



# Government Strengthens Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme to Boost Higher Education Among Scheduled Caste Students

## Revised Funding Pattern, Direct Benefit Transfer and End-to-End Online Processing Ensure Greater Transparency and Timely Scholarship Delivery

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The Central Government is implementing the **Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS) Scheme for Scheduled Caste (SC) students** with the objective of significantly increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of SC students in higher education, particularly those belonging to the poorest households. The scheme provides financial assistance at the post-matriculation and post-secondary levels, enabling eligible Scheduled Caste students to pursue and complete their education.

**Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Ramdas Athawale**, in a written reply to Shri Golla Baburao in **Rajya Sabha**, informed the House that the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme has been implemented continuously in the State of Andhra Pradesh since 2020-21. Scholarships have been disbursed to eligible applicants across all districts of the State.

According to the latest available data, **Andhra Pradesh** received **Central Assistance of ₹149.03 crore**, benefiting **81,667 students** during **2026-27 (up to 24 July 2026)**.

The Minister further informed that the funding pattern of the scheme was revised in **2020-21**, replacing the earlier concept of **State Committed Liability** with a fixed **Centre-State sharing ratio of 60:40**, while the ratio for **North-Eastern States** has been fixed at **90:10**. The revised funding pattern has reduced the financial burden on States and enhanced the Central Government's contribution towards the scheme.

Government of India  
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

PARLIAMENT MONSOON SESSION

**Government Strengthens Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme to Boost Higher Education Among Scheduled Caste Students**

Revised Funding Pattern, Direct Benefit Transfer and End-to-End Online Processing Ensure Greater Transparency and Timely Scholarship Delivery

The Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS) Scheme for Scheduled Caste (SC) students aims to significantly increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of SC students in higher education, especially those from the poorest households, by providing financial assistance at the post-matriculation and post-secondary levels to enable them to complete their education.

Information shared by Shri Ramdas Athawale, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, in a written reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1251.

**IMPLEMENTATION IN ANDHRA PRADESH (SINCE 2020-21)**

The scheme is being implemented continuously in Andhra Pradesh since 2020-21.

Scholarships disbursed to eligible students across all districts of the State.

Central Assistance of ₹149.03 crore released in 2026-27 (till 24 July 2026)

Benefiting 81,667 students

**REVISED FUNDING PATTERN (SINCE 2020-21)**

The earlier concept of State Committed Liability has been replaced with a fixed Centre-State sharing pattern.

**CENTRE : STATE**  
60 : 40  
For all States

**CENTRE : STATE**  
90 : 10  
For North-Eastern States

This has reduced the burden on States and increased the Central Government's contribution towards the scheme.

**KEY REFORMS FOR GREATER IMPACT**

- End-to-end online processing of applications
- Digital verification of eligibility through linkage with available databases
- Faster verification
- Continuous monitoring
- Enhanced accountability to prevent duplication and ensure timely delivery of benefits

**DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER (DBT) SINCE 2021-22**

- Scholarship amounts are transferred directly into Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts of eligible students.
- Simplified flow of funds
- Improved transparency
- Accurate targeting of beneficiaries

**RELEASE OF CENTRAL ASSISTANCE**

- Release of Central share is contingent upon timely release of State share.
- Delays in State-level verification and release of State share can delay the release of Central assistance to eligible students.

The Government remains committed to empowering Scheduled Caste students through education and ensuring that every eligible student receives timely financial support to achieve their academic goals.

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The House was also informed that several transformative reforms have been introduced under the scheme to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability. These include **end-to-end online processing of applications, digital verification of eligibility through linkage with available databases, faster verification, continuous monitoring, prevention of duplication and timely delivery of scholarship benefits.**

Further, the Government introduced **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** under the scheme from **2021-22**, ensuring that scholarship amounts are transferred directly into the Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts of eligible students. The initiative has simplified the flow of funds, improved transparency and ensured accurate targeting of beneficiaries. Applications are invited through the designated State scholarship portals or the National Scholarship Portal, while the release of the Central share is contingent upon the timely release of the corresponding State share.

The Minister also informed that delays in verification of applications by States and delays in the release of the State share can consequently delay the release of the Central assistance to eligible beneficiaries. The Government continues to work with States and Union Territories to ensure timely verification and disbursement of scholarships so that eligible Scheduled Caste students receive financial assistance without delay.

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