



# Scholarship Schemes in India

## Why in News

Recently, a multi-crore scam has been reported in the **post-matric scholarship scheme for Scheduled Castes (SC)** in Punjab.

- The Central government is planning to bring a **single national scholarship scheme** by merging all the current scholarship schemes.

## Key Points

### ▪ Post Matric Scholarship for SCs:

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** launched in 2006. It is **implemented** through State government and Union Territory administration.
- The Scheme provides **financial assistance to the Scheduled Caste (SC) students** studying at post matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education.
- The scholarship is **available for studies in India only** and is paid to the students whose guardians' income is below Rs. 2,50,000 per annum .

### ▪ Single National Scholarship Scheme:

- The Central government is **contemplating** setting up a **single national scholarship scheme** called **PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI)** for meritorious students which will absorb all the existing scholarship schemes.
- **Beneficiary:** Students in the Other Backward Class (OBC), SC, Denotified, Nomadic and semi-Nomadic Tribe (DNT) and Economically Backward Caste (EBC) categories will be able to avail the national scholarship.
- **Implementing Agency:** The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has been tasked to implement the Scheme **by conducting a merit test.**
- **Benefits of Single National Scholarship Scheme:**
  - It will **increase the reach of information** about the govt scholarships.
  - **Boost** the importance of maintaining a **basic curriculum and teaching standards** across the country.
  - Help improve the **quality and implementation of scholarships.**
- **Issues Involved:**
  - In case a student misses the deadline of scholarship, he will **not get a second chance** to apply for other scholarships.
  - The national-level scholarship exam would become an **added burden on students.**
    - Having a separate exam for identifying merit is redundant as already students are appearing for board examinations and entrance examinations.
  - If the existing pre-matric and post-matric scholarship schemes are done away with,

it could end up **hampering the education of students.**

## Way Forward

- The single national scholarship scheme under PM-YASASVI can be beneficial only if it is implemented properly. Without correct implementation, it can become a hindrance rather than a help for students in India.
- The government should leverage the experience of scholarship provider platforms while developing this new scholarship scheme as they have a first-hand experience of supporting students.

**Source: IE**

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