

Scheme Guidelines
of
Scheme of Top Class Scholarship for SC Students
Applicable from 2023-24

1 Objectives and Coverages

- a. The Scheme aims at recognizing and promoting quality education amongst students belonging to SCs, by providing financial support. The Scheme will cover SC students for pursuing studies beyond 12th class.
- b. The Scheme will operate in all the institutions notified by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for FY 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- c. The scholarship, once awarded, will continue till the completion of the course, subject to satisfactory performance of the student.

2 Eligibility

- a. Those SC students having total annual family income from all sources up to Rs. 8.00 lakh and having secured admission in a full-time prescribed course in any of the notified institutions according to the general selection criteria prescribed by the concerned institution, will be eligible for scholarship under the Scheme to the extent of the number of scholarships (slots) allocated to the institution for the course. Income declaration of self-employed parents/guardian should be in the form of a certificate issued by revenue officer not below the rank of Tehsildar. Employed parents/guardians are required to obtain income certificate from their employer. Employed parents/guardians should obtain consolidated certificate from revenue officer for any other additional source of income.
- b. In case the number of eligible students admitted exceeds the number of slots allotted to the institution, the scholarship will be restricted to the top students in the inter-se merit list based on the admission criteria for the course as mentioned in Annexure-II. However, if there is more than one student with equal marks for the last available slot in an institution, preference should be given to the student with the lower family income. The remaining students from SC category admitted in the institution shall be eligible for the Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS) administered by this Ministry through State Governments/UT Administrations, provided such students are otherwise eligible under the said scheme.
- c. Fresh scholarship will be awarded only to 1st year students. Students of 2nd/3rd/4th year will not be eligible for selection for fresh scholarship.
- d. Thirty percent (30%) of slots allotted to the Institution shall be reserved for eligible SC girl students as per their inter-se merit. In the absence of sufficient number of girl students, the slots may be transferred to eligible boy students as per their inter-se merit.
- e. However, the 30% slots as mentioned above will not include those girl students who are selected on the basis of their performance in the overall merit list of SC students of the Institution.

- f. The benefit of the Scheme will not be provided to more than 2 siblings in a family. The students will submit an affidavit in the Institution to certify that he/she is not the third sibling of the family who is availing benefit under the Scheme.
- g. The scholarship will be terminated if the student fails to get promoted to the next semester/class. However, once such student gets promoted to the next class, the scholarship shall be released suo moto.
- h. In case a student changes his/her institute/college after getting selected under the scheme, his/her scholarship will be discontinued and he/she will not be eligible for further scholarship under this scheme.

3 'Top Class' Institutions and Number of Scholarship Slots

- a. All the IIMs / IITs/ IIITs / AIIMs/ NITs/NIFTs/ NIDs/ IHMs/NLUs and other Central Government Institutions will be eligible to be included in the Scheme, subject to their applying for being included in the Scheme and recommendation by the Selection Committee under the scheme, or if the Selection Committee itself recommends the name of the institute for inclusion in the list of empanelled institutes of the scheme. If an institution is not in any of the above categories, it has to be included in the current list of i). National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) A++ and A+ Accredited Institutions or ii) Top 100 National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Institutions or iii) Institutions of National Importance as per lists issued by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) from time to time.
- b. Commercial Pilot Training Courses and Type Rating Courses will not be part of the scheme from the year 2023-24. However any SC student willing to take CPL/Type Rating courses may apply for Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS) administered by this ministry, provided such student are otherwise eligible under the said scheme.
- c. The overall number of scholarships would be capped at 21,500 for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 (4100 for 2021-22, 4200 for 2022-23, 4300 for 2023-24, 4400 for 2024-25 and 4500 for 2025-26). These available slots shall be distributed among types of institutions as per **Annexure-1** of the Scheme based on decision of selection committee for fresh and renewal candidates. The tentative number of fresh slots are indicated in the following table which can be increased with the approval of the selection committee in the event of increasing demands for fresh slots by the existing or prospective empanelled institutes and availability of funds:

Sl.No.	Financial Year	No. of Scholarships for Fresh Candidates
1.	2021-22	1500
2.	2022-23	1600
3.	2023-24	1700
4.	2024-25	1800
5.	2025-26	1900

- d. The list of the 'Top Class' Institutions to be covered under the Scheme along with number of scholarship slots will be notified by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment as per **Annexure-2**. Any addition or deletion to the list shall be notified by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, as and when required, based on the recommendations of the Steering Committee set up under the Scheme.

e. Any institution not applying under the Scheme continuously for 3 years shall be removed from the list of notified institutions under the Scheme. Further, institutes without AISHE code or KYC with NSP shall be removed from the list of notified institutes under the scheme and their slots shall be re-distributed among other deserving notified institutes under the scheme.

4 Funding Pattern & Mode of Payment

- a. The SC students, who secure admission in the notified institutions, will be awarded scholarship to meet the requirements for (i) full tuition fee and non-refundable charges (there will be a ceiling of Rs. 2.00 lakh per annum per student for private sector institutions (ii) Academic allowance of Rs. 86,000 in the first year of study and Rs. 41,000 in every subsequent year, to take care of living expenses, books and stationery, computer/laptop of reputed brand with accessories like UPS and printer, etc.
- b. The Scheme will be funded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- c. The scholarship will become payable immediately after securing admission by the student and starting the classes.
- d. The payment of tuition fee, other non-refundable charges and academic allowance will be made directly to the students by the Central Government through Direct Benefit Transfer mode. The students shall deposit the fee to the institute immediately and in any case, within a month of receipt of such payment.

5 Responsibilities of the institutions

- a. With a view to ensure access of the provisions of this Scheme to all the students, the institutions will incorporate the salient features of the scheme in their prospectus, in addition to putting the same on the website of the institution. The institutes will also give wider publicity about the scheme among their students to facilitate optimal utilization of slots allotted to the institutes.
- c. In the case of fresh entrants i.e. to the first year of the course, the institution will select eligible SC students on the basis of merit as per the entrance examination merit list ensuring at least reservation of 30% of the slots to girl students. The entrance exam for each course for applying scholarship will be as per the list given at **Annexure-3**. The students are required to apply under the Scheme on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) and upload their income certificate and caste certificate on the Portal along with details of their bank account, Admission Rank and Fee details to claim the scholarship. The institution shall verify all the details before forwarding the applications to the Ministry. The institute will follow the limit of the slots assigned to it. The decision of the institute about eligibility of student on account of caste, annual family income including the student, educational qualification and rank shall be held as final by the Ministry as institute is in the best position to take a call on such issues and therefore no further scrutiny of these documents shall be undertaken by the Ministry. However, if subsequently, at any point of time it is noticed that student was ineligible on these accounts, the institute shall be responsible and accountable for any loss to the govt and may be asked to refund the same. The income certificate shall be verified both by the institute and the Ministry. The last date of verification of applications of the students by the

institutions on NSP shall be 31st of October every year or the date decided by DBT Mission in consultation with stakeholder Ministries

- d. In the case of application for renewal of scholarships by students joining second or subsequent years of the course, verification of an application by the institution would mean that the institution has promoted the student to the next class and the student has taken admission therein.
- e. A lump sum payment of Rs.86000 and Rs.41000 shall be paid to the students beneficiary of first year and subsequent years respectively without insisting on production of voucher or undertaking, etc. from the students.
- f. The performance of the SC students covered under the Scheme shall be monitored regularly by the Head of the respective institution and the same shall be reported to the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at the end of each academic year. This report shall include the details of educational performance including the actions taken by the institute in hand holding the academically weaker students through arranging special classes, bridge courses, peer group formations etc. and the outcome of such actions in the shape of improved academic performance of such students so that they could integrate themselves with other students socially and academically.
- g. Any institution violating the provisions of the Scheme or instructions issued by the Government of India will be liable to be denotified.
- h. In the event of denotification/deletion of any institution for list of empanelled institute, the scholarship continue to be available to the SC students already admitted under the Scheme, if otherwise eligible, till the completion of the course, subject to provisions in para7, of this scheme. However, no fresh slots will be allotted and funds will be released to such denotified institutions.

6 Transitory Provision for Existing Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of Scholarship under the pre-revised Top Class Scholarship Scheme for SC students will continue to be assisted till completion of the course for which he/she is availing scholarship.

7. Review and monitoring

The progress of implementation of the Scheme will be reviewed by a Steering Committee consisting of the following–

Secretary (SJ&E)	Chairperson
Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser (SJ&E)	Member
Joint Secretary, SC Division, M/o SJ&E	Member
Joint Secretary (TA), M/o Tribal Affairs	Member
Joint Secretary, Deptt. Of Higher Education	Member
Joint Secretary, Deptt. Of Medical Education, M/oH&FW	Member
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation	Member
Joint Secretary, Deptt. For EPWD, M/oSJE	Member
A representative of the UGC	Member
A representative of the NITI Aayog	Member
Director/Dy. Secretary, SCD Division, M/oSJE	Convener

- ii. The Committee may co-opt an expert as a special invitee, as and when it deems necessary.
- iii. The Committee may recommend to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment about addition or deletion of any institution based on their performance. For the purpose, the Committee may take into account the recommendations of the concerned bodies conducting the entrance examinations for admissions into such courses or having the administrative control over such institutions.
- iv. The Committee would equitably distribute the slots under the Scheme amongst the notified institutions.
- v. The Committee may periodically review the performance of the selected institutions on the basis of the academic results and also recommend appropriate modifications in the Scheme, as and when considered necessary.

8. Administrative Expenses

A provision not exceeding 1% of the funds available under the scheme be allocated as administrative expenses and shall be used for publicity and awareness generation, development of IT infrastructure, setting up of Technical Support group cum project monitoring Unit at Central level, creation of database and social audits for SHREYAS scheme which includes, Top Class Education for SC, Free Coaching for SC and OBC, National Oversees for SC (etc.) candidates and National Fellowship for SC. The fund will also be used for any other activities which will be necessary to run the scheme efficiently.

9. Restriction from benefit of other scholarship scheme

The selected candidate shall be precluded from availing any other scholarship benefits of similar scheme of the Centre or State Governments.

10. Modification/Relaxation to any clause of the scheme of SHREYAS

Under special circumstances, Modification/Relaxation in the guidelines of the Scheme of Top Class Education for SCs, except the financial norms may be considered and decided by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. Financial parameters may be changed in consultation with the Department of Expenditure.
