



Scheme for Residential Education for SC students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)

Mode 1: Top Class Education

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

Government of India

SCHEME FOR RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS IN TARGETED AREAS (SHRESHTA) (FROM 2021-22 TO 2025-26) as amended in March 2022

1. OBJECTIVE

1.1. Providing quality education and opportunities for even the poorest is the Constitutional mandate. The students from the Scheduled Caste communities, for long been subjects of untouchability, were kept out of quality education; a situation that perpetuates the disadvantages carried forward for generations of discrimination. The Governmental efforts to spread educational facilities without discrimination have worked well in achieving near universal access. However, the objective of providing access to quality education that provides a level playing field, is still far from reality. The scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA) has been conceived to provide access to high quality education to the students from Scheduled Caste communities.

1.2. The objective of SHRESHTA is to enhance the reach of development Intervention of the Government and to fill the gap in service deficient SCs dominant areas, in the sector of education through the efforts of grant-in-aid institutions (run by NGOs) and residential high schools offering high quality education and to provide environment for socio economics upliftment and overall development of the Scheduled Castes (SCs). The Scheme is further modified to provide easier access to the bright SC students in the best schools in the Country, thereby securing their future opportunities.

2. Modalities of operation

2.1. Under this, each year a specified number of meritorious SC students in States/UTs will be selected through the National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS) to be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) and admitted in the best private residential schools (affiliated to CBSE) in classes 9th and 11th for completion of education till 12th standard. Thereafter, the students may be connected to Post Metric Scholarship Scheme or Top-Class Education Scheme to continue their further studies with adequate financial aid.

2.2. This scheme is operationalized as per the following details:

(1) Selection of schools:

- a) The best performing private residential schools affiliated with the CBSE will be considered based on parameters such as: existence for at least 5 years, having more than 75% pass percentage in Class 10 and 12 in the last 3 years, and having adequate infrastructure for admitting additional atleast (10) SC students in classes 9th and 11th classes (together).
- b) A selection committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (incharge of the scheme), a representative of CBSE and the Director Internal Finance Division in the Ministry would finalize the selection of these schools in January every year.
- c) The schools so identified (hereinafter called as SHRESHTA schools) will be registered in the eAnudaan portal along with the required school details and account details which shall be duly verified using the PFMS system.

(2) Selection of students:

- a) Eligibility:
 - i) Only SC students studying in the recognized schools – private or Government or Local Body schools are eligible for the NETS.
 - ii) For admission in the Class 9, the student should have passed the Class 8 in the academic year immediately preceding the year of admission.
 - iii) For admission in the Class 11, the student should have passed the Class 10 in the academic year immediately preceding the year of admission.
 - iv) The parental income shall not be more than Rs. 2.5 lakhs per year.
 - v) The Caste and Income certificates shall be uploaded prior to the web counselling.
- b) National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS):
 - i) The admission in schools would be based on the merit as obtained in the nation-wide merit test the “National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS)”.
 - ii) The NETS would be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

- iii) The test would be a computer-based test conducted all over the County.
- iv) The selected students would be offered choices of the SHRESHTA schools.
- v) For exercising this option, a web counselling system shall be developed by the NIC. In order to ensure that all the seats are filled, there may be multiple rounds of web-counselling.

(3) Number of seats:

- i) The tentative number of seats for each year up to 2025-26 would be as follows:

	9th Class	10th class	11th class	12th class	Total
2022-23	2500		500		3000
2023-24	2500	2500	500	500	6000
2024-25	2500	2500	3000	500	8500
2025-26	2500	2500	3000	3000	11000

- ii) The seats would be shared between the SHRESHTA schools by December each year for the following academic year.

(4) Admission:

- i) Once the option is exercised, the school would automatically, and without any further test, admit the student.
- ii) The fee for the student covering the school fee (including tuition fees) and hostel fee (including mess charges) would be released directly to the school by the Ministry within 30 days from the date of confirmation of admission on the IT portal.
- iii) The school should provide hostel facilities for the students and provide necessary assistance for the students to settle down in the new environment.
- iv) The school may designate one of the teachers as the Counsellor, who would resolve the difficulties faced if any, by the students.
- v) The students admitted in Class 9 or 11 (including those who have been admitted in Academic year 2021-22) will be automatically be funded for the next classes till they complete 12th class, subject to passing the exams of the previous class.

(5) Bridge Course:

- i) To ensure that the SC students so admitted can catch up with the rest of the class, a Bridge Course may be conducted by the school covering the topics given in Annexure-1.
- ii) The bridge course should be conducted outside-the-school-hours after identifying the individual academic requirements.
- iii) An amount of upto 10% of the annual fee can be provided separate under the scheme.
- iv) The bridge course can extend upto 3-months or as required by the student.
- v) Bridge course will target at enhancing the capability of the student to easily adopt to the environment of the school.

(6) Scholarships for students:

- i) The scholarships for the students will cover the School Fee (including tuition fee etc) and Hostel Fee (including mess charges etc) subject to a maximum limits as given below:

**Table 1: SHRESHTA Scholarship per student per year
(Tuition fee and Hostel fee)**

Class	Scholarship per student per annum (Rs)
9 th	1,00,000
10 th	1,10,000
11 th	1,25,000
12 th	1,35,000

- ii) The scholarships will be released in one installment directly to the account of the school through online process using the eAnudaan portal of the Ministry.
- iii) Release of the scholarship for the following years shall be subject to furnishing of Utilisation Certificate by the Principal or the Accountant as per GFR provisions.

(7) Monitoring:

- i) The progress of the students would be monitored by the Ministry from time to time.
- ii) In case any student leaves after getting admitted into schools and payment of fee to the school, it should be brought into the notice of Central Govt. immediately and fees paid should be refunded to the Consolidated Fund of India.
