



SHRESHTA

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment recently highlighted the [Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas \(SHRESHTA\)](#).

What are the Key Highlights of the SHRESHTA?

▪ About:

- SHRESHTA aims to fill the educational service gap in [Scheduled Castes \(SCs\)](#) dominant areas by providing high-quality education, socio-economic upliftment, and overall development for SC students.
- Admission will be provided in Class 9 and Class 11 of CBSE/State affiliated private schools.

▪ Eligibility:

- The students, belonging to [SCs](#), studying in class **8th and 10th** in the current academic year 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.

▪ Operating Procedure:

- The scheme is being implemented in two Modes:

• **Mode 1: SHRESHTA Schools:**

• **Selection Process:**

- Meritorious SC students are selected annually through the **National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)** conducted by the [National Testing Agency \(NTA\)](#).
- Selected students are admitted to the best **CBSE/State Board-affiliated private residential schools** in classes 9th and 11th.

• **Financial Support:**

- The Department covers the total fee for students, including school and hostel fees, amounting to Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 1,35,000 from class 9th to 12th.
- Admissible fee for each class under the Scheme.

• **Bridge Course:**

- A bridge course is provided outside regular school hours to enhance students' capability to adapt easily to the school environment.
- The Department bears 10% of the annual fee for the bridge course.

• **Monitoring:**

- The Ministry monitors the progress of students regularly.

• **Mode 2: NGO/VO Operated Schools/Hostels:**

- Schools/Hostels run by VOs/NGOs with classes up to 12th grade receive grants for school fees and residential charges for SC students.
- Grants range from Rs. 27,000 to Rs. 55,000 per student based on the type of school.

▪ **Monitoring:**

- The Ministry monitors the progress of students regularly.
 - Institutions are required to disclose performance on their websites and the **e-Anudaan/online portal**, ensuring transparency.
 - Installation of cameras in institutions, providing live feeds for monitoring purposes.
 - All the institutions are liable for a field visit by an inspection team constituted for this purpose.

▪ **Impact:**

- 2023-24 (as of December 2023): 7,543 beneficiaries.
 - Admissions in 2023-24: A total of 2,564 students were admitted to 142 Private Residential Schools, and Rs. 30.55 Crore has been reimbursed for school fees.

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