



Samajik Nyay Patrika

A handbook to avail benefits of
schemes by the BJP Government
for SC & ST communities

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Message from BJYM National President

In the past seven decades, much has been said but little done for the welfare of SC and ST communities. Since 2014, however, the politics and aspirations of Dalit and Tribal issues have undergone a paradigm shift. Today, the focus is not mere tokenism and symbolism of the past, but on real and tangible empowerment of every single Indian who comes from the SC and ST communities. From ramping up educational opportunities to creating avenues for budding entrepreneurs, the Government of India under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi has walked the talk in the last seven years.

Under the Modi government, great efforts have been made to bring an increased number of scholarships as well as quality infrastructure to students of SC & ST communities at various stages of their education. This is reflected in not only the increased budgetary allocations, which are far higher than previous governments, but also in the deeply thoughtful nature of the interventions. The education and empowerment of girls and women has been a particular area of focus across various schemes introduced by the Modi government.

Furthermore, the Modi government has reposed enormous faith in the problem solving capabilities of our youth. By announcing the historic initiatives of Start Up India and Stand Up India, the Prime Minister has given a clarion call to our youth to contribute towards generating economic opportunities for not just themselves but also those around them. This is a golden age for all those youth, particularly from our SC and ST communities, who want to pursue their aspirations. The Modi government has introduced pathbreaking schemes like the Venture Capital Fund and the Stand Up India to give wings to these aspirations.

These are just some of the examples of how the Modi government is empowering the SC ST communities today. This booklet, being launched on the auspicious day of Ambedkar Jayanti, gives us many more glimpses into the transformative governance of the Modi government, which has consistently prioritised the welfare and empowerment of our SC and ST communities. It elucidates our beloved Prime Minister's 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' vision, which is firmly rooted in the philosophy of Antyodaya. It also contains very important information regarding the procedure of availing the benefits of the various schemes that the Modi government has introduced exclusively for SC and ST communities.

I congratulate the entire Policy, Research and Training team led by Shri Varun Jhaveri Ji for assiduously compiling this booklet and supporting efforts in empowering our SC/ST communities across the country.

Tejasvi Surya

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Contents

1. Stand Up India	1
Schemes for Scheduled Castes:	
2. Scheme of Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTHA)	4
3. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal and Kaushal Sampann Hitgrahi Yojana (PM-Daksh)	7
4. Central Sector Scheme of Free Coaching for SC Students	9
5. National Fellowship For Providing Fellowship To Scheduled Caste Students	13
6. Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojana	17
7. Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes	20
8. Panchteerth	23
Schemes for Scheduled Tribes:	
9. Eklavya Model Residential Schools	25
10. Pre-Matric Scholarship for STs (Class IX and X)	27
11. Post-Matric Scholarship (Class XII Onwards)	29
12. National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students	31
13. National Overseas Scholarship	34
14. Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana	36
15. Scheme for 'Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP'	39
16. Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana	41



Stand Up India

The Stand up India scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the aim of promoting entrepreneurship among women and scheduled castes and tribes. The scheme is anchored by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The Stand-Up India Scheme facilitates bank loans between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 1 crore to at least one Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise. This enterprise may be in manufacturing, services or the trading sector. In case of non-individual enterprises, at least 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either an SC/ST or woman entrepreneur.

Key features

- Composite loan (inclusive of term loan and working capital) between 10 lakh and upto 1 crore to be sanctioned.
- Apart from linking prospective borrowers to banks for loans, the web portal designed by SIDBI for stand up India schemes also provides handholding support through a network of agencies engaged in training, skill development, mentoring, project report preparation, application filling, utility support services, subsidy schemes, etc.
- Composite loan of 75% of the project cost inclusive of term loan and working capital. The stipulation of the loan being expected to cover 75% of the project cost would not apply if the borrower's contribution along with convergence support from any other schemes exceeds 25% of the project cost.
- The rate of interest would be the lowest applicable rate of the bank for that category (rating category) not to exceed (base rate (MCLR) + 3%+ tenor premium).
- Besides primary security, the loan may be secured by collateral security or guarantee of Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Stand-Up India Loans (CGFSIL) as decided by the banks.



- The loan is repayable in 7 years with a maximum moratorium period of 18 months.
- For withdrawal of Working capital upto 10 lakh, the same may be sanctioned by way of overdraft. Rupay debit card to be issued for convenience of the borrower. Working capital limit above 10 lakh to be sanctioned by way of Cash Credit limit.
- The scheme envisages 25% margin money which can be provided in convergence with eligible Central / State schemes. While such schemes can be drawn upon for availing admissible subsidies or for meeting margin money requirements, in all cases, the borrower shall be required to bring in a minimum of 10% of the project cost as own contribution.

Beneficiaries

- SC/ST and/or woman entrepreneurs, above 18 years of age.
- Loans under the scheme are available for only green field projects. Green field signifies, in this context, the first time venture of the beneficiary in the manufacturing or services or trading sector.
- In case of non-individual enterprises, 51% of the shareholding and controlling stake should be held by either SC/ST and/or Women Entrepreneur.
- Borrower should not be in default to any bank/financial institution.

How to avail the scheme?

1. In order to get benefit of this scheme beneficiaries are required to register through the official portal: www.standupmitra.in
2. Through this portal feedback information will be provided
3. This portal can be accessed at home, at common service centre, through Bank branch and through the Lead District Manager (LDM)
4. If any bank branch's internet access is restricted then the branch will guide the potential borrowers to an internet access point
5. This portal will host information about various entities which are providing handholding support to the borrower which includes training, DPR preparation,



margin money support, shed/workplace identification, raw material sourcing, bill discounting, e-Com registration, registration for taxation

6. Through the portal, application forms and all required information can be obtained.



Scheme of Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTHA)

The Modi government has launched the SHRESHTA scheme for residential education of SC students in High School in targeted areas. Through this scheme, being implemented by the Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment, the beneficiaries will be provided scholarships that will cover all the educational expenses of meritorious students from class 9th to 11th.

Key features

- Scholarships under this scheme will cover all the educational expenses of meritorious students from class 9th to 11th.
- Only students belonging to SC communities will be able to take benefit of this scheme.
- The government is going to roll out the scheme from the academic year 2022-23.
- In order to take advantage of this scheme students are required to give an entrance examination which is known as NETS or National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA.
- It is basically a national level test which is conducted by the national testing agency in a computer-based mode.
- All those students who qualify NETS exam will be shortlisted for admission to CBSE affiliated schools.
- Through this scheme scholarship will be directly disbursed to the schools who are giving admission to the shortlisted students.
- This scholarship will cover school fees and hostel fees.
- This scheme is applicable only for the residential schools that are affiliated with CBSE upto class 12th, and are in operation for five years or more with 75% pass percentage or more in class 10th and 12th in the last three years.



Beneficiaries

- The SHRESHTA (NETS) 2022 will be conducted for admissions in classes 9th and 11th only for SC candidates whose parental annual income is upto Rs. 2.5 lacs.
- Only those candidates who have passed or are appearing in Class VIII/X in the given academic session can apply for admission in Class IX/XI.

How to avail the scheme?

Registration process:

- First, go to the official website of SHRESHTA Yojana: <https://shreshta.nta.nic.in/>
- On the homepage, you are required to click on registration for SHRESHTA 2022
- On this new page that appears, you have to click on New Registration
- A new page will appear containing instructions. Read these instructions carefully.
- Now you have to tick on the checkbox
- After that you have to click on 'Click here to Proceed'
- Application form will appear before you. In this application form you have to enter the information regarding your personal and family details, home address, and contact details.
- Following that you have to click on 'Submit'
- Now you are required to login in to the portal
- After that you have to fill application form
- You have to update the following details in the application form:
 - a. Contact details
 - b. Personal details
 - c. Aadhar details
 - d. Exam and Centre details
 - e. Qualification details
- Next you have to upload all the required documents, and click 'Submit'



- By following this procedure, you can apply for the SHRESHTA scheme

Here's a list of documents a beneficiary requires:

- Residence Proof
- Aadhaar Card
- Caste Certificate
- Income certificate
- Bank details of students (Aadhar linked)
- A copy of certificate, Diploma, Degree etc. in respect of all previous examinations passed
- Fee structure
- Fee receipt
- Verification letter (for outside Delhi application)



Pradhan Mantri Kaushal and Kaushal Sampann Hitgrahi Yojana (PM-Daksh)

With the goal of empowering youth from SC communities, the Modi government has launched 'PM-DAKSH' (Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi) portal and 'PM-DAKSH' Mobile App. These initiatives are being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and intend to make the skill development schemes accessible to the target groups: Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis.

Key features

- Eligible target groups are provided with the skill development training programmes on Short Term Training Program, Up-Skilling/Reskilling, Entrepreneurship Development Programme, and Long Term Training Programme.
- These training programmes are being implemented through the government training institutes, sector skill councils that have been constituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and other credible institutions.

Beneficiaries

Candidates of age group 18-45 years belonging to any of the following categories can apply for the training programme under PM-DAKSH :

- Persons belonging to Scheduled Castes
- Other Backward Classes (OBCs) having Annual Family Income below Rs. 3.00 Lakh



- Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) having Annual Family Income below Rs. 1.00 Lakh
- De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribe (DNT)
- Transgender(TG) community
- Safai Karamcharis (including waste pickers) and their dependents.

How to avail the scheme

Registration process:

- The candidate should visit the Official Website link for PM Daksh Scheme Portal for an online training program: <https://nbcfdc.gov.in/pm-daksh/en>
- After that, you reach the home page of the official link. And then go for the Candidate Registration section and in which you find the link for the registration.
- Then click on the New Registration link.
- Although there is a separate option also for institute registration. But if you are a candidate seeking for the training program. then you need to select the option for candidate registration.
- A form also appears on your screen in which you need to fill in all the required details asked in the application.
- Click on the submit button at the end.
- Finally, your registration process has been completed for the training module.
- Soon the department will provide you with information related to your training schedule. And then you can grab this opportunity to enhance your skills. After that, you can find a suitable job as per your profile.
- <https://pmdaksh.dosje.gov.in/student/login>



Central Sector Scheme of Free Coaching for SC and OBC Students

The empowerment of the weaker sections has been a priority area of concern for the Modi government. A number of plans and programmes are being implemented for assisting them so as to enhance their skills and capabilities for ensuring rapid economic development and integration in the national mainstream. This scheme provides free coaching to students belonging to Scheduled Castes. This scheme was strengthened by the government led by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a view to ensure effective implementation and monitoring and to assist the students in a better manner.

Key features

- 60% of total available slots shall be allotted to the courses for which qualifying exam is graduation (Bachelor's level). 40% of total slots shall be for the courses for which qualifying exam is Class 12
- The ratio of SC and OBC students to be coached under the Scheme will be 70:30.
- Fees
 - In case of students studying in institutes empanelled under the Scheme (Mode-1), the fee as mutually decided between the Ministry and the institute shall be paid to the institute, subject to the limits for fees and duration of the course laid down in Annexure Free Coaching Scheme for SC & OBC Students 4 – 1 of this Scheme. For students selected directly by the Ministry (Mode 2), the actual course fee of the institute in which the students is applying, which the institute charges course from general students, or the prescribed course fee by the Ministry as per Annexure-1 of the Scheme, whichever is less, subject to the limits for fees and duration of the course laid down in the Annexure-1. If the course fee is more than this specified amount, the candidate has to arrange for the remaining funds from his/her own sources.
- Stipend



- Monthly stipend of Rs. 3000/- per student will be paid for local students for attending the coaching class. Similarly, Rs.6000/- per student will be paid per month for outstation students. The stipend will be paid till the duration of the course or for one year, whichever is less. The stipend to each student shall be paid directly by the Ministry through DBT.
- Special Allowance
 - Students with disabilities would also be eligible for Special Allowance of Rs. 2000/- per month towards reader allowance, escort allowance, helper allowance etc. having valid disability certificate (equal to or more than 40% disability). This will be in addition to the stipend mentioned in para 8 ii) above.

Beneficiaries

- Students belonging to SC communities
- OBC category students having total family income from all sources of Rs. 8.00 lakh or less per annum
- However, SC/OBC candidates belonging to a minority community shall not be eligible under this scheme and can apply under the similar scheme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs
- The students must have secured the minimum marks in the qualifying examination of the competitive exam for which coaching is sought, as prescribed in the guidelines of the said competitive exam. However, if the student has still not appeared for the said qualifying examination, or if the student has appeared and the result has not been declared, the marks obtained in the Board/Degree exam just prior to the qualifying exam shall be taken into account. If the number of eligible applications received is more than the given slots, the selection will be done in the decreasing order of the marks obtained in the qualifying exams.
- For the competitive exams for which the qualifying exam is class 12th, benefits under the scheme will be available to a candidate only if the candidate has passed class 12th or is studying in class 12th as on the date of receiving the



benefit under the Free Coaching Scheme for SC & OBC Students scheme. Further, in case of competitive exams for which the qualifying exam is at bachelor level, only students/candidates having completed the bachelor level course or studying in the final year of the bachelor degree course at the time of receiving the benefits under the scheme shall be eligible.

- For such examinations which are conducted in two parts, Preliminary and Mains, priority in the selection will be given to those students who have at least once qualified the preliminary examination.
- Benefits under the scheme can be availed by a particular student not more than twice, irrespective of the number of chances he/she may be entitled to take in a particular competitive examination. The student will be required to submit an affidavit that he/she has not taken benefit more than twice under the Scheme.
- The candidate shall be precluded from availing any other scholarship benefits of similar scheme of the Centre or State governments. The candidate will be required to upload an affidavit indicating that he/she is not availing scholarship from any other similar scheme of the Centre/State. A list of beneficiaries availing the scheme will also be uploaded on the website of the Ministry and shall be shared with States/UTs to avoid possibility of simultaneous availing benefits of similar scheme by the candidate
- Where the competitive examination is conducted in two stages viz. Preliminary and Mains, the candidates will be entitled for free coaching for both the examinations. They will be entitled for free coaching upto two times each for Preliminary and Main examinations as per their convenience. However, there will be no restriction in the number of chances for coaching for Interview, if the candidate is selected for interview.

How to avail the scheme?

- The grant-in-aid will be in two parts – Fee and Stipend. The Fee component will be paid to the Coaching Institutes directly and stipend will be paid through DBT into the accounts of the students directly.



- Immediately after the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the institute, the institute will be provided with a unique code through which it will register on e-Anudaan Portal: grants-sje@nic.in/ngo-login along with the details of the student including his/her Name, Aadhar number, address, account details, caste certificate, income certificate, details of educational qualification w.r.t. the competitive exam, prescribed affidavits from students etc.
- Grant-in-aid will be released to the institutes concerned in two installments every year as detailed in Para 9 (d) of this scheme. The first installment of fees will be released to the institutes immediately after their proposal is received on the e-Anudan portal and the details are verified at Ministry level. The first installment of stipend shall also be released simultaneously to the students directly by the Ministry through the DBT mode.
- After the completion of the coaching , the institute will submit Utilisation Certificate (if due), details of expenditure made, complete audited accounts of the institute certified by a Chartered Accountant in respect of previous year's funds, performance of previous years students (if applicable) and attendance details of the students during the coaching. After verifying all the details, the second installment of the coaching fee will be released to the institutes in reimbursement mode. The balance stipend will be paid to the students, as per their attendance, directly into their accounts through DBT.
- The release of a second instalment of funds will depend upon the satisfactory performance of the institute during the previous year as per the criteria fixed in the Annexure 2 of the Scheme.
- The grant-in-aid for the 2nd and 3rd year would be released to empanelled institutes only after receipt of due Utilization Certificate, list of students coached with the previous year's grant, audited accounts in respect of previous year's funds and performance of students coached during previous year.



National Fellowship For Providing Fellowship To Scheduled Caste Students

The objective of the scheme is to provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students belonging to SC category to pursue higher studies leading to M.Phil/Ph.D in Science, Humanities, Social Science and Engineering and Technology, in Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges recognized by University Grants Commission (UGC).

Key features

- The scheme provides for new 2000 Fellowships (1500 Junior Research Fellows for Humanities/ Social Sciences and 500 Junior Research Fellows for Science stream) per year to such Scheduled Caste students to undertake advanced studies and research leading to M.Phil/ Ph.D Degrees, who have qualified National Eligibility Test- Junior Research Fellowship (NET-JRF) of UGC (for Humanities/ Social Sciences) or UGC-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (UGC-CSIR) NET–JRF joint test (for Science stream including Engineering & Technology).
- The rates of fellowship for Junior Research Fellow (JRF) and Senior Research Fellow (SRF) will be at par with the UGC fellowships. The rates with effect from 01-12-2019 are as under:

Fellowships in all streams	@ Rs. 31,000 per month for initial two years (JRF) @ Rs. 35,000 per month for remaining tenure (SRF)
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Contingency for Humanities & Social Sciences	@ Rs. 10,000 per month for initial two years (JRF) @Rs. 20,500 per month for remaining tenure (SRF)
Contingency for Sciences	@ Rs. 12,000 per annum for initial two years @Rs. 25,000 per annum for remaining tenure
Escort/Reader assistance (All subjects) for physically and visually handicapped candidates	@ Rs. 2000 per month @Rs. 2000 per month

Beneficiaries

- Scheduled Caste candidates who have qualified National Eligibility Test- Junior Research Fellowship (NET-JRF) of UGC or UGC-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (UGC-CSIR) Joint Test should enroll for the course in the eligible Universities/Institutions/Colleges within Six months from the date of declaration of results by UGC in respect of the above and be registered within 01 year from date of enrolment Fellowship will be provided only after registration for the course.
- After enrolling for M.Phil/Ph.D the students selected under this scheme will apply for National Fellowship for SCs as per guidelines and procedures laid down by UGC for this purpose.
- The students selected under this scheme for the fellowship shall not be entitled to the other benefits under JRF Scheme of UGC, or any other benefits from Central or State government or bodies similar to UGC offering similar benefit.
- After two years, if the progress in the research work of the awardee is found satisfactory, his/her tenure will be extended for a further period of three years



- as Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) as per UGC Fellowship Guidelines issued from time to time in case of students enrolled for Ph.D or M.Phil.+ Ph D.
- With regard to combined courses of M.Phil and Ph.D, Fellowship will be provided initially for 2 years for M.Phil and after upgradation to Ph.D course for another 03 years.
 - The total period of award of JRF and SRF together shall not exceed a period of 60 months (that is fellowship will be payable for 60 months only) /completion of course whichever is earlier and in any case shall not exceed a duration of 6 years including any interruption or gap Period.
 - The fellowship shall be paid from the date of sanction of Fellowship under the Scheme for National Fellowship for providing Scholarship to Scheduled Caste Students.
 - In case a student who has already enrolled for M.Phil/Ph.D in recognized institutes subsequently qualifies in NET JRF/UGC-CSIR joint test he/she will be eligible for Fellowship under this Scheme provided he/she applies for it and is awarded a Fellowship Release of Fellowship will however commence from the date that it is sanctioned.
 - Only students, doing regular and full time M.Phil /Ph.D courses in a University/ Research Institution recognized by UGC shall be eligible for the fellowship. Employees of any University/ College/ Educational Institution/ Central/ State/ UT Government shall be excluded from availing Fellowship, even if they are on Study Leave or Extra Ordinary leave to pursue the M.Phil /Ph.D course.

How to avail the scheme?

- UGC is the nodal agency for implementing the National Fellowship scheme for SC students.
- The selection for the award of fellowship to students will be made on the basis of merit of each UGC-NET-JRF of UGC-CSIR NET-JRF examination.
- While the merit for award of fellowships under NFSC will be drawn up through the NET examination, preference will be given to such students who have



already secured admission. However, in case sufficient such candidates are not available, candidates who have not secured admission will also be selected in the order of merit in the NET examination. A separate merit list will be drawn up for such candidates if required.

- Candidates who have already secured admission are required to join the fellowship within 3 months of issue of JRF award letter under the Scheme. The duration for joining the course will not be extended, the candidature of such candidates, who do not join the fellowship within 3 months, shall be cancelled.
- The qualified candidates, who have not secured admission at the time of application for Fellowship under the Scheme, are required to get admission for regular and full time M.Phil./Ph.D in a recognized research institution at the first available opportunity but no later than three years from the date of award of fellowship.
- Genuineness of the Scheduled Caste Certificate furnished by the awardee shall be verified by the concerned University/Institution before allowing the awardee to avail fellowship under the scheme.
- The decision of the UGC in regard to awarding the Fellowship shall be final and no appeal would lie against any decision by UGC in regard thereof.
- The results shall be published on the UGC website. Award letters can be downloaded from UGC online application portal or as advertised by UGC.



Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojana

To encourage the quality education of students from the SC communities by providing them hostel facilities, the Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatravas Yojana scheme has been strengthened by the Modi government. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, implemented through the State governments, Union Territory administrations, and the Central & State Universities/ Institutions. These implementing bodies are provided qualified central assistance as per provisions of the scheme, for new construction of hostel buildings, for expansion of the existing hostel facilities and for periodic repair and maintenance of the hostels constructed under this Scheme. Such hostel facilities are immensely beneficial to the students hailing from rural and remote areas of the country.

Key features

- The primary objective of this scheme is to accelerate the construction of hostels, especially for SC girls, towards the broader vision of containment and reduction of their dropout rate.
- As a priority, a girls hostel with a capacity of 100 seats is to be established in every block headquarters of low literacy districts that do not have one already.
- Repair and proper maintenance of hostels in a timely manner, with an effective mechanism for monitoring and review.
- The cost norms for construction/ expansion of girls and boys hostels will be as follows:
 - North Eastern Region: Rs.3.50 lakh per inmate
 - Northern Himalayan Regions: Rs.3.25 lakh per inmate
 - Gangetic Plains & Lower: Rs.3.00 lakh per inmate Himalayan Region
- In addition to the permissible central assistance under the Scheme, a one-time grant of Rs.5000/- per student would also be provided for making provisions for, a table, and a chair for each student and common facilities like Television, Computer, Kitchen equipment, etc.
- Central assistance for repair and maintenance of the operational hostels will be provided to implementing bodies once every five years after the



operationalisation of the hostel. Up to Rs.5 lakh can be provided for one hostel of 50 inmates, Rs.10 lakh for 100 inmates, Rs.15 lakh for 150 inmates, and so on.

- For Girls Hostels:
 - 100% Central Assistance is provided to the State governments/ UT administrations and Central & State Universities/ Institutions, as per the cost norms prescribed in the Scheme.
- For Boys Hostels:
 - 50% central assistance is provided to State Governments on a matching share basis
 - 100% central assistance to UT Administrations.
 - 90% central assistance to Central Universities/Institutions. The remaining 10% cost is to be borne by the Central University/ Institution concerned.
 - For State Universities/ Institutions, the central assistance is 45%. The remaining 55% cost is borne by the State University/Institution, and the State government/UT administration concerned in the ratio of 10:45.
 - The capacity per hostel should not usually exceed 100 students. In exceptional cases, hostels with larger capacities (maximum up to 250 students) can be considered. Each hostel room should accommodate at least 2-3 students.

Beneficiaries

- While sanctioning hostels, priority may be given to areas with a concentration of SC population of 15% and more and without adequate hostel facilities for SC students. Preference will be given to integrated hostels (part of established educational institutions) over stand-alone hostels.
- State governments, while selecting schools for the construction of hostels, will prioritise top-performing government schools that do not have any hostel.



- In case of girls, the hostels will be located in areas having low SC female literacy. The girl's hostels will be constructed in close vicinity of the educational institution.
- The focus will be given to construction of hostels for middle and higher secondary levels of education. However, hostels can also be constructed under the scheme for college and university levels of education.
- The construction of boundary walls, two rooms set quarter for hostel wardens, and one room set for Chowkidars/ Lady Guards would be an integral part of the scheme. No fee or charges of any kind will be collected from the SC students for the provision of the hostel facilities including water, electricity and maintenance charges etc.

How to avail the scheme?

1. The proposal for construction/ expansion/ repair & maintenance of hostels by State Universities/ Institutions shall be submitted to the respective State government/ UT administration who, in turn, would forward the same along with their recommendations to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India for release of grants-in-aid as per provisions of the scheme.
2. In the case of NGOs and deemed Universities in the private sector, the admissible grants-in-aid shall be released generally in two equal installments. While the first installment may be released when sanctioning the project, the second and final installment may be released upon receipt of physical and financial reports from the designated authority.
3. Completion of construction work at least up to roof level and full utilisation of the amount of the first installment of the grants in-aid released by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment together with the applicable matching share by the NGOs/deemed Universities concerned.
4. In the case of State governments and Central & State Universities/institutions, the admissible grants-in-aid shall be released after ensuring the physical



release of requisite matching shares by them. The admissible grants-in-aid to the implementing bodies would be released directly.



Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes

With a view to promoting innovation and entrepreneurship among SC youth studying in higher educational institutions, the Modi government launched the Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes' with an initial capital of Rs. 200 crores. This initiative aims to increase financial inclusion for SC entrepreneurs and to enhance direct and indirect employment generation among SC population in India. Venture capital is a form of private equity and a type of financing that investors provide to startup companies and small businesses that are believed to have long-term growth potential. This scheme aims to provide funding to entrepreneurs from SC communities for enabling them to translate their start-up ideas into commercial ventures.

Key features

- To provide concessional finance to the entrepreneurs from SC communities, who will create wealth and value for society and at the same time will promote profitable businesses.
- The scheme will support 1,000 innovative ideas till 2024 in synergy with the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) set up by the Department of Science and Technology. The TBIs will identify youth in various higher educational institutions over the next few years.
- Under this fund, minimum amount Rs.10 lakh and maximum amount Rs.15 crore can be considered. Aggregate assistance shall not be more than two times the current net worth of the Company.
- A special preference will be given to women and Divyang youth among SC communities.



Beneficiaries

- The projects/units being set up in manufacturing, services and allied sectors, including start-ups ensuring asset creation out of the funds deployed in the unit shall be considered under this scheme.
- Companies having at least 60% stake holding by Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs for the past 12 months with management control.
- Documentary proofs of being SC will have to be submitted by the entrepreneurs at the time of submitting the proposals.
- The SC promoters of Investee Company will not dilute their stake below 60% in the company till the exit under the scheme. However, in the event of any conversion of quasi-equity instruments under the scheme, strategic investments, buyouts etc, which result in dilution of stake of SC Entrepreneur, a prior written approval from Asset Management Company (AMC) would be required.
- The companies applying for assistance of more than Rs. 5 Crore, shall preferably get their project appraised by the banks / FIs before approaching for assistance under the scheme. For these applicants, the money released by the Trust/ Fund Manager would be in proportion to the loan tranche released by the bank.

How to avail of the scheme?

- Go to the official website of the scheme: www.vcfsc.in
- Click on 'Apply Online', which will take you to the online application form.
- Fill in details regarding the particulars of the applicant company, shareholding pattern in the past financial year as well as present, proposed project, and enclose the required documents.
- Submit the online application.

Following the online application, the following list of documents are to be physically sent to the IFCI office.



- MOA & AOA of the company
- Scheduled Caste Certificate of the Promoters
- KYC documents such as 3 years' IT returns of the company (incl. promoters PAN card, Address proof, two Passport Photographs etc.)
- CA Certified Shareholding Pattern of the Company
- Chartered Accountant certified Net worth statement of promoters
- Latest Sanction letter of current banker, if any Last 3 years'
- Annual Report of the company Detailed Project Report, if available
- Techno Economical Viability (TEV) study of the project, if available Financial projection for next 6 years
- Postal Address: IFCI Venture Capital Funds Limited (Investment Manager – Venture Capital fund for Scheduled Castes) IFCI Tower, 16th floor, 61 Nehru Place, New Delhi- 110019.



Panchteerth

Prime Minister Narendra Modi believes it is a blessing to the BJP that the party has made very successful efforts in developing pilgrimage sites related to Babasaheb as Panchateerth. He has himself visited several such sites, be it a visit to Ambedkar's birthplace or purchasing the land of Indu Mill in Maharashtra to develop memorials according to international standards or constructing a memorial at 15 Janpath in Delhi at his Mahaparinirvan Sthal.

The Prime Minister has said that thought-leaders and visionaries have shaped the direction of our country, at different points in time. He said the country is indebted to Baba Saheb, for his contributions to nation-building. The Modi government wants more and more people, especially the youth, to learn about his vision and ideas. That is why important places related to Dr. Ambedkar's life have been developed as centres of pilgrimage. Modi said that this 'Panchteerth' is today's generation's way of paying homage to Dr. Ambedkar. He said that the BHIM App for digital transactions is the Union government's homage to the economic vision of Dr. Ambedkar.

Key details

- The Indian government has set up Panchteerth in the memory of Dr. BR Ambedkar. This includes:
 - Ambedkar's **birthplace** in Mhow,
 - The place in London where he stayed while **studying** in the UK
 - **Deeksha Bhoomi** in Nagpur, where he took education
 - **Mahaparinirvan** Sthal in Delhi, and
 - **Chaitya Bhoomi** in Mumbai
- 1. **Memorial in Mhow** - On April 14, 2016, the Prime Minister paid tribute to Dr. Ambedkar at his birthplace Mhow. The Shivraj Singh Chouhan government in Madhya Pradesh has given this monument a new life. The foundation stone for this memorial was laid by the then Chief Minister Sunder Lal Patwa. The Prime Minister gave the clarion call for 'Gram Uday Se



Bharat Uday'. Referring to Babasaheb's thinking and his contribution to the poor, Prime Minister Modi says that there should be a sense of reverence for understanding the principle of Babasaheb.

2. **Memorial at Diksha Sthal** - Following the formation of BJP government in Maharashtra, Diksha Sthal has been accorded the status of an A-class tourist destination. This long-awaited demand was met with PM Modi's initiative of marking the 125th Jayanti of Babasaheb Ambedkar. The rapid development of the land is being done to make the site monuments world-class.
3. **Memorial at Chaitanya Bhoomi** – The task of developing the Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial at Chaitanya Bhoomi in Mumbai is progressing rapidly. There were many obstacles in this, especially the case of 12.5 acres of land being stuck for years from Indu Mill. The process of transferring the land was not complete. When Devendra Fadnavis became Chief Minister in Maharashtra, with the inspiration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he facilitated this process in collaboration with Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani. The Maharashtra government, when it was under BJP, had taken initiative to purchase the land of Indu Mill and make a memorial site here. In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi performed Bhoomi Pujan for the site. The Prime Minister said that the memorial site would not only be built with lime, stone, and bricks but through public participation. PM Modi urged to plant trees, each belonging to 40,000 villages of Maharashtra and one tree from all the states of the country.
4. **Ambedkar Memorial at Alipur Road** - Ambedkar's Mahaparinirvana took place in a Bungalow at 26, Alipur Road, Delhi. Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation of a unique building here. Remembering the social, political, and economic contributions of Babasaheb, PM Modi says that it will be an injustice to limit Babasaheb to a particular class. He recalled former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and said that he had decided for the memorial to come up.
5. **London's House** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Ambedkar Memorial in London on November 14, 2015. Subsequently, the



Maharashtra government under the leadership of then Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis bought the three-story house, where Dr. Ambedkar used to stay. Rs. 800 crores have been spent to convert the building into a museum. Prime Minister Modi stated that the people of this world would be drawn to this place to understand India's economic thinking.



Eklavya Model Residential Schools

With the vision of imparting quality education to students from tribal communities, the Modi government is building hundreds of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The EMRSs will be established in 27 districts of 7 States and 1 UT. The emphasis of EMRSs is not only academic education but also all-round development of students.

Key Features

- Every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons will now have an EMRS.
- Eklavya schools will be on par with Navodaya Vidyalaya and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development.
- Across the country, as per census 2011 figures, there are 564 such sub-districts out of which there is an EMRS in 102 sub-districts. Thus, 462 new schools have to be opened by the year 2022.
- The focus of EMRS is to provide quality middle and high level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas.
- Not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and as jobs in government and public and private sectors but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population.
- Sufficient land would be given by the State government for the school, play grounds, hostels, residential quarters, etc., free of cost.
- The number of seats for boys and girls will be equal.
- In these schools, education will be entirely free.
- Every class can have maximum 60 students preferably in 2 sections of 30 students each and the total sanctioned strength of the school will be 480 students.
- At the Higher Secondary level (class XI & XII), there will be three sections per class for the three streams in Science, Commerce & Humanities.



- The maximum sanctioned strength of each section may be 30 students.

Beneficiaries

- The Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) beneficiaries for ST students take their place among the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs), the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) and the Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs)
- Focus differentially on the educational support to be made available to those in Standards XI and XII, and those in standards VI to X, so that their distinctive needs can be met.

How to Apply for the Scheme

- Visit the official website link: tribal.nic.in/EMRS.aspx
- Now on this home page, click on the Eklavya School Admission Form 2022 option.
- After clicking on the Eklavya School Admission Form 2022 option, you will get an online application form.
- You need to fill in all the required information, regarding your personal and family, educational background, residential and contact details, etc.
- The age of the student must be consistent with the standard he/she is applying for. For instance, for students studying / passed Class-V in the session 2020/2021, age must not be less than 10 years and not more than 12 years as of 01/01/2021.
- The application form can be submitted at the office of the school or can be sent through postal address.
- The following documents must be attached with the application form:
 - Xerox copy of Birth Certificate.
 - Xerox copy of Caste Certificate.
 - Two copies of a recent passport size photo.
- Finally, send the form to the school of the respective state.



Pre-Matric Scholarship for STs (Class IX and X)

The Government of India offers financial support to the pre-matric students of Class 9th and 10th. This scholarship helps ST students in improving the level of education and excel in their careers. This also helps the students from the lower-income family and reduce dropouts at this level. The State government will award this scholarship to the students in which they are domiciled.

Key features

The value of scholarship awarded to the ST students under this scheme are given below:

Scholarship	Day Scholars	Hostellers
Ad-hoc grants and Books	Rs.750	Rs.1000
Scholarship for 10 months	Rs.150	Rs.350

Allowance for Disabled Students:

- Monthly Reader Allowance – Rs.160/-
- Monthly Transport Allowance – Rs.160/-



- Monthly Helper Allowance – Rs.160/-
- Monthly Escort Allowance – Rs.160/-
- Monthly coaching Allowances to retarded students – Rs. 240/-

Beneficiaries

- Candidates must belong to the Scheduled Tribe category
- The candidate's family income should not be more than 2 lakh per annum.
- Candidates must not get any other scholarships from other governments.
- Candidates must be regular and full-time students in a recognized government school or Central/ State Board of Secondary Education

How to avail the scheme

- Candidates can apply online for the pre-matric scholarship from May to June on the official website.
- Candidates should visit the National Scholarship Portal to apply for the pre-matric scholarship: <https://scholarships.gov.in/>
- Make sure to upload the following relevant documents along with the application:
 - Candidates caste certificate
 - Family income certificate and domicile certificate
 - Candidates bank account details
 - Aadhaar number and passport size photo
- Finally, submit the filled application along with the documents to the Head of the Institution.



Post-Matric Scholarship (Class XII Onwards)

This scholarship provides financial help to ST students studying at the post matriculation level to complete their education. This scheme is centrally funded and implemented by the State government. These scholarship awards are fully funded by the Central government. Whereas administered by the State government. Students who fulfill the eligibility criteria can apply for this scholarship. Application for this scholarship is available online on the National Scholarship portal.

Key features

- The scholarship awarded to ST students as per the courses they are enrolled in is given below:

Courses	Scholarship Allowance	
	Day Scholars	Hostellers
Group I Degree and postgraduate courses such as M.Phil., Ph.D. in engineering, technology, medicine, planning, architecture, and so forth. Commercial Pilot License Postgraduate diploma courses in medicine and management CA/ ICWA/ CS/ ICFA etc. MPhil, Ph.D., research programs, LLM	Rs.1200	Rs.500



Group II Graduate and postgraduate courses leading to a diploma, certificate, and degree in LLB, Nursing, BFS, and so forth. Postgraduate courses which are not covered in Group – I	Rs.820	Rs.530
Group III All other courses which are not covered in Group I and II	Rs.570	Rs.300
Group IV- Post-matriculation level non-degree courses like Polytechnic, ITI, and so forth.	Rs.380	Rs. 230

Beneficiaries

- Candidates who belong to the ST category can apply for this scholarship.
- Candidates' family income should not be more than 2 lakh per annum.
- Candidates must be pursuing post matriculation and post-secondary courses in recognized Schools/ Institutes/ Universities.

How to avail the scheme

- Candidates can apply online for an ST scholarship from May to June on the official website.
- Candidates should visit the National Scholarship portal:
<https://scholarships.gov.in/>
- Candidates should upload the following relevant documents along with the application:
 - Attested copies of diploma, degree certificates, and mark sheets
 - Passport size photograph
 - Caste certificate & family income declaration of the candidate.



- Submit the filled application along with the documents to the Head of the Institution.

National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST students

The Modi government wants to encourage students from ST communities to acquire higher education in the form of fellowships to pursue M. Phil and Ph.D. Courses, with a view to create qualified professionals to hold posts of teachers /professionals and other higher stages of employment. This is intended to encourage meritorious ST students to pursue courses at Graduate/Post Graduate level in identified Institutions of excellence, both government and private, in professional fields such as Management, Medicine, Engineering, Information Technology, Law etc.

Key features

Slots for Fellowship:

- The total number of fresh fellowships awarded each year will be 750.
- In case of non-availability of adequate number of Scheduled Tribe candidates, the number of fellowships not available during a year will be carried forward to the next academic session.
- There is no State /University wise ceiling on the number of slots.
- In case the number of candidates exceeds the number of available awards, the MoTA will select the candidates based on a criterion of marks obtained in the last passed examination. Slots will be provided to sub-categories in the following priority:
 - Person with Disability (PWD) - 3% of total slots
 - PVTG - 50 slots
 - BPL - 50 slots
 - Female - 30% of total slots



- In case an adequate number of applications is not received for the above sub-category, then slots will be allotted to eligible ST candidates on the basis of inter-se merit based on last passed examination.

Slots for Scholarship:

- The total number of fresh Scholarships each year is 1000. There is no ceiling in Institution wise and stream wise number of slots for the Top-Class Institution.
- In case the number of candidates exceeds the number of available awards the criteria will be followed as follows
 - Person with Disability (PWD) - 3% of total slots
 - PVTG - 50 slots
 - BPL - 50 slots
 - Female - 30% of total slots
- The remaining left out candidates from ST category admitted in the institute in different courses may apply for the Post-Matric Scholarship (PMS) administered by this Ministry as a Centrally sponsored scheme, provided such students are otherwise eligible for the said scheme.

Beneficiaries

For fellowships:

- The candidate belonging to the ST community should have passed the Post-Graduation examination for being eligible for the Fellowship.
- The candidate should get admission and registration for regular and full time M.Phil/Ph.D Courses in University / Academic Institutions recognized by UGC under Section 2 (f) of the UGC Act / ICAR by fulfilling conditions of admission of that University/Institution.
- The ST students once considered eligible for the Fellowship shall not be entitled for any other scholarship of the Centre or State government for the same study.
- The fellowship shall be payable once the student has secured admission and started the research work.



- In order to qualify for Senior Research Fellowship a candidate will have to fulfill the UGC/ICAR norms prescribed in this regard.

For scholarships:

- ST students who have secured admission in the notified Institutions according to the norms prescribed by the respective Institutions will be eligible for the scholarship under the scheme.
- The total family income of the candidate to be eligible for this scholarship from all sources should not exceed Rs.6.0 lakh per annum.
- The scholarship shall be payable once the student has secured admission and started attending the classes.
- The scholarship awarded, will continue till the completion of the course, subject to satisfactory performance of the student

How to avail the scheme

- The Scheme of Fellowship/ Scholarship will be advertised in the leading newspapers, Employment News.
- After getting registration/admission in the notified Universities/Institutes, Check assessing their eligibility and suitability as per the criteria prescribed for Fellowship,
- Apply online through the National Tribal Fellowship Portal:
<https://fellowship.tribal.gov.in/>
- Payment of the Fellowship/Scholarship amount of the scheme for STs would be made through the system of Direct Benefit Transfer through the Aadhaar Payment Bridge into the Aadhaar seeded bank a/c of the beneficiaries from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The selected candidates should obtain the Aadhaar number on priority basis. Pending Aadhaar seeding of the beneficiary bank a/c, payment would be made into the bank account through NEFT.



National Overseas Scholarship

The Modi government launched a scheme providing financial assistance to selected ST students for pursuing higher studies i.e Master Degree, Ph.D, and Post-Doctoral research programme abroad. There are 20 slots/awards available for National Overseas Scholarship for each year, out of which 6 slots/awards are available exclusively for girls.

Key features

- Through this scheme students belonging to STs, will get financial assistance for their higher education
- Through this scholarship scheme 100 scholarships are offered subject to the availability of funds
- Those students who want to pursue their education in PhD or masters courses abroad can be able to take the benefit of this scheme
- 30% of the awards of scholarship are reserved for women candidates
- Students pursuing bachelor level courses cannot get the benefit of this scheme
- If the student has already acquired a Master's or PhD degree then such student is not eligible to take the benefit of this scheme.
- Duration of Award: The prescribed financial assistance is provided up to completion of the course/research or the following period, whichever is earlier.

Course	Duration
Post-Doctoral Research	1 & 1/2 years (One and a half year)
Ph.D	4 years
Master's Degree	1/2/3 years (One/Two/Three years)



Beneficiaries

- Candidates applying for the National Overseas Scholarship Should fulfill the requirements given below:
- Educational Qualification:
 - For Post-Doctoral: 55% marks or equivalent grade in relevant Master's Degree and Ph.D. Preference would be given to the experienced candidates, especially to those who are in lieu with their existing post and employer.
 - PhD: 55% marks or equivalent grade in relevant Master's Degree. Preference would be given to the experienced candidates, especially to those who are in lieu with their existing post and employer.
 - For Master's Degree: 55% marks or equivalent grade in relevant Bachelor's Degree. Preference would be given to the experienced candidates, especially to those who are in line with their existing post and employer.
- Age: The age of candidate should not be more than 35 years as on 1st July, 2020.
- Income Ceiling: The total family income from all sources should not exceed Rs. 6,00,000/- (excluding such allowances as are not treated as part of total income for the purpose of Income Tax) as certified by the employer.
- Children Criteria: Only one child from the same parent can get the benefit of the Scholarship.

How to apply for the scheme

1. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is generally in December of the academic year.
2. Candidates should visit the Ministry of Tribal Affairs online portal to download the application form: <https://overseas.tribal.gov.in/>
3. Candidates should enter the correct and valid information in the application.



4. Make sure to attach the following relevant documents along with the application form:
 - a. Caste certificate and family income certificate of the candidate
 - b. Domicile certificate of the candidate
 - c. Candidates bank details
 - d. Candidates aadhaar number and passport size photo with signature
5. Submit the filled application along with the relevant documents to apply for this scholarship.



Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that “Van Dhan, Jan Dhan and Govardhan would be the basis for transforming the rural and tribal economy in the future.” This vision of establishing a sustainable livelihood for India’s tribal population informs the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana. The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) spearheads implementation of the Van Dhan programme in 27 States and 307 Districts with availability of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and significant forest dwelling tribal population. Collection and sale of MFPs contribute 40 - 60 % of tribal annual earnings and further “Value Addition” helps in tripling or quadrupling their income. The program addresses the formidable problems that the Tribals face such as possession of land/house with no rights; restrictions in the collection of minor forest produce; exploitation by middlemen; displacement from national parks and wild sanctuaries, lack of development in forest villages etc.

Key Features

- An initiative targeting livelihood generation for tribal gatherers and transforming them into entrepreneurs.
- The idea is to set-up tribal community-owned Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Clusters (VDVKCs) in predominantly forested tribal districts.
- A VDVK Cluster shall consist of 15 tribal SHGs / Van Dhan Kendras, each comprising up to 20 tribal NTFP gatherers or artisans i.e. about 300 beneficiaries per Cluster.
- 100% Central Government Funded with TRIFED providing Rs. 15 lakhs for each 300 member Van Dhan Kendra Cluster.
- Through this mission, TRIFED aims to expand its operation through convergence of various schemes of different ministries and departments and launch various tribal development programmes in mission mode.



- Establishment of several VDVks, haat bazaars, mini TRIFOOD units, common facility centers, TRIFOOD parks, SFRUTI (Scheme of Fund for regeneration of traditional industries) clusters, tribes india retail store, e-commerce platform for trifoood and tribes, India brands will be carried out under this mission.

Beneficiaries

- 17 VDVks currently involve 4256 beneficiaries of 249 SHGs for procurement and value addition of Minor Forest Produces like Broom Grass, Amla tamarind, Gandhaki etc.
- VDVks shall be constituted with 10 tribal Van DhanVikas Self Help Group (SHG).
- Each SHG will comprise of up to 30 MFP gatherers i.e. about 300 beneficiaries per Kendra (subject to variability as per local conditions).
- 50% beneficiaries of the SHG shall be tribal and the SHG shall be led by a tribal member will be beneficiaries.
- Preference to be given to convergence with functional SHGs promoted under Aajeevika Mission with majority tribal members.
- It is a Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Development of Value Chain.

How the avail the scheme

1. Identification and setting up of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras in a district will be the responsibility of the respective District Implementation Unit.
2. A typical Van Dhan Vikas SHG would comprise of
 - a. MFP gatherers of about 30 members (minimum of 20 is a must) with at least 60% tribal members.



- b. One member from one household should be part of the SHG. Efforts should be made to include preferably women members in the SHG
 - c. The group leader of the SHG should be a tribal individual who is identified as a natural leader. The identification of the group leader should be unanimously done by all the members of the SHG. Similarly, a deputy group leader will also be identified who will preferably be a tribal.
3. A group of about 10 SHGs operating in a contiguous geographical area, preferably in the same or near-by villages, will form one Van Dhan Vikas Kendra.
4. The District Implementation Unit will engage a team to identify the potential tribal gatherers for the Van Dhan Vikas SHGs.
5. Preference will be given to adopt the already functional tribal SHGs promoted under Aajeevika and DoNER (in the North Eastern States).
6. In case Aajeevika/DoNER SHGs are not available, a new SHG may be formed as per the criteria given above. In case of a new SHG, the SHG will have a unique name and ID.
7. The District Implementation Unit may consult with handholding organizations/NGOs etc. to identify such SHG members for formation of Van Dhan Vikas SHGs.
8. The Van Dhan Vikas SHG may also open a new bank account for this purpose in case the need is felt by the SHG members. The measures for opening a new bank as per the Aajeevika guidelines can be adopted for the same.
9. For the SHGs, the provision for required building infrastructure shall be established in one of the beneficiary's household or part of house or any available Government/ gram panchayat building. The District Implementation Unit will assist the SHG in identifying such Government/ gram panchayat buildings.
10. The team engaged by District Implementation Unit shall group about 10 such SHGs to form a Van Dhan Vikas Kendra and allot them one Govt. / Gram Panchayat/ Private building. In case 10 SHGs are not available, an appropriate number of SHGs may be decided (but not less than 7 SHGs and



a total of 200 MFP gatherers), provided the Van Dhan operations are viable for the Kendra.

11. Each Van Dhan Vikas Kendra shall have a unique name and ID.
12. Each Van Dhan Vikas Kendra shall form a Managing Committee consisting of one representative (preferably the group leader) from each SHG in the cluster. A Committee leader shall be identified amongst the members unanimously. The managing committee shall have designated individuals for account keeping, procurement, training, value addition and marketing.
13. The Van Dhan Vikas Kendra would open a new bank account for the purpose of Van Dhan operations. The Kendra will follow the same process for opening of the bank account as that for the SHGs.



Scheme for ‘Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFP’

A minimum support price (MSP) for a select list of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is provided through this scheme in order to ensure a social safety net to underprivileged forest dwellers, and to aid in their empowerment. TRIFED, as the apex national organization involved in the improvement of the livelihood and empowerment of these tribal people, is the nodal agency for the implementation of the scheme.

The Van Dhan tribal start-ups, also a component of the same scheme, further complements MSP and has emerged as a source of employment generation for tribal gatherers and forest dwellers and the home-bound tribal artisans.

To ensure that the ground gained is not lost and to strengthen the State level programme implementation and contribute to the empowerment of the tribal population, TRIFED has initiated Phase II of the MSP and MFP scheme and the Van Dhan tribal Start-ups. TRIFED is continuing to work for the complete transformation of the tribal ecosystem across the country.

Key features

- Ensure that the tribal population gets a remunerative price for the produce they collect from the forest and provide alternative employment avenues to them.
- Establish a system to ensure fair monetary returns for forest dweller’s efforts in collection, primary processing, storage, packaging, transportation etc, while ensuring sustainability of the resource base.
- Coverage: Earlier, the scheme was extended only to Scheduled Areas in eight states and fixed MSPs for 12 MFPs. Later expanded to all states and UTs.



- Total number of MFPs covered under the list include 49.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be the nodal ministry for implementation and monitoring of the scheme. The MSP would be determined by the Ministry with technical help of TRIFED.

How to avail the scheme

- Check the list of included products for MFP:
<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1693540>
- Section 2 (i) of the Forest Rights Act defines a Minor Forest Produce (MFP) as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and includes bamboo, brushwood, stumps, canes, cocoon, honey, waxes, Lac, tendu/kendu leaves, medicinal plants etc.
- Some of the most recently included products under this scheme are: Tasar Cocoon, elephant apple dry, bamboo shoot, malkangani seed and wild dry mushroom, among others. On-line e-commerce portals: TRIFED has established its own e-commerce portal.



Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana

“Our tribal communities have shown the way when it comes to living in harmony with nature and conserving our forests. With Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana, we want to ensure that the tribal communities are not deprived of their priorities,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said. The scheme Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (VKY) has been included as a Central Sector Scheme in the Annual Plan of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with an initial allocation of Rs. 100 crore. The VKY is broadly a process, aiming at overall development of tribal people with an outcome-based approach, which would ensure that all the intended benefits goods and services to the tribal people through various programmes/schemes of Central and State Governments covered under the respective Tribal Sub-Plans actually reach them by way of appropriate convergence. Through VKY, it is envisaged to develop the backward blocks in the Schedule V States as model Blocks with visible infrastructural facilities to further the mission development.

Key features

- Qualitative & Sustainable Employment.
- Quality Education & Higher Education.
- Accelerated Economic Development of tribal areas.
- Health for all.
- Housing for all.
- Safe Drinking Water for all at doorsteps.
- Irrigation facilities suited to the terrain.
- All Weather Roads with connectivity to the nearby town/cities.
- Universal Availability of Electricity.



- Urban Development.
- Robust institutional mechanism. (ITDAs/ITDPs)
- Promotion and conservation of Tribal Cultural Heritage
- Promotion of Sports in Tribal Areas



Thank You