

अनंत प्रकाश पांडेय, भा.व.से.
संयुक्त सचिव
Anant Prakash Pandey, IFS
Joint Secretary



भारत सरकार
जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs

DO No. -11021/01/2021-Sch.

Dated: 1st, July, 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are aware that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India is implementing the National Scholarship (Top Class) Scheme for Higher Education of ST students. Your esteemed institute is one of the 265 selected institutions under the scheme. Every ST student taken admission in 265 notified institutes and possessing the following documents is eligible to apply for scholarship under the Scheme:

- i. A valid ST certificate issued by the designated authority
- ii. A valid Income Certificate for the previous financial year (Income certificate for FY 2025-26 for admission for AY 2026-27) to the effect that the annual parental income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 6 lakhs.

2. In this regard it is informed that ST students come from a weak socio-economic background and unable to make payment of fees upfront. However, it is brought to the notice of this Ministry that eligible ST students have been asked to make payment of fees at the time of counseling/admission. Therefore, the Ministry has issued advisories vide D.O. letters dated 09.03.2023, 07.08.2024 and 03.07.2025 not to collect fees from eligible ST students upfront at the time of admission/counseling. The issue was discussed in the VC meeting held on 30.06.2026 regarding exemption from payment of upfront admission fees. It is once again reiterated that eligible ST students, after verification of the above-mentioned documents, may be allowed to take Counseling/Admission without payment of fees. Such students may be advised to apply under National Scholarship (Top Class) Scheme for Higher Education of ST students on National Scholarship Portal (NSP). The Ministry will make the payment of admissible fees to the Institutes as per extant norms.

With warm regards,

Yours Sincerely,

(Anant Prakash Pandey)

To,

- All 265 Notified institute
- Copy to: Commissioner, NEST, MoTA