



drishti

PM-CARES for Children Scheme

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/pm-cares-for-children-scheme

Why in News

The government has announced a special “**PM-CARES for Children**” scheme for all those orphaned due to **Covid-19**.

Also, the **Supreme Court** has ordered the district authorities to upload the details of children in need of care and protection on **NCPCR** (National Commission for Protection of Child Rights) portal **Bal Swaraj**.

Timely support The Centre has announced a comprehensive financial aid package for children orphaned during the pandemic

- Students can be enrolled in **Kendriya Vidyalayas** or private school with govt. taking care of expenses
- Students of 11-18 years can be enrolled in Sainik Schools or Navodaya Vidyalayas
- **Health insurance** cover of ₹5 lakh
- Corpus of ₹10 lakh per child to be created
- **Monthly stipend** will be offered from corpus after 18 years of age
- Lump sum to be disbursed once the age of 23 is attained



Key Points

About the 'PM-CARES for Children' Scheme:

o Eligibility:

Children who have **lost both parents** or their **lone surviving parent** or their **legal guardian** or **adoptive parent** due to **Covid-19**.

There are a total **577 Covid-19** orphans identified across the country.

Also, there has been a rise in cases of **child trafficking**.

o Features of the Scheme:

▪ Corpus of Rs. 10 Lakh:

▪ A corpus of **Rs. 10 lakh** will be allocated to each of these children from the PM CARES fund.

▪ This corpus will be **used to give a monthly stipend from 18 years of their age**, for the next five years and **on reaching the age of 23 years, he or she will get the corpus amount as one lump-sum** for personal and professional use.

▪ Education to the Children:

▪ The education expenses of younger children will be supported by way of **admission to Kendriya Vidyalayas and private schools** up to higher secondary level.

▪ These children will also be supported during **their higher education** through either a **scholarship** equivalent to the tuition fees or **educational loans** where the interest on the loan will be paid by the PM-CARES fund.

▪ Health Insurance:

▪ All children will be **enrolled as a beneficiary under Ayushman Bharat Scheme** with a health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh.

▪ The **premium amount will be paid by PM-CARES till a child turns 18**.

PM-CARES Fund

- The government has set up the **Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES Fund)** to deal with any kind of emergency or distress situation like posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Fund is a **public charitable trust** with the **Prime Minister as its Chairman**. Other Members include **Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister**.
- The Fund **enables micro-donations** as a result of which a large number of people will be able to contribute with the **smallest of denominations**.
- It will strengthen **disaster management capacities** and encourage research on **protecting citizens**.
- **Contribution to PM - CARES Fund** Qualifies as **CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Expenditure**.

Bal Swaraj COVID-Care

- The **NCPDR** has devised **an online tracking portal “Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care)”** for children in need of care and protection.
- This has been created with a purpose **for online tracking and digital real time monitoring mechanism of children** who are in need of care and protection.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

- **NCPDR** is a **statutory body** set up in March 2007 under the **Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005**.
- It is under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Women & Child Development**.
- The Commission's mandate is **to ensure** that all **laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms** are in consonance with the **child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India** and also the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**.
- It **inquires into complaints** relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the **Right to Education Act, 2009**.
- It **monitors** the implementation of **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012**.

Source: TH