



SHRESHTA Scheme

For Prelims: National Education Policy, SHRESHTA Scheme

For Mains: Education, Issues related to SC/ST, Contribution of the various educational schemes of the government of India in upliftment of the social and economic status of the people belonging to scheduled class

Why in News?

Recently, the [Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment](#) has launched the scheme 'SHRESHTA.' This scheme is known as **Scheme for residential education for students in High school in Targeted Areas.**

- The scheme 'SHRESHTA' was created with the goal of providing **quality education** and **opportunity** to students of **SC Category**.

What is the scheme 'SHRESHTA'?

▪ About:

- Its basic motive is **to uplift the socio-economic status of the Scheduled Castes peoples** by providing **high quality education** to their children in **best private residential schools** in the country.
- Admission will be provided in **Class 9 and Class 11** of **CBSE affiliated private schools**.

▪ Objective:

- To make **easy delivery** of the **Governmental initiatives and schemes**.
- To create a **conducive atmosphere** for the 'Scheduled Castes' socioeconomic advancement and overall growth.
- Collaborating with volunteer groups **to bridge the gap in service-deprived Scheduled Castes (SCs) dominating regions in the education sector**.
- To enable **bright Scheduled Caste (SC) students** with **high-quality education** so that they can pursue future opportunities.

▪ Eligibility:

- The students, belonging to [Scheduled Castes](#), studying in class **8th and 10th** in the current academic year (2021-22) are eligible for availing the benefits of the scheme.
- Students from the SC community who come from a **marginalized income group** with an **annual income** of up to **Rs.2.5 lakh** are eligible.
- The selection will be done through a transparent mechanism which is known as **National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)**.
 - It will be conducted by the [National Testing Agency \(NTA\)](#) for admission in **class 9th and 11th**.

▪ Beneficiaries:

- Government has targeted that every year around **3000 students** belonging to **SC category** will be admitted to **Class 9 and Class 11** under this system.
- The Ministry will **cover the whole cost of their school fees and accommodation fees**

till they have completed their academics in **class 12th**.

What are the Other Related Initiatives for SCs?

- **Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY):**
 - The **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment** is a nodal agency for implementation of this scheme.
 - Central assistance is provided to the implementing agencies, namely State Governments/UT Administrations/Central and State Universities/Non-Governmental Organizations/Deemed Universities in the private sector, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojna (BJRCY), for the construction of new hostels/expansion of existing hostel facilities for Scheduled Castes students.
- **Post Matric scholarship schemes for SC:**
 - It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** launched in **2006**. It is implemented through State government and Union Territory administration.
 - Government is committed to give a big push to its effort so that the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education of SCs would reach up to the national standards within the 5 year period.
- **Single National Scholarship Scheme:**
 - The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has been tasked to implement the Scheme by conducting a merit test.
 - **Beneficiary:** Students in the **Schedule Caste, Other Backward Class (OBC), Denotified, Nomadic and semi-Nomadic Tribe (DNT)** and **Economically Backward Caste (EBC)** categories will be able to avail the national scholarship.

[Source: PIB](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/shreshta-scheme>

