

**Guidelines for the
'Free Coaching Scheme for SC and OBC Students'
Applicable from April 2022-23**

1. Background

- i. The empowerment of the weaker sections has been a priority area of concern for the Government since independence. A number of plans and programmes are being implemented for assisting them so as to enhance their skills and capabilities for ensuring rapid economic development and integration in the national main stream.
- ii. A scheme for providing free coaching to students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) was started during 6th Five Year Plan. Similar schemes were also being implemented to provide free coaching to students belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Minorities. With a view to ensure effective implementation and monitoring and to assist the students in a better manner, the separate coaching schemes for SCs, OBCs and Minorities were amalgamated and a combined Scheme, namely, 'Coaching and Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections' including Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and Minorities was introduced with effect from September, 2001.
- iii. After creation of a separate Ministry to handle matters relating to the Minorities viz the Ministry of Minority Affairs, the Scheme underwent further revision in April 2007 for removing the minority component from the ambit of the scheme and to accommodate other changes deemed necessary at that point of time. The last revision of the Scheme came into effect from 01.04.2016.

2. Objective

The objective of the Scheme is to provide coaching of good quality for economically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) candidates to enable them to appear in competitive examinations and succeed in obtaining an appropriate job in Public/Private Sector.

3. Courses for Coaching

The courses for which the Coaching will be imparted shall be as follows:

- a. Group A and B examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission(UPSC), the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and the various Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs);
- b. Group A and B examinations conducted by the State Public Service Commission's;
- c. Officers' Grade examinations conducted by Banks, Insurance Companies and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);
- d. Premier Entrance Examinations for admission in (a) Engineering (e.g. IIT-JEE), (b) Medical (eg. NEET), (c) Professional courses like Management (e.g. CAT) and Law (e.g. CLAT),and (d) Any other such disciplines as Ministry may decide from time to time.
- e. Eligibility tests/examinations like SAT, GRE, GMAT, IELTS and TOEFL.
- f. Entrance examination tests for CPL courses/National Defence Academy and Combined Defence Services.

4. Distribution of slots amongst types of competitive examinations

60% of total available slots shall be allotted to the courses for which qualifying exam is graduation (Bachelor's level). 40% of total slots shall be for the courses for which qualifying exam is Class12.

5. Category-wise Ratio of Candidates

The ratio of SC and OBC students to be coached under the Scheme will be 70:30. In case of non-availability of adequate number of candidates in the OBC category, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment can relax this ratio.

6. Eligibility criteria for students

- a. Only students belonging to SCs and OBCs, having total family income from all sources of Rs. 8.00 lakh or less per annum will be eligible for benefits under the Scheme.
- b. SC/OBC candidates belonging to a Minority community shall apply under the similar scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- c. Income Certificate: Income declaration of self-employed parents/guardian should be in the form of a certificate issued by a Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar. Employed parents/guardians are required to obtain income certificate from their employer and submit consolidated certificate from Revenue Officer including any other additional source of income.
- d. For the competitive exams for which the qualifying exam is class XII, benefits under the scheme will be available to a candidate only if the candidate has passed class XII or is studying in class XII as on the date

of receiving the benefit under the scheme. Student will be required to declare the marks obtained by him/her in class X in the application form. The marks scored by the student in his / her class X examination shall be reckoned for the purpose of evaluating his / her eligibility and drawing inter-se merit. Students having less than 50% marks in their class X exam, shall not be considered under the scheme.

- e. Further, in case of competitive exams for which the qualifying exam is at bachelor level, only students/candidates having completed the bachelor level course or studying in the final year of the bachelor degree course at the time of receiving the benefits under the scheme shall be eligible. Student will be required to declare the marks obtained by him/her in class XII in the application form. The marks scored by the student in his / her higher secondary examination shall be reckoned for the purpose of evaluating his / her eligibility and drawing inter-se merit. Students having less than 50% marks in their class XII exam, shall not be considered under the scheme.
- f. Benefits under the Scheme can be availed by a particular student not more than twice, irrespective of the number of chances he/she may be entitled to take in a particular competitive examination, and irrespective of the number of stages in the exam. The student will be required to provide a declaration that he/she has not taken benefit more than twice under the Scheme.
- g. The candidate shall be precluded from availing benefits under any other coaching scheme of the Centre or State Government and will be required to provide a declaration to this effect. A list of beneficiaries availing the scheme will also be uploaded on the website of the Ministry and shall be shared with States/UTs to avoid possibility of the candidate availing benefits of similar coaching scheme simultaneously.

7. Mode of implementation

The Ministry will directly select a total of 3500 students as laid down in para9 of the Scheme. These students shall have the liberty to pursue a coaching for any of the exams indicated in the Annexure, in an institute of their choice through physical mode only. Online coaching shall not be supported under the scheme.

8. Extent of Assistance

- a. The actual course fee of the institute, or the prescribed course fee by the Ministry as per **Annexure** of the Scheme, whichever is less, shall be payable. If the course fee is more than the amount specified in the

Annexure, the candidate has to arrange for the remaining funds from his/her own sources.

- b. The **coaching fee** shall be paid through DBT in a single instalment to be released within 2 weeks from the date the candidate uploads the fee receipt showing payment of fee to the institution. This is, therefore, on a reimbursement basis.
- c. **Monthly stipend** of Rs. 4000/- per student will be released to the student through DBT in one instalment after completion of the coaching period, and after appearing in the exam for which coaching has been taken. For claiming this, the student has to upload the hall ticket of the exam along with self-certification that he has completed the coaching and taken the exam. In case the exam is not taken within one year of the completion of the coaching, and proof thereof is not submitted accordingly, the student shall forfeit the stipend.

9. Modalities of implementation

a) Number of candidates to be selected

For the first year of these revised guidelines i.e. 2022-23, 3500 students shall be selected under the scheme. The following will be the allocation of seats for various coaching schemes:

Type of coaching	Total numbers	SC 70%			OBC 30%		
		Boys	Girls (minimum)	Total	Boys	Girls (minimum)	Total
12th class eligibility	1400	686	294	980	294	126	420
Degree eligibility	2100	1029	441	1470	441	189	630
	3500	1715	735	2450	735	315	1050

In case of shortfall of eligible applicants in any of the categories, redistribution of slots shall be done by the Ministry, to ensure maximum utilisation of the available slots, while ensuring that at least 70% of the slots are taken up by SC students.

b) Process of application:

- i. The applicants shall, after assessing their eligibility and suitability as per the eligibility conditions of the Scheme, be required to apply online (only) on the Free Coaching Scheme portal i.e. coaching.dosje.gov.in along with the details of the course he/she intends to join.
- ii. The applicants will be required to upload their applications along with the prescribed supporting documents.

- iii. If the applicant is a student who is current beneficiary of either the Post Matric Scholarship schemes for SCs/OBCs, or the Top Class Scholarship Schemes for SCs/OBCs, the same shall be mentioned along with their unique ID under these scholarship schemes as allotted by the National Scholarship Portal.
- iv. Aadhaar number shall be mandatory for all students who have attained 18 years of age on the date of application or earlier.. Any such student without Aadhaar number, can apply by providing the EID number of Aadhaar enrolment. The applicant shall be required to give other documents as proof of identity, as prescribed separately..
- v. Every applicant above 18 years of age having applied with Aadhar shall link his Bank Account with his Aadhaar number and, at the time of application, certify that the same has been done. For those applying with EID and those below the age of 18 years who do not have Aadhar number, bank account details will require to be given by the applicant.

c) Selection of candidates:

- i. Merit lists shall be drawn up for each category, with number of candidates equal to the number of slots in that category. A waitlist of candidates equal to the allocated slots for that category shall also be drawn up for each category.
- ii. In each category, applicants who are recipients of the Post/Pre Matric Scholarship for SCs, Post/Pre Matric Scholarship for OBCs, or Top-Class Scholarship Schemes for SCs and OBCs (TCS) in the immediately preceding year will get over-riding priority in selection. The eligibility of these candidates would be auto-verified from the databases already available with the Ministry/NSP/State Governments. There will be no further verification of these cases. Merit lists for these candidates shall be drawn up as per the criteria prescribed in para 6 d) and e) of these guidelines.
- iii. If there are unfilled seats after the process above, they will be allotted in the order of merit as per the criteria prescribed in para 6 d) and e) of these guideline. For verifying the particulars of these candidates, the Ministry will follow a well-laid out system stipulated for verification of applications through State Government in PMS-SC.
- iv. All the selected applicants will be sent a computer-generated letter intimating their selection for the coaching scheme, with a request to join the institution of their choice, and upload the fee receipt on the portal.
- v. The selected applicants shall join the coaching institute of their choice within 6 month of declaration of the merit lists and upload the digitally paid fee receipt alongwith a copy of the relevant bank entry of the passbook indicating the payment to the institute, on the portal alongwith a certificate

from the institute that he has enrolled himself in the course and has already paid total course fee.

d. **Timelines:**

The following shall be the timelines under the scheme:

Notification calling for applications	1 st May
Last date for receipt of applications	31 st May
Tentative date for declaration of merit list for the PMS and TCS students	5 th June
Tentative date for declaration of merit list for others	30 th June
Last date for Joining of PMS/TCS students in coaching institutions and uploading fee receipts	4 th December
Last date for others joining the coaching institutions	29 th December
Last date for release of the coaching fee	Within one month of submission of fee receipt
Last date for uploading of exam hall ticket	30 days from the date of the entrance exam for which coaching has been taken
Last date for release of the stipend	30 days from uploading of exam hall ticket and self certification regarding taking the exam

10. Performance and Monitoring of the Scheme:

- a. A Project Management Group (PMG) shall be set up in the Ministry to assist in scrutiny and processing of the applications, as well as for monitoring the progress of the candidates.
- b. There will be a review of the performance of the selected candidates availing the benefits of the scheme based on the information obtained from the candidates about their success or otherwise in the competitive exams.
- c. A provision not exceeding 1% of the total budget will be made to meet the administrative and allied costs of the Ministry for office equipment including computers and accessories, furniture, development of appropriate software, advertisements, engagement of personnel of PMG etc.
- d. In order to ensure proper accountability, physical verifications of at least 25% of the institutes/students chosen randomly through an algorithm shall be done under the scheme through PMU of NISD.

11. Furnishing of False Information

If any candidate has furnished any false information/document and is established as false, he/she will be liable for criminal proceedings and action will be initiated for recovery of the amount released, with 15% compound interest thereon. Such

candidate will also be black listed for any future benefits under the Government schemes.

Annexure

Maximum Fee and Minimum Duration under the Free Coaching Scheme for SC and OBC students

S. No.	Course	Maximum Total Course Fee in Rupees	Minimum *Duration in months
1.	Civil Services Exam by UPSC/SPSCs	1,20,000	9 months (4 months prelim +5months mains)
2.	SSC/RRB	40,000	6 months
3.	Banking/Insurance/ PSU/CLAT	50,000	6 months
4.	JEE/NEET	1,20,000	9 months (not exceeding 12months)
5.	IES	80,000	-do-
6.	CAT /CMAT	60,000	-do-
7.	GRE/GMAT/SAT/IELTS/TOFEL	35,000	3 months
8.	CA-CPT/GATE	75,000	9months
9.	CPL Courses	30,000	6 months
10.	NDA/CDS	20,000	3 months

*A minimum physical coaching of 16 hours per week will be mandatory for all the above courses.