

Countrywide Awareness Programme on National Academic Depository(NAD)

1. Background

The Government of India is committed towards bringing administrative and academic reforms through the use of technology for delivery of efficient services to all stakeholders. Education engages with almost every citizen of the country and the Government is keen to create quality infrastructure that will facilitate delivery of services to citizens and also enable academic institutions in their core functions. Thus, the project of “National Academic Depository (NAD)” has been launched. NAD is a step towards the Digital India vision of Honourable Prime Minister.

Consequent upon the approval of Cabinet, the Government in exercise of power conferred under section 20(1) of UGC Act,1956, has designated UGC as an authorised body to enter into a tripartite agreement on behalf of all Central Higher Educational Institutions (CHEIs) Institutes of National Importance (INIs) and Boards with the wholly owned subsidiaries of the depositories registered under SEBI Act,1992 namely NSDL Database Management Limited(NDML) and CDS Ventures Limited(CVL) initially for a period of three years for the purpose of establishment of NAD comprising of two inter-operable digital depositories. In turn, the academic institutions /boards/eligibility assessment bodies may select either of the two depositories for entering into legally enforceable agreement between them and the selected depository for utilising services of NAD. Lodging, access, retrieval and validation of academic records in the NAD will be primarily on the strength of this agreement.

National Academic Depository is an online store house of academic awards (degrees, diplomas, certificates, mark-sheets etc) lodged by the academic institutions / boards / eligibility assessment bodies in a digital format. NAD is on 24X7 online mode for making available academic awards and shall help in validating their authenticity, their safe storage and easy retrieval.

NAD comprises of two interoperable digital depositories namely NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML) and CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL). These digital depositories shall keep the academic awards in the digital format.

Benefits of NAD

NAD would be of immense benefit to institutions, Students and Employers to access Academic awards, eliminating the need for persons to approach educational institutions for obtaining authenticated copies or for verification of awards as well as reduce the need for institutions to preserve records related to academic performance of students for a number of years. The system would aim

at eliminating fraudulent practices such as forging of certificates, mark sheets, etc. by facilitating online verification.

NAD once extended to all Educational Institutions at all levels will build a single national database of academic awards and will be helpful to AIs, students and verifiers in following ways:

Academic Institutions:

- Permanent record of academic awards issued;
- No need for issuing duplicate academic awards, students can get it from NAD;
- Effective Deterrence to fake and forged paper certificates;
- All academic awards verification needs can be addressed by NAD;
- Saving in administrative processes resulting into more efficient and focused organisation.

Students:

- Immediate availability of academic awards upon upload by Academic Institution
- Online, Permanent Record of academic awards
- No risk of losing, spoiling, damaging the academic awards
- Anytime, Convenient access to academic awards

Verification Users (Employer, Companies, Banks etc.)

- Online, Quick and Reliable Verification of academic awards (with prior consent of the concerned student)
- Access to Authenticated Copy of academic awards
- No risk of fake and forged Certificates.
- Reduction in Cost, Time and Efforts for Verification

Stakeholders

- Academic Institutions (Boards and Universities)
- Verifiers
- Certificate Holders
- UGC
- Depositories(NMDL & CVL)

Roles and Responsibilities of Academic Institutions (Boards and Universities)

- Entering into legally enforceable agreement between them and the selected depository for utilising services of NAD
- Registration on NAD

- For NAD system to create certificate templates and reports , Academic Institutions would need to provide following:
 - (a) Data masters such as List of Colleges, Courses, Subjects
 - (b) Templates (Sample Cancelled copies) of Certificates for which data is proposed to be lodged in NAD System
 - (c) Digitally Signed Certificate Data needs to be provided for the Certificates for which data is proposed to be lodged in NAD System. NAD will facilitate with certificate data format.

- Provide Online Services through NAD system:
 - (a) For all verification / duplicate certificate requests received by Academic Institutions (from students, employers, background checkers, other academic institutions) Academic Institution to advise the requester to approach NAD system.
 - (b) Advise all Students to register on NAD system for accessing their academic awards.

- Establish a NAD Cell and appoint and notify nodal officer from its side who would meet with NDML on a regular basis and provide necessary guidance, support and review the progress made of the Workshop.

Roles and Responsibilities of Verifiers:

Verifiers would constitute of Academic Institutions, Background Verification Agencies, Employers, Banks etc. who will be required to access NAD for verifying the authenticity of academic awards either for recruitment, further education or loan disbursement. The process would be as follows:

- To validate the identity of the user, Verifier would need to register on NAD system.
- NAD will host the details of all the participating Academic Institutes for easy reference
- Verification user can securely log-in to NAD system and place a request for verification of a certificate record. System will generate a unique verification request number and maintain status of the same.
- Verification charges, as applicable will be collected.
- System will inform about the availability of a Certificate record for verification.
- System will notify the concerned Certificate holder that a verification request has been lodged and he / she may review the same and authorise sharing of his / her certificate details.
- Certificate data will be provided after authorisation
- Facility will be provided for registered users to seek bulk verification for various certificates such as University seeking confirmation for 100 admission applicants

Roles and Responsibilities of Certificate Holders/ Students:

- Certificate holder to register with NAD system. NAD offers a completely online and secure method of registration using the Aadhaar Verification framework provided by UIDAI, Govt. of India.
- UIDAI will send an OTP to the registered mobile No, NAD will collect the Aadhaar data from UIDAI after certificate holder confirms the OTP sent by UIDAI.
- Certificate holder can now log in to his account and view the mapped certificates.
- In case student is unable to register with Aadhaar, he/ she would need to fill the registration details and his/ her Academic Institute would need to confirm the details, in order to activate the account.

Roles and Responsibilities of UGC:

- Enter into a tripartite agreement on behalf of all Central Higher Educational Institutions, Institutions of National Importance and Boards with the wholly owned subsidiaries of the depositories under SEBI Act, 1992, namely NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML) and CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL) initially for a period of three years for the purposes of establishment of NAD comprising of two interoperable digital depositories.
- Facilitate signing of the Service Level Agreement(SLA) between AIs and the Depository
- Organise countrywide awareness programme on NAD.
- Receive quarterly reconciled data from NAD depositories for keeping a back-up.
- Receive the data for data analytics from NAD
- Inspect, if required any books, records, physical infrastructure, system etc pertaining to NAD.
- Conduct a review ,at regular intervals of the functioning of NAD
- Ensure the reasonability of the user charges for NAD services by students, Is and other users.
- Conduct a review of the NAD on /before the expiry of the tripartite agreement and decide on further extension of agreement based on the review undertaken.

Roles and Responsibilities of Depositories:

NAD comprises of two inter-operable digital depositories namely NSDL Database Management Limited (NDML) and CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL). These depositories shall:

- Register Academic Institutions/Boards/Eligibility Assessment bodies on NAD;
- Provide access to AIs to its digital depository in NAD;
- Facilitate AIs to efficiently lodge, in its digital depository in NAD, the details of academic awards awarded by it;
- Train AIS in the process of lodging and retrieval of records in its digital depository in NAD;
- Provide efficient online verification of academic awards lodged in by AIs in its digital depository in NAD(with prior student consent);
- Provide an authenticated copy of academic award in its digital depository in NAD when so requested by the student or an entity authorised by the student(with prior student consent);
- Map academic awards to concerned student on the basis of Aadhaar ID or the verified NAD-id seeded in the Award data;
- Maintain the authenticity, integrity and confidentiality of its digital depository in NAD database and block access to any unauthorized users;
- Register students in NAD, based on Aadhaar / NAD Registration data ;
- Mandatory inclusion of Student's identity details i.e. Aadhaar / NAD Registration ID in Academic Awards made available from NAD;
- Allow lodging of academic awards by AIs in NAD system in XML data formats/ image format and after applying due process of internal data review, validations, authorization and submitted to NAD with Digital Signature Certificates; both data and image format would be required for uploading/lodging of academic awards in the NAD;
- Ensure that all data lodged by the AIs remain secure in its digital depository in the NAD and no data loss happens due to destruction, unauthorized manipulation, archiving etc;
- Ensure that the academic awards lodged by the first part in the digital depository in NAD is, at all times, accessible online to either the AIs, or the concerned awardee/ student or to a person authorized by the concerned awardee/student to access his/her award.
- Ensure that the academic awards lodged by the AIs facilitate online interaction and exchange of information with the Central Identities Data Repository created by the Unique identification Authority of India,;
- Ensure that the academic awards lodged by the AIs are compliant with the Digital Locker technology of MeitY.

- Ensure that the academic awards lodged by the AIs are transmitted to the other depository/ies in NAD in mutually agreed format between the digital depositories and also therefore to ensure inter-operability of system design and software between them. Syncing of data shall take place, between the two depositories in the NAD in order to resolve transmission errors, on multiple occasions in a day.
- Provide/share the academic award data only upon receipt of consent from the student.
- Provide authenticated copy/copies of the academic award with such security features as may be decided by UGC.
- Make available for verification data relating to academic award to Authorized Users with prior consent of the student.
- Provide Reports/Statistics or authenticated copy/ies of any specific academic award pertaining to any student/s in the digital depository when so requested in writing by any Statutory/Regulatory authority subject to approval by UGC.
- Not to use the data for any other purpose than as defined under the service level agreement.
- Consent from the student for sharing of the academic awards/data shall not be required in cases like verification sought by statutory bodies/constitutional bodies/investigating agencies during the course of any enquiry/investigation.

2. The Need and objectives of workshop:

NAD is a unique, innovative and progressive step towards achieving digital enablement of the educational records. NAD aspires to make the vision of digital academic certificates for every Indian a reality. This touches the lives of Indian youth and empowers them with Digital, Online, Trusted, Verifiable Certificates which are accessible in a secure manner at all times. NAD promises to do away with difficulties / inefficiencies of collecting, maintaining, and presenting physical paper certificates. NAD is not only a database copy of the certificate records for Academic Institutes but a complete system for issuing online certificates to well identified and registered students. As it will be an active online place for students, academic institutes and verification users, they need a holistic orientation to enable them to have a clear visibility on the system of NAD. Therefore, this workshop is organised to create awareness amongst its stakeholders about NAD-its features, functionality, benefits, objectives, users and their roles and responsibilities, and areas of concerns in its implementations.

Objectives of the Workshop:

The objectives of this workshop are to:

- Raise awareness on the various aspects of NAD in its stakeholders.

- Promote the initiative of the Government of India to bring administrative and academic reforms through implementation of NAD.
- Encourage and assist the stakeholders to successfully implement the system of NAD.
- Develop a mechanism for dialogue and information exchange amongst the stakeholders.
- Enable the users to have clear visibility on performance of the process and delivery of services by depositories.
- Elicit valuable inputs from the stakeholders for drawing future roadmap as regards the effective implementation of NAD.

3. Theme (s) of the Workshop

- Knowing the core contents/purpose of NAD
- Familiarise the stakeholders the uses of NAD,
- Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders in the system of NAD.
- Mainstreaming NAD into academic administration in AIs for good governance,
- Deliberation on processes of implementation of NAD- from uploading of awards to access and verification
- Deliberation on the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between AIs and the Depositories.