**Annexure ‘B’**

**Highlights of admission process for the Academic Year 2025-26 under Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme (A1201) of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)**

1. Only Universities/Institutes having excellent academic reputation, requisite facilities to host foreign students, dedicated office of ISA to address the issues of foreign students already having a sizeable number of foreign students already having sizeable number of foreign students are empanelled. The list of criteria for empanelment is decided by ICCR, and may be amended from time to time if required.

2. Applicants have the option to apply to 5 Universities/institutes in the order of their preference of study. The admission, as far as possible, shall be given as per applicant´s preference. However, there may be a scenario when students do not get admission in their preferred Universities/institutes due to limited number of seats on offer. Students should therefore be prepared to receive admission from any of their five preferences.

3. Since last Academic Year (AY) 2023-24, a 500 word essay in English has been introduced to ascertain English proficiency. Besides, students can also submit their TOFEL/IELTS etc. Standardised Test Scores, if available. ICCR is also requesting Universities/Institutes to conduct interview of the applicants online, if so required.

4. Rejected candidates will be intimated by Universities.

5. ICCR has introduced disbursement of all scholarship payment to students through PFMS system w.e.f. February 2021. This is as per Government of India (GoI) guidelines on direct payment to beneficiaries.

6. As far as possible, Preference will be given to new students and scholarship repetition to same students will be avoided.

7. If required, the students must obtain Association of Indian Universities (AIU) equivalence. This would be stipulated by the concerned University/Institute in their provisional confirmation letter for the applicant (Uploaded on portal). In case AIU equivalence is required the students may apply for the same at the link https://evaluation.aiu.ac.in/student/login and bear the fees incurred on obtaining the certificate at own expense (non-reimbursable). For any further details/queries, students may contact AIU at (+911123230059/23231097/23232305 Extn. 210,234,252, Email id: studentinfo@aiu.ac.in, ds\_international@aiu.ac.in, evaluation@aiu.ac.in).

8. The scholarship slots include return economy class air-fares **to the nearest airport to the place of study and 3rd Air Conditioned Train fare to the place of study, if so required**. The one way air-ticket will be provided by Embassy of India to the selected scholars.

9. Interested students are advised to visit respective University/Institute website and do thorough research of courses offered, eligibility criteria and general information about the university/institute before applying for admission. The students should ensure that they are eligible for the course and meet the eligibility criteria and should submit relevant documentation as required by the Universities in addition to the basic certificates mentioned in the application form. Interested students are also advised to refer to the Universities Handbook/ University Grants Commission´s website etc.

10. It may be noted that for BE/B.Tech courses, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (PCM) are compulsory in 11 and 12 Grades and it is a mandatory requirement for Engineering courses. Mark Sheets for each i.e., level 10 and 10+2 equivalent level of school should be uploaded along with the transcripts in English **The application will not be considered without English translation of documents if the original documents are not in English**. It may also be noted that incomplete application can be summarily rejected by Universities. Students are advised to throughly check their applications and attach requisite documents before submission of the application.

11. The applicant’s age for availing scholarships is as under:-

For Undergraduate/Postgraduate courses - between 18 to 40 years (18 years as on date 01.07.2025)

For PhD Programmes - 50 Years Maximum

12. The admissions in Medical/Paramedical(Nursing/Physiotherapy/anaesthesia etc)/fashion/law courses/integreted courses such as BALLB (5 Years)/B Sc & M Sc (5 Years) etc. are not admissible.

13. Please note that for Science courses, the expenditure on laboratory chemicals and other related incidental charges will be borne by the scholars themselves.

14. The selected students will have to provide Medical report signed by certified doctor to Embassy of India.

15. The applicants are also informed that personal medical insurance is a mandatory requirement for availing of ICCR´s scholarship. It is compulsory for all ICCR scholarship students to procure Medical Insurance policy with minimum sum assured for Indian Rupees Five Lakhs per annum. Whenever the students travel to India after admission, they must have medical insurance coverage on their own either before travel or immediately after reaching India, whichever is convenient to students. Students can purchase medical insurance from any of the insurance companies of their choice. However to facilitate students, portal has two insurance companies for referral purpose.

16. ICCR may amend some provisions of scholarships from time to time and it is incumbent on students to accept the revised norms.

17. To automate the entire manuel work process of ICCR's schloarship division, ICCR has lauched an application **'Gyan Setu- Connecting Culture through Knowledge'** on 6 February 2023. Since the inception of 'Gyan Setu app, all the scholarship dues to the Universities/Institutes as well as to the students, are being released through this app only. The features of Gyan Setu applicable to students are as elaborated below:

Role of Scholars/students - Post Arrival of Students in India:

(i) Students are directed to report their arrival on the Gyan\_Setu web application on immediate basis.

(ii) Students are required to coordinate with their respective universitites/institutes regarding updation of their details such as joining report on the app.

(iii) **Submission & Verification of Documents/Confirmation of Admission-** To submit the original documents and verify the details mentioned in the A2A portal during the admission process with their original  **documents** including Passport, previous degree certificates, country's unique identification number, in order to **confirm the admission** of students and get the **Hostel Accomodation** as soon as the admission is confirmed. **PLEASE NOTE**- The details entered in the Portal, if in case, does not match with the original documents,the admission of the said student be termed as **CANCELLED.**

18. All the selected students will have to submit following details on Gyan Setu App within 15 days of their arrival in India in order to get their scholarship dues, else payment of their scholarship dues might get delayed.

(i) Passport No.

(ii) Joining Report (including joining date and duration of the course)

(iii) Bank Account No.

(iv) e-FRRO registration no.

19. In order to ensure security of the foreign students, ICCR advises students to stay in campus hostel, if available. However, students are allowed to stay in private accommodation if the concerned institute does not insist on staying in their hostel.

20. The selected student will have to submit undertaking form stating that (i) the course and University as conveyed is acceptable and that he/she will not request for change at the time of admissions; (ii) they have read the terms and conditions/Guidelines of ICCR scholarship as specified in the Scholarship Manual 2024-25 available on the Portal. The one time undertaking will be applicable even when scholarship manual is updated (as per para 36 like provisions).

21. Detailed guidelines on the process of applying for ICCR Scholarships are available on the Portal.

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