

Clarification of published news

The news item published in the Planet East on 23rd October, 2025 under the caption "Scholarship Heist!" has come to the notice of the department of Tribal welfare and clarified that the published news is false and baseless. The actual fact is as of date, a total of 28,163 ST students (around 85% of the total target) have already been provided Post-Metric Scholarships during April 2025 for AY/FY 2024-25. In this regard, Tripura is the first State in the North Eastern region to have disbursed Post-Metric Scholarships within one month of the completion of the financial year. At the national level, Tripura stands second after Goa, which disbursed Post-Matric Scholarships to about 4,500 ST students.

For making payments to the remaining approximately 5,152 ST students, the Department is awaiting further release of funds from MoTA. The arrears for AY/FY 2024-25 are yet to be released by MoTA, through which payments to the balance 5,152 students will be made.

Due to certain technical constraints related to the newly introduced SNA-SPARSH payment mechanism, MoTA has not yet been able to release the balance amount of approximately 25.63 crore. As per the directions of the Union Ministry of Finance, all payments are now required to be made through the new SNA-SPARSH mode. Consequently, most States are facing difficulties in the disbursement of funds to beneficiaries, including the disbursement of scholarships. This is a PAN-India issue, not specific only to Tripura. The neighbouring North Eastern states, particularly Mizoram have also faced the same technical issue.

To resolve the issue of SNA-SPARSH, a team under the leadership of the Joint Director & State Nodal Officer (NSP), Tribal Welfare Dept., Govt. of Tripura, visited the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) and NIC, New Delhi (H/Q). They met with officials of MoTA and NIC and raised the issue, requesting a one-time relaxation to allow payments through the earlier SNA-PFMS mode. This was necessary because processing payments through the new SNA-SPARSH mechanism requires additional time for opening new bank accounts, on boarding, and subsequent integration with the National Scholarship Portal (NSP).

Moreover, around 85% of ST students (28,163 students) had already received scholarships from April 2025 through the earlier SNA-PFMS mode.

Considering the interests of the eligible ST students, letters were sent to the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, by the Hon'ble Minister, Tribal Welfare, and the Secretary, Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura, requesting a one-time relaxation for payment through the earlier SNA-PFMS mode. The delay in scholarship payments was also discussed in detail with representatives of various Students' Unions/Organizations several times in the Conference Hall of the Directorate of TW on 20th September, 2025. During these discussions and subsequent representations made by the Student Unions/Organizations, the actions taken by the TWD to resolve the issue were duly communicated to them.

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After continuous persuasion from the State Government, ultimately, the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, considered the request and granted a one-time provision for clearing all backlog payments through the earlier SNA-PFMS mode.

Regular follow-ups with MoTA are ongoing. Today, at 9:35 am, the matter was also discussed with officials of the Scholarship Division, MoTA, Gol, New Delhi. They informed that a file for the release of the remaining funds has been submitted and approval is expected within the next 4-5 working days.

The Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tripura, is fully prepared and, upon receipt of the balance funds from MoTA, will disburse scholarship amounts immediately to the remaining eligible ST students through the SNA-PFMS mode. Special emphasis has also been given to resolving all payment failures caused by AADHAR-bank issues.
