National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Tribe Students

PIB analysis

Empowering Aspirations Beyond Borders

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs' National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme provides **20 fresh scholarships annually** to ST students for overseas Master's and PhD programmes.
- From **2026-27**, eligible institutions must rank among the **top 1,000 in QS World University Rankings**.
- Women's share among beneficiaries increased from **20% (2015-16) to 47.8% (2024-25)**.

Opening Doors to Global Education

- **AISHE 2023-24:** 28.83 lakh ST students enrolled in higher education, compared to 21.56 lakh in 2019–20.
- NOS is a **Central Sector Scheme**, operational since 1954–55.
- Implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs through Indian Embassies/Missions abroad, under the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Expanded from 15 scholarships in 2010–11 to 20 annually, covering four broad fields.



Broadening Horizons: NOS Scheme at a Glance

Annual Scholarships: 20

Field of Study	Slots
STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology, Mathematics)	10
Management, Economics, Finance, Law	4
Agriculture/Medicine	4
Humanities/Social Science/Fine Arts	2

- **17 scholarships** for ST candidates and **3 for PVTGs**.
- **30% earmarked for women**; unfilled slots may be offered to eligible male candidates.



Maximum Duration of Assistance

- PhD – 4 years.
- Master's – 1 or 2 years, depending on course duration.

Pathways to Opportunity: Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Criteria	PhD	Master's
Qualification	55% in Master's	55% in Bachelor's
Maximum age	35 years	32 years

Other Eligibility Conditions

- Annual family income: Maximum **₹6 lakh**.
- Only one child per family is eligible.
- Scholarship can be availed only once.

Selection Process

- Priority to candidates holding admission offers from top 1,000 QS-ranked foreign institutions who have not yet joined.
- Merit based on institutional QS ranking; qualifying examination marks resolve ties.
- Remaining slots filled through expert committee interviews.
- Preference to candidates qualifying GRE, GMAT or TOEFL.
- Selected candidates must join within two years of the award letter.

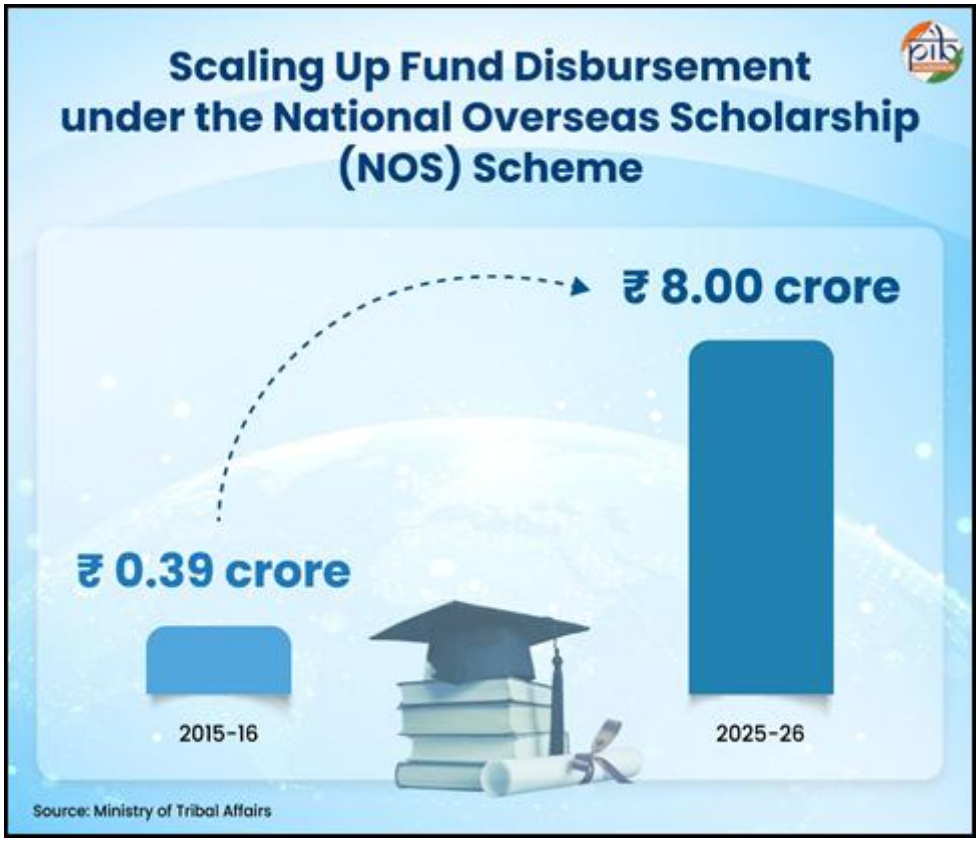
National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Portal

- Online application and access to scheme guidelines.
- DigiLocker integration for document retrieval and submission.
- SMS/email notifications and grievance redressal.
- Dashboard-based monitoring.

Investing in Aspirations: Financial Assistance under NOS

Component	Assistance
Annual maintenance (USA)	USD 15,400
Annual maintenance (UK)	GBP 9,900
Contingency allowance (USA)	USD 1,532
Contingency allowance (UK)	GBP 1,116
Tuition fees	Full eligible fees
Other expenses	Visa, medical insurance and travel

- Covers economy-class international airfare, eligible local travel and compulsory non-refundable institutional fees.
- Financial disbursement increased from **₹0.39 crore (2015–16) to ₹8 crore (2025–26)**.
- Students supported annually increased from 8 (2013–14) to 64 (2025–26).
- Around **400 students supported** over the period.
- ₹46.46 crore released since 2014–15.



Expanding Reach

- Pan-India coverage across all States and Union Territories.
- No State-wise or district-wise allocation of seats or funds.
- 20 fresh scholarships annually.

Beyond Borders: Empowering Tribal Aspirations

- Reduces financial barriers to international education.
- Promotes advanced research, global exposure and specialised skills.
- Enhances career opportunities and socio-economic mobility.
- Advances inclusive education and the vision of **Viksit Bharat**.

Reference

PIB

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