

National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)

February 24, 2022

In news—Recently, the Union government has approved the continuation of the Central Sector 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**.

About the scheme—

- The **objective of the scheme is to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections** to arrest their drop-out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage.
- **Under this scheme, one lakh fresh scholarships of Rs.12,000/- per annum (Rs.1000/- per month) per student are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII** for study in State Government, Government-aided and Local body schools.
- Students are selected for award of scholarships through an examination conducted by the State/ UT Governments.
- **The scheme is boarded on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP).**
- The NSP was developed by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) for streamlining and fast tracking the release of Scholarships across Ministries / Departments with efficiency, transparency and reliability.
- **Scholarships are disbursed directly into the bank accounts of students** by electronic transfer through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) following DBT mode.
- **100% funds under the scheme are provided by the Central**

Government.

▪ Eligibility criteria:

- The **students shall have a minimum of 55% marks or equivalent grade in Class VII examination** for appearing in the selection test for award of scholarship (Relaxable by 5% for SC/ST).
- The students should be **studying as regular students in government, local body** and government-aided schools.
- The **students studying in “Kendriya Vidyalayas and “Jawahar Vavodaya Vidlayas” are not entitled to get scholarship** under this scheme.
- Similarly, those **students studying in Residential Schools run by the State Government Institutions**, where facilities like boarding, lodging and education are provided and **students studying in private schools are also not eligible** for the scholarship under this scheme.
- The scholarship at the Secondary and higher Secondary stage or equivalent Classes IX to XII is payable for a maximum period of four years for studies in India only.
- The scheme will be continued with financial outlay of Rs. 1827.00 crore with minor modifications in eligibility criteria such as **increasing income ceiling from Rs.1.5 lakh per annum to Rs.3.5 lakh per annum** and revising the renewal criteria under the scheme.
- This is a continuing scheme and since **launch of the scheme in 2008-09**, 22.06 lakh scholarships have been sanctioned till 2020-21 involving an expenditure of Rs. 1783.03 crore.