



**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Social Justice and Empowerment**

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

**POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR SCHEDULED CASTE
STUDENTS (PMS-SC) 2021-22**

The Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for Students belonging to Scheduled Castes for studies in India (PMS-SC) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which has been in operation since 1944. The purpose of the scheme is to improve the Gross Enrolment Ratio of the SCs in the higher education and to open up avenues for their better employment. The scheme is an open-ended scheme and the only eligibility conditions are (i) parental income from all sources should not exceed Rs 2.5 lakh p.a. and (ii) the institution should be a recognised one as per the scheme guidelines. The funding pattern has been revised recently by the Central Government w.e.f 2020-21 and the Central and State Share is 60: 40 (90:10 in case of North Eastern States) respectively.

2. Although many SC students have availed benefits under this scheme and have occupied high positions in the society, still the Gross Enrolment Ratio of SCs in higher education (23.0%) lags behind the national average (27.0 %). It has been the endeavour of Government to raise the GER of SCs in higher education from 23.0 % to 42.0% in the next five years. Similarly, the GER in Higher Secondary education of SCs has to increase from the current 56% to the National Average in the next five years. Towards this end, it has been decided to run the PMS-SC with strong collaboration of the State Governments and accordingly, the Central Government has recently made transformatory changes under the scheme in order to bring efficiency, transparency and accountability without delays in the scholarship distribution. The Central Assistance under the scheme has been increased considerably with the revised sharing pattern as compared to previous year grants.

TARGET FOR 2021-22

3. At National level, the overall target of all the States put together is to assist about 63 lakh SC students studying at various levels from class 11th and onwards during 2021-22. These targets include the renewals of students already enrolled under the scheme. Apart from this, the Cabinet has decided that focus would be given on the poorest students and in this regard, States/UTs will launch special campaign to identify the poorest households from various sources and enroll the eligible students under the scheme in a mission mode. Accordingly, a total of about 21 lakh students from poorest households would be enrolled by the States/UTs during 2021-22. The State-wise targets would be finalized based on the proposals submitted by the States and thereafter, appraised by the Project Appraisal Committee. However, the tentative targets based on the beneficiary wise information submitted by the State Governments are attached. These targets are only indicative targets and State can propose higher or lower target depending on their specific circumstances.

ANNUAL ACTION PLANS AT THE STATE LEVEL

4. Every participating State, **on or before 15th June 2021**, is expected to prepare a State level Plan for PMS scheme, duly converging the initiatives of the State Govt. and the PMS scheme. The Plan should give clearly the targets, eligibility, proposed coverage, process adopted for identification of poorest households, commitment for release of funds as per timelines, attendance module, development of robust IT portal with additional features conveyed, system for monitoring and other parameters as per the extant guidelines circulated. These plans would be appraised at the Centre by the Project Appraisal Committee and accordingly, the financial and physical **outlays for each State would be finalised before 30th June, 2021.**

5. **Identification process:** All the States are required to take up identification of the students for fresh enrolment especially from poorest households by taking up systematic drive covering all the higher secondary schools and encouraging the pupils who dropped out after Class 12th to come back to higher education. Further, these students would be monitored on regular basis so that they continue with their studies. Such students shall include (i) students from SC households with three or more deprivations as

per SECC-2011 (ii) students from SC households where one or both the parents are illiterate and (iii) the students who have passed 10th standard from a State Government/ Municipality/Local Body school.

6. States/UTs may adopt methodology suitable to the local conditions for identification of such students e.g. SC majority districts/blocks/villages may be taken first for identification of poorest students or students leaving class 10th or 12th class may be tracked in association with the education department or data emanating from other Central/State schemes indicating the dropouts rates or other sources as deemed fit. Every State Government shall undertake a campaign **in the month of May, 2021** to identify and enrol such students.

7. **Identification of course with employment potential:** It is essential that the fresh enrolments to the extent possible are made in the courses which are having employment potential. For this purpose, the State may do an exercise in consultation with the Higher Education Department of the State Government, and the State Skill Mission for identifying courses which would improve the employment potential of the students. Such skill courses should be long term courses with periodicity of at least 1 year and conducted by the institutions as per the scheme guidelines.

MODALITIES OF IMPLEMENTATION

8. **FREESHIP CARD:** In order to ensure that students have no problem in getting admission in any recognized institutes at the time of admission, all States/UTs are required to issue FREESHIP card to all eligible students. This Freeship card shall make the student eligible to study in the institution without pre-payment of the fees, and on the condition that as and when amount is released to the student's account, the institution would be intimated to collect the same from the student. The detailed guidelines on the implementation of the FREESHIP card may be seen in the scheme guidelines.

9. **Database:** There has to be an online portal for each State covering all aspects of the PMS revised scheme guidelines circulated. All the renewal cases and new admissions have to be brought on an online data portal. No case which is not available in the online database shall be funded under this

scheme. Apart from this, the State Government is required to include all the **necessary features as prescribed by this Department for inclusion in the State portal latest by 30th June, 2021** and its linkage through APIs with NSP portal. The database from the online state portal would need to be synchronised on real time basis with the National Scholarship Portal. In case, any State/UT needs support, they can use the National Scholarship Portal re-developed for this purpose.

10. The entry of the student database for renewals and fresh admissions in the scholarship portal shall be done at the time of admission itself. In this regard, the State Government may open facilitation centre or nominate a nodal officer in the educational institutions so that the entry into the student database for renewals and fresh admissions can be done in a stipulated timeframe.

11. **Facilitation centres** may be opened at the colleges to help the students in choosing the courses of their choice and to enrol the students online into the scheme. The database should contain all the particulars of the student along with their Aadhaar number / or any other identity, the course in which admission has been taken, academic particulars, Aadhaar linked bank details etc.

12. **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** All payments under the scheme, including the tuition fee reimbursement, would need to be made to the bank account of the student only, using the DBT system preferably through Aadhaar Payment Bridge. All States/UTs are requested to make suitable arrangements for this purpose if not already done. No other form of payment would be acceptable under the scheme. **The Central Share would be released directly to the student account after the State Government has released their share as per the timelines prescribed in the scheme guidelines.**

FUNDING PATTERN OF THE SCHEME

13. There will be a 60: 40 sharing ratio between the Centre and States (90:10 in case of North Eastern States) of the average demand for the scheme for three year period 2017-18 to 2019-20 (to be considered as the

base period), with a 5% overall annual increase each year in the Central assistance for all States put together in absolute terms w.r.t. base period.

14. Thus, for the purpose of determining the demand for the year 2021-22, an annual increase of 5% over the average demand for the scheme for the base period of 2017-18 to 2019-20, will be considered by the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) while appraising the States' Annual Action Plans. In case the State Government has higher requirements same may be placed before the PAC meeting with proper justification. The Committee will have the flexibility of adjusting the allocation of funds between the States subject to the total allocation approved, without disrupting the 60:40 sharing ratio between the Centre and the States.

15. Except funds requirement for administrative grant, no central funds would be transferred to the State Government under the scheme. The Central Share would be directly released to the student account through DBT mode.

TIMELINES OF RELEASE OF FUNDS

16. All the States/UTs/Centre would adhere to the following timelines for processing of the applications and release of scholarship amounts during 2021-22:

- The scholarship portals would remain open throughout the year so that all eligible students can register for the Freeship Card and apply for the scholarships.
- Disbursal of scholarships for all applications (fresh/renewals) shall be made in one instalment as per the following schedule:

Dates of receiving of applications	Date by which State share (40%; 10% in case of NE States) should be released	Date by which Central share (60%; 90% in case of NE States) should be released
From 1st April to 31st July, 2021	15th August, 2021	30th August, 2021
From 1st August to 30th November, 2021	30th December, 2021	26th January, 2022

From 1st December to 31st January, 2021*	28th February, 2022	15th March, 2022
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*Portal shall remain open only for submission of applications for scholarships for courses where admission is after November.

17. Monitoring of the scheme: The State Government shall set up a robust monitoring mechanism for monitoring the academic progress of the students enrolled to the scheme. The students who are found to be lagging behind should be provided remedial coaching so that their academic outcome shall not be less than the average academic outcomes. The State Action Plan should contain clear provisions for this.

Annexure

State wise tentative targets under Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students- 2021-22			
SI No.	State/UT	Targets 2021-22	
		Overall Targets	Poorest students
1	Andhra Pradesh	413931	137977
2	Assam	7994	2665
3	Bihar	131716	43905
4	Chandigarh	1302	434
5	Chhattisgarh	118391	39464
6	Daman & Diu	207	69
7	Delhi	23387	7796
8	Goa	336	112
9	Gujarat	168755	56252
10	Haryana	109620	36540
11	Himachal Pradesh	21113	7038
12	Jammu & Kashmir	14380	4793
13	Jharkhand	53835	17945
14	Karnataka	395620	131873
14	Kerala	143352	47784
16	Madhya Pradesh	540518	180173
17	Maharashtra	389612	129871
18	Manipur	7308	2436
19	Meghalaya	240	80
20	Odisha	198321	66107
21	Puducherry	7482	2494
22	Punjab	223410	74470
23	Rajasthan	393261	131087
24	Sikkim	556	185
25	Tamil Nadu	771162	257054
26	Telangana	226175	75392
27	Tripura	21570	7190
28	Uttar Pradesh	1206929	402310
29	Uttarakhand	13283	4428
30	West Bengal	696234	232076
	Total	6300000	2100000