

**W**ith this small booklet we have tried to pass on the information regarding benefits available to students of Jain community as part of the minority status; obtained from the hon'ble Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, in a simple and easy to understand language. All this information is available on the ministry website. In this first edition of the booklet we have tried to incorporate the details required for Post-matric scholarships and overseas education loan.

## **Jainism and Minority Status**

Jainism is considered to be the oldest religion in India. Many misguided scholars consider it a reformist movement that is a part or sub-sect of Hinduism, historically and legally.

On January 20, 2014, the Government of India awarded the "national minority" status to the Jain community in India, as per Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act (NCM), 1992.

## **History of Jain demand for minority status**

- The Jain demand for minority status is almost a century old, when in British India the Viceroy and Governor General of India, Lord Minto took a decision in principle of giving representation to important minorities in the Central Legislature. Seth Manek Chand Hirachand from Mumbai, an eminent Jain leader from Mumbai and the then Acting President of the Bharatvarshiya Digamber Jain Subha made an appeal in 1909 to the Governor General for the inclusion of the Jain community for representation in the Council. Seth Manek Chand's petition was transferred to the Government of Bombay and the Secretary to the Government of Bombay stated in his reply dated 15 October 1909 as follows:

"I am directed to inform you that a number of seats have been reserved for representation of minorities by nomination and that in allotting them, the claim of the important Jain Community will receive full consideration. "

- In a Memorandum by the Representative of the Jain Community to the Constituent Assembly in March/April 1947 a strong appeal was made for the inclusion of the Jain community as a minority religious community.

- In his speech on 3rd Sept.1949, Jawahar Lal Nehru said: No doubt India has a vast majority of Hindus, but they could not forget in fact there are also minorities Muslims, Christians, Parsis and Jains. If India were understood as Hindu Rashtra it meant that the minorities were not cent per cent citizens of the country.

- Jainism is mentioned as a religion along with Buddhism and Sikhism in explanation II of the Article 25 of the India Constitution relating to Fundamental Right to religions freedom. On this issue Jawahar Lal Nehru, the then prime Minister, in his letter dated 31.01.1950 assured a Jain Deputation that they need not have any misgivings on this clear constitutional position.

- The second stanza of Jana Gana Mana, Indian National Anthem clearly enunciates Jainism as a separate religious denomination in line with Hinduism, Islam and other religions.

- The Indian Supreme Court in 2005 ruled that Jains, Sikhs and Buddhist are part of broader Hindu fold, as they are Indic religions and interconnected to each other, although they are distinct religions.

### **Recommendation of National Minorities Commission**

In 1993, the National Minorities Commission arrived at their recommendation that the Jain community be declared as a minority religious community. It was in consideration of the following:

- the relevant constitutional provisions,
- various judicial pronouncements,
- the fundamental differences in philosophy and beliefs (theism vs. atheism principally) vis-a-vis Hinduism, and
- the substantial number of Jain population in the country.

It resolved to recommend to the Government of India that the Jains deserve to be recognised as a distinct religious minority, and that, therefore the Government of India may consider including them in the listing of "Minorities."

### **2014: National minority status granted**

On January 20, 2014, the Government of India awarded the minority status to the Jain community in India, as per Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act (NCM), 1992. This made the Jain community which makes for 7 million or 0.4 percent of the population as per 2001 census, the sixth community to be designated this status as a "national minority", after Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis. Though Jains already had minority status in 11 states of India including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, in 2005 a petition was filed with Supreme Court of India, by community representatives, which was also backed by the National Minorities Commission. In its judgement the court left the decision to the Central government.

### **Post-matric Scholarship Scheme**

Post-matric Scholarship Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in the year 2007 with 100% Central funding. This scheme is made Central Sector Scheme from 2014-15. Under the scheme, Scholarships are awarded to the meritorious students from notified minority communities viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains, who have secured not less than 50% marks or equivalent grade in the previous final examination and the annual income of whose parents/guardian, from all sources does not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakh.

**ALERT!!!**

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In the first alarming point of this booklet, we would like to alert entire Jain community that DO NOT PAY ANY SMALL OR BIG AMOUNT TO ANY ORGANIZATION WHO OFFER TO ISSUE A MINORITY CERTIFICATE TO YOU. The Ministry of Minority Affairs has already declared in an affidavit dated 22/08/2014 that IT IS NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE A MINORITY COMMUNITY CERTIFICATION FOR AVAILING SCHOLARSHIPS. In another letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, the ministry has further issued a note reiterating the same with a specific mention for Jain minority. Below is the copy of the affidavit for reference.

F. No. 2/37(2)/2014-SS  
Government of India  
Ministry of Minority Affairs

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi - 110003  
Dated 22.08.2014

To

The Principal Secretary/Secretary,  
All State Governments/UT Administrations of

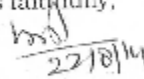
**Subject: Removal of requirement of Affidavits for Minority Community Certification and Income Certification for availing Scholarships- regarding**

Sir/Madam,

It has been decided with the approval of Competent Authority in the Ministry that requirement of submission of Affidavit towards (i) Community Certificate and (ii) Income certificate under Pre-matric, Post-matric, and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship Scheme for students belonging to the notified minority communities have been done away with immediate effect. However, this may not apply for application already received by the State Government/UT Administration under these Schemes.

2. For Community Certificate, self-certification of the student is sufficient while for income certification, only the certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the State/UT concerned will be accepted.
3. It is requested that necessary directions may be issued by the State Government/UT Administration in this regard.
4. Documentation under the Scholarship Schemes for students belonging to the minority community also stands amended.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Pradeep Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Government of India  
Tele no. : 011- 24364310

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister (MA)
2. Sr. PPS to Secretary (MA)
3. PS to Joint Secretary (SS)
4. PPS to Joint Secretary (A&P)
- ✓ 5. Tech. Director (NIC) with the request to upload the letter on the web site of this Ministry in Whats New as well as in the Scheme guidelines of all three Scholarship Schemes.

Y



BY SPEED POST

**No.4-3/2015-NCM  
Government of India  
Ministry of Minority Affairs**

11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lochi Road,  
New Delhi - 110003  
Dated 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.

To

1. The Chief Secretaries of all State Governments/UT Administrations,
2. The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of all State Governments/UTs Administration

Subject: Issuance of Minority Certificates - regarding

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Government of India established a new Ministry the Ministry of Minority Affairs on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 to ensure a more focused approach towards the issues relating to minorities and to facilitate the formulation of overall policy and planning, coordination, evaluation and review of the regulatory framework and development programmes for the benefit of the minority communities. In addition to the five communities already notified as minorities viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis), the Ministry has issued a Gazette Notification on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 (copy enclosed) regarding inclusion of Jain community.

2. This Ministry is receiving several letters, representations, RTIs and grievances from the Minority Communities especially from Jain Community stating that they are unable to avail the benefits extended to the minority communities, in the absence of minority certificates issued by the concerned Revenue or other authorities of the State Governments. In this context it is informed that Minority Certificate is not mandatory for getting the benefits of the welfare schemes being implemented by this Ministry. A self certification of the candidate is accepted by this Ministry. In this regard this Ministry has already issued instructions vide letter No.3/37(2)/2014-SS dated 22-08-2014 (copy enclosed)

3. However, in case Minority Certificate is required for any other purpose by the State Government you are requested to kindly direct the concerned authorities under your State Government to issue the Minority certificates expeditiously, as and when any candidate applies for the same after following your own procedure.

Yours faithfully,

(Madhukar Naik D)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Tel./011-24354288

Below table contains the Community-wise Physical allocation for Fresh Scholarship in respect of State Government/UT Administration under the Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for students belonging to minority communities along with timeline for the financial year 2015-16. As far as, Renewals of Scholarships are concerned, there is no target for them.

Time-line

Sr. No	Activities	Date (Fresh)	Date (Renewal)
1.	Advertisement for Post-matric Scholarship Scheme for the year 2015-16	28 <sup>th</sup> April to 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	28 <sup>th</sup> April to 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2015
2.	Submission of Online Applications for fresh/renewal scholarships by students.	1 <sup>st</sup> June to 15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2015	1 <sup>st</sup> June to 10 <sup>th</sup> October, 2015
3.	Scrutiny of online applications by Institute.	1 <sup>st</sup> June to 5 <sup>th</sup> October, 2015	1 <sup>st</sup> June to 31 <sup>st</sup> October, 2015
4.	Scrutiny of online applications by State/UT Administration.	1 <sup>st</sup> July to 15 <sup>th</sup> October, 2015	1 <sup>st</sup> July to 8 <sup>th</sup> November, 2015
5.	Generation of awarded list and submission of fresh/renewal proposals by State/UT Administration.	16 <sup>th</sup> October to 18 <sup>th</sup> October, 2015	1 <sup>st</sup> July to 11 <sup>th</sup> November, 2015

State/UT wise & Community wise distribution of Post-matric Scholarships for students belonging to the Jain Community in 2015-16

Sr. No.	State/UT	Scholarships for Jains
1.	Andhra Pradesh	56
2.	Telangana	52
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4.	Assam	62
5.	Bihar	42
6.	Chhattisgarh	145
7.	Goa	2
8.	Gujarat	1356
9.	Haryana	148
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	7
12.	Jharkhand	42
13.	Karnataka	1065
14.	Kerala	12
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1408
16.	Maharashtra	3361
17.	Manipur	4
18.	Meghalaya	2
19.	Mizoram	0
20.	Nagaland	5

21.	Orissa	24
22.	Punjab	101
23.	Rajasthan	1679
24.	Sikkim	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	215
26.	Tripura	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	535
28.	Uttarakhand	24
29.	West Bengal	143
30.	Andaman & Nicobar	0
31.	Chandigarh	7
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2
33.	Daman & Diu	1
34.	Delhi	400
35.	Lakshadweep	0
36.	Puducherry	2
Total		10908

Please read the below FAQ which will answer almost all your queries

[http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/moma/files/FAQs\\_NSP.pdf](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/upload_files/moma/files/FAQs_NSP.pdf)

Below link contains the courses covered under Post-matric Scholarship Scheme:

[http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/moma/files/RevisedCourses-PMS.pdf](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/upload_files/moma/files/RevisedCourses-PMS.pdf)

Link to Register/Login:

<http://registrations.scholarships.gov.in/StudentRegistrations.do>

If you would like to go abroad for Higher Studies than with the help of "Padho Pardesh" scheme, you can avail interest subsidy on Educational Loans. Refer the below links for the scheme:

[http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/moma/files/padhopardesh\\_eng\\_0.pdf](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/upload_files/moma/files/padhopardesh_eng_0.pdf)

FAQ related to the Scheme of "Padho Pardesh"

[http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/moma/files/FAQStudent.PDF](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/upload_files/moma/files/FAQStudent.PDF)

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