

# Sabooj Sathi

## Details (Sabooj Sathi)

The Sabooj Sathi Scheme is a student welfare initiative launched by the government of West Bengal, India, to provide bicycles to students in the state. The scheme aims to promote education and empower students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, by providing them with a means of transportation to and from school. ■ Under the scheme, bicycles are distributed free of cost to students studying in government and government-aided schools from classes IX to XII. The scheme is implemented by the Department of School Education, West Bengal, in collaboration with the Department of Panchayats and Rural Development. ■ Hon'ble Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech of 2015-2016, announced a scheme for the distribution of bicycles to an estimated 40 lakh students studying in classes IX to XII in Government, Government Aided Schools, and Madrasahs of the State. ■ By now, this scheme is well-known as "Sabooj Sathi" as coined by Hon'ble Chief Minister herself and it reflects her desire to see young students empowered to achieve new feats in the future through the bicycles provided under the scheme.

## Objectives (Sabooj Sathi)

- The scheme aims to promote education and empower students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, by providing them with a means of transportation to and from school. ■ The scheme has been successful in achieving its objectives, with over 80 lakh bicycles distributed to students across the state since its inception in 2015. ■ The scheme was conceived with the primary objective of enhancing student access to Secondary Education. The objectives are aligned with four Sustainable Goals of agenda 2030. ■ The scheme has several objectives, including: ■ Enhancing the attendance and retention of students in schools, especially among girls, who often face transportation related challenges.

## Important Features (Sabooj Sathi)

- Supporting the government's efforts towards sustainable development by reducing the carbon footprint through the use of bicycles as a means of transportation.

## Benefits (Sabooj Sathi)

- Here are some of the benefits of the SABOOJ SATHI Scheme: ■ Encourages Education: SABOOJ SATHI Scheme encourages education by providing bicycles to students, which helps them in attending school regularly. ■ Health Benefits: Cycling is a form of exercise, and the scheme encourages students to adopt a healthy lifestyle and remain physically fit. ■ Saves Time and Money: The scheme saves the time and money of the students who have to otherwise walk long distances to reach school. ■ Environmental Benefits: Encouraging cycling as a mode of transportation reduces the carbon footprint, making it an eco friendly initiative. ■ Empowerment: SABOOJ SATHI Scheme promotes the empowerment of girl students by providing them with bicycles, making it easier for them to travel to school. ■ Enhanced Mobility: The scheme provides enhanced mobility to students who live in remote areas, which makes it easier for them to attend school. ■ Reduces Dropout Rates: By providing bicycles to students, the scheme reduces dropout rates, as it becomes easier for students to attend school regularly. ■ Overall, the SABOOJ SATHI Scheme has several benefits and has been successful in encouraging education, improving health, promoting empowerment, and reducing dropout rates. ■

## Eligibility (Sabooj Sathi)

- The SABOOJ SATHI Scheme is a government initiative launched by the West Bengal government to provide bicycles to students studying in government run and government aided schools from class IX to XII. ■ The eligibility criteria for the SABOOJ SATHI Scheme are as follows: ■ Age Limit: The student must be between 13 to 18 years of age. ■ Schooling: The student must be studying in a government run or government

- aided school in West Bengal. Residency: The student must be a permanent resident of West Bengal. Family Income: The family income of the student should not exceed Rs. 2 lakh per annum. Distance: The student should live at least 2 km away from their school. Attendance: The student must have at least 60% attendance in the last academic year. Ownership: The student should not already own a bicycle. Class: The student must be studying in class IX to XII. ■ It is important to note that the eligibility criteria may vary depending on the specific guidelines of the scheme in each state or region. Additionally, the application process and required documents may differ depending on the government's instructions.

## **Application Process (Sabooj Sathi)**

- The application process for the SABOOJ SATHI Scheme varies depending on the specific guidelines of the scheme in each state or region.
- However, the general process is as follows: ■ Visit the official website of the SABOOJ SATHI Scheme or the Education Department of your state.
- Download the application form or collect it from the school or the concerned authorities.
- Fill out the application form with the required details, including the student's personal information, family income, distance from school, and attendance record.
- Attach the required documents, such as a copy of the student's Aadhar card, a family income certificate, and a school attendance certificate.
- Submit the application form and the required documents to the school or the designated authorities.
- Once the application is approved, the bicycle will be distributed to the eligible student through the school or the designated authorities.
- ■ It is important to note that the application process and required documents may differ depending on the specific guidelines of the scheme in each state or region.
- Therefore, it is advisable to check the official website or contact the concerned authorities to get detailed information about the application process.
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