

**DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171001**

PRESS RELEASE

The Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India, implements three Scholarship Schemes viz Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Schemes for the Minorities as Central Sector Schemes through National Scholarship Portal (NSP) of the Government of India and the students can apply under these schemes through URL www.scholarships.gov.in or through the link available on www.minorityaffairs.gov.in or through Mobile App- National Scholarships (NSP). Scholarships are awarded under these Schemes to the economically weaker and meritorious students from the six centrally notified minorities viz. Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Muslim, Sikh, and Zoroastrian (Parsis) pursuing studies in India in a Government or recognised Private University /Institute/College/School.

2. The Central Government has decided to open the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) on **18th August, 2021** for the three Scholarship Schemes for **2021-22** and detailed is as under :-

| | | |
|---|--|------------|
| a | Opening of NSP Portal for Submission of Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Mean based scholarship application*. | 18.08.2021 |
| b | Last date for applying for Pre-Matric scholarship application. | 15.11.2021 |
| c | Last date for applying for Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Mean based scholarship application. | 30.11.2021 |
| d | Last date for First Level Verification | 15.12.2021 |
| e | Last date for Second Level Verification | 31.12.2021 |

***Only Online Applications under the Schemes will be accepted and no request for offline applications will be entertained.**

3. All renewal applications/ students, who have got scholarship during 2020-21, shall apply by giving their existing Application ID.

4. All Universities/ Institutes/Colleges/Schools, having valid AISHE/U-DISE/NCVT/SCVT codes, located in the State/UT should be advised to register themselves and their courses details on the NSP at the earliest so that their students can apply and they can verify such applications on the Portal within the timelines.

5. The timelines need to be adhered to strictly. Technical issue, if any arising during the process of online submission, generation of merit lists and payment **lots may be resolved immediately in consultation with the NIC HQ or State NICs at the earliest.**

6. It has been observed that after the last date (s) of verification, a large number of Fresh as well as Renewal applications are left pending for verification at L1 level by Institute Nodal Officers. Also ensure that no application remains unverified after the last date (s) of verification during 2021-22.

7. All Verification Authorities (INO/DNO/SNO) can mark an application fake if he/she is satisfied that the applicant is not a bonafide student in other circumstances, in case of non-fulfilment of eligibility criteria or inconsistency of records, the verifying authority may either reject the application or mark it defective and give the applicant another opportunity to correct their records.

8. It needs to be noted by all the INOs and DNOs that in case if any application is marked fake at L2 level by the DNO or the SNO then the entire bunch of applications from that School/Institute will go back to the respective INO login of that School/Institute for re-verification. Hence the DNOs/SNOs are advised to exercise caution while using the option of making a application fake.

9. To ensure Aadhaar based demographic authentication of Institute /District/State Nodal Officer level. The option of rejecting a payment file on the basis of 'fake' applications has been restricted and therefore the SNOs may exercise utmost caution while rejecting payment file on NSP Portal. Aadhaar demographic based on applicant's details i.e. name, gender and year of birth as given in Aadhaar, has been introduced on NSP Portal.

10. The **DBT Mission, cabinet Secretariat** has decided in consultation with all stakeholder Ministries/Departments to implement the following measures to further secure the Portal:-

i. **Authentication of Level 1 (L1) & Level- (L2) officers:- Aadhaar based demographic authentication of Institute /District Nodal Officers (INOs/DNOs) has been made mandatory prior to the verification of the application by them for which the INOs/DNOs have to provide their Aadhaar number on NSP Portal.**

The facility of Aadhaar based authentication of **L1** and **L2** level officers has been made **live** on the NSP Portal and the **OTP** generated during the process will be sent to the **mobile number registered with the Aadhaar** of INO/DNO/SNO. NSP will be using the same mobile no. for all communication and sending OTPs in future. The procedure for KYC for new Institute Nodal Officer is also attached for reference. The NSP login of the INO would be operational post completion of KYC at NSP using the Aadhaar number of the INO. **Home>> services>> Institution KYC Registration form.**

ii. A feature of **Aadhaar** demographic **authentication** based on beneficiary's /students **name, gender** and **year of birth** given in **Aadhaar** has been introduced on NSP Portal.

Therefore, all the Head(s) of Institution(s)/ School(s)/ College(s)/ Universities/ Deputy Directors of Higher Education, Himachal Pradesh are requested to take note of the above decision and initiate appropriate action accordingly.

(Dr. Amarjeet K. Sharma)
Director of Higher Education
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla -1

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Copy forwarded to:

1. The Secretary (Edu.),to the Govt. HP Shimla-2 for information please.
2. The Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Minority Affairs, 11th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003 w.r.t. to Letter No. SS-15/4/2021-Scholarship-MoMA dated 25th August, 2021.
3. All the District Collectorate Offices _____ of Himachal Pradesh with request to place hoardings of the aforesaid three scholarship schemes for minority students and promote the awareness for the minority students as well as Institution Registration on NSP portal.
4. The Director, All India Radio Centre, Shimla-171004.
5. The Director, Doordarshan Centre, Shimla-171004.
6. The Editor, The Tribune, The Indian Express, The Times of India, Hindustan Times, Amar Ujala, Divya Himachal, Punjab Kesari, Dainik Bhaskar, Dainik Jagran, Shimla to publish the Press Release on Newspaper.
7. The Director, Public Information and Public Relation Department, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla – 171002. for publication please.
8. The TO, IT Cell, DHE HP, with direction to upload the above Press Release on the Departmental website.

Dr. Amarjeet K. Sharma

04 SEP 2021

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