

**Revised Scheme For Residential Education For Students
in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESTA)
(FROM 2023-24 TO 2025-26)**

1. OBJECTIVE

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.

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 economic upliftment and over all 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

The scheme would be implemented in two Modes:

**Mode 1: SHRESHTA schools
(Best CBSE private Residential Schools)**

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 identified based on the database of the CBSE, **the residential schools recommended under SHRESHTA by District Authorities in 2021-22 and other eligible private residential schools affiliated to any other Board, including State Boards, recommended by District Authorities for participation in the scheme.** Admission of students will be done in classes 9th and 11th for completion of education till 12th standard based on selection through NTA.

Thereafter, the students may be connected to Post Matric Scholarship Scheme or Top-Class Education Scheme to continue their further studies with adequate financial aid.

This component (Mode-1) shall be operationalized as per the following details:

1. Selection of schools:

- a. The best performing private residential schools identified based on the database of the CBSE, **the residential schools recommended under SHRESHTA by District Authorities in 2021-22 and**

other eligible private residential schools affiliated to any other Board, including State Boards, recommended by District Authorities for participation in the scheme.

- b. *The schools* should have been in existence for at least 5 years; should have more than 75% pass percentage in Class 10 and 12 in the last 3 years, and should have adequate infrastructure for admitting at least ten (10) additional SC students in classes 9th and 11th classes (together).
- c. **The schools will be required to give consent for admitting the students under SHRESHTA as per terms and conditions of the scheme.**
- d. A Selection Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (in-charge of the scheme), a representative of **Ministry of Education and the Director Internal Finance Division in the Ministry would finalize the selection of these schools in the beginning of every year.**
- e. The schools so identified (hereinafter called as SHRESHTA schools) will be registered in the e-Anudaan portal along with the required school details and account details which shall be duly verified using the PFMS system.
- f. School being funded by the Central Government (like NVS/EMRS (under 10% quota)/KGBV/State Govt. school etc.) **including the schools covered under the scheme which have been funded under PM-AJAY/Samgra Shiksha Scheme/ PM SHRI Schools of DoSEL shall not be covered under this Scheme.**

2. Selection of students

a. Eligibility:

- i. Only SC students studying in the recognized schools – Private or Government or Local Body schools are eligible.
- 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.
- vi. Students applying under this Scheme should not be covered under Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme of the Department.

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 conducted all over the country.
- 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-counseling.

3. Number of seats:

- i. The tentative *number of seats for fresh admissions* for each year upto 2025-26 would be as follows:

	9th Class	11th class	Total*
2023-24	1500	1500	3000
2024-25	1500	1500	3000
2025-26	1500	1500	3000

*** In case it is observed that there are vacant slots in either of the categories of class 9th or class 11th, the same will be adjusted towards the other category if there is availability of more eligible students in that category.**

4. Admission:

- i. Once the school is selected by the student, 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 etc.) and hostel fee (including mess charges) would be released directly to the schools 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 the students admitted during the F.Y. 2021-22, shall automatically be funded for the next classes till they complete 12th class, subject to their 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 separately under

the scheme for this purpose.

- 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) and Hostel Fee (including mess charges) 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

Note:- The scholarships towards tuition fee and hostel fee will be disbursed as per actual charged by the school or the prescribed limit at above table whichever is less. No fee or any other charges will be charged from the beneficiary by SHRESHTA School.

- ii. The scholarships will be released in one installment directly to the account of the schools through online process using the e-Anudaan portal of the Ministry.
- iii. Release of the scholarship for the following years shall be subject to furnishing of Utilisation Certificate 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 a school and payment of fee to the school, it should be brought to the notice of the Central Govt. immediately and fees paid should be refunded to the Consolidated Fund of India.

Mode 2: NGO operated schools (Guidelines hereinafter applicable only for Mode 2 of the Scheme)

Schools/Hostels run by VOs/NGOs having higher classes (upto at least class 12) and who have been receiving Grant-in- aid will be continued, subject to satisfactory performance (as provided in Para 4.2 of the Guidelines). The NGO-run primary schools (classes 1 to 8) would be given time for upgrading into Secondary/Sr. Secondary Schools (upto at least class 10) before 2027, failing which they may not be supported under the scheme. *The upgradation of school(s) from primary level to Secondary level (classes 9 & 10) may be done by addition of one class every year. It is also proposed that PMU will be provided a checklist to assess the suitability of the school for such upgradation, viz. adequate infrastructure, approval of State Government/ Board for upgrading, pass percentage, number and quality of teachers and staff, etc. No new school shall be taken up under this mode.* With regard to upgradation of schools from Primary to secondary, as per revised guidelines there is no provision for increase of seats while upgradation of school

The schools being given grant-in-aid must maintain good academic quality, have adequate infrastructure, shall have recognition of the State Government and affiliated to State/Central Board. Failure in any of these essential prerequisites would entail cancellation of the grant-in-aid.

In order to be eligible for assistance under this Mode, an organization should meet the following conditions:-

- a. Organisation should be a reputed school chain, CSR foundation, Reputed organization etc., who are running good quality schools recognized by the State Govt. and affiliated to State/Central Boards
- b. The organisation should have been registered and should be working in quality school education.
- c. The organisation shall have a properly constituted Managing Committee with its powers, duties and responsibilities clearly defined and laid down in a written Constitution; it shall have an appropriate administrative structure and a duly constituted Managing/Executive Committee.
- d. The organisation is initiated and governed by its own members on democratic principles.
- e. The organization shall be a non-profit entity.
- f. The organisation should have its own website for pro-active disclosure of the information, as far as possible.
- g. The VO/NGO should be registered on the NGO DARPAN portal of NITI Aayog.**

Under this Mode, grants shall be sanctioned in favour of the organization(s) subject to prescribed financial norms and terms & conditions as stipulated and revised from time to time by this Ministry.

The grant shall be sanctioned in accordance with and as per the procedure laid down under General Financial Rules, 2017 as amended from time to time. The Ministry will issue the sanction order in the name of the President/Secretary and transfer the funds to the bank account of the organization which should be under joint operation. If the headquarter of the organization is not located at the project site, the funds will be in turn

transferred by the organization into a bank account at the project location to be jointly operated by the Secretary and duly authorized project head within 7(seven) days from the date of receipt to funds. For this purpose, the organization shall open a bank account in the name of organization at the project location also.

The grants under of the Scheme will be provided for School fee and residential charges for the SC students admitted in the schools with a condition that if other than those are admitted, the school shall be allowed to collect the fee from such students. The grant per SC student shall be as below:

	Cost per SC student limit (Rs. Per year)*		
	Residential	Non-residential	Hostel
Primary	44000	27000	30000
Secondary	55000	35000	30000

While calculating the eligible grant, the attendance of SC students would be taken into account as under: -

As per PMU inspection report, if the school/hostel project is running well as per scheme guidelines, slabs for GIA as per the attendance may be prescribed as under:

- (a) If attendance of SC beneficiaries in the school/hostel project during PMU inspection is found to be 75% or more, full grants may be given.***
- (b) If 50% to less than 75% students are found 75% grant will be given.***
- (c) If 25% to less than 50% students are found 50% grant may be given.***
- (d) If less than 25% students are found and there is no valid ground for absence, No grant in aid may be released.***

This department will explore the uses of ‘Artificial Intelligence Enabled Unified IT Platform for Automated AI-enabled Activity & Attendance Monitoring, Real-Time Data Analysis & Reporting ‘(AIAAMDAR) under I-MESA scheme as an alternative. Attendance Register/ CCTV recording may also be taken in to account for deciding the actual presence of beneficiaries.

Funds will normally be released through electronic transfer directly to the bank account of the organization as referred in sub-para above.

- i. Organisations having presence in more than one State and having more than one branch will be eligible to receive for each of its branches grants for meeting expenditure on administrative overheads involving supervision and monitoring of the performance of its various branches. Each branch can apply separately or under the parent body.
- ii. The total annual grant shall be released **in three installments** every year, after submission of complete proposal with all documents by the VO/NGO and a physical inspection of the functioning of the school in April to June every year.
- iii. The organizations shall be eligible to receive non-recurring grant after every 5 years. (as per **Annexure-2**).

- iv. The grant-in-aid shall be released after the grantee organization executes an Agreement Bond in prescribed proforma to the effect that in the event of its failure to abide by any or all the conditions stipulated in the sanction letter, it shall be liable to refund with interest thereon whole or such part of the grant as the Government of India may decide.
- v. Sanctioned strength of the ongoing project can be enhanced with the approval of the Secretary(SJE).

4. PROJECTS ELIGIBLE IN MODE-2

The existing institutions (residential schools/ non-residential schools/ hostels) which were found to be having satisfactory infrastructure as per inspection conducted by this Ministry/PMU and conforming to the conditions of the scheme shall be continued. The institutions which do not conform to the new guidelines shall not be given any grant w.e.f. next financial year.

The performance parameters and standards of Mode-2 organisation(s) for continuation of grant-in-aid are/will be as under:

A. Infrastructure

- i. Classrooms @ one room for each class/section.
- ii. Sufficient number of benches and desks (or chairs and tables) for sitting all the students.
- iii. A decent cot and bed @ one for every child.
- iv. Light and fans for every class room and residing rooms.
- v. Residential schools/hostels for girls must have female service staff, wardens and chowkidars, and adequate security provisions.
- vi. Toilet/bathroom @ one for every 10 children. Toilets and bath room should always be kept in clean and hygienic condition.
- vii. Hygienic Kitchen & dining room.
- viii. Nutritious and sufficient food to be given to the student thrice a day. Record of the same must be maintained up-to-date.
- ix. Clean and safe drinking water facility to be provided to the students.
- x. Doctor should visit the school and hostel regularly. Record of Doctor's visit must be maintained up-to-date. First-aid-boxes and all emergency medicines, etc. must be kept in both school and hostel for any exigency.
- xi. The students will be given 4 sets of uniforms (including shoes) in a year. The record of the purchase and distribution of uniforms will be maintained up-to-date.
- xii. Games and sports facility, physical education, yoga, etc. and a playground for games and sports must be made available to the students.
- xiii. Installation of CCTVs and linkage of CCTVs with website for live streaming.
- xiv. Aadhaar based attendance system that can be integrated into a central portal.
- xv. The school must have the recognition certificate of the Education Department of the State Government. In case of High Schools, the school must be affiliated to the State/Central Board of Education.

B. Standards:

- a. The 10th class and 12th class pass/mark percentage shall not be less than average Board result of the State/Central Board.
- b. The teachers engaged shall be qualified and well trained in place as per standards of State/Central Board.
- c. The teachers in High Schools must be at least graduates in their respective fields with B.Ed. qualification.
- d. Physical Education Teacher/ Yoga Teacher must have passed the PET training from a Sports/Yoga Academy.
- e. Similarly other warden, staff cook, helper, aya, sweeper, peon, guard, etc. should have necessary qualification and experience as per their trade.
- f. The number of teachers shall be as per the standards of State/ Central Board. In any case their number must not be less than 6 in a school and not less than 2 in a hostel.
- g. The honorariums to the teachers and other staff who are working full time must be paid in time as per the minimum rates prevailing in the district for similar jobs.
- h. All records and documents must be maintained up-to-date and shown to the inspecting team and the audit team as and when required.

Change of Location of the Projects: Change of location of the projects shall be approved by the State Government /UT Administration under intimation to this Ministry. However, the selected location should be within the location criteria spelt out in the Scheme guidelines.

5. Procedure for application of grants in Mode 2:

- a. The e-Anudaan portal would be opened tentatively on 1st April every year for entry of the renewal students; and would be kept open till 30th June for entry of the fresh students. The school shall enter the details of the students in the database of e-Anudaan.
- b. There shall be a physical inspection of the schools every year by the PMU of the Ministry preferably during the **1st quarter of Academic Session**.
- c. NGOs/VOs shall apply online on the e-Anudaan-portal of this Ministry i.e., www.grants-msje.gov.in. along with all the required documents viz:
 1. Project specific ID given by DoSJE,
 2. Name and location of the project, and
 3. Name of the NGO/Organisation as per the Template (attached herewith).
 4. Budget Estimates for the financial year for which the grant-in-aid is required; and
 5. Annual Report giving Performance, with statistical data, of the projects during the previous year.
 6. Utilization Certificate of the grant last released, in the format prescribed under GFR- 12A. Audited / Unaudited accounts for the previous year indicating the expenditure incurred on each sanctioned item vis-à-vis the grant sanctioned. The UC submitted as per (b) above, should clearly indicate three items in the heading.

- d. As per provisions of rule 230(8) of GFR, 2017, all interest or other earnings against Grants-in-aid or advances released to any grantee institution should be mandatorily remitted to the Consolidated Fund of India immediately after finalization of accounts.
- e. Applications from NGOs /VOs in the prescribed proforma shall be submitted /forwarded / recommended by the State Government / Administration of the Union Territory on the e- Anudaan portal of this Ministry (<http://www.grants-msje.gov.in>). In case the State/UT recommendation is not received before 30th June, such cases shall be considered on the basis of the physical inspection by the PMU for the purpose of release of grant.
- f. The grants would be released in three installment for each year after receipts of complete proposal and PMU inspection report.
- g. Use of EAT module of the PFMS is mandatory for all the organisations.
- h. The implementing Agency shall, before it receives assistance from Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, execute a bond in the prescribed proforma. The transfer of funds would be done only after acceptance of the Bond by the competent authority in the Ministry. However, in respect of on-going projects, the application for release of funds should accompany with the bond executed on the above lines.

6. EXPENDITURE AND ACCOUNTS (for Mode 2 only)

- i. If actual expenditure on the items for which assistance was sanctioned falls below the level at which the grant was determined, the organization shall be liable to refund unutilized portion of the grant to the Government of India or the unutilized portion of grant shall be adjusted against the grant admissible for the subsequent financial year.
- ii. An aided organization must exercise reasonable economy in the expenditure on the approved items.
- iii. An aided organization shall maintain separate accounts of the grants received under this scheme. These shall always be open to check by an officer deputed by the Government of India or State Government. These shall also be open to check by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at their discretion.
- iv. An aided organization shall maintain Register of Assets in the proforma prescribed under GFR wherein all assets of permanent value and machinery and equipment having a life of not less than 5 years and costing Rs.10,000 and above (each item) should be entered.
- v. After the closure of the financial year an aided organization will submit audited statement of accounts with utilization certificate for all expenditure incurred.
- vi. An aided organization will also submit to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment a statement in the proforma prescribed under GFR, 2017 showing the equipment /machinery/ furniture purchased, with its price, out of the grant-in-aid received.

7. MONITORING

- a. All institutions which are receiving grants-in-aid under the Scheme shall proactively disclose the performance on their website and also on the e-Anudaan/online portal. This portal shall allow updating of the information on all the given performance criteria at regular intervals.
- b. A real time Data Management Information System (MIS) for collection and dissemination of progress of the scheme will be put in place for better reporting on output outcome indicators. The MIS of the scheme will be linked through API to 'Output Outcome Monitoring Framework' (OOMF) Dashboard.
- c. In every institution there shall install closed circuit cameras from where live feed shall be available. The right to view this can be restricted in specific cases.
- d. All the organisations which are sanctioned grants-in-aid are expected to give correct figures about their performance. The institutions are liable for a field visit by an inspection team constituted for this purpose. Based on the inspection report, a decision could be taken for continuation or otherwise of grants at any time.

8. OTHER CONDITIONS

- a. If an organization has already received or is expected to receive grant-in-aid from some other Governmental sources for the same purpose, an assessment of Central grant-in-aid will normally be made after taking into account of grant-in-aid from other such official sources.
- b. No capitation or other similar fees or donation in any form shall be charged from any beneficiary. In case any fee is charged from the beneficiary, it must be shown in the statement of accounts to be furnished to the Ministry/prescribed agency so that the amount so raised could be deducted from the admissible amount of grant-in-aid.
- c. Financial norms for the projects wherever not specified under the Scheme would be decided by the Ministry on case-to-case basis.
- d. Financial norms for releasing the grants to the charitable companies licensed under Section 25 of the Company's Act 1958 under the administrative control of the Ministry would be decided on case-to-case basis.

9. PENAL PROVISIONS

- i. If it is found at a later stage that the organization had withheld or suppressed information regarding the grant-in-aid from other Government official sources or otherwise had given factually incorrect information, the grant-in-aid of the Government of India may either be cancelled or reduced and the organization may be asked to refund the grant already given with interest rate of 12% thereon and as per the Government guidelines issued from time to time in this regard.
- ii Any organisation found to have given false information or indulged in unethical practices would be blacklisted and such blacklisting will also be communicated to NITI Aayog for removing the name of such organization from NGO Darpan portal.

Annexure-1

Details of the Bridge Course under Mode-1

The Bridge Course will address the weak point(s) of the student and enhance his/her knowledge and personality to make him a model student. Broadly the course may be asunder:

a. For class9:-

Wrap-up of the courses of class 8 in a nut-shell, English-Speaking, Recitation, Book Reading, Basic Grammar, Essaywriting, Comprehension. Précis, Short Speeches/ Debates.
Mother tongue-same as English.
Third Language/Sanskrit (if any)- Speaking, Recitation, Book Reading, Basic Grammar.
Science-Basic Physics, Basic Chemistry, Basic Biology. Mathematics-Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Mensuration, Basic Trigonometry.
General Studies- History, Geography, Civics, Basic Constitution and political system, Basic Economics, Computer-Basic computer science ,Basic skills like Word, Excel ,PowerPoint, Internet.
Personality Development-Hygiene and cleanliness, Dress sense, Civic sense, Manners and etiquettes, Conversations, Problem solving, Team Building, Development of leadership attitude, Development of positive attitude.
General Knowledge-Basic General Knowledge, Current Affairs, World Affairs.

b. For class 11: -

Common for all streams:

Wrap-up of the courses of class 10 in a nut-shell,
English-Speaking, Recitation, Book Reading, Basic Grammar, Essay writing, Comprehension. Précis, Short Speeches, Debates. Language Course (if any)-same as English.
Personality Development-Hygiene and cleanliness, Dress sense, Civic sense, Manners and etiquettes, Conversations, Problem solving, Team Building, Development of leadership attitude, Development of positive attitude.
General Knowledge-Basic General Knowledge, Current Affairs, World Affairs.

Science Stream:

Physics- Theory and problems of Force and motion, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Sound, Basics of Space Science.

Chemistry-Theory and problems of Symbol, valency and formula, Chemical combination, Acids, base and salt, Various Gases, Metals and metallurgy, Radioactivity, Industrial chemistry, Organic chemistry.

Mathematics- Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, 3 dimensional geometry.

Computer Science- Languages, Programs, Networking, computer skills like Words, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet.

Zoology- Division of animal kingdom, Cells and tissues, Anatomy and functioning of various body systems with examples of frog, rabbit, birds, reptiles, cockroach and earthworm, Parasites and diseases caused by them, Evolution, Environmental preservation.

Botany- Division of plant kingdom, Cells and tissues, Photosynthesis, Carbon cycle, Nitrogen cycle, Respiration in plants, Amoeba, Bacteria, Virus, Algae, Fungi, Gymnosperm, Angiosperm, Monocots, Dicots, Ecosystem, Importance of Ecological balance.

Art stream:

History- Ancient India, Medieval India, Modern India, World history, European History, Industrial revolution, Colonialisation, Freedom struggle in various countries. Economics- Economic theory, Money Banking, Public Finance, World Economics. Political Science- Basic Political thoughts, Indian constitution, Public administration, Basic idea about constitution of other countries like UK, USA, China, UN and other world organisations.

Logic- Inductive logic, Deductive logic, Basic philosophical thoughts.

Commerce stream:

Accounting, Salesmanship, Business communications, Marketing, Business management, Costing, World Trade etc.

Annexure 2

Details of Non-recurring grants, admissible under the Scheme after every five years.

S.N O.	Project Name	Non- recurring Grant	Remarks
1	Secondary Residential School (100 students)	Rs.3,85,000/- for fixed items plus Rs. 900/-per students	Fixed items such as cooking vessels and utensils, furniture for students, bedding material, lab equipment, installation of CCTVs and website etc.
2	Secondary Non-residential School (100 students)	Rs.3,07,500/- Fixed	Fixed items such as cooking vessels and utensils, furniture for students, lab equipment, installation of CCTVs and website etc.
3	Secondary Hostel (100 students)	Rs.2,30,000/- for fixed items plus Rs. 900/-per students	Fixed items such as cooking vessels, utensils, furniture for students, bedding material, installation of CCTVs and website etc.
4	Primary Residential School (100 students)	Rs.2,72,500/- for fixed items plus Rs. 900/-per students	Fixed items such as cooking vessels and utensils, furniture for students, bedding material, installation of CCTVs and website etc.
5	Primary Non-residential School (100 students)	Rs.1,95,000/- Fixed	Fixed items such as cooking vessels and utensils, furniture for students, bedding material, lab equipment, installation of CCTVs and website etc.
6	Hostel for destitute Children (100 students)	Rs.2,30,000/- for fixed items plus Rs. 900/-per students	Fixed items such as cooking vessels and utensils, furniture for students, bedding material, installation of CCTVs and website etc.