



राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय)
(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

No. NCST-12023/3/2026-Cord

New Delhi, the 02nd of June 2026

CIRCULAR

Subject: Invitation of Applications for NCST Internship Programme – reg.

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) invites applications from eligible students and research scholars for participation in the NCST Internship Programme.

2. The Internship Programme is aimed at providing participants with an opportunity to gain exposure to the constitutional mandate, functions and activities of the Commission, while fostering research and enhancing understanding of issues relating to Scheduled Tribes.
3. Interested candidates to submit their applications only through the **NCSTGRAMS Portal** (<https://ncstgrams.gov.in>) in accordance with the eligibility criteria, terms and conditions prescribed in the NCST Internship Guidelines. Detailed information regarding the application process, eligibility conditions, duration of internship, stipend and other related matters is enclosed for reference.
4. The Internship is tentatively proposed to start from mid July 2026. The application filing will start from 03.06.2026 from 10 AM onwards. **The last date for submission of applications is 18 June 2026 (Thursday) up to 1700 hrs.**

Encl.: NCST Internship Guidelines / Application Form.

(पूर्णेदु कान्त/ Purnendu Kant)

निदेशक (समन्वय)/ Director (Coordination)

दूरभाष: 011- 24650551| ईमेल-manish.raj31@nic.in



No. NCST-12023/3/2026-Cord
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
(A Constitutional body set up under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

1. Short Title, Commencement and Applicability

1.1 These Guidelines shall be called the *National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) Internship Guidelines, 2026*. They provide the governing framework for the conduct, administration, and regulation of the Internship Programme instituted by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

1.2 The Guidelines shall come into force with immediate effect from the date of approval by the Competent Authority and shall apply to all internship cycles notified thereafter, unless amended or modified by the Commission through subsequent orders.

1.3 These Guidelines shall be applicable to the Headquarters of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at New Delhi as well as to all its Regional Offices. The provisions contained herein shall be implemented uniformly across all offices of the Commission, subject to administrative feasibility and availability of infrastructure and supervisory support.

1.4 The Internship Programme has been instituted in furtherance of the constitutional mandate conferred upon the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes under Article 338A of the Constitution of India. The Internship Programme is designed to complement this mandate by facilitating structured academic engagement with students and research scholars, thereby enabling research support to the Commission while enabling informed understanding of constitutional, legal, and policy issues relating to Scheduled Tribes.

2. Objectives of the Internship Programme

2.1 Exposure to Constitutional and Statutory Safeguards: To provide structured exposure to the constitutional provisions, statutory safeguards, and policy mechanisms concerning Scheduled Tribes.

2.2 Research Support to the Commission: To engage interns in research and analytical work that supports the Commission's mandate, including examination of implementation gaps in tribal welfare measures.

2.3 Policy Analysis and Field-Based Assessment: To enable interns to undertake evidence-based evaluation of welfare schemes and participate in supervised field visits to understand ground realities.

2.4 Capacity Building of Students (with preference to ST candidates): To build research and policy analysis capacity among students and research scholars, with preference accorded to deserving candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes.

3. Definitions

3.1 "Commission" means the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, including its Headquarters and Regional Offices.

3.2 "Intern" means a bonafide student or research scholar selected for a fixed-term academic engagement under these Guidelines.

3.3 "Educational Institution" means the recognized academic institution in which the applicant is enrolled.

3.4 "Mentor" means the Member or Officer of the Commission to whom an intern is attached for supervision and evaluation.

3.5 “Internship Cell” means the administrative unit constituted to coordinate and manage the Internship Programme.

3.6 “Selection Committee” means the Committee constituted by the Commission to evaluate applications and recommend candidates.

4. Scope and Areas of Research

4.1 Policy Evaluation of ST Welfare Schemes: Interns may undertake analytical review of implementation of tribal welfare schemes based on Commission reports and field data.

4.2 Legal and Constitutional Safeguards: Research may include examination of constitutional provisions, statutory protections, and enforcement mechanisms applicable to Scheduled Tribes.

4.3 Tribal Land, Forest Rights and Displacement Issues: Assignments may include study of land alienation, forest rights implementation, displacement, and related grievances.

4.4 Education, Health and Livelihood Sectors: Interns may evaluate sectoral initiatives affecting Scheduled Tribes in education, healthcare, skill development, and employment.

4.5 Any Additional Area Assigned by the Commission: The Commission may assign any additional subject relevant to its mandate.

5. Structure of the Internship Programme

5.1 Batch Size and Intake Frequency: Each intake shall ordinarily not exceed **Ten (10) interns**. Intake cycles may be conducted as approved by the Commission.

5.2 Duration of Internship: The standard duration shall be One (01) month. Extension beyond this period shall require approval of Competent Authority.

5.3 Place of Posting (HQ/Regional Office): Interns may be posted at Headquarters or Regional Offices depending on administrative requirements and availability.

5.4 Mentor Allocation: Each intern shall be attached to a designated Mentor responsible for supervision, assignment of work, and performance evaluation.

5.5 Orientation and Training Module: The programme shall commence with structured orientation covering:

- Mandate and functions of NCST;
- Legal safeguards for Scheduled Tribes;
- Research methodology and reporting standards.

5.6 Field Visits and Study Tours: Interns may participate in supervised field visits to tribal areas, ITDPs, Ashram Schools, or Tribal Research Institutes, subject to approval.

5.7 Submission of Final Project Report: Each intern shall submit a final project report within the prescribed timeline and present findings before officials of the Commission.

6. Eligibility Criteria

6.1 Applicants who are appearing in (2nd Year onwards) or have completed Graduation in Science, Social Science, Commerce, Arts, Humanities, or any other equivalent discipline from a recognized institution are eligible to apply. Candidates possessing higher qualifications, such as Post-Graduation/master’s degree or above, are also eligible to apply.

6.2 Minimum Academic Requirement: Applicants must have secured a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent grade in the preceding qualifying examination. The requirement may be relaxed at the discretion of the Competent Authority.

6.3 Age: 18-30 years, relaxation of age for SC, ST and OBC candidates as per the government norms.

6.4 Relaxation Clause: The Chairperson, NCST reserves the right to relax the prescribed academic criteria in exceptional cases, based on the recommendation of the Secretary, NCST.

6.5 Grounds for Rejection/Disqualification: The application is liable to be rejected at any stage on the following grounds:

1. Submission of incomplete application or supporting documents;
2. Furnishing of false, incorrect, or misleading information;
3. Submission of AI-generated or plagiarized write-ups;
4. Non-fulfilment of prescribed eligibility criteria.

7. Application Procedure

7.1 Applications for the Internship Programme shall be submitted only through the **NCSTGRAMS portal** (<https://ncstgrams.gov.in>) of the Commission at the below link-

Application Link: <https://ncstgrams.gov.in/public/Home.aspx>

No offline applications or submissions through email or physical mode shall be entertained under any circumstances.

7.2 The Commission shall notify the commencement of the application cycle, including the opening and closing dates of the application window, on its official website/social media and other media channels. Applicants are advised to adhere strictly to the notified timelines, as late submissions shall not be considered.

7.3 Applicants shall also submit a Statement of Purpose on following topic-

Topic: “Why do you wish to join the Internship Programme of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), and what knowledge, skills, experiences, or perspectives do you bring that would contribute meaningfully to the work of the Commission?”

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools or any form of copied or generated content for this purpose is strictly prohibited and, if detected, shall result in immediate rejection of the application.

7.4 At the time of submission, applicants shall upload the following mandatory documents in the prescribed format:

1. A Statement of Purpose
2. No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Educational Institution (if applicable) (*see annexure I*)

7.5 Applications that are incomplete, submitted in violation of the prescribed procedure, contain false or misleading information, or fail to meet the eligibility requirements shall be rejected without further correspondence. The decision of the Commission in this regard shall be final.

8. Selection Procedure

8.1 All applications received within the prescribed timeline shall undergo preliminary scrutiny to ensure compliance with eligibility criteria and completeness of documentation. Applications found incomplete or not meeting the prescribed requirements shall be rejected at this stage.

8.2 Eligible applications shall thereafter be evaluated on the basis of defined parameters, including the applicant’s academic record, relevance of academic discipline to the mandate of the Commission, quality

and authenticity of the Statement of Purpose, and overall suitability as assessed during the interview process.

8.3 Shortlisted candidates may be invited for a personal, telephonic, or virtual interview, as decided by the Commission. No Travelling Allowance or Daily Allowance (TA/DA) shall be admissible for attending the interview.

8.4 Final selection shall be made on the recommendations of the Selection Committee and shall be subject to the approval of the Competent Authority. The selection panel so approved shall remain valid for the notified internship cycle only.

8.5 The Commission may also maintain a waiting list to fill vacancies arising due to withdrawal or non-joining of selected candidates prior to the commencement of the internship. The decision of the Commission in matters relating to selection shall be final and binding.

9. Internship Cell and Selection Committee

9.1 An Internship Cell and a Selection Committee shall be constituted by order of the Commission to ensure systematic administration and transparent selection under the Internship Programme. The Internship Cell shall function as the nodal administrative unit responsible for managing all procedural and logistical aspects of the programme, including notification, receipt and scrutiny of applications, coordination of interviews, documentation, and record maintenance. The Selection Committee shall be entrusted with the evaluation of applications, assessment of eligibility, conduct of interviews, and recommendation of candidates for final approval.

9.2 Overall administrative supervision and oversight of the Internship Programme shall vest with the Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, who shall ensure adherence to the approved Guidelines and institutional standards. Regional Offices of the Commission may, with due approval, constitute corresponding Internship Cells and Selection Committees to facilitate implementation of the programme at the regional level in accordance with these Guidelines.

10. Code of Conduct and Confidentiality

10.1 Interns engaged under the Internship Programme shall maintain high standards of professional conduct and shall adhere strictly to office discipline, decorum, and institutional protocols of the Commission during the period of their engagement. Given the nature of matters dealt with by the Commission, interns shall be bound by strict confidentiality obligations and shall not disclose, share, or disseminate any confidential information, internal documents, records, deliberations, or data accessed during the course of their internship to any unauthorized person or entity.

10.2 Interns shall not interact with print, electronic, or digital media, nor publish or circulate any material relating to the work of the Commission, without prior written approval of the competent authority. Any actual or potential conflict of interest arising during the tenure of internship shall be promptly disclosed to the Commission for appropriate directions. Any violation of the prescribed code of conduct, breach of confidentiality, or failure to comply with institutional requirements may result in immediate termination of the internship, without prejudice to any further administrative or legal action deemed appropriate.

11. Attendance and Performance Monitoring

11.1 Interns engaged under the Programme shall be required to maintain a minimum attendance of ninety percent (90%) during the entire tenure of the internship. Attendance shall be treated as an essential condition for continuation in the Programme and for eligibility for certification and any admissible financial support. Interns shall record their daily attendance in the prescribed manner, including marking of 'in' and 'out' timings, either through physical registers or digital systems as instructed by the Commission.

11.2 The progress of each intern shall be subject to periodic review by the designated Mentor. Mentors shall assess adherence to assigned tasks, timelines, and research objectives, and provide guidance for improvement wherever necessary.

11.3 Final evaluation of performance shall be based on objective parameters including the quality and originality of research work, analytical depth, adherence to discipline and institutional norms, participation in field engagement activities (where applicable), clarity and coherence of reporting, and the overall presentation of the final project. The decision of the Commission regarding assessment and grading shall be final.

12. Stipend and Financial Support

12.1 Interns selected under the Programme be considered for payment of a monthly stipend, as approved by the Commission from time to time. The stipend structure shall be as under:

Sl. N.	NCST intern	Monthly Stipend (₹)
1.	<i>NCST Interns</i>	15,000

12.2 In case of engagement of the interns in field-works, they may be allowed additional admissible allowance like TA/ DA and cost of travel/stay, as per entitlement to the Investigators of the Commission. While the workspace, internet and basic facilities will be provided to the interns by the commission, they will have to use their own lap-tops during the internship and arrange their own internet connection at residence for timely preparation of reports etc.

12.3 Disbursement of stipend shall be released only after the intern has fulfilled the prescribed attendance requirement, completed all assigned tasks, submitted the final project report within the stipulated timeline, and secured formal acceptance of the report by the designated Mentor and competent authority.

12.4 Where interns are required to undertake officially approved field visits as part of their research assignment, a fieldwork allowance may be admissible to meet incidental expenses, subject to prior approval and in accordance with the prescribed financial norms.

12.5 Interns who are admitted into the Programme through relaxation of eligibility criteria, as a special case approved by the Competent Authority, may not be entitled to stipend or other financial benefits unless specifically sanctioned. The decision of the Commission in matters relating to admissibility and disbursement of financial support shall be final and binding.

13. Completion and Certification

13.1 Upon completion of the assigned internship period, every intern shall submit a comprehensive final project report within the prescribed timeline communicated by the Commission. The report shall reflect the research undertaken, field observations (where applicable), analytical findings, and recommendations arising from the assigned domain of work.

13.2 Each intern shall also be required to present the key findings of the project before the officials of the Commission in a structured presentation session. The presentation shall form part of the overall evaluation process and shall provide an opportunity to assess the intern's understanding, analytical clarity, and contribution to the subject matter.

13.3 Acceptance of the final report by the designated Mentor shall be a mandatory precondition for successful completion of the internship. The Mentor shall evaluate the report in terms of relevance, quality of analysis, originality, coherence, and adherence to assigned objectives, and shall recommend whether the work meets the required standards.

13.4 A Certificate of Internship shall be issued only upon satisfactory completion of all assigned responsibilities, fulfilment of attendance requirements, and formal acceptance of the final report by the

competent authority. Failure to meet the prescribed attendance threshold, maintain expected standards of conduct, or submit work of satisfactory quality shall result in non-issuance of the completion certificate. The decision of the Commission in this regard shall be final.

14. Termination and Disengagement

14.1 The Commission reserves the right to terminate the internship at any time, without assigning any reason, if it is satisfied that the conduct, performance, or circumstances of the intern warrant such action. Termination may be affected with immediate effect in cases involving breach of confidentiality, misconduct, non-compliance with institutional requirements, or any act prejudicial to the interests of the Commission.

14.2 An intern who wishes to withdraw from the Internship Programme prior to completion shall submit a written request to the Commission, stating the reasons for such withdrawal. Voluntary disengagement shall be subject to acceptance by the competent authority.

14.3 The notice period for voluntary withdrawal shall ordinarily range to two weeks, depending upon the duration completed and the stage of the assigned work. The Commission may relax or modify the notice period in exceptional circumstances.

14.4 Upon completion or termination of the internship, the intern shall return all official documents, data, identity cards, access credentials, equipment, or any other materials belonging to the Commission. No copies of confidential documents or data shall be retained by the intern.

14.5 Any unauthorized representation of continued affiliation with the Commission after completion or termination of the internship, including use of the Commission's name, designation, or association for personal or professional purposes, shall attract appropriate legal or administrative action as deemed fit by the Commission.

15. Miscellaneous Provisions

15.1 Participation in the Internship Programme shall not confer upon any intern any claim, right, or entitlement to appointment or employment in the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. The internship is purely academic and temporary in nature and shall not be construed as engagement in Government service under any circumstances.

15.2 The interpretation of these Guidelines and any question arising out of their implementation shall rest with the Commission, whose decision shall be final and binding.

15.3 The Commission reserves the right to amend, modify, or withdraw any provision of these Guidelines at any time, as deemed necessary in the interest of administrative efficiency or in alignment with policy requirements.

15.4 Any matter not specifically covered under these Guidelines shall be decided by the Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, and such decision shall be final.

Annexure I: Format for No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Educational Institution (for reference)**FORMAT OF NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE (NOC)***(To be issued on the Official Letterhead of the Educational Institution)***NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that Mr./ Ms. _____, S/o/D/o
 _____, is a bonafide student
 of _____ (Name of Course) at _____ (Name of
 Institution/University), _____ enrolled under Roll No. _____.

The student is currently in:

- Undergraduate Programme (Year/Semester: _____)
- Postgraduate Programme (Year/Semester: _____)
- Research Scholar (PhD – Year: _____)

The Institution has **no objection** to the above-named student applying for and, if selected, undergoing the Internship Programme at the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) for the prescribed duration of One (01) month or as approved by the Commission.

It is further certified that:

1. The internship period shall not conflict with the academic calendar/examinations of the student.
2. The student shall be permitted to attend the internship full-time during the approved period.
3. The Institution acknowledges that the internship does not create any employer-employee relationship with the NCST.

This certificate is issued at the request of the student for submission to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

Date: _____

Place: _____

(Signature)

Name of Head of Institution / Competent Authority

Designation: _____

Official Seal of Institution