

No. D-12011/01/2025-DBT
भारत सरकार/Government of India
मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय/Cabinet Secretariat

Seva Teerth - II
Motilal Nehru Road, New Delhi-110011
Dated: November 12, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Classification of scholarship schemes and harmonization of scheme guidelines for De-duplication across scholarship schemes.

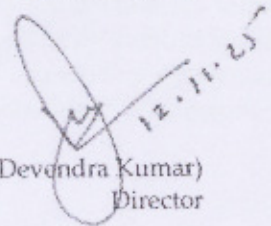
During the implementation of the deduplication module on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for the AY 2024-25, certain issues arose between the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) and the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment (DoSJE) wherein a number of beneficiaries were flagged duplicates. The examination of these cases has highlighted the need for a clear and uniform understanding across Ministries/Departments regarding the classification, scope, and intent of scholarship schemes implemented by the Government of India.

2. While the principle of "One Student - One Scholarship" is usually followed, the term "Scholarship" is often used interchangeably for diverse forms of student support (financial assistance/support/incentive), resulting in overlaps in eligibility and implementation. For de-duplication, conceptual clarity, policy harmonization and uniform implementation, Ministries/Departments are requested to classify their schemes under the following broad categories:

- a) **Merit-based Scholarships:** Granted on the basis of academic performance, ranking, or achievements in a competitive/qualifying examination. The primary objective is to reward excellence and promote merit. *Examples: National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS), Central Sector Scheme of Scholarships for College and University Students, Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) etc.*
- b) **Welfare-based Scholarships:** Financial support provided to students belonging to identified communities, categories, or socio-economic groups to reduce financial hardship and promote equity. *Examples: Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes for SC, ST, OBC, and Minority students.*

3. Further, it has been decided that, henceforth, in case a student in receipt of a Welfare Scholarship, becomes eligible for a Merit Scholarship, the later shall not be denied to him as also *vice versa*.

4. This issues with approval of the Cabinet Secretary.


(Devendra Kumar)
Director

To:

1. All Ministries/Departments implementing scholarship schemes (*As per list enclosed*)
2. Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology

Copy for information to:

1. Staff Officer to Cabinet Secretary
2. PS to Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat

1-34/2020-NS.1(pt.ii)
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
Scholarship Division

West Block-1, Wing-6,
2nd Floor, R.K. Puram Sector-1,
New Delhi-110066
Dated: 19th June, 2026

To,

1. Additional Chief Secretary/ Pr. Secretary, D/o Higher Education of all State Govts/
UTs Administration
2. The Secretary/ Chairman, All State Education Board

Subject: Regarding Preparedness of National Scholarship Portal (NSP) for AY 2026-27.

Sir/Madam,

As you may be aware, this Department implements the PM-USP Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students across the nation. The scheme is onboarded on National Scholarship Portal.

2. Vide OM no. D-12011/01/2025-DBT dated 12.11.2025 (copy enclosed), the Cabinet Secretariat has decided that, in case a student is in receipt of a Welfare Scholarship becomes eligible for a Merit Scholarship, the later shall not be denied to him as also vice-versa.

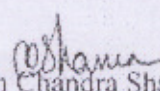
3. Accordingly, the National Scholarship Portal fundamental framework of "One Student – One Scholarship" is being migrated to "One Student – Multiple Scholarships" from the AY 2026-27. Where, applicant would be eligible to avail one Merit-based scholarship along with multiple Welfare-based scholarships, subject to eligibility conditions. Accordingly, several modifications in the NSP workflow have been made, which are enclosed at Annexure. Keeping these changes in view, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been prepared by NIC-NSP and made available in public domain on the NSP Portal for the convenience of students.

4. In view of above, you are requested to spread awareness about the changed modality of the National Scholarship Portal by circulating the same with the Principals of the schools/Institutions, and Registrars of the Universities and by publishing the same on the official website of the respective Board/ Higher Education Department/ Educational Institutions so that all the stakeholders, especially eligible students are adequately informed about the revised scholarship framework and application process, thereby facilitating wider outreach, timely submission of applications, optimal utilization of scholarship opportunities, and smooth implementation of the "One Student – Multiple Scholarships" framework from AY 2026-27.

5. This may kindly be accorded Top Priority.

Enclosure: A/a

Yours faithfully


(Dinesh Chandra Sharma)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

Annexure

1. At Application Submission and Editing

- a. Application details furnished during initial application submission would be retained and reused for all subsequent application
- b. For submitting subsequent applications, applicants would only be required to furnish scheme-specific details and upload relevant documents.
- c. In cases where an application is marked defective, applicants would be permitted to edit only scheme-specific details. For modification of general, academic, institute or course details, all submitted applications would first be required to be withdrawn.

2. At L1 Verification:

- a. Tuition Fee, Admission Fee and other non-refundable fee components updated during L1 verification of the first application would thereafter be auto-populated in subsequent applications.
- b. During L1 verification, all applications submitted by the applicant along with their respective status would be visible to the INO.
- c. NIC-NSP further informed that while marking applications as "Defective", deficiencies would be categorized separately as:
 - i. deficiencies relating to scheme-specific details; and
 - ii. deficiencies relating to general/academic details.

3. At L2 Verification

- a. All applications submitted by an applicant, along with their respective status, would simultaneously be visible to all concerned L2 Nodal Officers. This would facilitate consistency in decision-making across multiple applications submitted by the same applicant under different scholarship categories. For instance, where an applicant submits one application under a Welfare-based scheme and another under a Merit-based scheme, the concerned L2 Nodal Officers for both schemes would have visibility of the other application and its status.
- b. In cases where deficiencies pertain to general or academic details, all other applications of the applicant would automatically be flagged under "Red Flag" category