



Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

Why in News?

The **Department of Posts** has announced the **Deen Dayal SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) Yojana** for the year 2025-26, offering **scholarships to students from classes 6 to 9**.

- The selected students will receive a **monthly scholarship of ₹500 to promote interest in philately**.

Key Points

- **Eligibility:** The scholarship will be **awarded based on academic performance**, results from a **quiz organized by the Department of Posts**, and a **philately project** (philately is the collection and study of Postage stamps).
 - Students who have **secured a minimum of 60% marks** or equivalent grades in the **previous year's examination** are **eligible** to apply.
 - A **5% relaxation will be given to students from scheduled castes and scheduled tribes**.
 - To apply, **students must be members of their school's philately club**, or if such a club doesn't exist, they must have an individual philatelic deposit account.
 - Students can submit their **applications at the Philately Bureau at the General Post Office (GPO)**.
- **Objective:** The **objective of the scholarship** is to "**Promote Philately among children at a young age** in a sustainable manner that can reinforce and **supplement the academic curriculum** in addition to providing a **hobby that can help them relax and de-stress**".
- **Significance:** Stamp collection **provides educational insight into the socio-economic and political context of its time**, serves as a stress-relieving hobby, fosters social connections, and enhances memory skills through organizing and cataloging information.

India Post

- **Establishment:** On 1st October 1854 by **Lord Dalhousie** (Governor-General of British India)
- **Historical Timeline**
 - **1766:** Robert Clive set up postal system under East India Company (called "Company Mail")
 - **1774:** Warren Hastings opened Calcutta General Post Office- first public post office
 - **1854:** **Lord Dalhousie brought postal service under British Crown**
- **Current Network Size**
 - **Total Post Offices: 164,999 Post Offices** (Rural: 149,164 (90% of total) and Urban: 15,823)
 - **Global Status: World's largest postal network**
- **Organizational Structure**
 - **Ministry:** Ministry of Communications, Government of India
 - **Circles:** 23 postal circles across India
- **Services:**

- Banking and financial services
- Postal Life Insurance (PLI)
- India Post Payments Bank
- E-commerce and retail services
- Government scheme disbursements (pensions, MGNREGA)

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