GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
DIRECTORATE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

NATIONAL MEANS CUM MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (NMMSS) EXAMINATION -2023-24.

(For the students studying in Class VIII in State Govt. / Govt. Aided Schools only in the UT of Puducherry)

INFORMATION BROCHURE

A. Scheme:

The National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Written Examination is conducted by the Directorate of School Education launched by the Ministry of Education, New Delhi for the Economically weaker section students to arrest their drop-outs. As per the State Quota, students will be selected for the award of scholarship on the basis of the Merit List.

For the Union Territory of Puducherry, 125 Scholarships are allotted by the Ministry of Education, New Delhi. The region- wise and category wise allocation of scholarship is detailed below:

Region	Castewise Category					Total
	GEN	PH	OBC	MBC	SC(Origin)	
Puducherry	44	03	12	19	15	93
Karaikal	11	01	03	04	04	23
Mahe	02	-	-	01	-	03
Yanam	03	-	01	01	01	06

The selected students will be awarded a scholarship of ₹ 12,000/- per annum for classes from IX to XII based on the criteria prescribed by the Ministry of Education, New Delhi.

B. Eligibility to Appear:

1. Students should be studying in class VIII in State Government/ Government Aided Schools only. (Residential school students viz, Jawahar Navodhaya Vidhyalaya are not eligible to appear)
2. Students should have scored atleast 50 % of Marks for SC / ST Category, 55 % of Marks for other Categories in VII Std Annual Examination.
3. The income of parents from all sources should not exceed Rs.3,50,000/- per annum.

C. How to apply for the Examination:

1. The students can apply only through schools by Google form link shared in the DSE website Puducherry. (i.e.,https://schooledn.py.gov.in)
2. The entry should be made through respective Schools UDISE email ID provided by the Department.
3. The Heads of Schools should retain the applications of the students who have applied for the Examination.

D. Syllabus:

The whole portions of class VII and Class VIII in Mathematics, Science and Social Science subject of NCERT Syllabus.

E. Exam Pattern:

This examination consists of two parts namely PART-I and PART-II. Separate question booklets will be provided for Part-I (Mental Ability Test) and Part-II (Scholastic Aptitude Test). All questions are to be answered.

F. Distribution of Marks:

PART – I MENTAL ABILITY TEST - MAT	**90**
PART – II SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST – SAT	**90**
Mathematics	20
Science	35
Social Science	35

G. Schedule of Exam:

Date of Examination	**16-03-2024, (Saturday)**
Duration of Exam:	
Part-I (Mental Ability Test) -	: 09.30 AM TO 11.00 AM
Part-II (Scholastic Aptitude Test)	: 11.15 AM TO 12.45 PM

H. Method of Answering:

Shade the correct answers in Optical Mark Reader (OMR Sheet) using **Black Ball point pen only.**

I. Submission of application forms:

The last date for applying to the examination through Google form is **20-02-2024.**

J. Issue of Hall Tickets:

Students can download the Hall Tickets from **07.03.2024** onwards.

Annexure-I

Table Indicating the number of scholarships to States/UTs on the basis of 2/3rd (66.67%) weightage on the enrolment in classes VII and VIII and 1/3rd (33.33%) weightage on child population of the relative age under National Means-cum- Merit Scholarship Scheme		
S.No.	States/UTs	Scholarships on the basis of 66.67% weightage to Enrolment & 33.33% weightage to Child Population
1	Andhra Pradesh	4087
2	Arunachal Pradesh	122
3	Assam	2411
4	Bihar	5433
5	Chhattisgarh	2246
6	Goa	144
7	Gujarat	5097
8	Haryana	2337
9	Himachal Pradesh	832
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1091
11	Jharkhand	1959
12	Karnataka	5534
13	Kerala	3473
14	Madhya Pradesh	6446
15	Maharashtra	11682
16	Manipur	255
17	Meghalaya	231
18	Mizoram	103
19	Nagaland	180
20	Orissa	3314
21	Punjab	2210
22	Rajasthan	5471
23	Sikkim	58
24	Tamil Nadu	6695
25	Telangana	2921
26	Tripura	351
27	Uttar Pradesh	15143
28	Uttrakhand	1048
29	West Bengal	7250
30	A&N Islands	42
31	Chandigarh	85
32	D&N Haveli	22
33	Daman & Diu	16
34	Delhi	1576
35	Lakshadweep	10
36	Pondicherry	125
Total		100000

Annexure -II

Central Sector Scheme–"National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme"
Revised Guidelines

1.0 The Scheme:

1.1 Under this scheme, it is proposed to award 100,000 scholarships 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 scholarship. Each State /UT has fixed quota of scholarship for concerned age group of class VII and VIII. The scheme will provide reservation to different categories of students as per the State/UT norms; as different States/UTs have their own norms of reservation.

1.2 This scholarship will be provided on yearly basis to the students studying as regular students and entering in class IX in a Government, Government-aided, local body schools. Thus the scholarship will be for a maximum period of four years. The students studying in "Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas" are not entitled to get scholarship under this scheme. Similarly, 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.

1.3 The amount of scholarship is ₹ 12000/- per annum @ ₹1000 per month.

1.4 A separate examination shall be conducted by the State Governments/UT Administrations for selection of students for the award of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarships in the States/UTs.

1.5 The reimbursement cost for conducting the NMMSS (SAT and MAT) exam will be ₹100/-per student for the number of students appearing in the examination.

2.0 Procedure for Selection of Awardee Students:

2.1 Each State/UT will conduct its own test at stage of class VIII for selection of students for the award of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship. The State Level Examination may consist of the following two tests:

i. Mental Ability Test (MAT)
ii. Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

2.2 The students shall have minimum of 55 % marks or equivalent grade in Class VII examination for appearing in selection test conducted during class VIII for award of scholarship (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST students). The student should be studying as regular student in a Government, Government-aided and local body schools.

2.3 **Mental Ability Test** shall consist of 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.

2.4 **Scholastic Aptitude Test** shall consist of 90 multiple-choice questions covering subjects namely, science, social studies and mathematics as taught in classes VII and VIII.

2.5 **Duration of the Test**

Each test will be of 90 minutes duration. Children with disability will be given extra time, as applicable.

3.0 **Declaration of Results**

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

The students must pass both the tests i.e. 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.

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

3.3 The awardees should satisfy the eligibility and the conditions mentioned in the scheme.

4.0 **Disbursement of Scholarships**

4.1 A student can avail only one Scholarship under any Central Government Scholarship scheme.

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

4.3 The eligible students will apply on National Scholarship Portal (NSP), which will be verified by the State Governments and UT Administrations and finally sent to Ministry for sanction of funds. The final list of students' verified at all concerned levels on National Scholarship Portal, will be considered for sanction of funds. The scholarships for those students will be discontinued if they would have not been able to renew their application on NSP within stipulated time period. The sanction of funds will be done from Annual Budget Provision for releasing them to SBI, the implementing bank for scheme for disbursal of scholarships, to students directly into their bank accounts by electronic transfer through Direct benefit Transfer (DBT).

4.4 The awardees should get minimum of 60% marks in Class X for continuation of scholarship (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST candidates) in next higher classes. For continuing the scholarship in class X and XII, the awardees should get clear promotion form class IX to class X and from class XI to class XII in the first attempt.

5. General Eligibility Conditions

5.1 An awardee is eligible for the scholarship provided he/she:

(i) takes up studies in approved courses.

(ii) maintains good conduct as certified by the Head of the College/Institution and continues his/her studies as a regular student in a Government/Government aided/ Local Body school.

(iii) does not absent himself/herself without proper leave.

(iv) takes up studies on a whole time basis.

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

5.3 No claim for scholarship arrears will be entertained after the expiry of 12 months of the academic session for which one has applied for the claim.

5.4 In case any awardee leaves his/her course of study within one month of registration/admission, no scholarship shall be paid to him/her.

5.5 In case student is not able to appear at the annual examination due to serious illness, he/she should send the medical certificate through the Head of the Institution within three months of his/her falling ill. The duration of illness should be clearly certified by a specialist, who is a Registered Medical Practitioner. The facility will be available to the student to continue the same course in which one is studying provided the principal or the head of the institution certifies that the overall performance of the student during the year has been very good.

5.6 The student must join the next class/desired course within 3 months of the declaration of the result of the previous class/course.

5.7 Scholarship shall be deemed to be discontinued if any gap of one academic session arises in studies at any time due to any reason.

5.8 Scholarship once discontinued on the basis of the rules of disbursement of scholarship cannot be revived under any circumstances.

5.9 All rules are subject to change from time to time, as and when required, which will be binding on all awardees.

6.0 **Eligibility and other conditions for starting and continuation of Scholarship at Secondary and Higher Secondary Stage**

6.1 The awardees should get clear promotion from class VIII to Class IX for being eligible for starting the scholarship, as indicated above.

6.2 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.

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

6.4 For continuing the scholarship in class X and XII, the awardees should get clear promotion from class IX to class X and from class XI to class XII in the first attempt.

6.5 The awardees must obtain a minimum of 60 per cent marks in Class X examination (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST students) or equivalent examination for continuation of the scholarship at higher secondary stage.

6.6 In case an institution/school does not conduct an examination at the end of Class IX and / or Class XI, the scholarship for the second year will be continued on the submission of a certificate to this effect from the Head of the Institution/School.

7.0 The scheme will be in operation for 5 years beyond March 2021 and the selection test for the award of scholarship will be conducted for Class VIII students in November every year as a separate test by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

8.0 A Technical Support Group (TSG) consisting of Consultants / support staff etc. will be continued for assisting in effective implementation and monitoring of the scheme.

9.0 The scheme will be monitored in the Department at regular intervals with the concerned stakeholders.

10.0 System of Super Checks/Physical verification to be strengthened by ensuring certain minimum percentage of application being physically verified on random basis generated by data analytics.

11.0 The Ministry/Department shall monitor the implementation of the scheme regularly. Adequate vigilance should be exercised to analyze the trends for timely identification and prevention of irregularities.

12.0 State Governments may be asked to undertake random physical verification/inspection to ensure effective implementation of the scheme, as per guidelines.

13.0 Ministry/Department and States/UTs to undertake super checks/third party audit of scholarships.

14.0 State Government should ensure that Institute/School Nodal officer (INO) is a permanent/regular staff of the Institute/School and that the Principal is made responsible for the effective supervision of INO activities.

15.0 Ministry/Department should ensure that adequate training is provided to SNO, SNO to be responsible for facilitating students in submitting application on NSP through mobile.

16.0 If any student's application is marked fake by District Nodal officer (DNO)/ State Nodal officer (SNO), application against the said Institute/School may be put on hold until re-verification is complete.

17.0. In case of fraud, regular follow-up, investigation and initiation of penal action to be ensured.

18.0 To carry out evaluation study on yearly basis to find out the gaps and challenges in the performance of the scheme due to which some of the objectives of the scheme remain unfulfilled. The recommendations of the study to be implemented and constraints at the ground level to be resolved timely to improve the performance of the scheme. It will also help in monitoring of the low-performance States.

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