

**Scholarships Division, Department of Higher Education
Ministry of Education, Government of India**

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR THE STUDENTS OF UNION TERRITORIES OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH (SSS J&K AND LADAKH) UNDER THE PRADHAN MANTRI UCHCHATAR SHIKSHA PROTSAHAN (PM-USP) YOJANA DURING ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

1. BACKGROUND

An Expert Group was constituted by the Prime Minister on 18th August, 2010 in the context of enhancing employment opportunities among youths of Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to formulate job plan involving public and private sectors. Among the key recommendations of the Expert Group, one was to offer 5000 fresh scholarships per annum to encourage the youth of J&K and Ladakh to pursue higher studies outside the UTs. The proposal arises out of the identified strategy of a human resource development initiative focused on improving skill set through improving access to education.

2. OBJECTIVE

To provide academic fee (tuition and other admissible fee) and maintenance allowance (to bear expenses on account of hostel & mess fee, cost of books and other incidental charges) to students belonging to J&K and Ladakh who, after passing Class XII or equivalent examination, secure admission in Government colleges/institutions and other select institutions outside the UTs of J&K and Ladakh through AICTE's counselling process under the supernumerary quota created by the Government except in medical courses. Scheme was launched in the year 2011 and modified from time to time to make the scheme student friendly. The scheme also envisages to build capacities of the youth of J&K and Ladakh to enable them to compete with their peers in the national mainstream.

3. SCOPE

Under the scheme 5000 fresh scholarships are available per annum. Out of these, 2070 scholarships are for General Degree Courses, 2830 for Professional/Engineering courses and 100 for Medical Courses. The number of scholarships for Engineering and Medical Studies would be kept flexible, subject to the ceiling of 5000 fresh scholarships per annum and subject to the savings accruing from any shortfall in the number of students opting for General Degree courses.

4. RATE OF SCHOLARSHIPS, ACADEMIC FEE & MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE PER ANNUM:

Stream	Number of Scholarships	Academic Fee (Upper limit)	Maintenance Charges (Fixed)
General Degree	2070	Rs.30,000/-	Rs.1.00 Lakh*
Professional/Engineering/ B.Sc. Nursing /B. Pharmacy/B. Architecture (subject to NATA)/ HMCT Degree/BA LLB (in National Law Colleges only)	2830	Rs.1.25 Lakh	
Medical/BDS or equivalent Medical Stream (subject to NEET, wherever applicable)	100	Rs.3.00 Lakh	
Total No. of Scholarships	5000		

*Not exceeding Rs.1.00 Lakh per annum (Ten equal instalments to meet hostel, mess, books, stationery & other incidentals). Fresh students admitted in the academic session 2025-26 will be paid maintenance allowance from the date of joining the institute.

Flexibility for deciding fees to be reimbursed for certain courses rests with the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), within the overall ceiling.

5. DISBURSEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP:

- (i) Scholarship towards academic fee will be paid directly to the Institution as per claim or as per rate fixed by respective State Fee Regulatory Authority or as fixed by any Regulatory Authority appointed by the Government, whichever is less and within the overall ceiling fixed for the course. All the Institutions may note that upper ceiling of Academic Fee inclusive of all admissible components taken together is Rs. 1.25 Lakh for Professional / Engineering Stream; Rs. 30,000/- for General Stream and Rs. 3.00 Lakh for Medical Stream. Even if the total fee of institute is more than the ceiling, neither AICTE shall reimburse extra amount nor institute can charge the same from the students.
- (ii) The fixed maintenance allowance Rs.1.00 lakh per annum for all streams will be paid to the bank account of the student through DBT using PFMS gateway. Maintenance Allowance during first year will be released in 9(Nine) instalments, first instalment of which will be of Rs. 20,000/- and subsequent 8 monthly instalments will be of Rs. 10,000/- each.
- (iii) From 2nd year onwards fixed maintenance allowance of Rs. 1.00 lakh per beneficiary will be paid in 10 (Ten) monthly instalments of Rs. 10,000/- each.

6. ELIGIBILITY:

- (i) Candidates should be domicile of Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.
- (ii) Students must have passed 12th examination from JKBOSE or CBSE affiliated schools located in UTs of J&K and Ladakh.
- (iii) Having family income of Rs. 8.00 Lakh or less per annum.
- (iv) Candidates who want to take admission under Lateral Entry Scheme have to pass Diploma in Engineering from the Polytechnic Institutes recognized by Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), UTs of J&K and Ladakh.
- (v) **Candidates are compulsorily required to apply online on the AICTE web-portal and verify their documents through nearest Facilitation Centers of J&K and Ladakh within time frame.**
- (vi) Admission under Lateral Entry Scheme will be subject to allocation of seats / vacant seats of the preceding year in **Engineering Stream and in the relevant stream only.**
- (vii) Merit list will be prepared for HSC and Lateral Entry students and the same shall be **displayed on the student's portal only** for conduction of online counselling for final allotment of seats in colleges to eligible candidate's subject to choice filling/availability of scholarships.

7. EXCLUSIONS:

Categories of Candidates NOT eligible under the SSSJ&KL:

- (i) Candidates pursuing courses through Open Universities.
- (ii) Student availing benefit of any other scholarship Scheme **from any Central/State/UT Government Schemes or any scheme run by any autonomous body under them.**
- (iii) Candidates gaining admission through '**Management Quota**'.
- (iv) Candidates pursuing Diploma course.
- (v) Candidates pursuing Post-Graduate level studies, in any discipline.
- (vi) Candidates having family income over Rs. 8.00 Lakh per annum.
- (vii) Not applied through online registration in the AICTE Portal.
- (viii) Taking admission in the Colleges other than the prescribed colleges given in AICTE Portal.
- (ix) Admission through Agents / NGOs.

8. INSTITUTES / COLLEGES PARTICIPATING:

Inter- Ministerial Committee, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India in its 26th Meeting held on 6th July, 2023 has decided that the scholarships will only be provided to the eligible J&K and Ladakh students who take admission (through choice filling on AICTE Portal/ on their own) in institutions who meets one of the following criteria:

1. **Students should take admission in General or Professional Stream courses only in institutions**

having Accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Grade 3.0.
or

2. Top 100 Institutions as per ranking provided by National Institution Ranking Framework (NIRF), Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.

or

3. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) approved institutions having accreditation of 30% or more courses by National Board of Accreditation (NBA), New Delhi.

or

4. Institutions having more than 80% admission consecutively for last 5 Academic Years.

5. For Medical students, the existing process as specified by the National Medical Council shall continue.

6. All Government Institutions in addition to institutions fulfilling NAAC/ NIRF/ NBA criteria approved by 26th IMC for B. Sc. (Nursing), B. Pharmacy and Hotel Management and Catering Technology Courses.

7. Hostel facility criteria is to be relaxed for General Stream courses or any other quality institution located in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Pune and Hyderabad etc.

8. Chairman, AICTE is authorized to take final decision and relax conditions, if any.

9. ADMISSION IN IITs/ NITs/CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES/GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS/ AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE ON THEIR OWN:

- (i) Aspirants desiring to take admission through JEE Mains/JEE Advance/CUET in IITs, NITs, IISc., IISER and Centrally Funded Institutions with National Importance may be considered, if student participates in online counselling by filling their JEE Mains/JEE Advance roll numbers with respective admit card and result and wherever SSS J&K and Ladakh quota is not available.
- (ii) All Medical aspirants seeking admission in BDS/MBBS streams are required to appear in NEET examinations and get qualified for admission. However, they should initially register on AICTE portal by submitting their complete details including NEET roll number and get their documents verified by Facilitation Centre as per the procedure. After securing their admission to college through NEET counselling, they are required to upload their allotment letter along with NEET score card and joining report to become eligible subject to availability of scholarship. It may be noted that admission under '**Management Quota**' is not allowed as per the scheme guidelines.
- (iii) It is decided by the Dental Council of India vide letter No.DE-14-AC-Academic-MDC-2021/1099 dated 23rd July, 2021 that all Private Dental Colleges under its umbrella will not admit more than 5(Five) students per institution under Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme for the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh with effect from academic session 2021- 22 onwards. The copy of the letter is available on the portal of AICTE for information of stakeholders.
- (iv) Aspirants seeking admission in Architecture Programme are required to qualify NATA and their admission to Architecture course through AICTE Portal would be confirmed after uploading their NATA result and admit card.
- (v) Aspirants seeking admission in Integrated Law Course (B.A.LLB) are required to qualify CLAT and their admission to law course through AICTE Portal would be confirmed after uploading their CLAT result and admit card. **Admission in the law course of National Law University (NLU) will only be considered for this scholarship.**

All the students who will be taking admission on their own in the above mentioned institutions will be allotted seats under SSS J&K and Ladakh subject registration, merit, reservation policy of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and availability of scholarships.

10. DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarships granted under the scheme are renewed in subsequent classes subject to good conduct and maintenance of attendance as prescribed by the respective institution. Students failing to get promoted to the next class / level would get the scholarship in the following year subject to the condition that if the student fails again for the second time, then he / she would forfeit the scholarship and the scholarship would not be renewed for the subsequent years. If a scholar unable to appear in the annual examination owing to illness and / or on account of any unforeseen incident, the scholarship may be renewed for the next academic year on submission of medical certificate and other proof to satisfy the Head of the Institution who will also certify the same. Scholarship will not be paid twice for the same year of study.

11. ONLINE ADMISSION PROCESS:

A. Admission under 10+2 Scheme and through Lateral Entry

Candidates who have passed 10+2 examination from JKBOSE or CBSE affiliated schools / passed Diploma in Engineering from Polytechnics approved by Directorate of Technical Education, Govt. of J&K, located in UTs of J&K and Ladakh **in the academic year 2023-24 and 2024-25** can only submit their application on AICTE Portal for registration of the scheme. Candidates are advised to fill exact particulars as furnished at the time of registration for class 10+2 examination. Candidates whose credentials do not match with the particulars available in AICTE-Portal will not be able to register online. On successful registration, eligible candidates will be issued username and password to fill online form on AICTE Portal. The UTs of J&K and Ladakh through various Facilitation Centers, assist the students in submission of online application and verification of the following original documents to ascertain their eligibility under the Scheme:

1. Certificate of domicile of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir or Ladakh
2. Certificate of Class 12th and 10th Examination (for candidates who have passed class 12th examination)
3. Polytechnic Diploma Certificate (for Diploma candidates)
4. Income Certificate issued by the competent authority of UT of Jammu & Kashmir or UT of Ladakh.
5. Students applying under reserved quota must produce Caste Certificate (SC/ST/SEBC/EWS) issued by Union Territory Authorities.
6. Persons with Disabilities (PwD) must submit Disability Certificate **(Disability 40% and above as per Central Government Norms).**

12. DOCUMENT VERIFICATION and CHOICE FILLING:

The applicant is required to get his/her uploaded documents verified with the originals at the nearest Facilitation Centre set-up by UTs of J&K and Ladakh and get it verified and uploaded with stamp on portal of Facilitation Centers. After document verification from the facilitation center the candidate should collect the copy of document verification report without fail. The choice filling window would be activated for only those candidates having successfully registered and got their documents verified at any one of the Facilitation Centers. The choice filling window will be blocked on the last date, after that no change would be allowed in order of preference. **The merit list will be displayed on the student's portal only subject to the declaration of result. Provisional Merit list is generated based on Class XII / Diploma results. The students, whose name appear in the provisional merit list are compulsorily required to attend the counseling. Allotment of the seat will be done through online counselling process subject to merit / availability of scholarships.**

13. List of Institutions / Universities where admissions offered would be prepared and will be displayed in candidate's login for choice filling. Eligible candidates under the Scheme are directed to choose the courses from these Institutions/ Universities only. It may be noted that **"No Scholarship"** will be paid to the candidates who take admission in other than the list of Institutions/ Universities available on the portal of AICTE except MBBS/ BDS /allied medicinal courses/Central/State Govt. for

which supernumerary quota is not available.

14. RESERVATION

The reservation norms as prescribed for the UTs of J&K and Ladakh (subject to intimation from UTs of J&K and Ladakh) in respect of **SC, ST, Socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBC) etc** are followed for providing scholarship under the Scheme. The break-up is given below:-

i.	Scheduled Castes	8%	
ii.	Scheduled Tribes	20%	
	i. 1. Bakarwal 2. Balti 3. Beda 4. Bot, Boto 5. Brokpa, Drokpa, Dard, Shin 6. Changpa 7. Garra 8. Gaddi 9. Gujjar 10. Mon 11. Purigpa 12. Sippi; (existing list as per the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1989 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Act, 1991.	10%	
	ii. 1. Gadda Brahmin 2. Koli 3. Paddari Tribe 4. Pahari Ethnic Group; (added vide the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 2024).	10%	
iii.	Socially & Educationally Backward Classes (other than Scheduled Castes & Schedules Tribes:		
	(a) Other Backward Classes;	8%	
	(b) Residents of areas adjoining line of Actual Control (ALC)/International Border (IB);	4%	
	(c) Residents of Backward Area	10%	
iv.	Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs)	10%	
v.	Persons with Disabilities	4%	
	(a) Children of Defense Personnel	3%	
	(b) Children of Para-military Forces and UT Police Personnel	1%	Horizontal Reservation
	(c) Candidates possessing outstanding proficiency in sports	2%	

15. DISBURSEMENT PROCEDURE:

I. STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY STUDENT FOR DBT:

- a) After joining the institution, the students have to immediately upload their joining report (in the prescribed format available on website under SSS J&K 2025-26 tab) before the last date of joining is over. The students are required to login to AICTE portal using their credentials which has already been created by them at the time of application submission process under SSS J&K and Ladakh.
- b) The joining report will be verified by the Institution post which candidate has to fill and upload the necessary documents to start the disbursement process.

II. STEPS TO BE TAKEN BY INSTITUTE:

For processing of scholarship, the institute needs to perform the below mentioned task for taking the benefit of academic fee in their account. The annual academic fee would be credited in the institute account directly which is in the name of institution and their details are submitted to AICTE. The fee would be released based on SFRC (State Fee Regulatory Committee/Authority) applicable to that particular batch/course with the maximum limit as per scheme guidelines.

- a) College will upload documents for claiming Academic Fee. If the institute is admitting SSS J&K candidates for the first time they should apply for the issuance of User ID & Password by clicking at: <https://www.aicte-india.org/bureaus/jk/2025-2026>.
- b) If the institute has already admitted candidates under SSSJ&K, then you may use the old User ID & Password and submit SFRC and other documents as per norms.
- c) Login on to AICTE's J&K Portal using authorized "User Id" & "Password" sent on your official email address.
- d) Fill in the necessary information & upload documents namely in 3 tabs: Institute Details, Bank Details and Fee Details.
- e) The following documents are to be uploaded in Institute login:
 - (i) College Fee Structure/Academic fee (in the prescribed format available on AICTE portal: <https://www.aicte-india.org/bureaus/jk/2025-2026>)
 - (ii) Fee as per SFRC (State Fee Regulatory Committee/Authority) / State Govt. issued fee fixation document.
 - (iii) Mandate Form - Institution accounts details (format available on website under SSSJ&K 2025-26 tab)
 - (iv) Passbook Copy/Cancelled cheque clearly indicating bank name, Account holders Name, Account Number, IFSC code, MICR Code, Bank Address.
 - (v) The Institution bank account should not be in the name **Trust/Society**.
 - (vi) Finally click on Submit Button

Scholarships will be released through PFMS Mechanism only after checking the duplication with the National Scholarship Portal and verifying the physical joining report along with other required documents including AADHAR Number on AICTE, SSSJ&K portal uploaded and verified by the Institute. All the students may upload the Aadhaar seeded saving bank account details only.

16. MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION

For better and effective implementation and monitoring of this Scheme, constitution of a Committee was recommended in CCEA note. Accordingly, a Committee – Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) – on Special Scholarship Scheme for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh was constituted. Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) is constituted to oversee the implementation of the Scheme and is Chaired by Secretary, Department of Higher Education. Adviser Project Appraisal and Management Division (PAMD) and Adviser Education, Planning Commission (NITI Aayog), representatives of Department of Expenditure are members and representatives of the Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Dept. of Science & Technology are invitees. Secretary (Higher Education) and Secretary (School Education), Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are special invitees. STEPS TO BE TAKEN DURING REGISTRATION: Candidates would be required to upload the following documents:

- a) Passport Size photograph (200 x 230 pixels – preferred)
- b) Scanned Signature (140 x 60 pixels – preferred)
- c) Domicile certificate issued by UTs of J&K and Ladakh
- d) SSC Marksheet
- e) Family income certificate (Issued by Tehsildar or equivalent)
- f) Undertaking to be given by the student
- g) AADHAR Number
- h) Category certificate (issued by the Competent Authority of the State Government)
- i) Persons with Disabilities (PwD) must upload Disability Certificate. (40% and above)
- j) Candidates who are already availing the benefits of SSSJ&K are not eligible to apply.
 - ❖ General Stream includes admission to B.A./B.Com./B.Sc./B.Sc.(Hon.)/ BBA/BCA etc.
 - ❖ Professional courses include B.E./B.Tech. / B. Pharmacy /B. Architecture/Hotel Management & Catering Technology/ B.Sc.(Nursing)/BALLB (in National Law Universities only after clearing CLAT only).
 - ❖ Medical Streams include MBBS / B.D.S./BAMS and Allied Medicinal Courses.

Note: Saving Bank Account should be seeded with AADHAR Number and in the name of the bonafide student only. Candidates may note that Bank Accounts should not be a “No-frill Account” /Minor Account, Parents’ Account /Non-Operative account, joint account etc.

WARNING: STUDENTS ENROLED IN NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PORTAL (NSP) AS A BENEFICIARY AND/OR ALREADY AVAILING SCHOLARSHIP ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE SSSJKL AS PER THE GUIDELINES OF THE SCHEME.
