**National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme:**



**Details**

A scholarship scheme by the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education wherein 1,00,000 scholarships is offered to the gifted or meritorious students whose parental income is not more than ₹3,50,000/- per annum from all sources at the time of selection of awardees for a scholarship. Each State /UT has a fixed quota of scholarships for the concerned age group of class 7th and 8th. The scheme will provide reservations to different categories of students as per the State/UT norms; as different States/UTs have their own norms of reservation. The scholarship is being implemented since 2008 with an objective to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class 8th and encourage them to continue their studies at the secondary stage. The scheme has been approved for continuation for another 5 years during the period of the 15th Finance Commission cycle from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

**Benefits**

Under this scheme, 1,00,000 fresh scholarships @ Rs. 12,000/- per annum (₹1,000 per month) are awarded to meritorious students every year at the Class IX level, which can be continued up to Class 12th.

The sanction of funds will be done from the Annual Budget Provision for releasing them to SBI, the implementing bank for the scheme for disbursal of scholarships, to students directly into their bank accounts by electronic transfer through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

The awardees will be required to open bank accounts preferably in SBI, any public sector bank, or any scheduled bank which has a core banking facility.

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**Eligibility**

**For Fresh Applications:**

The parental income of the applicant (from all sources) should be ₹3,50,000 per annum.

The applicant must be studying as a regular student and entering class 9th in a government, Government-aided, local body school.

A separate examination shall be conducted by the State Governments/UT Administrations for the selection of students for the award of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarships in the States/UTs. The students shall have a minimum of 55 % marks or equivalent grade in Class 7th examination for appearing in selection test conducted during class 8th for the award of scholarship (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST students).

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**Procedure for Selection of Awardee Students:**

Each State/UT will conduct its own test at the stage of class 8th for the selection of students. The State Level Examination may consist of the following two tests:

1) Mental Ability Test (MAT), 90 minutes duration: 90 multiple-choice questions testing verbal and non-verbal meta-cognitive abilities like reasoning and critical thinking. The questions in the test may be on analogy. classification. numerical series, pattern perception, hidden figure, etc.

2) Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), 90 minutes duration: 90 multiple-choice questions covering subjects namely, science, social studies, and mathematics as taught in classes 7th and 8th.

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**For selecting the students, the following conditions shall apply:**

The students must pass both MAT and SAT with at least 40 % marks in aggregate taken together for these two tests. For the SC/ST students, this cut-off will be 32% marks.

At the time of selection for the award of scholarship, the student must have scored at least 55% mark or equivalent grade in the Class 8th examination. There will be 5 % relaxation for SC/ST students.

The awardees should satisfy the other eligibility conditions mentioned in the scheme.

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**For Renewal Applications:**

The awardees should get a minimum of 60% marks in Class 10th for the continuation of the scholarship (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST candidates) in the next higher classes.

For continuing the scholarship in class 10th and 12th, the awardees should get clear promotion from class 9th to class 10th and from class 11th to class 12th in the first attempt.

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**Exclusions**

The students studying in "Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas" are not entitled to get scholarships under this scheme.

Those students studying in Residential Schools run by the Centre/ 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 the scheme.

No scholarship shall be available for studies abroad for any course.

No scholarship at this stage is payable for studying diploma/certificate level courses.

**Application Process**

Keep ready the soft copies of the required documents.

* **Step 1:** Go to <http://www.scholarships.gov.in/>. and click “New Registration”.
* Guidelines for Registration will appear. Scroll to the bottom.
* Read carefully the undertaking. Accept the Terms. Click “Continue”.
* **Step 2:** A Registration Form will appear. (The fields marked as \* are compulsory)
* Fill the details and click “Register”.
* Your Application ID and password will be displayed.
* The same will also be sent as an SMS on your registered mobile number.

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* **Step 3:** Go to https://scholarships.gov.in/fresh/newstdRegfrmInstruction
* Click on “Login to Apply”. Enter your Application ID and password.
* Type the Captcha and click “Login”.
* On the next screen, provide the OTP received on your registered mobile number. You will be directed to the Password Reset screen.
* Create a new password and confirm.
* Click “Submit”. You will be directed to the “Applicant’s Dashboard”.

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* **Step 4:** On the left pane, click “Application Form”. The fields marked as \* are compulsory. Fill the details and upload the documents.
* You can either click on “Save as Draft” to complete the application later.
* Else, click “Final Submit” to submit the application.

**Documents Required**

* Class 7th mark sheet (only from government schools) **(compulsory)**
* Caste Certificate
* Income Certificate of Parents **(compulsory)**
* Disability Certificate
* Domicile Certificate