

## **Revamped Model Skill Loan Scheme**

## Source: IE

- The government has launched a revamped 'model skill loan scheme' aimed at enhancing accessibility to skill development courses with a significantly increased maximum loan limit.
- The new scheme raises the maximum loan limit from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 7.5 lakh. Initially launched in 2015, the **old scheme saw low uptake due to insufficient loan limits.**
- Announced in the <u>Union Budget 2024-2025</u>, the revised scheme aims to benefit 25,000 students annually. It now includes <u>non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)</u>, <u>NBFC-MFIs (microfinance institutions)</u>, and <u>small finance banks</u> as eligible lending institutions.
- Broadened Course Access: The revised scheme will now allow access to more skill courses, against only <u>national skill qualification framework (NSQF)-aligned courses</u> under the old scheme. Also, non-NSQF courses that are onboarded on the <u>Skill India Digital Hub platform</u> will come under the scheme.
- Previous Performance: As of March 2024, loans amounting to Rs 115.75 crore were extended to 10,077 borrowers, highlighting low fund utilisation due to high course fees.

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