National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance

Why in news?

The last date for submission of applications for National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) for the year 2025-26 has been extended to 30th September, 2025.

- It is a ***Centrally Sponsored Scheme.***
- **Launched in** – 2008.
- **Ministry -** Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.
- **Aim** - To provide ***financial assistance to meritorious students*** from **economically weaker sections**, helping them continue their education.
- **Implemented via** - The NMMSS is implemented through the ***National Scholarship Portal (NSP).***
- **Eligibility -**
  - Parental income is ***not more than Rs. 3,50,000/- per annum*** from all sources.
  - The student should have ***minimum of 55% marks or equivalent*** grade in Class VII examination for appearing in selection test for award of scholarship (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST students).
- **Applicability -** The scholarship is for students in State Government, Government-aided, and local body schools.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) –** It is disbursed directly into the bank accounts of selected students by electronic transfer through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) following DBT mode.
- **Benefits -**
  - The amount of scholarship will be ***Rs. 12000/- per annum*** @ Rs. 1000 per month per student to selected students every year.
  - Applicable for students studying in ***classes from IX to XII*** in State Government, Government aided and local body schools.

Quick Fact

National Scholarships Portal (NSP)

• It is a ***one-stop solution*** through which various services starting from student application, application receipt, processing, sanction and disbursal of various scholarships to Students are enabled.
• NSP is taken as Mission Mode Project ***under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP).***
• **Objectives -**
- Ensure timely disbursement of Scholarships to students
- Provide a common portal for various Scholarships schemes of Central and State Governments
- Create a transparent database of scholars
- Avoid duplication in processing
- Harmonisation of different Scholarships schemes & norms
- Application of Direct Benefit Transfer

References

1. PIB | National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme
2. Vikaspedia | National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme
3. NSP | National Scholarships Portal

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