

# Govt launches internship scheme for youth

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**NEW DELHI:** About 125,000 students belonging to vulnerable sections of society will start earning ₹5,000 per month for a year from December 2 while doing internship in top 500 companies as the Centre on Thursday launched the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme to enhance employability of youth, a senior official said.

Thus, each intern in the age group of 21-24 years, including those belonging to scheduled caste (SC), scheduled tribes

(ST), other backward classes (OBC) and differently abled, would get a package of ₹66,000 in a year of internship, which includes a one-time assistance of ₹6,000, the official said, requesting anonymity.

The financial assistance amount will be transferred directly to the accounts of the interns.

The internship scheme, announced in the Union budget by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 23, will follow reservation for SC, ST, OBC and differently abled, applicable in the central government,

the official said.

"This is an internship programme; hence it does not provide any job guarantee by the company. But it certainly enhances employability of the intern after completion of internship. It is up to the company to absorb the intern into regular payroll," another official, working in the ministry of corporate affairs, said, requesting anonymity.

This is a pilot project of the internship scheme announced in the budget. Interns will be provided with financial assistance of ₹5,000 per month, of

which ₹4,500 will be disbursed by the government, and ₹500 will be paid by the company from its corporate social responsibility (CSR) fund. In case, any company wishes to provide monthly assistance over and above ₹500, it may do so from its own funds, he said.

Additionally, each intern will get a one-time grant of ₹6,000 for incidentals by the government upon joining the place of internship, he said. The pilot project would cost ₹800 crore.

The government has a target to cover 10 million youth under the scheme in five years.