



Modifications in PMRF Scheme

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Why in News

Recently, the Ministry of Human Resources and Development has carried out various amendments in the **Prime Minister's Research Fellowship Scheme** to boost research in the country.

Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) Scheme

- In order **to attract meritorious students into research**, Government of India, in 2018 launched Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme, which offers **direct admission to such students in the Ph.D programmes** in various higher educational institutions in the country.
- The scheme is **aimed at attracting the talent pool of the country to doctoral (Ph.D.) programmes** for carrying out **research in cutting edge science and technology domains, with focus on national priorities**.
- The institutes which can offer PMRF include **all the IITs, IISERs, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and some of the top Central Universities/NITs** that offer science and/or technology degrees.
- A fellowship of Rs.70,000/- per month for the first two years, Rs.75,000/- per month for the 3rd year, and Rs.80,000/- per month in the 4th and 5th year is provided under the scheme.
- Apart from this, a **research grant of Rs. 2 lakh per year** is provided to each of the Fellows for a period of 5 years to cover their academic contingency expenses and for foreign/national travel expenses.

Key Amendments

- Now, students from **any recognized university can apply for the fellowship**. Earlier the fellowship scheme was open only for students from **Central Universities, IITs, IISc, NITs, IISERs, IEST and IIITs**.
- The requirement of GATE score has also been reduced from 750 to 600.

- As per new guidelines there will be **two channels** of entries i.e **direct entry** and **lateral entry**.

In lateral entry, the students, **who are pursuing PhD in PMRF granting institutions**, and have completed 12 months or 24 months as per certain requirements, can also apply to become fellow under the scheme.

- National Institute of Technologies (NITs) which appear in top 25 institutions in the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking can also become PMRF Granting institution.
- To boost research a **dedicated Division is being created** in the MHRD with the name of "**Research and Innovation Division**".

This division will be headed by a director who will be coordinating research work of various institutions coming under MHRD.

Source: PIB