Date:26,September, 2022

To,
Additional Chief Secretary/
Principal Secretary/Secretary/
Additional Secretary/Incharges
Social Welfare Department/SC/OBC Welfare Department
All States/UTs as per list

Subject:- Instructions regarding implementation of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme (SC) and Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students and others for FY 2022-23 - reg.

Respected Madam/Sir,

With reference to implementation of Post Matric Scholarship Scheme (SC) and Pre Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students and others for FY 2022-23 it is informed that on the basis of suggestions of State Governments provided during a meeting held on dated 08.09.2022, the following decisions have been taken-

A. Registration process-

i.   It will be mandatory for all the student/ applicants to provide their Aadhaar during registration, irrespective of age. Payment would be only Aadhaar based and thus there will be no need to collect bank account details.

ii.   The students who do not have an Aadhaar number will be given an option to register through their EID numbers and will be given 30 days time to obtain the Aadhaar number and seed their Aadhaar number in to a bank account.

iii.   The State portal will have a provision to guide the student on the process for obtaining Aadhaar and will facilitate the students in obtaining the Aadhaar in case any difficulties are faced by them.

iv.   Regular advisory will also be issued by the States to the respective institutes so that there are no delays in such cases.

v.   During the registration process the students will be allowed to fill only those institutes' details which have valid AISHE/ UDISE Codes.

vi.   For the courses not covered under the AISHE/ UDISE Codes, the State Governments will create Additional Codes in consultation with the concerned Departments (as recognized by the Central/ State Government) and communicate such list of Codes to Ministry/NIC. However, in no instance an institute will be selected which is not registered through an academic Code. The States will conduct a drive, along with the concerned department, to ensure that all the registered institutions have a valid Code.

1

viii. The States will conduct a real time 'demo-auth' of the Aadhar, similar to that being dome by NSP, Aadhar seeding status and AISHE/DISE etc. check at the time of registration itself.

ix. States will require to integrate their portals with the UIDAI Portal (for Aadhaar authentication process), NPCI portal (For Aadhaar seeding verification process) and PFMS (For release of State share of scholarship).

x. The States will create a Master-list of courses and segregate the existing courses in the States as per the Groups mentioned in the Scheme guidelines. No such check will be conducted on the Central Portal.

xi. The registration page of States' portals should clearly mention the requirement of Aadhar, need for Aadhar seeding of the account of the student and the need for AISHE/DISH etc. Code of the institution. Suitable and adequate awareness programmes may be undertaken regularly by the States to ensure that the beneficiaries/institutions are aware of these requirements.

B.   Verification of documents-

i.   States will ensure that necessary verification of three documents is done through institute's/concerned officials which are required as per Scheme guidelines i.e. Caste Certificate, Income Certificate and Bonafide student Certificate. States may also require to ensure that they may get verification of additional documents done, in case, if they so desire. However, States will endeavor to make the process of verification completely online and without any manual intervention.

ii.   States will also coordinate with the respective document/s issuing authorities and ensure the linkages of various documents through Aadhaar so that the exclusivity of registration is ensured.

C.   De duplication and Red Flag processes-

i.   Red Flag process will be conducted on the States Portals and no such checks will be done on the Central Portal. The basic Red Flag criteria are mentioned in **Annexure-A**

ii.   States shall also mandatorily undertake de-duplication with other scholarship schemes being administered by them.

iii.   The data in the red flag categories does not mean the rejection of data. It only indicates that the data should be re-checked and then, if found OK, be verified by the States.

iv.   The check value of Red Flags (e.g. Age for the level of education, fees in a group etc.) can be chosen by the State Governments. However, there should be some check in all the categories.

Payment of State share-

i.   The States will release the Scholarship amount through Aadhaar based Payment Bridge System through PFMS for the AY:2022-23 and no bank account details will required to be captured during the application registration process.

ii.   There is no such process provisioned in the Scheme guidelines for making payment to students in more that one part by the State Governments and the release of scholarship should be done in one part only.   2

iii. If State has inadvertently made the payment of Central Share also through its portal, the state will not subsequently claim this amount from Central share and no such request will be entertained by the Central Government. The States shall be solely and fully responsible for this act of theirs.

iv. For the AY:2022-23 onwards, a mechanism should be in place and inserted in the States portals, by which, the fee should be limited as per the cap announced by their Fee fixation Committee/s, and students/ institutes (as the case may be) should not be allowed to the submit fee which is more than that.

E. Sharing of data with Central Portal-

i. After the payment of States share, the States will push the data to the Central Portal through a designated API to be provided by NSP.

ii. Calculation of Central share to be done by the State Governments and the release of Central share would be based on this data only. There shall be no updation/ revision of Fee/ allowance of Central share to be done on Central Portal.

iii. While calculating the Central share the States must ensure that it is done as per the Scheme guidelines. There shall be three parts of data to be share with the Central Portals-

   a. State Share paid (As per Scheme guideline)
   b. Central share due (As per Scheme guideline)
   c. Top up amount of State share, if any.

   For Top up release, the States are required to open a separate SNA account and the entire Top Up releases to be done through this account only. The States are required to follow the directions of the Ministry of Finance in this regard. The NSP will make suitable provision in the API to record/capture this data also.

F. Actions after sending the files to Central Portal-

i. The payment file will be created of thus successful data and the same will be sent to State Governments for their DSC authentication.

ii. To ensure proper accountability and monitoring, States will provide summary data through an API regarding status of applications, physical verification at various levels covering at last 10% of the institutions/ students chosen randomly through an algorithm, etc. Detailed instructions regarding physical verification will be issued separately.

- 5 -

/SCD-V

iii. The Demo-Auth of the Institute Nodal Officers (INOs) is also mandatory. No application should be approved from the State Governments from those institutes, whose INOs Demo Auth is not done on the Portal of the State Governments, irrespective of institutes having a valid AISHE/ UDISE Code.

iv. The UIDAI has launched a service at https://bhuvan.nrsc.gov.in/aadhaar/ for Geo-visualisation of Aadhaar Seva Kendra. The State Governments are required to provide the link on their portals so that the applicants can identify a nearby Aadhaar Seva Kendra for Aadhaar enrolment.

v. All State Governments to ensure that time bound notifications/ messages/ instructions are sent to all beneficiaries so that there are no communication gaps and appropriate time is provided to the beneficiaries to act accordingly.

2. This issues with the approval of Secretary (SJ&E).

Yours faithfully

26.9.22
(Parveen Kumar Thind)
Direct
Email id:-pk.thind

Annexure-A

RED FLAG CHECKS TO BE CARRIED OUT ON STATE PORTALS BEFORE DISBURSAL

For detetecting anomalies in the data, all 'Red Flag' checks done on the NSP – PMS SC Portal for AY 2021-22 shall be done on the State Portals w.e.f. AY 2022-23, on completion of L2/State Level Verification. State's system shall mark all Red Flag checks which will be done on the respective State's Portal. State's System would mark red flags in the applications based on the following criterion. While these checks are mandatory, the values suggested are indicative only and State may fix their own values.

A. Fee to be release to Students (indicative amount):

> Group 1 – Fee more than Rs. 2.5 Lakh
>
> Group 2 – Fee more than Rs. 1.0 Lakh
>
> Group 3 – Fee more than Rs. 50 Thousand
>
> Group 4 – Fee more than Rs. 25 Thousand

B. Age based Validation (indicative age)

> For Post-Matric: Age more than 35 years and age less than 13 years
>
> For Pre-Matric: Age more than 20 years

C. Number of applicants on one mobile number: Not more than 2
D. More than one application on one Aadhaar

Note: Any Red Flag would require a recheck of the application details by the State. If found correct, disbursal can be made.

- 5 -