

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Scheme of Free Coaching for SCs, OBCs and Beneficiaries of PM CARES Children Scheme

1. What is the objective of the Scheme?

The Scheme aims to provide quality coaching to economically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and beneficiaries of the PM CARES Children Scheme to help them prepare for competitive examinations for employment and admission to reputed professional institutions.

2. Who is eligible under the Scheme?

The following are eligible:

- SC students with annual family income up to ₹8 lakh.
- OBC students with annual family income up to ₹8 lakh.
- Beneficiaries of the PM CARES Children Scheme (no income or caste restriction).

3. Is there any income limit?

Yes. For SC and OBC candidates, the annual family income from all sources should not exceed **₹8 lakh**. This condition does not apply to PM CARES beneficiaries.

4. Which competitive examinations are covered?

The Scheme covers coaching for:

- UPSC Civil Services
- State PSC
- SSC
- Railway Recruitment Board (RRB)
- Banking, Insurance and PSU examinations
- JEE
- NEET
- CAT
- CLAT
- GRE
- GMAT
- SAT
- IELTS
- TOEFL
- GATE
- CA-CPT
- NDA
- CDS
- Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) and other approved examinations.

5. How many students are selected every year?

A total of **3,500 students** are selected annually under the Scheme.

6. How many times can a student avail the benefit?

A student can avail the benefit **not more than two times**, irrespective of the examination or number of attempts.

7. Can I avail another Government coaching scheme simultaneously?

No. Students cannot simultaneously avail benefits under any other Central or State Government coaching scheme.

8. Is Aadhaar mandatory?

Yes. Students must have an Aadhaar number and an Aadhaar-seeded bank account. If Aadhaar is not available at the time of application, the Enrolment ID (EID) may be used, but payment will be released only after Aadhaar is obtained and linked.

9. What is the minimum academic eligibility?

- For coaching after Class XII, students must have secured at least **50% marks in Class X**.
- For coaching after graduation, students must have secured at least **50% marks in Class XII**.

10. Who implements the Scheme?

The Scheme is implemented by the **Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF)** through empanelled Central Universities operating as **Dr. Ambedkar Centres of Excellence (DACE)**.

11. How many seats are allotted to each Central University?

Normally, each empanelled Central University is allotted **up to 100 seats** (excluding PM CARES beneficiaries).

12. What is the SC:OBC ratio?

Seats are allocated in the ratio of **70:30** between SC and OBC students. The percentage of SC students shall not be less than **70%**, although DAF may relax this in exceptional cases, subject to a minimum of **50% SC students**.

13. Is there any reservation for women?

Yes. **30% of the seats** in each category are reserved for female candidates.

14. Are PM CARES beneficiaries selected through merit?

No. All eligible PM CARES beneficiaries are admitted without the merit selection process and are over and above the normal seat allocation.

15. How can students apply?

Applications are accepted **only through the online mode**. Offline applications are not accepted.

16. What financial assistance is provided?

Eligible students receive:

- Course fee (as per prescribed ceiling)
- Monthly stipend of **₹4,000**
- One-time incentive of **₹15,000** for interview coaching after qualifying the Mains examination of Civil Services.

17. How is the scholarship released?

Payments are made through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** into the Aadhaar-enabled bank account of the student in **two instalments**.

18. What is the attendance requirement?

Students must maintain regular attendance. Those absent for more than four days in a month without a valid reason may have their candidature cancelled. Attendance is recorded through Aadhaar-based biometric authentication.

19. Can coaching begin before payment is received?

Yes. Central Universities are required to allow eligible students to join coaching even if the first instalment has not yet been released.

20. What happens if false information is submitted?

Submission of false information or forged documents may result in:

- Cancellation of candidature,
- Recovery of the amount released, along with **15% compound interest**, and
- Administrative and/or criminal proceedings.

21. What are the maximum coaching fees?

The maximum admissible coaching fee depends on the course. Examples include:

- UPSC/State PSC: ₹75,000
- SSC/RRB: ₹40,000
- Banking/CAT/CLAT: ₹50,000
- JEE/NEET/GATE: ₹75,000

- GRE/GMAT/IELTS/TOEFL: ₹35,000
- NDA/CDS: ₹20,000
- CPL: ₹30,000

22. What is the minimum duration of coaching?

The duration varies by examination, ranging from **3 months to 12 months**, depending on the course. A minimum of **16 hours of physical coaching per week** is mandatory.

23. Can a Central University offer additional seats beyond the allocated quota?

Yes. Universities may admit additional students at their own cost, subject to infrastructure availability. No financial assistance will be provided by the Ministry for such students.

24. How is the performance of Central Universities assessed?

Performance is assessed based on success rates in competitive examinations as prescribed in **Annexure-B**. Continuation of funding and renewal of empanelment depend on achieving the prescribed benchmarks.