



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Colleges
Higher Education Department

Prof. Nidhi (Phy.)
Jankle
Jm

**The Principal,
Government Degree Colleges,
Jammu & Kashmir.**

Subject: Guidelines for implementation of full fee waiver for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) students in Government Degree Colleges of Jammu & Kashmir.

Ref: Government Order No. 209-JK(HE) of 2026 dated 08.07.2026.

Sir/Madam,

Whereas the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, in the Budget announcements for the year 2026-27, announced as one of the Mega Announcements of the Higher Education Department a full fee waiver in favour of students belonging to Antyodaya Anna Yojana households studying in undergraduate courses from Semester 1 to Semester 3 in Government Degree Colleges of Jammu & Kashmir.

Whereas the Government has, in pursuance of the said announcement and vide Government Order No. 209-JK(HE) of 2026 dated 08.07.2026, issued with the concurrence of the Finance Department, ordered the grant of the said waiver, and has by Clause 7 thereof entrusted this office with the issuance of operational guidelines for its implementation.

And whereas the benefit so sanctioned is intended to reach every eligible student of the Antyodaya category without hindrance, while being extended on a basis that is capable of verification.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the responsibility cast under Clause 7 of the said Order, the following guidelines are hereby issued for compliance by all Government Degree Colleges:

1. Short title and application.

These guidelines may be called the AAY Fee Waiver (Operational) Guidelines, 2026. They shall come into force with immediate effect and shall apply to all Government Degree Colleges under the administrative control of the Higher Education Department.

2. Definitions.

For the purpose of these guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "the Order" means Government Order No. 209-JK(HE) of 2026 dated 08.07.2026;
- (b) "AAY" means the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, and an "AAY household" means a household covered under that category in the records of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department (referred to in these guidelines as the CAPD);
- (c) "Eligible Student" means a student who satisfies each of the conditions specified in paragraph 4;



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Colleges
Higher Education Department

- (d) "DDO" means the Head of the Institution / Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the College concerned;
- (e) "Committee" means the College-Level Fee Waiver Verification Committee constituted under paragraph 3;
- (f) "Beneficiary Register" means the register maintained under paragraph 8.

3. Constitution of the College-Level Fee Waiver Verification Committee.

A College-Level Fee Waiver Verification Committee shall be constituted in each Government Degree College, comprising:

- (a) the Principal (DDO) — Chairperson;
- (b) a senior faculty member nominated by the Principal as Nodal Officer for the Scheme — Member Secretary;
- (c) the Officer/Official In-charge, Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme (PMSS) / scholarships in the College — Member;
- (d) the Accounts Officer / Officer In-charge, College Accounts — Member;
- (e) the In-charge Admissions of the College — Member.
- (f) In-Charge College financial aid Committee - Member.

The Committee shall be the sole authority competent to decide a claim for fee waiver, and no waiver shall be acted upon otherwise than on the recorded decision of the Committee.

4. Eligibility.

No fee waiver shall be granted unless the Committee has satisfied itself, in respect of each applicant, that all of the following conditions stand fulfilled. The conditions are cumulative, and failure of any one shall disqualify the applicant:

- (a) **Bona fide student** — the applicant is a bona fide student on the rolls of the College in an undergraduate class from Semester 1 to Semester 8;
- (b) **AAY household status** — the applicant belongs to a household covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, as evidenced by a valid AAY ration card and confirmed from the records of the CAPD;
- (c) **No other assistance** — the applicant is not in receipt of any other scholarship or financial assistance from any source, whether under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme or any other Central or State scheme;
- (d) **Identity linkage** — the applicant is a member of the AAY household in question, the applicant's name figuring on the ration card, or the applicant's relationship to the head of the household being duly established.

5. Verification procedure.

The following procedure shall be observed by every College, without exception:



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Colleges
Higher Education Department

- (a) each applicant shall submit a claim-cum-declaration in the form at Annexure-A, incorporating a self-declaration that he/she is not in receipt of any other scholarship or assistance. Claims shall be submitted within thirty days of the commencement of the semester, or of the date of admission, whichever is later;
- (b) the applicant shall produce the original AAY ration card for inspection and submit a self-attested copy thereof;
- (c) the AAY status of each applicant shall be confirmed by any one of the following, the outcome being placed on record in each case:
- (i) verification of the AAY category from the online records of the CAPD; or
 - (ii) an AAY certificate issued by the competent authority of that Department bearing a unique certificate number; or
 - (iii) confirmation received through the reconciliation arrangement that the College may establish with the CAPD.

Where a certificate is relied upon, its particulars shall be recorded in the Beneficiary Register;

- (d) the Scholarship In-charge shall verify, from the scholarship records held in the College and from the concerned scholarship portals, that the applicant is not drawing any other scholarship or assistance, and shall record a specific certificate to that effect;

- (e) the identity linkage shall be verified with reference to the ration card and, wherever required with necessary, supporting documents;

- (f) the Committee shall record its decision, applicant-wise, in its minutes. Only those applicants in whose case all four conditions are certified as satisfied shall be admitted to the benefit.

Under no circumstances shall a fee waiver be granted merely on the strength of a copy of the ration card, without confirmation of AAY status in accordance with paragraph 5(c).

6. Extent of waiver and fee-head accounting.

Eligible Students shall be exempted from payment of all fees leviable by the College, subject to the provisions of the Order and these guidelines. Fees payable to the affiliating University or to any other statutory or examining body, which it is not within the competence of the Department to waive, shall continue to be payable by the student unless separately exempted by the competent authority. Every College shall record the waiver head-wise, distinctly showing the heads waived and the heads that remain payable, so that the exact amount of the waiver can be verified and forms the basis of the reimbursement claim under paragraph 11.

7. Bar on double benefit.



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Colleges
Higher Education Department

- (a) each applicant shall submit a claim-cum-declaration in the form at Annexure-A, incorporating a self-declaration that he/she is not in receipt of any other scholarship or assistance. Claims shall be submitted within thirty days of the commencement of the semester, or of the date of admission, whichever is later;
- (b) the applicant shall produce the original AAY ration card for inspection and submit a self-attested copy thereof;
- (c) the AAY status of each applicant shall be confirmed by any one of the following, the outcome being placed on record in each case:
- (i) verification of the AAY category from the online records of the CAPD; or
 - (ii) an AAY certificate issued by the competent authority of that Department bearing a unique certificate number; or
 - (iii) confirmation received through the reconciliation arrangement that the College may establish with the CAPD.

Where a certificate is relied upon, its particulars shall be recorded in the Beneficiary Register;

- (d) the Scholarship In-charge shall verify, from the scholarship records held in the College and from the concerned scholarship portals, that the applicant is not drawing any other scholarship or assistance, and shall record a specific certificate to that effect;
- (e) the identity linkage shall be verified with reference to the ration card and, wherever required with necessary, supporting documents;
- (f) the Committee shall record its decision, applicant-wise, in its minutes. Only those applicants in whose case all four conditions are certified as satisfied shall be admitted to the benefit.

Under no circumstances shall a fee waiver be granted merely on the strength of a copy of the ration card, without confirmation of AAY status in accordance with paragraph 5(c).

6. Extent of waiver and fee-head accounting.

Eligible Students shall be exempted from payment of all fees leviable by the College, subject to the provisions of the Order and these guidelines. Fees payable to the affiliating University or to any other statutory or examining body, which it is not within the competence of the Department to waive, shall continue to be payable by the student unless separately exempted by the competent authority. Every College shall record the waiver head-wise, distinctly showing the heads waived and the heads that remain payable, so that the exact amount of the waiver can be verified and forms the basis of the reimbursement claim under paragraph 11.

7. Bar on double benefit.



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Colleges
Higher Education Department

The benefit under the Order is not admissible to a student in receipt of any other scholarship or assistance.

Where a student to whom the waiver has been granted is subsequently sanctioned a scholarship or assistance from any source, the student shall report the fact to the College forthwith, and the College shall withdraw the benefit and recover the amount of fee waived.

Where it comes to notice at any stage that a waiver has been availed on the basis of an incorrect declaration, or of a scholarship not disclosed, the amount shall be recovered from the student and the matter dealt with under the applicable rules, without prejudice to paragraph 9.

8. Maintenance of records.

Every College shall maintain a page-numbered Beneficiary Register in the proforma at Annexure-B, recording for each beneficiary the particulars of eligibility, the ration card number, the basis on which AAY status was confirmed, the fee heads waived and the amount thereof, and the date and reference of the Committee's decision.

The claim forms, self-attested ration card copies, AAY certificates were relied upon, verification records and Committee minutes shall be preserved as part of the permanent record of the College and produced, on demand, for audit, inspection and checks by the Higher Education Department, the Accountant General or any other competent authority.

9. Responsibility at the College level.

The correct identification of beneficiaries, the verification of each of the conditions at paragraph 4, the accuracy of the amount waived and the integrity of the record rest with the College.

 The certification of eligibility is the certification of the Committee and, in particular, of the Principal, and shall not be diluted by any general or delegated arrangement. The Principal shall satisfy himself/herself as to the correctness of every waiver granted in the College. Any wrongful, excess or ineligible waiver shall be set right and accounted for by the certifying officers.

10. Monitoring and periodical reports.

Every College shall furnish to the Directorate a periodical return in the proforma at Annexure-C, giving the number of beneficiaries and the amount waived, head-wise, at the close of each semester and at such other intervals as the Directorate may require. The Nodal Officer of each College shall be responsible for the timely and accurate submission of these returns. Colleges shall additionally furnish any information called for by the Directorate for monitoring the implementation of the Scheme.

11. Computation of financial implications.



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Colleges
Higher Education Department

Each College shall compute the total amount of fees waived, head-wise and beneficiary-wise, and furnish the same to the Directorate in the manner prescribed, to enable this office to work out the aggregate financial implications and to move the Administrative Department for reimbursement in terms of Clause 6 of the Order. The correctness of the figures so furnished shall be the responsibility of the Principal/DDO.

12. Digital intervention — Colleges to prepare.

The Directorate is putting in place a centralised digital arrangement through which the beneficiary data, records and periodical returns, etc relating to this Scheme shall, in the near future, be captured and monitored online.

All Colleges are accordingly directed, from the outset, to (a) designate a Nodal Officer for the Scheme; (b) maintain beneficiary particulars, including the ration card number and the student's identity particulars, accurately and in a consistent form, legible documents/certificates etc, and (c) retain the data in a manner that permits its clean migration to the centralised system as and when introduced.

The particulars furnished manually at this stage shall be liable to digital reconciliation. Colleges are advised to organise their records with this transition in view.

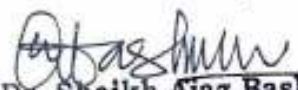
13. Amendments.

These guidelines may be amended, modified or supplemented by the Directorate from time to time, as may be found necessary in the light of experience gained in implementation, in order to secure greater transparency and efficacy in the delivery of the benefit and in the verification of claims. Any such amendment shall be communicated to Colleges and shall take effect from the date specified therein.

14. Compliance.

These guidelines shall be adhered to strictly and uniformly. No deviation is permissible. Any doubt or difficulty in implementation shall be referred to the Directorate for clarification.

Yours Sincerely


Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir
Director Colleges J&K

No. DC-HE/2026/2236.

Dated: 28-07-2026

enclosures: I) Government Order No. 209-JK(HE) of 2026 dated 08.07.2026

II) Annexures (A , B and C).



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Colleges
Higher Education Department

Copy to the:

1. OSD to Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, School Education, Health & Medical Education, and Social Welfare for the information of Hon'ble Minister.
2. PS to Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department — for information of the Commissioner/Secretary.
3. Order file.



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Colleges
 Higher Education Department

ANNEXURE-A

CLAIM-CUM-DECLARATION FORM FOR FULL FEE WAIVER (AAY STUDENTS)

(To be submitted by the applicant to the College)

Name of the College: _____

S. No.	Particulars	Entry
1.	Name of the applicant	
2.	Parentage	
3.	Programme and Semester	
4.	Enrolment / University Registration No.	
5.	Class Roll No.	
6.	AAY Ration Card No.	
7.	Name of Head of Family (as on ration card)	
8.	Relationship of applicant to Head of Family	
9.	Aadhaar No.	
10.	Mobile No.	
11.	Email	

DECLARATION

I hereby declare

- (i) that the particulars furnished above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief;
- (ii) that I am not in receipt of any other scholarship or financial assistance from any Central or State scheme, including the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme;
- (iii) that in the event of any scholarship or assistance being sanctioned to me hereafter, I shall report the fact to the College forthwith;
- (iv) that I am aware that if any particular furnished above is found to be incorrect, or if any scholarship already availed has not been disclosed, the fee waiver granted to me shall be recovered and the matter shall be dealt with under the applicable rules.

Date: _____

 Signature of the Applicant

Enclosures: Self-attested copy of AAY ration card; and AAY certificate, where obtained.



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Colleges
 Higher Education Department

**FOR OFFICE USE — VERIFICATION BY THE COLLEGE-LEVEL FEE WAIVER
 VERIFICATION COMMITTEE**

Item of verification	Entry / Remark
Bona fide student (Sem. 1-8) verified (Admissions In-charge)	
AAY status confirmed under para 5(c) — method (tick one)	☐ (i) Online verification from CAPD records ☐ (ii) AAY certificate No. _____ ☐ (iii) Reconciliation arrangement with the CAPD
Verification reference / certificate particulars	
Non-duplication of scholarship certified (Scholarship In-charge)	
Identity linkage with AAY household verified	
Decision of the Committee	Admitted to the benefit / Not admitted

Signatures of the Committee:

 Nodal Officer / Member Secretary

 Scholarship In-charge (Member)

 Accounts Officer (Member)

 Admissions In-charge (Member)

 Principal (DDO) — Chairperson

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Higher Education Department; Civil Secretariat,
Srinagar/Jammu

Subject: Full fee waiver to undergraduate students from AAY families studying in Government Degree Colleges of Jammu and Kashmir.

Government Order No: 2024-JK(HE) of 2026

Dated: 07-07-2026

Whereas, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir through the medium of publicizing the Budget announcements for the year 2026-27 whereunder one of the Mega Announcement pertaining to the Higher Education Department envisages "Full Fee Waiver for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) Students studying in undergraduate classes from Semester 1st to 8th in Government Degree Colleges of J&K" as a welfare measure for promoting equitable access to education;

Now, therefore, in pursuance of above and in the interest of promoting inclusive education, the Government hereby orders as under:

1. Short Title and Commencement:

This Order shall be called the Jammu & Kashmir Full Fee Waiver for AAY Students studying in undergraduate classes from Semester 1st to 8th in Government Degree Colleges of J&K Order, 2026 and shall come into force with immediate effect.

2. Applicability

The provisions of this Order shall apply to all Government Degree Colleges of J&K functioning under the Administrative Control of Higher Education Department of Jammu & Kashmir.

3. Eligibility:

The benefit of fee waiver shall be admissible to students:

- studying in undergraduate classes from Semester 1st to 8th in Government Degree Colleges of J&K;
- belonging to households covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY); and
- possessing a valid AAY Ration Card or any other document as may be prescribed by the Government.

4. Extent of Fee Waiver:

Eligible students shall be exempted from payment of all fees levable by Government Degree Colleges, subject to the condition that the students shall not be in receipt of any other scholarship assistance. Provided that fees payable to any outside statutory authority or examining body, wherever not within the competence of the Higher Education Department to waive, shall continue to be governed by the rules applicable thereto unless specifically exempted by the competent authority.

5. Verification

The DDC-Head of Institution shall verify the eligibility of each beneficiary before granting the fee waiver and shall maintain proper records for audit, inspection and verification.

6. Budgetary Support:

The financial implications arising out of the implementation of above instructions, if any, shall be worked out by the Directorate of Colleges, J&K and communicated to the Administrative Department for seeking reimbursement from the Finance Department under the relevant Head of Account.

7. Implementation:

The Director Colleges, J&K shall issue detailed operational guidelines for implementation of this order, including verification of beneficiaries, maintenance of records, monitoring and submission of periodical reports.

This issues with the concurrence of the Finance Department vide their U.O No. FD-BDG/100/27/2/2022-(7077855) dated 07-07-2026.

By Order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sd/-

Ram Niwas Sharma (IAS)
Commissioner/Secretary to Government
Higher Education Department
Dated: 07-07-2026

No. HED-ACCT/OP/47-2026-04-7766972

Copies to the:

- Principal Accountant General, (AAE) - J&K.
- CSO/Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, J&K.
- CSO/Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Minister for Education.
- Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary.
- Private Secretary to the Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, J&K.
- Private Secretary to Deputy Chief Minister, J&K.
- Pvt. Secy. to the Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department.
- Pvt. Secy. to Commissioner/Secretary to Government, HED for information of Commissioner/Secretary.
- Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, J&K.
- All Principals of Government Degree Colleges of J&K.

Sakshant Kaur (J&AS)
Director Finance,
Higher Education Department



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Colleges
Higher Education Department

ANNEXURE-B

BENEFICIARY REGISTER — AAY FULL FEE WAIVER

Name of the College: _____

Semester / Period: _____

Page No.: _____

S. No.	Name & Parentage	Enrolment / Regn. No.	Programme & Semester	AAY Ration Card No.	AAY confirmation — method (i/ii/iii) & certificate no. / verification reference	Fee heads waived	Total amount waived (Rs.)	Fee heads remaining payable (University / statutory body)	Date & ref. of Committee decision	Remarks

Certified that the entries in this Register are based on the recorded decisions of the College-Level Fee Waiver Verification Committee and that the supporting records are available for audit, inspection and verification.

Principal (DDO)
(Seal)



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Colleges
 Higher Education Department

ANNEXURE-C

PERIODICAL (SEMESTER-WISE) RETURN OF AAY FEE WAIVER

(To be furnished by the College to the Directorate of Colleges)

Name of the College: _____

Return for the Semester / Period: _____ Date of Return: _____

PART I — SUMMARY

Total number of beneficiaries admitted to waiver	
Total amount of fees waived (Rs.)	

PART II — HEAD-WISE BREAK-UP OF FEES WAIVED

S. No.	Semester	No. of beneficiaries	Fee head	Amount waived (Rs.)
1				
2				
3				
TOTAL				

PART III — BASIS OF AAY CONFIRMATION (FOR RECONCILIATION)

S. No.	Method of confirmation under para 5	No. of beneficiaries
(i)	Online verification from CAPD records	
(ii)	AAY certificate (bearing unique certificate number)	
(iii)	Reconciliation arrangement with the CAPD	
TOTAL		

PART IV — CERTIFICATE

Certified that each beneficiary included in this return has been verified in accordance with the AAY Fee Waiver (Operational) Guidelines, 2026; that no beneficiary is in receipt of any other scholarship or assistance; that the amount shown as waived is correct and pertains only to fees leviable by the College; and that the supporting records are available for audit, inspection and verification. I have satisfied myself as to the correctness of this return.

Principal (DDO)
 Name & Seal