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## Scholarships for Students

### Promoting equality of opportunity and excellence

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#### Objective

- Provide equality of opportunity through access to education to all.
- Promote excellence in education with special emphasis on science and technology

#### What was done?

- New scholarship schemes launched to cover more than one crore young persons over five years from various walks of life – meritorious students, minorities, young scientists, girls, children of Tsunami victims, children of persons serving in armed and para-military forces and those seeking higher academic and professional qualifications. Ongoing schemes for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes expanded and liberalized.
- More than Rs. 1500 crore earmarked per year for the scholarship schemes.
- Every year, under the strengthened on-going programme, about 6.5 lakh students, mainly from families of Safai Karmacharis given pre-matric scholarships each year. Nearly 10.50 lakh scheduled tribe students given post matric scholarship; close to 35 lakh students belonging to Scheduled Castes given post matric scholarships; and around 25 lakh students belonging to Other Backward Classes provided assistance for pre and post matric scholarships.
- Three new scholarships for the students belonging to minority community launched to provide about 40 lakh Merit-cum-means, Pre and Post Matric scholarships over 5 years. So far around 5 lakh scholarships awarded, more than 50% are girls.

- A National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education launched to cover 52 lakh girls at a cost of Rs. 1515 crore over 5 years.
- Under the Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS), Rs. 5,000 each would be provided to 10 lakh young learners in the age group of 10-15 years.
- A new Scholarship scheme for College and University students has been launched to cover about 82,000 students every year.
- Six Scholarship schemes after 2004 to promote Biotechnology education, namely, the Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (49 awards and 31.5 crore allocated over 5 years); Ramalingaswamy Fellowship (40 awards and 143.51 crore allocated over 5 years); Tata Innovation Fellowship (20 awards and 4.44 crore allocated over 5 years); Junior Research Fellowship (287 awards at a cost of Rs. 83.75 crore over 5 years); Associateship for Young Scientist in niche areas (112 awards, Rs. 30 crore); DBT-Wellcome Trust Fellowship (Rs. 648 crore).
- Amounts awarded under Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana, doubled once in 2004 and then again in 2008. About 200 candidates are to be given this award each year at a cost of Rs. 1.5 crore.
- The Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) provides 10,000 scholarships every @ Rs. 80,000 per annum to undertake bachelor and Masters in natural sciences for the talented youth in the age group of 17-22 years.
- Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC) provides doctoral fellowship in both basic and applied sciences, in the age group of 22-27. Allocation of more than Rs. 2000 crore has been provided for this programme during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

- To facilitate access of SC and ST students to Higher Education in top institutions of the country schemes of “Top Class” Education, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SCs and STs were introduced to benefit about 3000 students every year. National Overseas Scholarship for SC and ST students announced to assist students for pursuing education abroad.
- Under the Prime Minister’s Scholarship scheme for the children of Tsunami victims, 1.65 lakh children studying in schools up to class 10 are being given Rs. 300 per month. This scheme will function for 10 years till each child completes 10<sup>th</sup> class.
- The Prime Minister’s Scholarship scheme for Armed Forces and para-military forces launched. This scheme provides more than 4000 scholarship each year to children of personnel below officer rank. Rs. 18.5 crore released so far.