

Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme

June 24, 2019

Approval to a major changes in Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme

Syllabus: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources

In line with the Prime Minister's vision for India's safety, security and the well-being of those who protect the nation, the very first decision of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on assuming his office is approval to a major change in the 'Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme' under the National Defence Fund.

The Prime Minister has approved the following changes:

1. The **rates of scholarship have been increased** from Rs. 2000 per month to Rs. 2500 per month for boys and from Rs. 2250 per month to Rs. 3000 per month for girls.
2. The **ambit of the Scholarship Scheme is extended to the wards of State Police officials who are/were martyred during terror/naxal attacks**. The quota of new scholarships for wards of state police officials will be 500 in a year. The Ministry of Home Affairs will be the nodal Ministry in this regard.

Background:

- **The National Defence Fund (NDF)** was set up in **1962** to take charge of **the voluntary donations in cash and kind** received for promotion of the national defence effort, and to decide on their utilisation.
- **Currently the fund is being used for the welfare of the**

members of the Armed Forces, Para Military forces and Railway Protection Force, and their dependents.

- **The fund is administered by** an Executive Committee with the **Prime Minister as the Chairperson** and the Defence, Finance and Home Ministers as Members.
- **Under National Defence Fund major scheme of 'Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme (PMSS)' is being implemented to encourage;**

1. Technical and post-graduate education for the widows and wards of the deceased/ex-service personnel of Armed Forces and Para Military Forces and
2. Railway Protection Force.

- **Scholarships are available for** education at technical institutions (medical, dental, veterinary, engineering, MBA, MCA and other equivalent technical professions with suitable AICTE/UGC approval).
- Under the PMSS, **every year new scholarships are given for 5500 wards of armed forces controlled by the Ministry of Defence**, for 2000 wards of paramilitary forces controlled by the Ministry of **Home Affairs** and for 150 wards of forces controlled by **Ministry of Railways**.
- The National Defence Fund accepts **online voluntary contributions through** the website i.e. **ndf.gov.in**.

Importance of the scholarship

- The availability of scholarship will enable more youngsters from police families to study and excel in different fields.
- It will have an empowering effect on several bright young minds.
- As a nation, it is our duty not only to express gratitude but also do things that improve the welfare of the police personnel and their families