



National Means Cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Education has approved the continuation of [National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship \(NMMSS\)](#) over the [15th Finance Commission](#) cycle for a period of five years i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with financial outlay of Rs. 1827.00 crore.

What are the Key Points?

▪ About:

- It is a [central Sector Scheme](#), launched in 2008-09 to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to **reduce drop-outs in class VIII**.
 - 22.06 lakh scholarships have been sanctioned till 2020-21 involving an expenditure of Rs. 1783.03 crore.
- It also intends **to encourage students to continue the study** at a secondary stage.
- The scheme envisages **award of one lakh fresh scholarships every year to selected students of class IX** and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study in a State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools under the scheme.

▪ Details of the Scholarship:

- **Scholarship of Rs. 12000/- per annum** (Rs.1000/- per month) per student is awarded to selected students every year for study in **classes from IX to XII**.
 - The selection of students awarded the scholarships is made through an **examination conducted by the State Governments**.
 - Scholarships are disbursed by the State Bank of India **directly into the bank accounts of students on a quarterly basis**.

▪ Eligibility Criteria:

- Students whose **parental income from all sources is not more than Rs. 3,50,000/-** per annum are eligible to avail the scholarships.
- The students studying in **Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas**, Residential Schools run by the State Government Institutions and private schools are not eligible for the scholarship under this scheme.
- At the time of selection for the award of scholarship the candidate must have scored at least **55% marks or equivalent grade in Class VIII examination**. There will be 5 % relaxation for SC.

What are the other Related Schemes?

- [National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning](#).
- [Rashtriya Uchatar Shiksha Abhiyan \(RUSA\)](#).
- [Prime Minister's Research Fellowship \(PMRF\)](#).
- [Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration \(SPARC\)](#).
- [Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan](#).

- **NEAT.**
- **PRAGYATA.**
- **Mid Day Meal Scheme.**
- **Right To Education (RTE) Act, 2009.**
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.**

Source: PIB

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