

PM CARES for Children Scheme - Brief

The PM CARES for Children Scheme was launched by The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 29th May 2021 for the Children. It aims to support children who have lost both the Parents or legal Guardian or Adoptive Parents or Surviving Parent to COVID-19 pandemic during the period starting from 11th March 2020. The objective of the Scheme is to ensure comprehensive care and protection of Children in a sustained manner, and enable their well being through health insurance, empower them through education and equip them for self-sufficient existence with financial support on reaching 23 years of age.

Ministry of Women and Child Development shall be the nodal Ministry for execution of the scheme at the central level. Department of the State/UT government dealing with the Juvenile Justice set up in the State shall be the nodal agency at State level. The District Magistrates shall be the nodal authority at District level for execution of the scheme.

The scheme provides support for education and health and will create a corpus of Rs 10 lakh for each child when he or she reaches 18 years of age. This corpus will be used to give a monthly financial support/ stipend from 18 years of age, for the next 5 years to take care of his or her personal requirements during the period of higher education 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.

The scheme is accessible through an online portal i.e. **pmcaresforchildren.in**. The portal has been introduced to all the States and UTs on 15.07.2021 and the States/UTs have been asked to identify and register eligible children on the portal. Any Citizen can also inform the administration regarding a child eligible for support under this scheme through the portal.



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PM-CARES for Children Scheme

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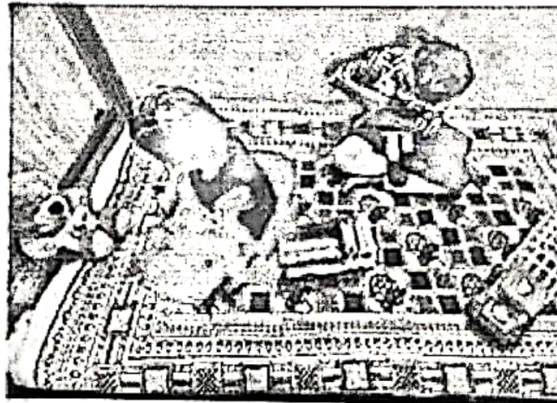
Why in News

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 **NCPCR** 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

- **NCPCR** 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