

## **Scheme2**

### **General text**

The National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons (NPS) is a voluntary and contributory pension initiative introduced by the Government of India. The scheme is designed to provide financial security in the form of a pension to small traders, shopkeepers, and self-employed individuals who may not have access to traditional pension plans. This initiative aims to ensure that individuals in the informal sector have access to a reliable social security system and are able to secure a stable income post-retirement.

#### Overview of the Scheme:

The NPS for Traders and Self-Employed Persons is a contributory pension scheme that allows participants to make monthly contributions toward their future pension. The contributions required under this scheme vary depending on the age of the beneficiary at the time of entry into the scheme. These contributions are designed to ensure that, upon reaching the age of 60, beneficiaries are eligible to receive a fixed monthly pension. This is a long-term scheme that encourages individuals to save consistently for their retirement, ensuring financial security in their old age.

Monthly contributions range from Rs. 55 to Rs. 200, and the exact amount depends on the entry age of the individual. The earlier an individual joins the scheme, the lower their monthly contribution will be. This flexibility allows traders and self-employed individuals to join the scheme at different points in their lives, with the scheme offering a structure that is both inclusive and supportive.

#### Contribution Structure:

One of the most notable aspects of the scheme is its matching contribution mechanism. Under this scheme, the beneficiary is required to pay 50% of the monthly contribution. This amount is matched by an equal contribution from the Central Government, ensuring that the total monthly contribution is fully supported by both the individual and the government. This matching contribution significantly reduces the financial burden on the participants, making it easier for them to save for their future without facing significant financial strain.

#### Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible for the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons, individuals must meet several conditions outlined by the scheme. The eligibility criteria are as follows:

The individual must be an Indian citizen.

The individual must be a shopkeeper, owner of a small shop, or involved in small-scale businesses such as restaurants, hotels, or real estate brokering. This broad definition ensures that a wide range of small-scale traders and self-employed individuals are included in the scheme, helping to cover a large segment of the informal workforce in India.

The individual must be within the age range of 18 to 40 years at the time of joining the scheme. This age range is critical as it gives individuals ample time to save for their retirement. It ensures that those entering the scheme at a younger age can contribute for a longer duration, which will ultimately help them accumulate a more substantial retirement fund. The individual should not be covered by EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organization), ESIC (Employees' State Insurance Corporation), or PM-SYM (Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan). This condition ensures that only those who do not have access to other formal pension schemes are eligible to participate, providing them with an opportunity to secure a pension through this scheme.

The individual must have an annual turnover of no more than Rs. 1.5 Crore. This condition ensures that the scheme is focused on small-scale traders and self-employed persons who operate in the informal sector and are not part of larger enterprises or organizations.

#### Benefits:

The primary benefit of the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons is the monthly assured pension that beneficiaries receive upon reaching the age of 60. The scheme guarantees a pension of Rs. 3,000 per month, which will be provided for the lifetime of the individual. This pension amount serves as a basic financial support for individuals who may not have any other source of income post-retirement.

The pension is provided once the beneficiary reaches the age of 60, which is considered the standard retirement age under most pension schemes. The Rs. 3,000 monthly pension can help provide a modest income to beneficiaries who may not have other retirement savings or social security benefits. The amount is designed to ensure that the individual has a safety net to cover their basic living expenses after retirement.

This monthly pension is particularly valuable for small traders, shopkeepers, and self-employed persons, who often lack other forms of social security or pension plans. Many of these individuals have irregular incomes and are at risk of financial insecurity in old age. By contributing to this scheme during their working years, they are able to ensure that they have a steady source of income once they retire.

#### Significance of the Scheme:

The NPS for Traders and Self-Employed Persons plays a crucial role in financial inclusion by addressing the gaps in pension coverage for individuals working in the informal sector. This sector, which constitutes a significant portion of the Indian economy, has traditionally been excluded from the formal social security system. Most individuals in this sector either do not have access to pension schemes or are not aware of the available options for securing their retirement.

The scheme is also a step toward empowering small traders and self-employed persons, who are often among the most vulnerable groups in the economy. By offering them a structured, government-backed pension scheme, the NPS provides a sense of security and stability, helping to improve their overall well-being. The scheme encourages long-term savings and financial planning, which is critical for individuals who may not have formal employer-based retirement benefits.

#### Conclusion:

The National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons is a significant initiative aimed at providing social security to small traders, shopkeepers, and other self-employed individuals. The scheme's structure, which involves a minimal contribution from the beneficiary matched by an equal contribution from the government, makes it an affordable and accessible option for a wide range of individuals. The scheme's benefits, including the guaranteed pension of Rs. 3,000 per month after the age of 60, provide a valuable safety net for individuals who may otherwise have no financial security in their later years.

By meeting the eligibility criteria, participants can ensure that they are part of this important initiative, contributing to their future financial well-being. With the government's matching contribution, the burden on individuals is significantly reduced, making the scheme a viable option for many small-scale traders and self-employed persons across the country. Ultimately, this scheme aims to foster a more inclusive and secure financial future for India's vast informal workforce.

## **Write Up**

Beneficiary and Problem Statement:

## Beneficiary:

The beneficiary of the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons is \*\*small traders, shopkeepers, and self-employed individuals\*\* who operate in the informal sector and may not have access to traditional pension plans.

## Challenges:

These beneficiaries face challenges such as:

- \* \*\*Lack of access to traditional pension plans:\*\* Many small traders and self-employed individuals do not have access to formal pension schemes offered to employees.
- \* \*\*Irregular income:\*\* Their earnings are often unpredictable, making it difficult to save consistently for retirement.
- \* \*\*Risk of financial insecurity in old age:\*\* Without a stable income source, they face the risk of poverty in their later years.

Application Process and Benefits:

## National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons:

\*\*1. Application Steps:\*\*

- \* \*\*Eligibility:\*\* Be an Indian citizen, aged 18-40 years, a shopkeeper, small business owner (restaurants, hotels, real estate, etc.), with an annual turnover below Rs. 1.5 Crore, and not covered by EPFO, ESIC, or PM-SYM.
- \* \*\*Contact:\*\* Reach out to the designated authorities or visit the official website for further information and application procedures.
- \* \*\*Registration:\*\* Fill out the application form with required details and submit it.

\*\*2. Benefits:\*\*

- \* \*\*Assured Pension:\*\* Upon reaching 60 years of age, a guaranteed monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 for the lifetime of the beneficiary.
- \* \*\*Matching Contribution:\*\* The Central Government matches the beneficiary's contribution, reducing the financial burden on the individual.

**Outcome and Impact:**

**## Expected Outcomes of the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons:**

1. **\*\*Financial Security in Retirement:\*\*** The scheme aims to provide a guaranteed monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 to beneficiaries upon reaching the age of 60, serving as a basic income source for those who may not have other retirement savings or social security benefits.
2. **\*\*Inclusion of Informal Sector Workers:\*\*** The scheme aims to address the gaps in pension coverage for individuals working in the informal sector, who often lack access to formal pension plans.
3. **\*\*Long-Term Savings & Financial Planning:\*\*** The scheme encourages individuals to save consistently for their retirement, fostering a habit of financial planning.

**## Positive Impact on Beneficiary's Life:**

1. **\*\*Financial Stability in Old Age:\*\*** The monthly pension provides a steady stream of income, mitigating the risk of financial hardship and ensuring a dignified retirement.
2. **\*\*Reduced Anxiety & Increased Well-being:\*\*** The scheme provides peace of mind, knowing that they will have a guaranteed income source in their later years, reducing anxiety and enhancing their overall well-being.
3. **\*\*Empowerment and Improved Quality of Life:\*\*** The scheme empowers small traders and self-employed individuals by providing them with a structured, government-backed pension, increasing their sense of security and improving their quality of life.

## **Generated Prompts**

Generated Prompts for Scheme: National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons:

Beneficiary and Problem Prompt:

## Image Prompt:

A visually striking image depicting the plight of a small trader or shopkeeper in India, emphasizing the challenges they face and the positive impact of the National Pension Scheme.

\*\*Scene:\*\* An elderly shopkeeper, perhaps in his 60s, sits outside his small shop, looking weary and a little downtrodden. The shop is modest, with a sign that reads "General Store" or a similar generic name. There are a few sparsely stocked shelves inside.

\*\*Visual Elements:\*\*

- \* \*\*Empty shelves:\*\* Symbolic of irregular income and potential struggle to meet daily needs.
- \* \*\*Worried Expression:\*\* The shopkeeper's face conveys a sense of worry, reflecting the anxieties of aging without financial security.
- \* \*\*Background:\*\* A cityscape or a bustling market in the background, highlighting the fast-paced nature of life and the constant need to earn a living.

\*\*Text Overlays:\*\*

- \* \*\*\*"Informal Sector Workers: 92% Lack Pension Coverage"\*\* (Statistics can be adjusted to reflect accurate data).
- \* \*\*\*"National Pension Scheme: Rs. 3,000 Monthly Pension"\*\* (Displayed prominently to showcase the benefit).
- \* \*\*\*"Government Matching Contribution"\*\* (A smaller text overlay to emphasize the financial support).

\*\*Overall Impression:\*\*

The image should be visually impactful and emotionally resonant, drawing attention to the challenges faced by informal sector workers in India and showcasing how the National Pension Scheme offers a path toward financial security and a more dignified retirement.

Application Process and Benefits Prompt:

## Image Prompt:

**\*\*Visual:\*\***

A vibrant, colorful illustration depicting a bustling market scene with diverse small traders, shopkeepers, and self-employed individuals. Focus on the human element - a shopkeeper carefully arranging fruits, a street food vendor preparing snacks, a tailor stitching clothes, etc.

**\*\*Center Stage:\*\***

- \* A banner with the scheme's logo (e.g., "National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons") and a large, bold number "Rs. 3,000" representing the guaranteed monthly pension.
- \* A smiling elderly man holding a pension slip with a text overlay: "Assured Pension for a Dignified Retirement"

**\*\*Foreground:\*\***

- \* A young shopkeeper in a colorful attire is filling out an application form, highlighting the "Application Steps".
- \* A phone with the scheme's official website displayed, emphasizing the importance of "Contact" and "Registration".

**\*\*Background:\*\***

- \* A friendly government official dressed in a blue uniform, explaining the scheme's details to a group of small traders.
- \* A graphic representation of a pension fund growing steadily over time, symbolizing the scheme's benefits.

**\*\*Numerical Figures:\*\***

- \* **Eligibility:** "Age: 18-40 years, Annual Turnover: Below Rs. 1.5 Crore"
- \* **Contribution:** "Government matches your contribution" (visually represented by a coin split equally between the government and individual)
- \* **Outcome:** "Over [Number] Beneficiaries" (e.g., 100,000)

**\*\*Text Overlay:\*\***

- \* "Ensuring a Secure Future for India's Informal Sector Workers"
- \* "Invest in Your Retirement, Live with Confidence"

**\*\*Overall Tone:\*\***

The image should be positive, empowering, and visually appealing. The color palette should be bright and vibrant, reflecting the vibrancy of the informal sector. The imagery and text should clearly communicate the

benefits and application process of the scheme, making it easily accessible and understandable to potential beneficiaries.

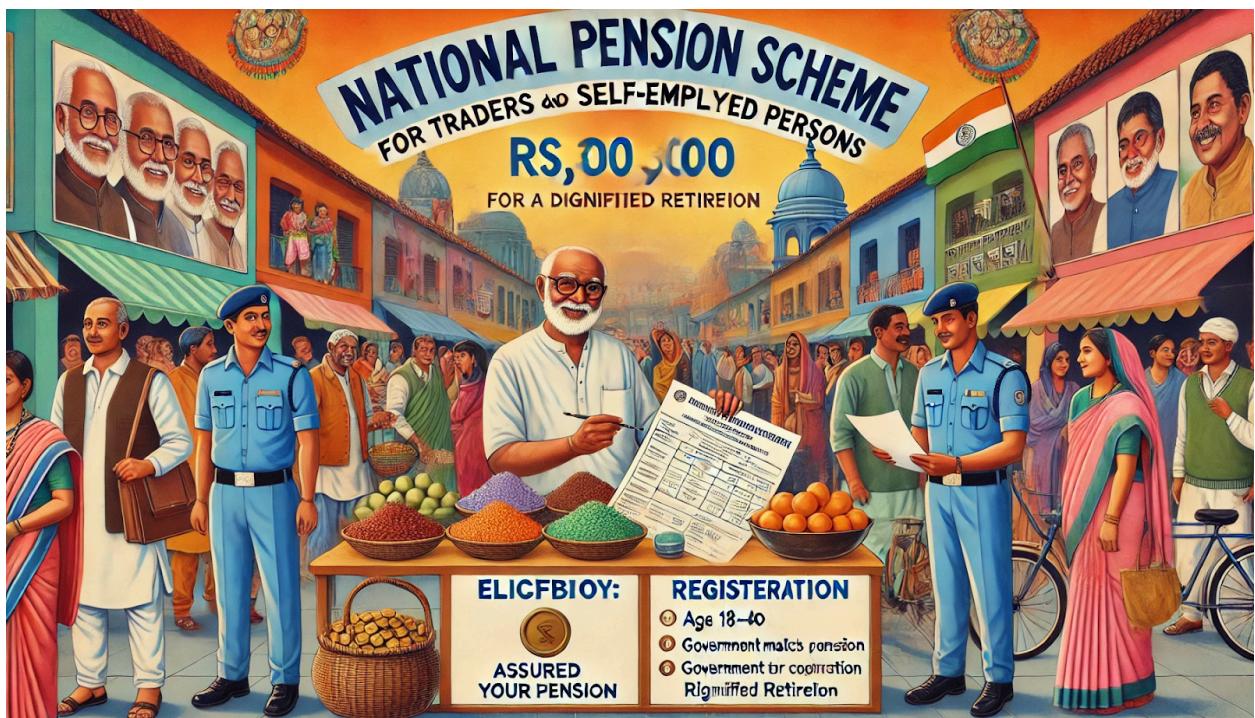
Outcome and Impact Prompt:

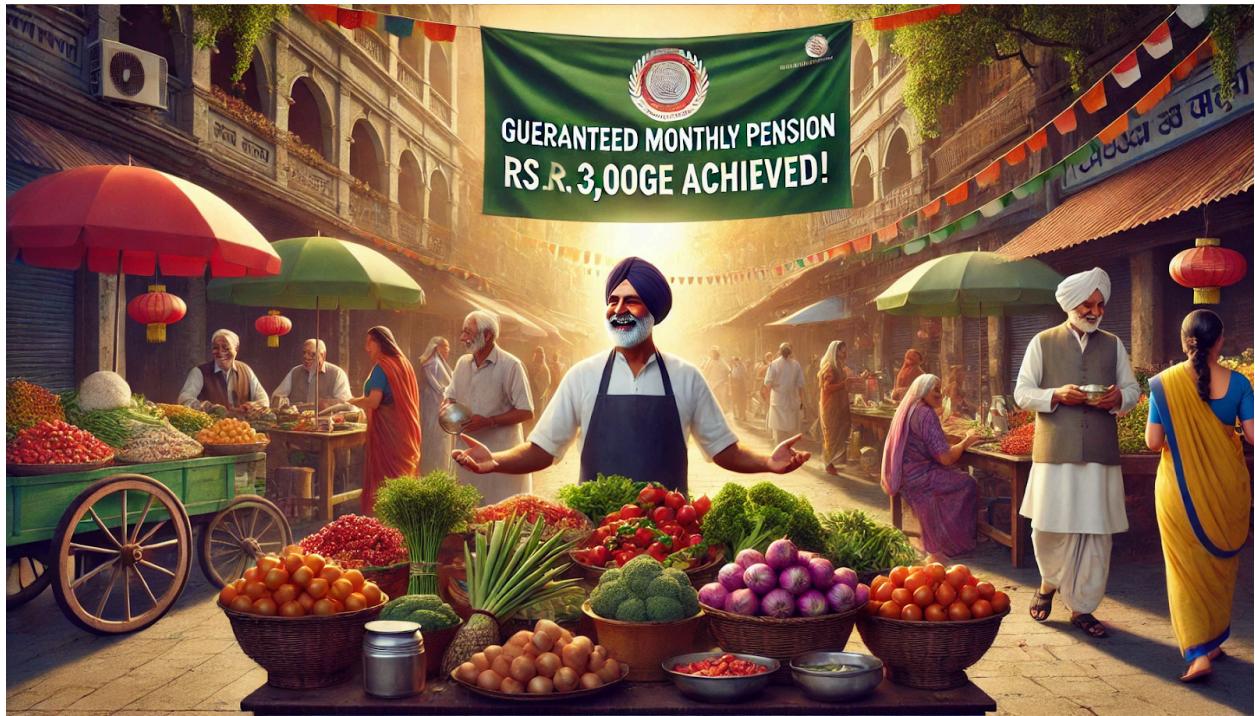
## Image Prompt:

A vibrant street market scene unfolds, bustling with activity. A shopkeeper, beaming with pride, stands proudly behind his stall, showcasing colorful fresh produce. Behind him, a large banner proudly displays the National Pension Scheme logo.

The shopkeeper is surrounded by friends and family, enjoying a celebratory meal. A text overlay reads: "Guaranteed monthly pension of Rs. 3,000\*\*" and "Financial stability in old age achieved!\*\*"

The scene is bathed in warm sunlight, with a backdrop of lush green trees, symbolizing growth and prosperity. The overall atmosphere conveys a sense of accomplishment, security, and happiness.





#### Evaluation:

##### - Coherence Scores:

Image 1: 4/5 The image shows Mohan depicting the plight of a small trader or shopkeeper in India, good representation.

Image 2: 3/5 The image clearly shows Mohan(a trader) receiving pension benefits along with the scheme banner. But it lacks the amount of benefits and specifications.

Image 3: 4/5 The image shows Mohan as a happy person, but lacks the reason.

##### - Consistency Score: 3/5

Mohan is not purely consistently depicted across images.

##### - Comments:

Overall, the images effectively represent the prompts. The text-to-image model performed well in maintaining character consistency, with slight major variations likely due to model limitations.