

FAQs: Recognition of CFP® Professionals as Pension Agents under NPS

1. What is the recent update by PFRDA?

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has allowed Points of Presence (PoPs) to engage additional categories of qualified professionals—including CFP® professionals—as Pension Agents for the National Pension System (NPS), subject to applicable regulations.

2. What's the regulation?

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has permitted Points of Presence (PoPs) to engage additional categories of “other persons” as Pension Agents for National Pension System (NPS) distribution.

As per the circular dated March 20, 2026, CFP® professionals certified by FPSB India—holding valid certification, a unique ID, and active Continuing Professional Development (CPD) status—are now eligible to participate in NPS distribution under Regulation 2(1)(j)(iv).

Link to the updated Regulations:

https://pfrda.org.in/w/regulatory-framework/circulars/active-circulars/permitting-the-points-of-presence-for-engagement-of-other-persons-as-pension-agents-dated-20.03.2026?p_l_back_url=%2Fregulatory-framework%2Fcirculars%2Factive-circulars%3Futm_source%3Dchatgpt.com&p_l_back_url_title=Active

3. Can CFP® professionals directly register as Pension Agents with PFRDA?

No. CFP® professionals cannot directly register with PFRDA. They must be empanelled through registered PoPs, who onboard them as Pension Agents in accordance with regulatory guidelines.

4. How can one access the official list of registered Points of Presence (PoPs)?

CFP® professionals interested in becoming Pension Agents may refer to the official list of registered Points of Presence (PoPs) on the PFRDA website and contact them about empanelment opportunities.

👉 [View List of Registered PoPs \(PFRDA\)](#)

https://www.pfrda.org.in/web/pfrda/list-of-pops?utm_source=chatgpt.com

This is the official page maintained by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, where you can browse and search all authorised PoPs—such as banks, financial institutions, and intermediaries—eligible to distribute the National Pension System.

4. What are the eligibility requirements for CFP® professionals as a Pension Agent?

To be eligible, CFP® professionals must:

- Hold a valid CFP® certification from FPSB India
- Have a unique certification ID

- Maintain active **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** status
- Meet any additional requirements specified by the PoP or PFRDA regulations

5. How does this benefit individuals (investors/subscribers)?

This move enhances access to **qualified, ethical, and client-centric financial advice**, helping individuals:

- Make informed retirement planning decisions
- Align NPS investments with long-term financial goals
- Improve overall financial confidence and preparedness

6. How does this strengthen the NPS ecosystem?

By integrating CFP® professionals, the NPS ecosystem benefits from:

- A broader and more qualified distribution network
- Increased financial literacy and awareness
- A shift towards advice-led, goal-based retirement planning

7. How can CFP® professionals participate in NPS distribution?

Interested professionals can approach registered PoPs to explore empanelment opportunities as Pension Agents, subject to eligibility criteria and onboarding processes defined by the PoP.

8. Where can individuals find a CFP® professional?

Individuals looking for trusted financial guidance can access the official directory of CFP® professionals maintained by FPSB India.

9. How many CFP® professionals are there in India?

India has over 3,500 CFP® professionals, who are part of a global network of more than 2.36 lakh professionals across 29 territories worldwide.

10. Why is this development important for retirement planning in India?

This recognition is a significant step toward improving retirement readiness by combining **access to pension products with high-quality financial advice**, ultimately helping individuals build more secure and well-planned financial futures.