No. EDN-HE(14)-1/2025
DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171001
Dated: Shimla-171001 15th the October, 20

To

All the Principals,
Government Colleges & Sanskrit Colleges
Himachal Pradesh.

Subject: ***Regarding submission of online nominations for National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026.***

This is with reference to the letter NO. Per(AR)F(5)2/2025 dated 14th October, 2025 received from the Secretary (Administrative Reforms) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh regarding the *National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026* launched by the *Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India*.

The same is being disseminated for necessary action to submit nominations for **best practices** under the *Scheme of National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2026* adopted by the concerned college. You are hereby informed to submit **online nominations** under suitable categories as per the guidelines (copy enclosed) and as available on the web portal **https://nceg.gov.in**. The nominations must be submitted **on or before 30.11.2025** to ensure maximum participation from the Higher Education Department.You are requested to this information among concerned faculty members and ensure timely submission of nominations.

(Director of Higher Education)
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.



Award Scheme
for
National Awards for e-Governance 2026

Department of Administrative Reforms
&
Public Grievances

Government of India
New Delhi

National Awards for e-Governance are presented every year to recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives.

1. Purpose of Award

The purpose of the award is to:-

i. Recognize achievements in the area of e-Governance

ii. Disseminate knowledge on effective methods of designing and implementing sustainable e-Governance initiatives

iii. Encourage innovations in successful e-Governance solutions

iv. Promote and exchange experiences in solving problems, mitigating risks, resolving issues and planning for success.

2. Scope of Award

The scope of the National Awards for e-Governance, 2026 (**NAeG, 2026**) is to identify areas of significant outcome-oriented performance by Districts/ Centre/States in identified categories. The Awards seek to recognize the best performing Central Government Ministries/Departments; States/UTs; Districts and local bodies; Academic/Research Institutions (Government and Non- Government) and Startups in facilitating implementation of new initiatives and bringing transparency by use of technology.

The **NAeG, 2026** Awards will be presented for the best achievement in implementation of e-Governance innovation and the efforts made to fast track the implementation of an initiative/ technology/project or program.

3. Criteria for Evaluation

The initiative will be evaluated on the following criteria:

i. Initiating and implementing an innovative project to meet stakeholders' requirement through use of ICT.

ii. Use of technology in bringing perceptible improvement in processes/ systems.

iii. Making public delivery systems responsive, transparent and efficient particularly by leveraging technology

iv. Bringing significant improvement/enhancement by use of technology

v. Innovations / integration / intervention of technology / of the best performing Centre/State/District in a particular field/ project/program or area. The criteria for evaluation will be designed during the assessment process.

4. Categories of awards

S. No.	Award Category	Scope of Award	Who Can Apply/Compete	Period of Consideration
I	**Government Process Re-engineering by use of technology for Digital Transformation** **i. Central level initiatives** **ii. State /UT level initiatives** **(Total 0 4 Awards -01 Gold and 01 Silver for Central Level Initiatives, and -01 Gold and 01 Silver for State/UT Level Initiatives)**	This award seeks to recognize innovative projects that involve analysis and re-design of workflow and have resulted in improvement in outcomes related to efficiency, effectiveness of process, cost, quality, service delivery, data analytics or a combination of these through a dashboard/an application including mobile Application. The impact of the re-engineering process should be a significant digital Transformation. The initiative should reflect the convergence and integration of the processes resulting in visible improvement.	i. Central Ministries /Departments ii. State/UT Governments	The launch date of the project should be between 01.10.2023 - 30.09.2025. The project must be fully commissioned and operational as on 01.12.2025.
II	**Innovation by Use of AI and other new age technologies for providing Citizen-Centric Services** **i. Central level initiatives** **ii. State / UT level initiatives** **iii. Startups / Academia/Research & Development Organizations** **(Total 03 Awards:** **- 01 Gold for Central Level Initiatives and** **- 01 Gold for State/UT Level Initiatives and**	This award recognizes innovative projects that leverage AI and other new age technologies to enhance the delivery of citizen-centric services. The focus is on the creative application of AI and other new age technologies to streamline processes, improve user experience, and provide more efficient, personalized, and accessible public services. The solution should lead to tangible improvements in service delivery, accessibility, responsiveness, or	I. Central Ministries/ Departments II. State/UT Governments III. Academia, Research & Development Organizations and Startups (as defined by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade(DPIIT), Government of India)	The launch date of the project should be between 01.10.2023 - 30.09.2025 The project must be fully commissioned and operational as on 01.12.2025.

	-01 Gold for Startups/Research & Development Organizations)	transparency, contributing to a more inclusive and digitally empowered society.	Notificationdated19.02.2019 (https://dpiit.gov.in/sites/default/files/notification_Definition_StartupIndia_06July2021.pdf)	
III	**Best e-Gov. Practices/ Innovation in Cyber Security** **i. Central level initiatives/ State / UT level initiatives Startups/ Academia/ Research & Development Organizations** **(Total 03 Awards : - 01 Gold and 02 Silvers for Central/ State/UT/Startups /Academia/ Research & Development Organizations)**	This award aims to recognize groundbreaking projects that have significantly enhanced cybersecurity measures, resulting in improved protection against cyber threats. The innovation should focus on advanced technologies, methods or processes that bolster the security infrastructure and to lead substantial improvements in safeguarding systems, networks, or data, contributing to the overall resilience and digital security of the organization. The Startups/Academia/ R&D Institutions should present their exemplary research done in the field of use of Cyber Security in e-Governance for the benefit of citizens.	I. Central Ministries/ Departments, State/UT Governments, Startups, Academia and Research & Development Organizations	The launch date of the project should be between 01.10.2023 - 30.09.2025. The project must be fully commissioned and operational as on 01.12.2025.
IV	**District Level Initiatives in e-Governance** **(Total 02 Awards - 01 Gold and 01 Silver for District/ ULB initiatives)**	This award seeks to recognize the district level e-Governance projects covering the area of redressal of Public Grievances and has resulted in delivering services to citizens through effective use of ICT in the Districts.	Districts/ Urban local bodies (ULBs)	The launch date of the project should be between 01.10.2023 - 30.09.2025. The project must be fully commissioned and operational as on 01.12.2025.

V	**Grassroots Level Initiatives by Gram Panchayats or equivalent Traditional Local Bodies for Deepening/ Widening of Service Delivery** **(Total 02 Awards - 01 Gold and 01 Silver for Gram Panchayats or equivalent Traditional Local Bodies)**	This award seeks to recognize gram panchayat level e-governance projects covering public grievance redressal and service delivery to citizens through effective use of ICT in the Panchayat Area and PRIs.	Gram Panchayats or equivalent Traditional Local Bodies	The launch date of the project should be between 01.10.2023 - 30.09.2025. The project must be fully commissioned and operational as on 01.12.2025.
VI	**Replication and Scaling of Nationally Awarded and Mission-Mode e-Governance Projects by States/ UTs/ Districts** **(Total 01 Award –0 1 Gold for State/UT level initiatives /District level initiatives)**	This category recognizes exemplary efforts by States/UTs, and Districts in replicating and scaling up successful, nationally awarded projects, including NAeG, Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence and other central ministries awards, as well as mission-mode initiatives with e-Governance components. It includes models from flagship missions like Jal Jeevan Mission (SCADA), Smart Cities (ICCC), and AMRUT. The aim is to promote adoption of proven digital governance solutions that enhance public service delivery, citizen experience, and administrative efficiency across regions.	I. State/UT Governments II. District and Local Bodies	The launch date of the project should be between 01.10.2023 - 30.09.2025. The project must be fully commissioned and operational as on 01.12.2025.

VII	**Digital transformation by use of data analytics in digital platforms by Central Ministries/States/ UTs** **(Total 01 Award - 01 Gold for Central/State/UT level Initiatives)**	This award seeks to recognize exemplary efforts in e Governance initiatives with a view to upgradation of IT in states/UT/ Central Ministry and owing to the importance of data in present scenario to give recognition and encourage the innovative use of data and retrieval of data in government functioning	I. Central Ministries/ Departments/ State/UT Governments	The launch date of the project should be between 01.10.2023 - 30.09.2025. The project must be fully commissioned and operational as on 01.12.2025.

Note: In respect of Category V the applications in respect of Gram Panchayat/ will be sent by State after following due process for selection of best performing panchayat of the State. The applications from the States will be subsequently screened by a separate screening committee under MoPR.

5. There will be a total 16 awards under 7 categories of Award Scheme.

5.1 The National e-Governance Award, 2026 shall consist of **10 Gold Awards 6 Silver Awards**, as per details given below:

5.1.1 Gold Award: The Gold Awards shall consist of (i) a trophy, (ii) a certificate and (iii) incentive of Rs.10.00 Lakh to be awarded to Department/Organization/ Institution to be utilized for implementation of project/programme or bridging gaps in any area of Public Welfare and a certificate for each team member not exceeding four in number (including Project Head).

5.1.2 Silver Award: The Silver Awards shall consist of (i) a trophy, (ii) a certificate and (iii) incentive of Rs.5.00 Lakh to be awarded to Department/Organization/ Institution to be utilized for implementation of project/programme or bridging gaps in any area of Public Welfare and a certificate for each team member not exceeding four in number (including Project Head).

6. Terms and Conditions

i. The project must be new and a path breaking initiative in public service.

ii. **A project can compete only for one category and the category for which it is competing should be clearly mentioned.**

iii. At the time of submission of nominations for the **NAeG, 2026**, the award category under which the submission is made may be indicated.

iv. All nominations should be submitted online with in the stipulated date.

v. **Only incumbent Head of the Organization may register and submit online application(s).**

vi. The application must reflect the organization email ID / individual email ID.

vii. Individual Nominations/self-nominations shall not be accepted.

viii. Nominations received after the last date will not be accepted under any circumstances. **Further, email / Hard Copies / fax of the application forms will NOT be accepted.**

ix. Details furnished would need to be comprehensive and cover the specified aspects of the initiative undertaken including the team members who are working / have worked for the project. No changes or request for change i.e. addition or replacement of names, will be considered at later stage or any other stage of the award process.

x. The project must relate to any of the areas of poverty reduction and economic development, social services, education, health, rural and community development, environmental management, transportation, housing, urban governance and regional planning, land use management/GIS, disaster and risk management, grievance redressal, trade practices, commerce, business development and any such other domains of governance.

xi. Besides leveraging on ICT, the projects implemented would need to showcase effective use of infrastructure, partnership with the local community, leadership practices, simplification of processes, strategic architectures, best practices in the design, development, deployment of solution using technology, innovative people centric approach and such other effective interventions.

xii. Diligence in the design, development and implementation of solutions, persistent problem solving, efforts to create and sustain systemic changes, institutionalize best practices, gain community/ stakeholder acceptance, discontinuance of inefficient administrative practices, ingenious people centric approach would need to be clearly brought out.

xiii. Verification of the ownership of all shortlisted projects shall be carried out before finalizing results. Supporting details should be made available by the Project-in-Charge.

xiv. **The decision of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India in selecting the project/ initiative for National Award for e-Governance, 2026 shall be final and binding on all the nominations.**

xv. **Incomplete submissions not complying with the directions/guidelines detailed herein would not be considered.**

xvi. **Applications received may be rejected at any stage of the evaluation process.**

xvii. **Applications with incomplete information will be rejected.**

7. How to apply

The nominations are to be submitted online only in the prescribed Application Form for a specific category.

8. Guidelines for applying for the nominations for the National Awards for e-Governance 2026:-

8.1	Nominations are to be submitted online only through the **NCeG** portal **https://www.nceg.gov.in**
8.2	Nomination other than above mode **will NOT be accepted.**
8.3	**Online registration of the organization is mandatory before submission of the application form online.**
8.4	The existing incumbent, Head of the Organization should apply for the nominations for **NAeG 2026** and furnish details of team members/officers, not more than 3 (three) members, who have worked for the successful design and implementation of the project. No changes or request for change, i.e. addition of names or replacement of names will be considered at later stage or any other stage of the award process.
8.5	**The Single Point of Contact details of an officer may be provided who is well versed with the project and can access emails and attend calls on priority under Point of Contact column.**
8.6	**The Category Specific Application Forms for all the Award categories are available Online on the portal https://www.nceg.gov.in.**
8.7	To register an organization, visit the website https://nceg.gov.in and click the **"Register"** tab.
8.8	**An organization needs to register only once and can submit more than one project/initiative through the same login ID.**
8.9	At the time of registration, it may kindly be checked as to whether your organization is already registered. To check the same **"List of already registered organization/ Department/ Ministry/District"** tab may be checked. If yes, sign up with the User name, Password and Activation Link sent to the email ID provided at the time of initial registration of the organization. If you do not have these details, the same can be obtained by sending an email to the email ID mentioned against the name of the organization already registered. This email ID has been provided by the authority registering the organization. However, if it is not possible to obtain the same ID, Password and Activation key against which organization is earlier registered, the organization can be registered again using a different email ID.

8.10	For logging in, click "Log in" tab and fill in the User name, Password and Captcha details to apply for the category-wise Application Form.
8.11	**The Self Certification Form (Format-I for Government Organizations and Format- II for Non-Government institutions/Non-Government Academic and Research organizations) may be submitted on the letter head of the Department/Organization.**
8.12	Download Self Certification Form **(Format-I/Format-II)**. Fill in the applicable data, get it signed with seal, scan it and save it in pdf format and upload the same.

9. Evaluation Stage/Shortlisting of Applications:

9.1	**Stage 1** - Initiatives will be shortlisted by a Screening Committee for spot study/project verification, which may be done in a short notice. The spot study/verification of the shortlisted initiatives will be conducted by a two-member team of officers of the Central Government not below the rank of Under Secretary. **The shortlisting of Category V of Gram Panchayat initiatives will be initiated through Ministry of Panchayat Raj.**
9.2	**Stage 2** - Screening Committee will consider the spot study reports for shortlisting the initiatives for recommendation to the Jury.
9.3	**Stage 3 -** Presentation of the shortlisted initiative before Jury. The presentation will be made by the Project Head, and, the team of not more than 3 (three) members can participate in the presentation who shall invariably be from the team as proposed/nominated during application stage *(as indicated in para 8.4).*
9.4.	In case the project is selected for an Award, the Award shall be conferred to the incumbent Head of the Organization and/or the officer(s) nominated by him/her, subject to the condition that, not more than 4 (four) officers, who have contributed towards the initiative/project (indicated as per para 8.4 above), may be nominated for the receipt of the Award. Accordingly, the individual certificate will be issued to the project head and team members as per para 8.4. In case, the incumbent Head is different from project Head under para 8.4, he/she shall attend the award conferment ceremony along with the original team members under para 8.4. No Certificate shall be issued to him if he has joined the organization after the presentation before the Jury Committee stage.
9.5	The citation film on the initiatives awarded with **NAeG 2026** will display the names of four Team Members/officers, who have contributed towards the initiative.

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हिन्दुस्तान

07.10.2025

भारत सरकार
कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत तथा पेंशन मंत्रालय
प्रशासनिक सुधार और लोक शिकायत विभाग

राष्ट्रीय ई-गवर्नन्स पुरस्कार 2026
नामांकन आवेदन संबंधी सूचना

ई-गवर्नन्स के कार्यान्वयन क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्टता की पहचान करने और इसे बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से, भारत सरकार, प्रत्येक वर्ष, राष्ट्रीय ई-गवर्नन्स पुरस्कार प्रदान करती है।

केंद्रीय मंत्रालयों/विभागों, राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र सरकारों, जिलों, स्थानीय निकायों, पंचायतों, केंद्र सरकार और राज्य सरकारों के सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों, शैक्षणिक और अनुसंधान संस्थाओं (सरकारी अथवा गैर-सरकारी) और स्टार्टअप से पुरस्कार योजना में वर्णित पात्रता मानदंडों के अनुसार विचारण हेतु 7 श्रेणियों में दिनांक **6 अक्टूबर 2025** से, **www.nceg.gov.in** पर नामांकन मांगे जा रहे हैं।

पुरस्कार योजना के दिशा-निर्देशों और अन्य विवरण के सांथ नामांकन भेजने की प्रक्रिया, विभाग की वेबसाइट **www.darpg.gov.in/ www.nceg.gov.in** पर दी गई है। पुरस्कार योजना में दिए गए विवरण के अनुसार, सभी नामांकन ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत किए जाने हैं। ईमेल/दस्ती/डाक/कूरियर/फैक्स या किसी अन्य प्रकार, की हार्ड कॉपी द्वारा भेजे गए नामांकनों पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। नामांकन करने की अंतिम तिथि तक संशोधन/परिवर्तन किए जा सकते हैं।

नामांकन करने की अंतिम तिथिः 30 नवंबर, 2025 है।

संपर्क अधिकारी का ब्यौराः निदेशक (ई-गवर्नन्स), प्रशासनिक सुधार और लोक शिकायत विभाग, 5वां तल, सरदार पटेल भवन, संसद मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110001, ईमेल- **suvasish.das@gov.in**, दूरभाषः 011-23401457

सीबीसी 32101/11/0001/2526

The Times of India

7.10.2025

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances

National Awards for e-Governance 2026

NOTICE INVITING NOMINATIONS

With a view to recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives, the Government of India presents National Awards for e-Governance every year.

Nominations are invited from Central Ministries/Departments, State/UT Governments, Districts, Local Bodies, Panchayats, Central and State PSUs, Academic and Research Institutions (whether government or non-government) and Startup for consideration in 7 categories as per eligibility criteria detailed in the Award Scheme. w.e.f. **6th October, 2025** on **www.nceg.gov.in.**

Modalities for sending nomination along with Guidelines and other details of the Award Scheme are available on the Department's website **www.darpg.gov.in/ www.nceg.gov.in.** All nominations are to be submitted online as per details given in the Award Scheme. Nominations sent by email/ hand/post/ courier/fax or any other form of hard copy shall not be taken into cognizance. Editing/changes is permitted till the last date of submission.

Last date for submission of Nominations: - 30th November, 2025.

Contact Details: Director (e-Gov.), Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances, 5th Floor, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110001, email: suvasish.das@gov.in, Tel. 23401457.

CBC 32101/11/0001/2526

The VC link for the meeting is scheduled on 16.10.2025 at 10:00 AM under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DARPG, Government of India in connection with National Awards for e-Governance, 2026:-

Option 1:

https://arpg.webex.com/arpg/j.php?MTID=m2390ed2ba1783d652ab2b69200ba7536
Monday, October 16, 2025 10.00 AM | 01 hour| (UTC+05:30) Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi
Meeting number: 2513 659 4455
Password: Nicpg@123 (64274112 when dialing from a video system)

Option 2:

Join by video system
Dial 25136594455@arpg.webex.com
You can also dial 210.4.202.4 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone
+65-6703-6949 Singapore Toll

Access code: 251 365 94455