



Shaadi Anudan Yojana

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government, under the **Shaadi Anudan Yojana**, provided marriage grants to **1 lakh Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** families in the financial year 2024-25 — twice the number of beneficiaries recorded in 2024.

- Despite the achievement, social audit findings and field reports **suggest that while access has improved, systemic inefficiencies persist.**

Key Points

Shaadi Anudan Yojana (Marriage Grant Scheme)

- **About & Objective:**
 - It provides financial assistance for the marriage of daughters from poor, helpless, and **Below Poverty Line (BPL)** families belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - The applicants **must be from the OBCs** as recognized by the state government.
 - However, individuals from minority communities who also fall under the OBC category are **not eligible under this scheme.**
 - The age of the girl and boy **must be 18 years and 21 years** or more respectively.
 - Top priority is given in granting subsidies for the marriage of destitute widows, disabled, landless and suffered by natural disaster.
- **Grant Amount:** ₹20,000 per marriage.
 - Grants will be allowed up to a **maximum of 2 daughters** from a family.
- **Reason for the Increase in the Number of Beneficiaries:** The significant increase is primarily due to the revision of the income eligibility criteria. Previously restricted to urban and rural families BPL, **the income limit has now been raised to Rs 1 lakh**, enabling more families to avail of the scheme.
 - Furthermore, **income eligibility has been standardised for both urban and rural** beneficiaries.

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Challenges Related to the Scheme

- **Delay in Disbursement:** Beneficiaries in rural districts face a **4-6 month wait** for disbursement, forcing many families to **borrow money** to cover wedding expenses.
- **Last-Mile Delivery Gaps:** According to a **2024 social audit**, only **68% of recipients** received their funds **before the wedding**, affecting the timeliness of financial support.
- **High Application Rejection Rate:** Around **23% of applications** were **rejected** due to issues with **documentation**, causing further delays and complications.
- **Verification Bottlenecks:** **Manual processes** and **bureaucratic delays** in verification hinder the **timely delivery** of support to beneficiaries.

Measures that Can be Taken

- The department **plans awareness campaigns to improve last-mile delivery**, acknowledging the need for streamlined processes to achieve its inclusive development goals.
- Regularly collect beneficiary feedback to identify needs and challenges, **using insights to improve and tailor the program for greater impact**.
- Establish **regular monitoring and evaluation** to assess effectiveness and areas for improvement.

Schemes Related to the Empowerment of OBCs

- **SHREYAS (Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers)**
Scheme: The **SHREYAS** scheme is an umbrella program consisting of four sub-schemes aimed at providing educational opportunities and financial support to economically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) students.
- **PM-YASASVI (PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India for OBCs and Others):** The **PM-YASASVI** scheme provides **full financial support** to students from **OBC, EBC, and Denotified, Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)** categories for higher education beyond Class XII.
 - Funded 100% by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, it covers students in institutions notified by the Ministry starting from the **2021-22** financial year.
- **OBC Pre Matric Scholarship- Uttar Pradesh:** The **OBC Pre Matric Scholarship** is designed to support students who are financially disadvantaged and pursuing secondary education in Class 9 or 10.