



## 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 **8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>** 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>**.

#### ▪ 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 12<sup>th</sup>**.

## 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](#)

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