



## **Forest and Environment Department Government of Sikkim**

**No: 34/GoS/FED/2024-25**

**Date: 19 Sep 2024**

### **NOTIFICATION**

#### **Guidelines for Availing Benefits under “Sikkim Shishu Samriddhi Yojana” of “Mero Rukh Mero Santati Program of Government of Sikkim**

The Government of Sikkim launched an innovative program called “Mero Rukh Mero Santati” on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 wherein 108 tree saplings are planted to commemorate the birth of every new child in Sikkim. This unique initiative anchors itself on five pillars namely emotional bondage between parents and child, spirituality, celebration, concept of growing together of child and tree and carbon neutrality. This initiative has received overwhelming support from the people and in a short time also received national and international acclaim. In order to ensure wider outreach amongst the people of Sikkim, it is proposed to incentivize the initiative through the “Sikkim Shishu Samriddhi Yojana (SSSY)” under the umbrella of “Mero Rukh Mero Santati (MRMS)”. Under this Scheme, the State government will deposit Rs 10,800/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Eight Hundred only) as a fixed deposit in an interest-bearing bank account in State Bank of Sikkim in the name of the newborn child. In order to streamline this initiative, the following Operational Guidelines have been prepared.

#### **Eligibility**

- a. Parents who are Sikkim Subject/Certificate of Identification holders or those parents whose names are registered in the voter list of Sikkim.
- b. Parents who have obtained Plantation Completion Certificate from the Forest and Environment Department, under “Mero Rukh Mero Santati”.
- c. Plantation Completion Certificate shall have to be obtained within 3 years from Date of birth of the Child under the scheme in order to be eligible.
- d. Parents who are Not a Regular Employee of the Government of Sikkim or Government of India
- e. Parents Who are Below Poverty Line as certified by the DESME or other authorized Department of the Government of Sikkim.

#### **Procedure for Availing the Scheme**

Step: 1: Do registration under “Mero Rukh Mero Santati” Program in the portal

Step: 2: Complete plantation of 108 trees per child and obtain Plantation Completion Certificate

Step: 3: Check Eligibility criteria as mentioned above and get ready with the following documents

- a. Birth Certificate
- b. Plantation Completion Certificate
- c. Sikkim Subject Certificate/Certificate of Identification/Voter Card
- d. Certificate from BDO stating that parents are not regular employees under Government of Sikkim or under Government of India
- e. BPL certificate issued by the DESME or any authorised Government Department

Step 4: Upload these documents in the “Mero Rukh Mero Santati” Program portal

Step 5: Collect Cheque issued by the Forest and Environment Department for an amount of Rs. 10,800/- under the scheme “Sikkim Shishu Samriddhi Yojana (SSSY)”

Step 6: Visit the nearby State Bank of Sikkim for opening the Fixed Deposit Account under the scheme “Sikkim Shishu Samriddhi Yojana (SSSY)”

Step 7: Obtain the Bank Pass Book of “Sikkim Shishu Samriddhi Yojana (SSSY)” and keep safe custody of the same till the attainment of 18 years of the age of the child.

Step 8: On attaining 18 years of age by the Child, go to the nearby State Bank of Sikkim and the child can close the account and withdraw maturity amount along with accrued interest upon submission of documentary proofs required by the bank.

**Other relevant Information:**

A Fixed Deposit Bank Account shall be opened under State Bank of Sikkim by either of the parent in the name of the child registered under “Mero Rukh Mero Santati”, who satisfies the eligibility mentioned above.

The Child can have only a single Account under this scheme.

The State Bank of Sikkim Shall open the Fixed Deposit Account in the name of the Child. An application for opening of an Account in the Bank under this Scheme shall be accompanied with the birth certificate of the beneficiary in whose name the Account is to be opened, along with other documents such as Sikkim Subject/Certificate of Identification or Voter card of the guardian and other Know Your Customer (KYC) documents such as identify proof and residence proof as per the norms of the bank in addition to the plantation completion certificate.

On opening an Account, the guardian shall be given a pass book bearing the name, address and date of birth of the Account holder, date of opening of Account, Account number, name and address of the guardian, relationship with the Account holder and the amount deposited.

A duplicate passbook may be subsequently issued in the event of loss, mutilation, etc., of the original passbook, on the written request of the guardian or the Account holder, on payment of a fee as fixed by the bank.

The Account shall be operated by the guardian till the beneficiary Account holder attains the age of eighteen years.

Withdrawal from this bank account shall be allowed only on maturity.

In the unfortunate event of death of the Beneficiary Account holder, the Account shall be closed immediately, on the production of death certificate issued by the competent medical authority, and the balance at the credit of the Account and interest due thereon till the date of death shall be paid to the guardian.

Under this Scheme, the State Government through Forest and Environment Department will deposit Rs 10,800/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Eight Hundred only) as a fixed deposit in an interest-bearing bank account in State Bank of Sikkim in the name of the newborn child.

Presently the Bank will provide a Compound Interest rate @ 7.5 % per annum, which is subject to revision as per banking policies time to time.

The Account shall mature on the beneficiary attaining the age of 18 years;

On maturity, the principal amount and the accrued interest shall be payable to the Account holder, on an application by the Account holder for closure of the Account, and on furnishing documentary proof of identity and age.

If the beneficiary desires to continue the account after the age of maturity, the bank shall convert this fixed deposit account into a savings bank account in the name of beneficiary after doing required documentation and allow it to continue as per the will of the beneficiary.

For Compliance for all concerned.

Sd/-  
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PCCF-cum-Secretary  
Forest and Environment Department

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