

B. National Scholarship Scheme

1. Objective

National Scholarship Scheme is intended to encourage meritorious ST students to pursue courses at Graduate and Post Graduate level in premier institutes identified by the Ministry in professional fields such as Management, Medicine/Science, Engineering and Technology, Humanities, Law and Social Science etc.

2. Salient Features of the Scheme

This is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and provides 100% funding to ST students in courses and institutes approved and notified by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The scholarship once awarded will continue till completion of the course tenure, subject to satisfactory performance of the student, as assessed by the institute.

2.1 Eligibility and course duration

Course	Duration	Eligibility
Graduate level	Course duration is fixed by the Institutes.	ST students who have secured admission in the notified Institutions and courses approved by the Ministry will be eligible for the scholarship under the scheme.
Post Graduate level		

Note 1: Students availing this scholarship are not eligible to claim benefit of any other scholarship scheme of the Centre/ State Govt. for the same study.

Note 2: The duration of the course varies as per the course selected by the candidate. The scholarship, once awarded, will continue till the completion of the course, subject to satisfactory performance as certified by the Institute.

2.2 Income Criteria: The total family income of the student to be eligible for this scholarship from all sources should not exceed Rs.6.0 lakh per annum. The family income shall be computed in the following manner: -

- i. In case where both father and mother are working, the combined income of both of them from all sources shall be taken into account in computing total family income.

- ii. In case any other member of the family, other than father and mother is an earning member, his or her income shall not be included in computing total family income.
- iii. In case only one parent is alive, the income of that parent shall be taken into account for considering total parental income. If other sibling or family member is an earning member, their income shall not be included in computing total family income.
- iv. In the case of an orphan, supported by a guardian, income criteria shall not apply.
- v. In case of married candidates, the spousal income will also be added to compute total family income.

Note 1: Definition of Income - Income means gross income including income from all sources e.g. Salary, Interest Income, Income from House property, Income from Business, Agricultural income, and Income from any other Sources etc. It is clarified that Income for the purpose of scholarship is not the taxable Income as defined in Income Tax Act. The deductions and exemption available in the Income Tax Act u/s 10, Section 80 or any other section will not be available in computing gross Income under the scheme.

Note 2: Income certificate is required to be taken once only i.e. at the time of admission to courses which are continuing for more than one year. Income certificate should be for the financial year immediately preceding the selection year. For example, for the selection year 2022-23, income certificate for the financial year 2021-22(Assessment year 2022-23) is admissible. In case of salaried employees Form-16 is accepted. In case of income from other sources, income certificate issued by the designated authority of the respective State/UT is accepted.

2.3 Universities/Institutions covered under the scheme: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is authorized to select and notify the list of reputed premier Institutions. The present list of 252 notified Institution is given at Annexure- I. Students who have taken admission in these notified institutions are not eligible to apply under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme of this Ministry, in order to avoid duplication.

2.4 Slots of Scholarship:

All eligible students who have taken admission on merit to the identified premier institutes, and are verified by Institute and Ministry as per the norms of the scheme are eligible to receive scholarship. There is no Institute- wise/ State wise/ stream wise ceiling of number of slots. However, students admitted in Management quota in a private Institute will not be entitled to scholarship.

2.5 Value of Scholarship:

The selected student will be eligible for financial assistance as stipulated in the following table, subject to fulfilment of conditions laid down in scheme:

Sr. No.	Component	Details	Remarks
1.	Tuition Fees and Admission fee	Full Admission fee, tuition fee and other non-refundable charges in respect of Government Institutes.	There will be a ceiling of Rs.2.50 lakhs per annum per student for private sector of Institutes.
2.	Books & Stationery	@ Rs.5000/- per annum	per annum per student without bills/vouchers.
3.	Stipend	@ Rs.3000/-per month	-
4.	Computer & Accessories	Rs.45000/- (One-time assistance during the course tenure)	Computer & accessories may be Desktop/Laptop etc. (Without bills/vouchers)

3. Selection Process:

3.1 Online Application through Portal:

Applications are invited, processed, approved and scholarship is disbursed through National Scholarship Portal (www.scholarships.gov.in/) developed by (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology). Students after taking admission for various courses in the notified Universities/Institutes will submit the application online in the above-mentioned portal for the scholarship. The date of opening and closing of portal will be given due publicity through print and electronic media and through Institutes and States. The tentative dates of opening and closing of portal will be advertised in the National Scholarship Portal every year (as decided by DBT Mission). Students are advised to keep watch on the portal for opening of application process. The applications submitted after the cut-off date and time shall not be entertained/ considered.

3.2 Registration Process: Before filling online application form, Candidates are required to register themselves on the online portal. Students are advised to carefully

go through the “Guidelines for Registration on National Scholarship Portal” before initiating registration process.

3.3 Documents Required: Following documents are required to be uploaded on the portal while filling the application online on NSP:

S. No.	Graduate level /Post Graduate level courses	Fresh Candidate	Renewal Candidate	Remarks
1	ST Certificate/ PVTG Certificate	Yes	No	Caste Certificate is required to be signed and stamped by competent authority.
2	Income Certificate	Yes	No	<u>For fresh candidate:</u> Income Certificate for the F.Y preceding the year of selection issued by designated authority by the respective state/UT.
3	Fee Receipt	Yes	Yes	
4	Scanned copy of the bank passbook	Yes	Yes	Student name on the passbook should match with the name as mentioned in the application form
5	Mark sheet/Certificate of qualifying examination	Yes	Yes	<u>For fresh Candidate:</u> Graduate level course: 12 th standard Post graduate level course: Graduation <u>For renewal Candidate:</u> Last passing [semester] marksheet
6	Bona fide Certificate issued from the Institute	Yes	Yes	

3.4 Verification Process by University/Institute:

- i. The portal has provision of online verification by the Institutes where the applicant has taken admission. Nodal Officers from the Institutes, dealing with Scholarship is required to register themselves on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP). For further details in this regard, the Institute

officials may go through the “Institute Operational Manual” available on NSP Portal.

- ii. Nodal Officer from the Institutes will verify the physical documents of the applicant uploaded by him/her on the portal and ensure that the credentials uploaded in the portal are correct. It would be the responsibility of the Institute to ensure that information and documents uploaded by the applicant on the portal is correct and match with the physical documents submitted by the candidates for verification.
- iii. Institute will be responsible for verifying genuineness of the requisite certificates furnished by the candidates so as to eliminate the possibility of students availing the Scholarship on fake certificates.
- iv. All applications submitted at Institute level by the students within the stipulated date and time shall be processed.
- v. The Institute will not charge any fee for verification of applications.

3.4.1 Verification Process by the Ministry:

After receiving student details duly verified by the Institute at NSP portal, online verification of application will be done by the Ministry. In case of any discrepancies found in the application, Ministry will mark application as defective and the defective application will be visible to the student. Student is advised to make correction in the defective application and required to resubmit once again on the portal at Institute level. Institute will verify the corrected application and submit it to the Ministry through portal for final verification and submit before the last date.

3.5 Publishing of the selection list:

The list of candidates selected for the grant of scholarship will be published on website of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- i. Decision of the Ministry for granting scholarship shall be final.
- ii. Ministry reserves the right to withdraw/cancel the scholarship without assigning any reasons.

4. Release of payment:

Payment of Scholarship to the selected students will be made once in a year through PFMS to the accredited bank through DBT mode in to the account of the student.

The selected candidates would be required to have bank accounts in the banks having Core Banking Solutions. In case the students are not having Aadhaar

numbers, they are required to apply for Aadhaar Card, within a month of their registration/admission in the courses under the Scholarship.

4.1 Payment process:

Payment of the Scholarship amount to ST students would be made in the following manner:

Component I: The Scholarship amount payable for Computer & accessories, Books and Stationery, stipend and non-refundable fee etc. will be released to students through PFMS-Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode into their Aadhaar seeded bank account.

Component II: The Scholarship amount payable towards tuition fee and Admission fee will be released to the Institute through PFMS. In case the student has already paid the tuition fee and admission fee at the time of admission, it will be reimbursed to the student's Aadhaar seeded bank account on submission of receipt/vouchers.

4.2 Utilization Certificate from the Institute:

Institute is required to submit Utilization Certificate in the GFR-12A format online after receiving the Scholarship amount (tuition fee and admission fee) from the Ministry along with the list of students for whom the scholarship amount is received. Institute will refund the unspent balance, with accrued interest, if any, to the Ministry through DD payable at Sr. AO, PAO, M/O Tribal Affairs, New Delhi, Payable at Delhi SBI Shastri Bhawan along with the reasons of refund.

4.3 Up-dation of Expenditure at PFMS:

The Institute is required to onboard and update online expenditure along with unspent balance at PFMS portal. The Institute may ensure that the PFMS expenditure should match with the details given in Utilization Certificate (UC) submitted to the Ministry. After updating the expenditure details on PFMS, Institute may refer EAT-02 report of PFMS. Based on the UC and EAT-02 report, scholarship will be released for the subsequent year.

Note: In order to ensure timely release of scholarship to students, Institutes must ensure that they are onboarded and updated online expenditure along with unspent balance on PFMS. The Institute will not ask for the tuition fee from the students in case there is delay in release of amount by the Ministry to the Institute.

5. Others:

5.1 Updation of the completion of course at Ministry's portal:

The completion of the Graduation/post-graduation course of the student is required to be updated by the University/Institute on the Ministry's portal.

5.2 Grievance Module: Students/Institutes can register any query on MoTA's dedicated grievance portal (www.tribal.nic.in/grievance)

6. Applicability of Guidelines:

These guidelines will be applicable from the selection year 2021-22 and onwards. However, the rates of scholarship will be effective from 1st April 2022. No arrears shall be paid for the period prior to 1st April 2022.

7. Change in the provisions of the scheme

The provisions of this Scheme may be modified from time to time by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, with approval of the competent authority, by issuing circulars, addendum, memorandum etc. which will become part of the guidelines.
