डाक विभागभारत ,/Department of Posts, India
मुख्य पोस्टमास्टर जनरल का कार्यालय ,ओडिशा परिमंडल/
O/o the Chief Postmaster General, Odisha Circle
भुवनेश्वर/ Bhubaneswar-751001

No. Phil/52-33/2023-24

Dated at Bhubaneswar the 14.08.23

NOTIFICATION

Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana-2023-24 for students of Class VIth to IXth

Introduction

Philately is the study of stamps and postal history and other related items. It also refers to the collection, appreciation and research activities on stamps and other philatelic products. Philately is a delightful hobby. Philately satisfies one's aesthetic tastes and educates by expanding knowledge about interesting details of politics, history, prominent personalities, Indian and International events, geography, flora and fauna, agriculture, science, monuments, scientists, modes of transport etc. which delights collectors. This scheme's main objective is to enrich students with knowledge via the medium of stamps and interesting philatelic products.

Promoting Philately as a hobby amongst Children

The hobby of collecting Stamps includes seeking, locating, acquiring, organizing, cataloguing, displaying, storing, and maintaining them. Stamp collections can differ in a wide variety of respects, both in the nature and scope of the stamps collected but also in purpose, presentation, and so forth. The hobby can lead to social connections between people with similar interests and the development of new friendships. Collecting is also associated with memory by association and the need for the human brain to catalogue and organize information and give meaning to ones actions.

The potential customers can be divided broadly into categories like philatelists, collectors, students, common public, institutions and dealers. It is important to catch imagination of the young children at an early age so that Philately as a hobby can be cultivated. The median average age, when a Philatelist starts collecting, is (10-12) and it is imperative that efforts towards promotion of Philately should target this age group prominently. At this age the knowledge gathered through the hobby and various spin offs of pursuing Philately can help in Child's overall development and career advancements. Stamps collection, when picked up as a childhood hobby can become a lifelong pursuit. Collectors who begin early in life often modify their aims when they get older.

It is important to attract more and more children to take up Philately as a hobby at a young age and therefore there is a need to mainstream philately through education and incentivise it. In this direction, Department has already taken steps forward by inviting students to visit National Philatelic Museum, post offices etc. to acquaint with the stamps, philatelic items etc. During these visits, various activities are organised like quiz, workshops, letter writing, stamp design competition etc.

Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

Objective

Under the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby or SPARSH) annual scholarships are awarded to those Students who have good academic record and also pursue Philately as a hobby for reinforcing the efforts aimed towards increasing the reach of Philately. It is expected that such a scholarship can provide fillip to not only Philately but also project a positive image of DOP & create ambassadors for Philately & DOP. The objective of the scholarship is to

- Promote Philately among children at a young age in a sustainable manner that can reinforce and supplement the academic curriculum in addition to providing a hobby that can help them relax and de-stress.
- Encourage Philatelic activities in School,
- Involvement of School administration in Philately,
- Giving greater visibility to Philately across the spectrum,
- Create awareness about Philately among parents, academicians, children and public at large,
- Mainstreaming of Philately in School & educational curriculum,
- Creation of linkages between younger generation and Philatelists,

Key features of the scheme

- Every Postal Circle has to provide a maximum total of 40 scholarships having maximum of 10 students each from Standard VI, VII, VIII & IX.
- These scholarships will be provided quarterly to the students studying as regular students in class VI-IX in recognized schools.
- Scholarship will be provided to students pursuing Philately as a hobby and who satisfy the eligibility condition and qualify in the selection procedure.
- The amount of Scholarship is to be Rs. 6000/- per annum @ Rs. 500/- per month.
- Selections to the scholarship would be for one year and there would be no bar on an already selected student applying for the scholarship next year provided he/she fulfils other criterion.

Eligibility condition

- A Candidate must be a student (class VI-IX) of a recognized School within India,
- Concerned School should have a Philately Club and the candidate should be a member of the Club,
- In case the School Philately Club has not been established, a student having his own Philately Deposit Account may also be considered.
- Requirement of having a Philately Deposit Account/Membership of the School Philately Club would be with respect to the Date of Application and the student applying would have to mention the same in his/her application form
- A candidate must have good academic record. At the time of selection for award of scholarship, the candidate must have scored at least 60% marks or equivalent grade/ grade point in the recent final examination. There will be 5% relaxation for SC/ST.

General Conditions

- An awardee is eligible for the scholarship provided he/she maintains good conduct and continues his/her studies as a regular student.
- Scholarship may be revoked at any point of time by the competent authority (CPMG) on finding any irregularities in the eligibility criteria.
- A student must continue to have a PDA account and continue to be a member of Philatelic club during the scholarship-awarding period.

Selection Procedure

The selection Process will be consisting of two levels (Level 1 –Philately written Quiz and Level-2 Submission of Philately Project).

A. At the 1st level, a written test will be conducted by Postal Authorities in their respective divisions, which would act as a Screening Test and students selected at first level will have to submit a Philately Project for final selection at 2nd level.
B. **The tentative date for Philately Written Quiz is 24.09.23.**
C. There will be no weightage of the marks secured in Philately Quiz in the final evaluation and the final selection would be decided solely on the basis of the marks secured in Philately Project.
D. **Guidelines regarding Philately Written Quiz :**

- **Philately written Quiz** will comprise of 50 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) which would be chosen from following subject areas in the following proportion:

Subjects	Marks
General Knowledge/ Awareness	
Current Affair	5 marks
History	5 marks
Geography	5 marks
Science	5 marks
Sports/Culture	5 marks
Philately	
Local Philately	10 marks
National Philately	15 marks
Total	**50 marks**

E. **Philately Project for final selection:**

- After finalizing the list of candidates selected in the Quiz, Circles would issue communication to the selected candidates detailing them of the list of Philately Project Topics & broad guidelines to be followed for writing their project. The candidates selected at Philately Written Quiz can choose one topic from the list to submit the project.
- The project can be directly submitted to the CPMG office through Registered/Speed Post within the scheduled time of submission.
- The Philately Project should not be of more than 4 to 5 pages. In the project, student may use not more than 16 stamps and not more than 500 words.

:: Project work on Philately, copy of School ID card, copy of the result of last final examination all duly attested from Principal of School may be submitted to CPMG Office. The project should be sent in original.

:: Project would be 4-5 pages work on Philately containing the original creative work performed by the candidate on the Philately subject. To know more about Philately a candidate may visit India Post website @ http://postagestamps.gov.in/ dedicated to Philately.

Amount of Scholarship

The amount of Scholarship is Rs. 6000/- for one year @ Rs. 500/- per month for a selected candidate.

Disbursement of Scholarship

The scholarship will be transferred in the joint account (with parents) of awardees opened in India Post Payment Bank, Bank or Post Office Savings Bank in a branch, which has core banking facility.

Application Procedure

Applications may be sent to Senior Superintendent/Superintendent of Post offices of concerned Divisions so as to reach on or before **16.09.23** Applications received after last date shall not be considered.

1. **For details applicants are advised to go to http://odishapost.gov.in or to contact concerned Postal Divisional Offices.**
   Linked site: http://indiapost.gov.in
   http://postagestamp.gov.in

सहायक निदेशक(फिलाटेली)/Asst. Director (Philately)
मुख्य पोस्टमास्टर जनरल का कार्यालय /O/o the Chief Postmaster General
ओडिशा परिमंडल/ Odisha Circle,
भुवनेश्वर/Bhubaneswar-751001

Application Form

Passport size photograph

Name of the Student : _____

Mother's Name : _____

Father's Name : _____

Date of Birth : __/__/____ whether belongs to SC/ST_____

Class : _____ Academic Year : _____

Name of School : _____

% of marks (in final examination) : _____

PDA Account (Yes/No) : _____ If yes, PDA A/c no. : _____

PDA A/c holder since : _____

Member in School
Philatelic Club (Yes/No): _____ Club Membership No.: _____

Address : _____

_____

_____ PIN: _____

Contact No. Mobile : _____ Landline : _____

Email Id : _____

Place : Signature of candidate :

Date :

For Office Use

Name of Office

Date of Quiz

Other details