



## SHREYAS Scheme

**For Prelims:** SHREYAS, National Overseas Scheme for SCs, [Scheduled Castes \(SC\)](#)

**For Mains:** Role of financial assistance and scholarships in bridging educational disparities in India

[Source: PIB](#)

### Why in News?

The **Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS)** initiative has been a cornerstone in India's efforts to empower students from [Scheduled Castes \(SC\)](#) and [Other Backward Classes \(OBC\)](#) by providing them **access to quality education**.

### What is SHREYAS?

#### ▪ About:

- SHREYAS is an umbrella scheme, under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- SHREYAS aims for the Educational Empowerment of OBC & Economically Backward Class (EBC) students by way of **awarding fellowships (financial assistance)** in obtaining **quality higher education and interest subsidy on educational loans for overseas studies**.

#### ▪ Sub-Schemes:

- The umbrella scheme of "SHREYAS" comprises **4 central sector sub-schemes**.

#### ▪ Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs:

##### ◦ Objective:

- Provide **coaching of high quality to economically disadvantaged SCs and OBCs for competitive exams** and admission to technical and professional institutions.

- **Income Ceiling:** Family income under the scheme is **capped at 8 lakhs per annum**.

- **Slot Allocation:** 3500 slots are allotted annually.

- **Gender Inclusivity:** **30% of slots** are reserved for **females** in both categories.

- **Allocation Ratio:** The SC: OBC ratio is **70:30**, ensuring equitable access.

- **Outcomes:** From 2014-15 to 2022-23, 19,995 beneficiaries have benefited through this.

##### ◦ Top-Class Education for SCs:

- **Objective:** Recognize and promote **quality education among SC students, covering studies beyond the 12<sup>th</sup> class**.

- **Income Ceiling:** The family income limit is set at **8 lakhs per annum**.

- **Coverage:** 266 higher education institutes, including prestigious institutions like IIMs, IITs, and NITs.

- **Scholarship:** Under the scheme, tuition fee, non-refundable charges, academic allowance and other expenses are provided.

- **Outcomes:** From 2014-15 till 2022-23 21,988 beneficiaries have benefited through this.

##### ◦ National Overseas Scheme for SCs:

- **Objective:** Under the [National Overseas Scheme for SCs](#), financial assistance is provided to the selected students from SCs; De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes; landless agricultural labourers and traditional artisan categories, for pursuing masters and Ph.D. level courses abroad.
- **Eligibility:** A student with a total family income including the candidate should be less than **Rs. 8 lakhs per annum**, who has **more than 60% marks** in the qualifying examination, is below **35 years of age** and who secured admission in the **top 500 QS ranking foreign Institutes/ Universities**.
- **Scholarship:** Total tuition fee, maintenance and contingency allowance, visa fee, to and fro air passage etc. are provided to the awardees.
- **Outcomes:** From 2014-15 to 2022-23, 950 beneficiaries have benefited through this.
- **National Fellowship for SC Students:**
  - **Aim:** This fellowship supports **SC students pursuing M.Phil/Ph.D. degrees in Sciences, Humanities, and Social Sciences** in Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges recognized by the [University Grants Commission \(UGC\)](#).
  - **Eligibility:** Candidates who have **qualified for the National Eligibility Test (NET-JRF)** or Junior Research Fellows for Science stream qualifying UGC-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (UGC-CSIR) Joint Test.
  - **Allocation:** The scheme provides for 2000 new slots per year (500 for the science stream and 1500 for the Humanities and Social Sciences).

## What are the Other Education Schemes in India?

- [National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning.](#)
- [Beti Bachao Beti Padhao](#)
- [PM SHRI Schools](#)
- [National Means cum Merit Scholarship \(NMMS\)](#)
- [Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan](#)
- [Eklavya Model Residential Schools](#)

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. Which of the following provisions of the Constitution does India have a bearing on Education? (2012)**

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Rural and Urban Local Bodies
3. Fifth Schedule
4. Sixth Schedule
5. Seventh Schedule

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- (a) 1 and 2 only  
 (b) 3, 4 and 5 only  
 (c) 1, 2 and 5 only  
 (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Ans- (d)**

### Mains

**Q1.** How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate on your answer. (2020)

**Q2.** Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. **(2021)**

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