

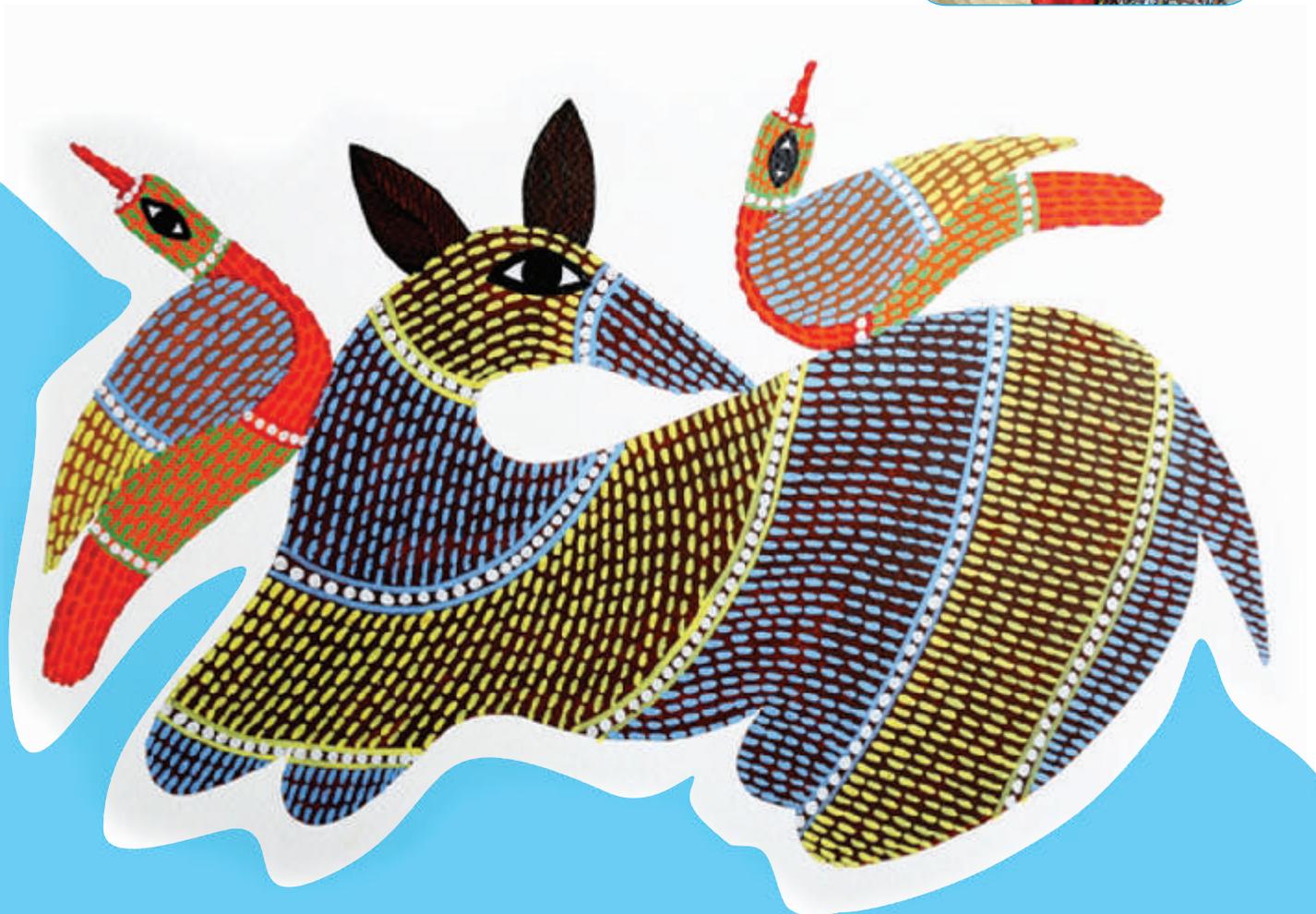


सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Government of India



Empowering Tribals Transforming India

Key Reforms and Initiatives of
Ministry of Tribal Affairs





सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Government of India

Empowering Tribals Transforming India



“

These Eklavya schools will not only serve as medium of education for tribal children but there will also be facilities for sports and skill development along with protection of local arts and culture... I am sure that those who will come out after learning from these schools will play a very big role in building a New India in the near future.

”

“

Brothers and Sisters, when we talk about the history of freedom, struggle of our country, some persons are talked about a lot, some are excessively mentioned but the contribution made by the people living in jungles, the tribals, in the freedom struggle was unmatched. They used to live in jungles. We hear the name of Birsa Munda but perhaps there would be no tribal dominated district where the tribals would not have fought and given sacrifice since 1857 to the time we got freedom. They proved through their sacrifice what is freedom, what is struggle against servitude. But our forthcoming generations are not much aware of this history. The government desires and plans that in the coming days, in the states where these freedom fighters, who were tribals, who lived in jungles, fought against Britishers, who were not ready to succumb. The Government would work towards building permanent museums in various states dedicated to tribal brave freedom fighters, wherever land would be available for the purpose, where their contributions and memoirs would be displayed, so that coming generations could be able to know about their sacrifices for the country.

”

“

Van Dhan, Jan Dhan and Govardhan would be the basis for transforming the rural and tribal economy in the future.

”



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

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Introduction

Scheduled Tribes constitute 8.6% of the total population of India (Census 2011), inhabiting about 15% of the geographical area, in various ecological and Geo-climatic conditions, mainly in forest, hilly and border areas. The Constitution of India provides special protection to the Scheduled Tribes under Schedules V and VI. There are more than 705 Scheduled Tribe groups notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India. There are 75 groups of tribals in 18 States and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands identified and categorised as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in view of their declining or stagnant population, low level of literacy, pre-agricultural level of technology and economic backwardness. The development of tribal population has engaged the attention of the Government since Independence. Beginning with the development of Scheduled Tribes through Community Development Programmes, Special Multipurpose Tribal Development Block to the introduction of Tribal Sub Plan, several initiatives have been taken for the welfare and development of tribal communities.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) was set up in 1999 with the objective of providing a more integrated and focused approach to the socio-economic development of the Scheduled Tribes in a coordinated and planned manner. MoTA is the nodal Ministry for the overall policy, planning and coordination of the programmes for the development of Schedule Tribes. The programmes and schemes of the Ministry are intended to support and supplement, through financial assistance, the efforts of the other Central Ministries/Departments, the State Governments and Voluntary Organisations, and to fill critical gaps considering the needs of Scheduled Tribes.



Problem Statement: Paradox of Poverty amidst Plenty

Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), now known as Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) came into existence in 1974-75 as a strategy for the development of areas with tribal concentration with an objective to channelize the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors at both Central and State levels, for the development of Schedule Tribes at least in proportion to their population. The table below shows funds allocated for Tribal Welfare under State and Central TSP funds during the last 5 years.

TSP Component	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Central Ministries / Departments	16,111	15,628	19,873	25,999	31,803	51,635
State Component*	86,075	1,00,558	1,11,295	1,39,710	1,57,531	1,60,000
Funds under MoTA	3,850	4,550	4,799	5,293	6,000	6,900
Total	1,06,036	1,20,736	1,35,967	1,71,002	1,95,334	2,18,535

* State figures are BE allocation figures. Actual RE and Expenditure figures need updation.

Gaps in Human Development Indices

The efforts made through TSP / STC strategy have brought out improvements in terms of literacy, health, livelihood etc. however, considerable gap in Human Development Indices still persists as highlighted by Census 2011 and National Family Health Survey (IV) as shown below:

S. No	Indicators	% ST	% All
1	Sex Ratio	990	933
2	Infant Mortality	44.4	40.7
3	Under-Five Mortality	57.2	49.7
4	Institutional delivery	68	78.9
5	Full Immunisation (BCG, Measles, 3 does each of DPT and polio vaccine)	55.8	62
6	Children with a low-height-for- age (Stunting)	44.0	38.0
7	Children with a low- weight- for-height (Wasting)	27.0	21.0
8	Children who have low- weight-for-age (Underweight)	45.0	36.0



S. No	Indicators	% ST	% All
9	Anaemia among the children (6-59 months)	63	58
10	Women with BMI <18.5	32	23
11	Literacy Rate	59	73
12	Poverty Rate	45.3	25.7

Infrastructural Gaps

Despite the huge allocation of budget for the welfare of tribals, they lag not only in education, health and socio-economic indicators but there are huge infrastructural gaps evident from Village-wise Gap Analysis conducted by the Ministry for 1,17,000 villages based on the data of key parameters of Mission Antyodaya and Census 2011.

S. No	Infrastructure Details	Gap
1.	No. of villages with no bank facility within 10 Km distance	39,786
2.	No. of villages yet to be connected with all-weather road	39,513
3.	No. of villages yet to have internal cc/brick road	49,533
4.	No. of village with no transport facility	34,999
5.	No. of villages with no internet café / common service centre	97,085
6.	No. of villages with no electricity	7,176
7.	No. of villages with no market facility	90,100
8.	No. of villages not at all covered with piped water supply	61,656
9.	No. of villages with no landline / mobile facility	17,538
10.	No. of households not equipped with LPG / Biogas	1,20,84,884
11.	No of household with kuccha wall and kuccha roof	91,14,133
12.	No. of villages not having school	13,501
13.	No. of villages not having health facility within the distance of 10 Km	28,031
14.	No. of villages not having veterinary clinic with 10 Km distance	42,412
15.	No. of villages with no drainage system	58,063

Source: Census 2011 & Mission Antyodaya

Note: There are about 1,45,000 villages in India with more that 25% of tribal population out of which Mission Antyodaya infrastructure gap data is available for 1,17,064 villages at missionantyodaya.nic.in (as on 31.08.2019)



The development challenges outlined above were also highlighted by the Mungekar Committee. In its report submitted in February 2009, the Committee observed that, “If one looks at the political map of the country, one would be distressed to observe that despite being the richest in mineral wealth, the Scheduled Areas and forest areas and non-Himalayan forests of the country representing rich natural resource base, wildlife and water resources are inhabited by the poorest people of the country, and which also now unfortunately happen to be the operational areas of Naxals”.

Notwithstanding the significant investment, the development gaps amongst the tribal communities warranted a reexamination of the entire development strategy for undertaking various reforms in education, livelihood and health sectors. Further, it required strengthening governance institutions and mechanisms to ensure that the funds meant for the welfare of tribals are not diverted and actually utilised for the comprehensive development of tribal areas while preserving their rich cultural heritage. In this background, various reforms and key initiatives undertaken in the last few years are enumerated in subsequent chapters.



Revamping of Eklavya Model Residential Schools: *Sabko Shiksha Achi Shiksha*

Background

The scheme of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) was introduced in the year 1997-98 to provide quality upper-primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas to enable them to access the best opportunities in education and to bring them at par with the general population.

Need for Reform

Over the years, EMRSs have become an island of excellence in the remote tribal hinterlands attracting a large number of tribal children. However, the reach and access were limited to few pockets. A need was felt to expand the coverage of the programme in order to reach out to a larger tribal geography to provide better opportunities to the tribal students to access quality education. The extant unit costs including the construction cost and recurring costs were not enough to gear up the schools to meet the growing needs for providing quality education and the rising expectations from various stakeholders. Almost every aspect of the school including construction, academics, sports & co-curricular activities, teaching & non-teaching staff and the management of the schools required overhauling to transform the EMRSs into institutions of quality education for the holistic development of tribal students.



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ये एकलव्य स्कूल आदिवासी बच्चों की
पढ़ाई-लिखाई के माध्यम तो हैं ही,
यहां Sports और Skill Development,
स्थानीय कला और संस्कृति के संरक्षण के लिए भी सुविधाएं होंगी।: PM



Approach

Previously, the grants for establishing and running EMRS schools were provided under the scheme of Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. Realizing the importance of the EMRS, in the Union Budget of 2018-19, Government of India announced a new scheme to provide the best quality education to the tribal children in their own environment under which 740 EMRS schools will be established by the year 2022. Every block having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons will have an EMRS on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development. In terms of the aforesaid Budget announcement, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, in its meeting held on 17th December 2018, inter-alia approved the revamping of the EMRS Scheme. The revamped programme was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 12th September 2019 at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Features of the Revamped Scheme:

- Setting up of EMRS in every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons
- Provision for setting up of Eklavya Model Day Boarding Schools (EMDBS) in sub-districts with 90% or more ST population and 20,000 or more tribal persons
- Enhanced Construction grant of Rs. 20.00 crore per school with an additional 20% for schools in North East, hilly areas, difficult areas and areas affected by Left Wing Extremism
- Enhanced Recurring grant of Rs.1.09 lakhs per student per annum in case of EMRS and Rs. 0.85 lac in case of EMDBS
- National Education Society for Tribal Students established as an Autonomous Society under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to establish, endow, maintain, control and manage schools and to do all acts and things necessary for, or conducive to the promotion of such schools
- Setting up of Centre of Excellence for sports in tribal majority districts with all related infrastructure (buildings, equipment's etc.) including specialized state-of-the-art facilities for two identified sports (including one group sport and one individual sport) which will be common for a State
- Utilization of up to 10% seats by non-ST students. Priority shall be given to children of EMRSs staff, children who have lost their parents to Left-Wing Extremism and insurgencies, children of widows, children of divyang parents etc.
- Reservation of 20% seats under sports quota for deserving ST students who have excelled in the field of sports

Progress

- National Education Society for Tribal Students established to run and manage EMRS
- Recurring cost enhanced to Rs. 1.09 lakh per student
- 302 new schools sanctioned in 2019-20



- Centre of Excellence in sports established and concept of Eklavya Model Day Boarding Schools introduced
- Staffing norms for schools unified and recruitment rules notified
- Construction cost enhanced to provide State of the art infrastructure in schools



Impact

The new EMRS scheme portrays the focus of the government to ensure “Sabko Shiksha Achi Shiksha” with a greater emphasis on children in tribal areas. It not only provides avenues for better management of the schools, enhanced cost norms and increased geographical spread but also ensures that EMRSs are equipped with latest digital technology of smart and virtual classes and quality teachers so as to develop EMRS as Centres of Nation Building. Several strategic initiatives have been taken to improve the administration of the scheme, streamline financial management and procedures, develop leadership & capacity building of the human resources, introduce common curriculum and digital monitoring mechanism along with quality infrastructure. In year 2020, Ms. Sudha Painuli, Vice Principal, EMRS-Kalsi, Dehradun, Uttarakhand was selected for the National Award to Teachers 2020 and under her guidance, students have excelled in studies, sports and extracurricular activities including dance and music. In the days to come, the focus of the scheme would be to improve the outcome of the programme through technological support, partnerships with key stakeholders and capacity building of teachers.



Empowerment of Tribal Students through Digitalisation of Scholarship Schemes: *Apna Adhikar Apne Dwar*

Background

In the background of low literacy rates and huge drop-outs, the Scholarship Schemes of Ministry has been a big impetus for students, especially girls for pursuing studies starting from Class IX to Post-Doctoral level in India and abroad. The Pre-Matric Scholarship and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes are being implemented by States with a budget of Rs. 2300 crore per annum covering about 30 lacs students. On the other hand, Central Sector Scheme of National Fellowship, Scholarship for Higher Education and National Overseas Scholarship Scheme enables about 8000 students every year for pursuing studies in top institutes in India and abroad with a budget of about Rs. 125 crores.

Need for Reform

Till 2018, both Pre and Post Matric Schemes were being implemented in manual mode by many States. The applications were called in physical form and were physically verified by concerned Institutes / District Authorities. Even in Central Sector Schemes, the processing and verification process being paper-based was cumbersome and time-consuming resulting in delayed payment of scholarships with a higher possibility of fake beneficiaries and fraudulent institutes getting benefits. There were scholarship scams in many States. Due to huge pendency of arrears combined with an absence of robust communication or grievance redressal mechanism with States and students, there were several High Court Cases and Disputes in Inter-State Council. With the directive of DBT Mission in 2018, the entire process of Scholarship release has been digitized with detailed guidelines to ensure that scholarship gets directly transferred to Aadhar linked Bank account of the student. With development of scheme specific MIS with a facility to capture beneficiary information, the entire process of implementation of scholarship schemes has been reformed with the shift from paper-based format to digital mode.

Approach

Integration of schemes with digital portals: As mandated by DBT Mission, all scholarship schemes are now end to end digitized right from receiving of application, verification and processing with the integration of all stakeholders and processes with scheme specific portals as shown below:



Scholarship Scheme	URL	Managed by
National Fellowship Scheme	https://fellowship.tribal.gov.in	MoTA
National Scholarship Scheme (Top Class)	https://scholarships.gov.in	MeITY/NIC
National Overseas Scholarship Scheme	https://overseas.tribal.gov.in	MoTA
Pre and Post Matric Scholarship Scheme	https://dbttribal.gov.in	MoTA

Scholarship through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT): During 2019-20, under five schemes, the funds amounting to approximately Rs. 2,400 crores were directly transferred to student bank accounts through PFMS (DBT mode). MoTA is the first Ministry to develop DBT-Portal (dbttribal.gov.in) for Pre and Post Matric Scholarship as mandated by DBT Mission which was launched on 12th June 2019. All States have been shifted from manual to digital mode.

Data sharing by States, Data Analytics and Performance Dashboard: All States/UTs either have their own portals or are using National Scholarship Portal developed by MeITY. Since these portals are on different platforms, using different databases and different formats, a 31-field common format has been designed for data sharing by the States so as to capture beneficiary details, bank details, location of the school, course details and transaction details. In DBT Portal, the States have been given the facility to share beneficiary data online through web services, Excel/CSV file or through manual entry of data depending on IT capability of State. The States have also been given facilities to upload queries, Utilisation Certificate, and Statement of Expenditure online and communicate with Ministry officials which has reduced the processing time and reduced grievances. The entire data is cleaned, compiled, collated and shared with Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA), managed by NIC. The data is analysed for detection of duplicate and fraudulent cases and the data analytics reports are shared with States to improve scholarship delivery mechanism. The data is also used for evaluating performance of various States and shared on Performance Dashboard of the Ministry. The compiled data is also shared with DBT Mission, Prayas Dashboard and NITI Aayog for monitoring Output Outcome Indicator.

Integration with Digi-Locker: Both Fellowship and Overseas Scholarship Portals have been integrated with a Digi-Locker. All documents available on Digi-Locker are automatically fetched in the application form.

Integration of Universities with Fellowship portal: There are 331 Universities where more than 4500 Scholars are pursuing fellowship programs. All such Universities have been integrated with the Fellowship portal through “Verification Module”, wherein the registered Nodal officer of University can view documents available on Digi-Locker and the documents uploaded by Scholar and can approve or reject applications digitally.



Grievance Redressal and Communication Mechanism: For faster communication and grievance redressal, all stakeholders, i.e., students, universities, authorised bank for disbursal and team manning Digi-Lockers have been registered with “Communication Module” of Fellowship Portal. Students are also provided continuous guidance through user manuals, video tutorials, phone helpline, E-mails and remote access by Helpdesk.

UMANG Application: Under the National Fellowship Scheme and National Overseas Scholarship Scheme, the students can use the facility of UMANG mobile application for filling and viewing the applications.

Tribal Talent Pool: In order to get connect with Tribal Talent of 4000 research scholars funded by Ministry for doing PhD, harness their strength by understanding their areas of interest and empowering them to develop as entrepreneurs, researchers and make them aware about various other schemes of Government of India for their welfare, MoTA has chalked out a unique initiative with Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). The thesis submitted by these students are being evaluated and a comprehensive evaluation and monitoring system through National Mentor Pool is being developed through involvement of National Tribal Research Institute (NTRI), Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) and reputed organizations designated as Centre of Excellence (COEs) with Ministry. The program is aimed to evaluate quality of research projects undertaken by students, improve their research skills, understand issues concerning students, and to know their area of interest and aspirations.

Impact

These initiatives have resulted in a paradigm shift from manual paper-based UC-based monitoring to databased online monitoring. There is mapping of funds released and their utilisation. The verification process has been strengthened and it has prevented fake and fraudulent cases and resulted in time-saving with speedy and robust grievance redressal mechanism. The performance of all stakeholders, district wise details of beneficiaries and the manner in which funds have been utilised is placed in the public domain through Performance Dashboard.

Digital portals [Scheme implementation]	DBT payments [Scholarships paid directly to bank accounts of beneficiaries]	UMANG app [Applications invited & filed through mobile app]
Tribal Talent Pool / Orientation workshops [Improvement in quality of research work and hand holding of institutes for better implementation of scheme]	Online grievance redressal [Thread-based query of students and other stake holders addressed. Handholding provided through user manual, video clipping, phone helpline, emails, remote access by help desk.]	Digi Locker [Documents available on Digi-Locker are automatically fetched and visible on application form]

KPMG, as part of its mandate for NITI Aayog, has carried out a national evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes focused on social inclusion has recognised the Direct Benefit Transfer Portal of Ministry of Tribal Affairs as a best practice in e-governance, which has brought about greater transparency, accountability and radical improvement in service delivery to Scheduled Tribe students. Ministry also won 66th SKOCH Gold Award for “Empowerment of Tribals through IT-enabled Scholarship Schemes” in 2020.



Digital Monitoring of Scheduled Tribe Component

Background

Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) came into existence in 1974-75 as a strategy for the development of areas with tribal concentration with an objective to channelize the flow of outlays and benefits from the general sectors at both Central and State levels, for the development of Schedule Tribes at least in proportion to their population. Since then, the TSP has been redesigned and reformulated at various intervals, however, it has not been able to achieve the desired objectives.

Need for Reform

The monitoring of TSP plan was being done by the erstwhile Planning Commission till 2017. Despite the huge allocation of funds across Ministries and State, the TSP tended to become more of an accounting exercise without adequate emphasis on the planning and execution of schemes to ensure demonstrable benefits for the STs. Thus, notwithstanding numerous interventions, the STs continue to face developmental deficits with respect to health, education as well as other socio-economic indices, many of which are well below the national average and tribal regions also face infrastructural gaps. While the Ministry of Tribal Affairs was the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes for development of STs since 1999, it had little role in the monitoring of Tribal Sub Plan (now Scheduled Tribe Component). Standing Committee in 2017 has shown concerns over utilization of STC funds and directed to prepare a robust mechanism for their effective utilization.

Approach

In January 2017, the monitoring of Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) plan was allocated to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs after the amendment in the 'Allocation of Business Rules (ABR)' based on the framework and mechanism designed by NITI Aayog. NITI Aayog has issued a detailed guideline for implementation of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) by the States/UTs and detailed modalities for effective utilization of funds meant for welfare and development of STs. With the given mandate, the Ministry brought a paradigm shift in the treatment of Tribal Sub-Plan/Schedule Tribe Component from a post-facto accounting to a pro-active, need-based, demand-driven planning process with stringent appraisal, approval, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms by various means.

Developing an Online Monitoring Mechanism: Ministry developed an online monitoring system (<http://stcmis.gov.in>) for physical and financial monitoring of Central Schedule Tribe Component of 38 Ministries, 316 schemes and budget of Rs. 52,024 crores, through a dedicated portal (stcmis.gov.in), which captures data from PFMS, providing the status of expenditure vis-à-vis allocations. Further,



Nodal Officers have been designated in line Ministries/Departments for coordination and monitoring and for uploading the output and outcome related data.

Impact Assessment and Evaluation Study: In order to strengthen the delivery of intended benefits to the tribal communities, Ministry assigned study to PWC to understand the mechanism of allocation of funds in 316 schemes of 41 Ministries to know the outcome of the TSP component to tribal beneficiaries or in the tribal dominated areas, how the STC funds were utilized by each Ministry, the relevance of schemes for ST component, IT framework of the scheme and whether the scheme was useful for the benefit of tribal and tribal areas. The report also highlighted that funds allocated by the Central Ministries to the State Governments get merged with State Funds and there is no dedicated mechanism to assess utilization of these funds for STs or ST benefited areas. Further, there are many schemes where the funds are allocated on notional basis or the scheme allocation is too meagre to have any potential to fetch tangible results. The report was shared with the concerned Ministries and NITI Aayog. Ministry is now taking up specific issues with each Ministry ensuring effective utilization of STC. Based on these findings, the performance of each scheme and Ministry with utilization of STC funds is being monitored through STCMIS and mapped on Performance Dashboard so that each Ministry and Public at large can see how the funds in relation to a particular scheme of a Ministry has been allocated to State and the under-utilisation or misutilisation, if any.



Impact

Quantum jump in Budgetary Allocation: The table below shows how State and Central TSP funds have more than doubled in last 5 years.

TSP Component	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Central Ministries/Departments	16,111	15,628	19,873	25,999	31,803	51,635
State Component*	86,075	1,00,558	1,11,295	1,39,710	1,57,531	1,60,000
Funds under MoTA	3,850	4,550	4,799	5,293	6,000	6,900
Total	1,06,036	1,20,736	1,35,967	1,71,002	1,95,334	2,18,535

* State figures are BE allocation figures. Actual RE and Expenditure figures needs updation.



The figures in STC MIS also show that there is not only an increase in budget allocation across ministries but the under-allocation and under-utilization has also reduced. The Ministries are being sensitized to ensure that the budget allocated under STC is not diverted. Various Ministries are now sharing data of beneficiaries and assets being created through STC funds.

Collaboration with key Ministries: On the strength of scheme specific data in respect of various Ministries generated by STCMIS, MoTA has chalked out a convergence and collaborative mechanism and has integrated the issues of tribal communities within the development agenda of other ministries and departments of the Government of India. In this regard, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Rural Development signed a Memorandum of Understanding to leverage each other's strengths to propel the rural economy and jointly promote sustainable livelihood opportunities among tribal women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under National Rural Livelihood Mission. Similarly, a 'Joint Communique' was signed with Ministry of Food Processing Industries defining convergence mechanism in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme and role of both Central Ministries and their respective departments at State level. With the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, a joint initiative to eradicate tuberculosis has been worked out. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has also designated National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation as one of its implementing agencies for schemes implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

Mission mode interventions in key sectors and comprehensive development of tribal villages and aspirational districts; Advocacy with NITI Aayog and Department of Expenditure: Through rigorous monitoring, MoTA has been able to demonstrate that many Ministries of Central Government and States have not adhered to the norms of new guidelines issued by NITI Aayog. Some Ministries have expressed their inability to incur expenditure under schemes for welfare of STs and have sought exemption from STC framework. In view of this, a mechanism to effectively utilise un-spent /under-utilized funds of line Ministries is being finalised in consultation with NITI Aayog. A detailed Action Plan which can be termed as 'Mission Mode' interventions based on well defined, targeted and achievable action plans focusing on few key areas – education, health, nutrition, housing, livelihoods and skill development aimed at bringing about substantial difference in the lives of the SCs and STs, is under preparation for the next Financial Cycle 2021-2026.



End to End Digitalization of NGO Grants Mechanism

Background

The role of voluntary and Non-Governmental Voluntary Organizations (NGOs), which have local roots and have the requisite resource capacity to work in LWE, hilly, remote and border areas, has become increasingly important. The Ministry is providing Grants-in-aid to voluntary organisations working for the welfare of STs to cater to comparatively service deficient tribal dominated areas, where direct outreach of Government through its institutional mechanism was not adequate. The scheme has annual budget of Rs. 120 crores and grants are given to about 250 NGOs for 350 Projects in 24 States, working in the areas of health, education and livelihood.

Need for Reform

Till 2018, the scheme was being implemented in manual mode. The NGOs were required to submit the proposal offline and the proposals were sent to States for physical verification and there was a time lag of few years before grant for a particular financial year was released. Due to delayed release of funds, the NGOs were required to frequently visit the State and Central Ministry to enquire about their pending grants and there was no established grievance redressal mechanism. There was no robust mechanism to monitor the working of the NGOs and many fraudulent cases were reported every year.

Approach

After NITI Ayog's mandate to make the operation of scheme online, the Ministry has developed a dedicated portal in 2018 (<https://ngo.tribal.gov.in>) which provides customised end-to-end solution for implementing the NGO scheme. The portal has the facility of submission of online proposal, uploading inspection reports, online recommendation or rejection, processing, and releasing of funds, making entire processes online and paperless. In order to streamline the process of filing online proposal, verification, processing of applications and disbursement of funds directly into account of the NGOs through PFMS, the portal is integrated with NGO, district, State and the NGO division and IFD of the Ministry, who have been given access through login ID. For registering on the portal, NGO is required to have Unique-ID from NGO DARPAN of NITI AAYOG. The online application submitted for a project is verified online by District and State Authorities. After online administrative & financial approval, sanction order is generated and grants are released through PFMS. The NGOs are required to submit the expenditure statements online through the Expenditure Advance Transfer (EAT module). The Portal has an online grievance redressal mechanism. All stakeholders can track live status of the application with their Login IDs. The publicly available Performance Dashboard shows the information about the funds released to NGOs as well as to various sectors.





Impact

These reforms have brought efficiency, transparency and accountability in the system. Not only the processing time has reduced but the Ministry is able to sanction major portion of the grants in the same financial year and redress grievances expeditiously. In order to ensure that only credible NGOs are brought in the fold of the scheme, Ministry has engaged Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) for independent verification of NGOs who are also graded based on their performance. Further, the Ministry is planning to use digital technology to map attendance of students and tracking movement of ambulance through GIS-based tracking system. Since remote areas have a shortage of qualified teachers, the Ministry is also planning to roll out smart and digital classes to improve quality of education and health in remote, hilly, LWE and border areas.



Developing Tribal Entrepreneurship through Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram

Background

Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a major source of livelihood for the Tribals living in forest areas. The importance of MFPs can be gauged from the fact that around 100 million forest dwellers depend on MFPs for food, shelter, medicines and cash income and most of them belong to the tribal communities. It provides them critical subsistence during the lean seasons, particularly for primitive tribal groups such as hunter gatherers, and the landless. Tribals derive 20-40% of their annual income from MFP on which they spend a major portion of their time.

Need for Reform

The primary collectors of these MFPs are often paid wages at low rates as compared to the time and effort invested. The profits from value addition through processing are accrued mainly by traders, contractors or forest department agencies. The trade mechanism of MFP at the primary haat bazar level remains highly inequitable to the tribals. As a result of this, even when the market prices appear impressive, the cash that comes to the hands of the tribals remain low. Substantial gain is reaped by the long chain of middlemen.

Approach

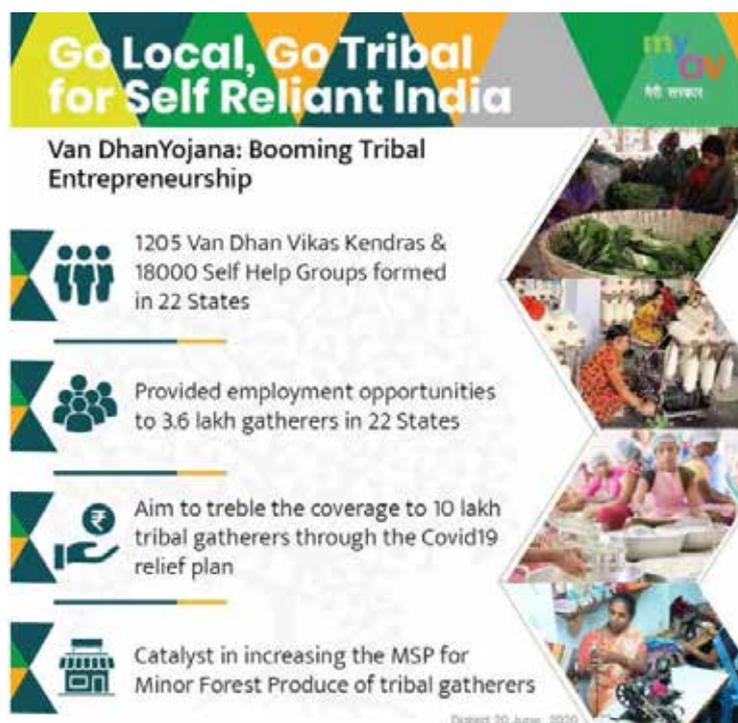
In order to safeguard the trading interests of the tribal people and providing a fair deal in the trade of MFPs, The Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram (VDVK) initiative has been instituted. It is aimed at promoting and leveraging the collective strength of tribals to achieve a viable scale to take on the predatory market forces. It envisages the economic development of tribals involved in the collection of Minor Food Produces (MFPs) by helping them in optimum utilisation of natural resources and providing them with a sustainable livelihood. Combined with fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP) for these Minor Forest produce (MFP), the development of value chain through VDKV is providing much needed safety net as it has strong linkage to women's financial empowerment. Most of the MFPs are collected and used/sold by women.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India launched the Van Dhan Scheme on 14th April 2018 at Bijapur, Chattisgarh targeting livelihood generation for tribals by harnessing the wealth of forest i.e. Van Dhan. The programme aims to tap into traditional knowledge & skill-sets of the tribal people by adding technology & IT to upgrade it at each stage and to convert the tribal wisdom into a viable economic activity. About 3,000 Van Dhan Kendras are proposed to be set up in a span of 5 years (2018-19 to 2023-24) in tribal dominated districts.



Features of Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram

- A typical Van Dhan Kendra will cater to approximately 15 Self Help Groups (SHGs) consisting of a total of 300 members. SHGs will be led by a tribal person and at least 60% of the members will be tribal.
- An amount of Rs. 15 lakhs is given to each VDVK for training, infrastructure and capacity building.
- Each VDVK comprising of 300 tribals are provided skill training for setting up of primary processing and a value addition facility with working capital to add value to the products. Further through cluster approach, these products are aggregated in tradable quantity ensuring development of standardized quality. They are also trained for retail, branding and marketing of their product.



Impact

Under the Van Dhan Yojana, TRIFED has received proposals for 1205 VDVKs across the country, and has sanctioned 1,126 VDVKs in 21 States and 1 Union Territory involving 3.6 lakh tribal beneficiaries (2019-20) and approximately 18,000 Self Help Groups in 22 States. In the current year, it has been planned to establish 500 new VDVKs towards strengthening 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' by providing the much needed support towards procurement of MFP through MSP. Under this scheme, basic infrastructure has been created

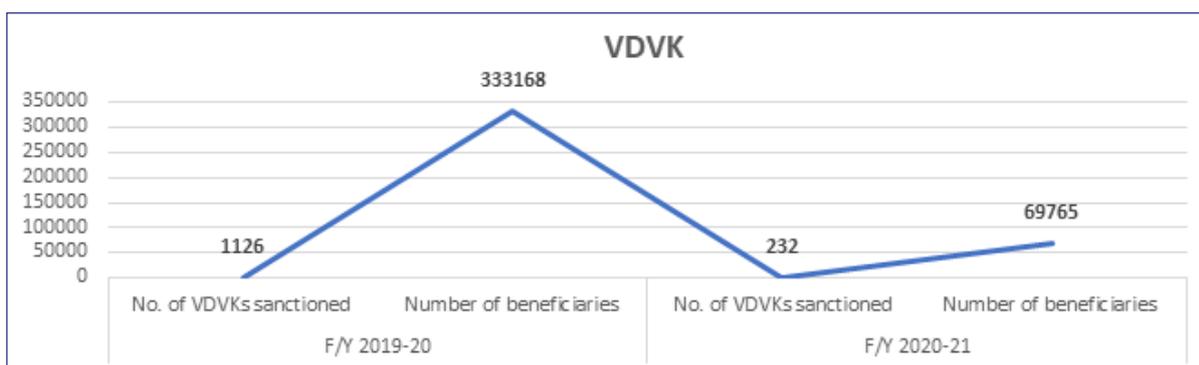
and the target over the next one year is to make it visible through marketing. Information about the scheme is maintained through a dashboard and a robust technology platform is being set-up. Also, a website is under process to monitor working of these VDVKs and bringing transparency and accountability. The Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVK) are playing important role in economic development of tribals involved in collection of MFPs by helping them in optimum utilisation of natural resources and provide sustainable MFP-based livelihood in MFP-rich districts.



The scheme was catering to only 10 MFP items till 2015. In 2020, the reach of the scheme has increased manifold and expanded to 27 States and there are 86 MFPs for which MSP has been fixed. 76 new items have been added in last 2 years. There has been an upward revision of price of most of MFPs during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to offer much-needed support to tribal gatherers resulting in total procurement of MFP of Rs 147 crore in 2020-21 during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Future Road Map

The target is to set-up 3,000 Van Dhan Kendras in a span of 5 years (2018-19 to 2023-24) in tribal dominated districts. This translates to 500 kendras to be set up each year involving, 9.0 lakh tribal beneficiaries.



With the value addition of raw produce, it is expected that the share of the tribals in the value chain shall increase to 70-75%, as compared to the present share of 20-25%. Over the next 5 years, village level production and marketing centres under VDK would catalyse secondary and tertiary level production centres catering to national and international market through facility of e-market being developed. With clarion call of Hon'ble PM for "Vocal for Local" the project is going to have a big boost in next few years.



Strengthening and Capacity Building of Tribal Research Institutions

Background

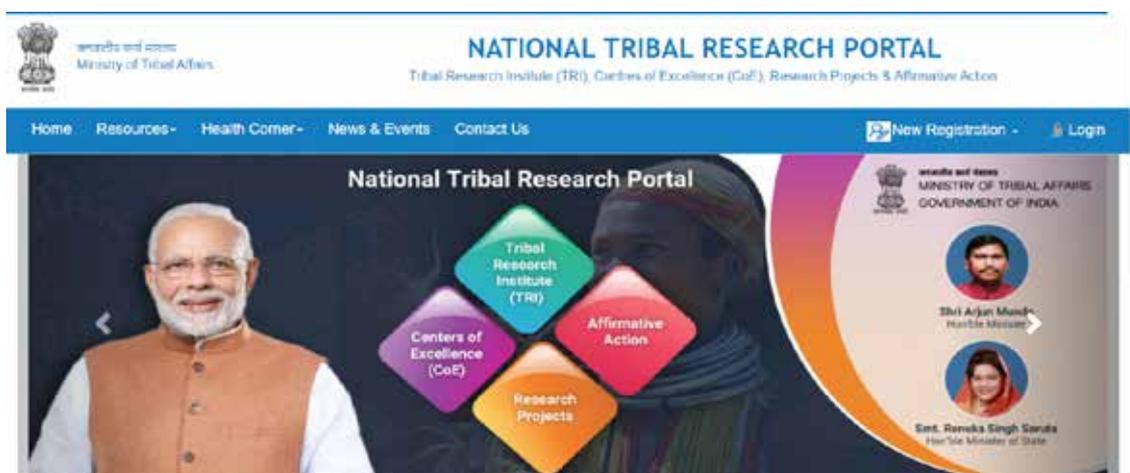
Tribal research institutes are envisaged to function as a comprehensive body of knowledge & research and as a think tank for tribal development, preservation of tribal cultural heritage which can provide valuable inputs to States for evidence-based planning and appropriate legislations, capacity building of the tribal community and persons / institutions associated with tribal affairs, dissemination of information and creation of awareness etc. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is funding 26 TRIs under the scheme “Support to TRIs”, for conducting research with budget of Rs. 120 crores.

Need for Reform

Despite huge grants being given for research every year, there was no repository of these researches. There was duplicity of researches and the outcome of the research was not linked with evidence-based planning. There was no monitoring mechanism for the researches being undertaken and the quality of researches. There was also no system for maintaining database of trainees and master trainers.

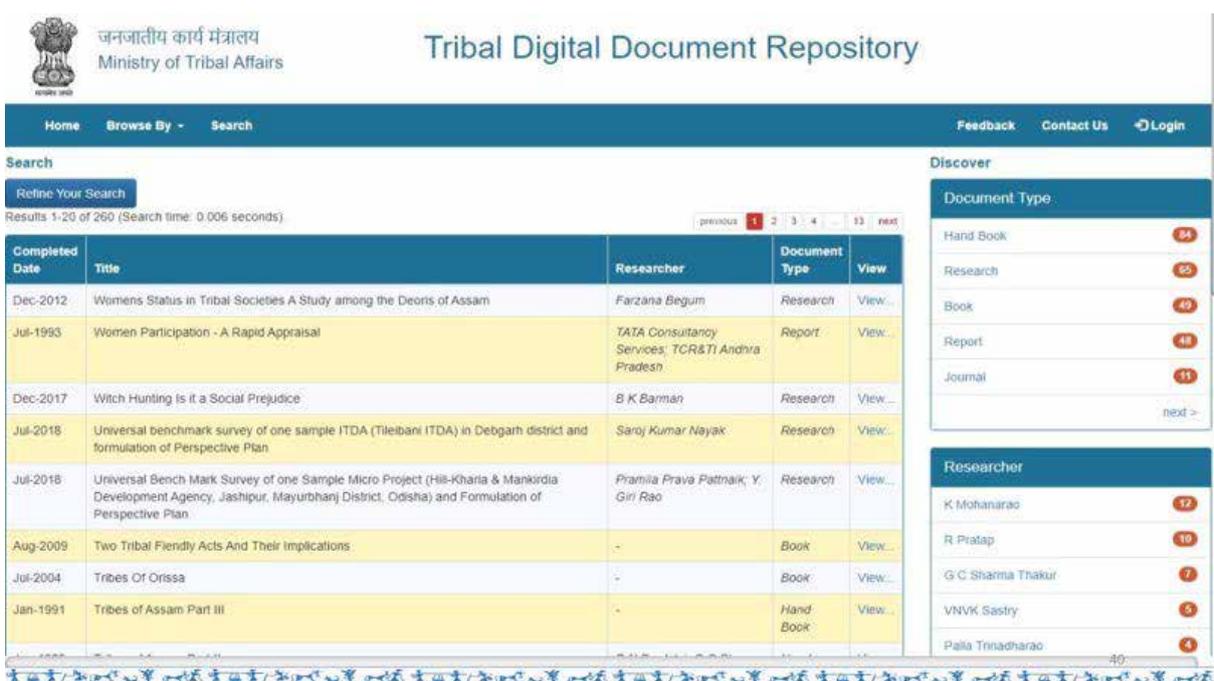
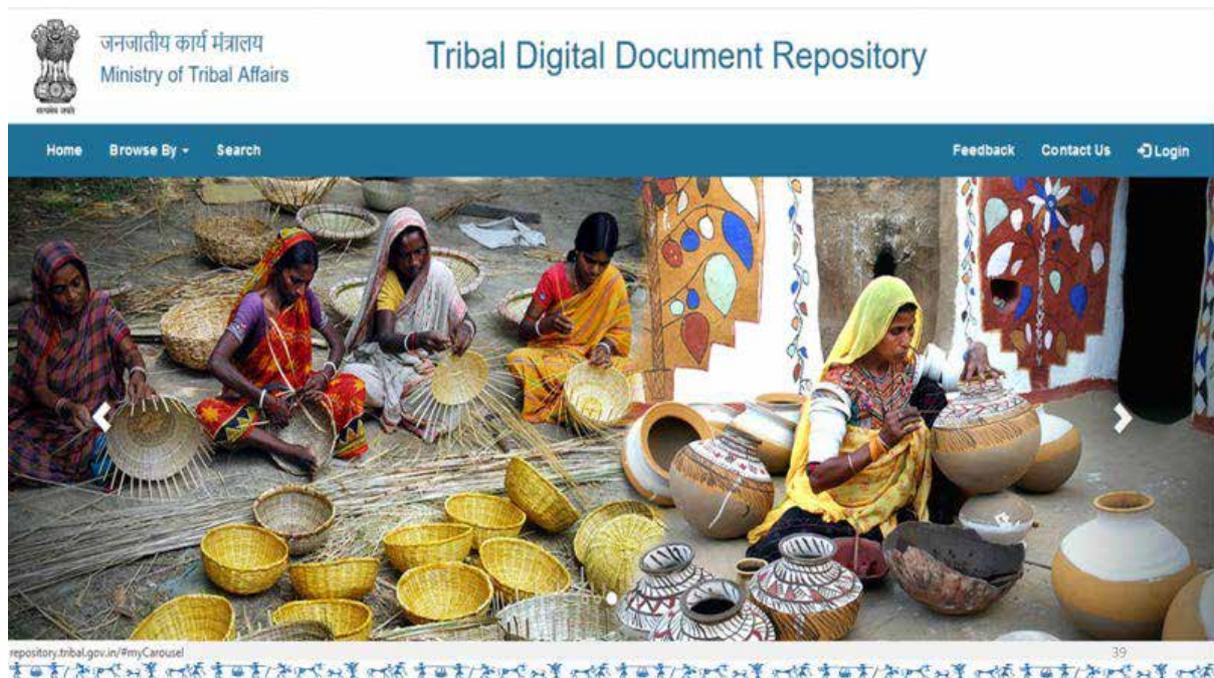
Approach

Digitalisation of Monitoring Mechanism: For monitoring the progress of sanctioned projects and to have better communications with the TRIs through facilities of uploading documents, UCs and progress reports, Ministry has developed TRI portal (<https://tritribal.gov.in/>). The portal was launched in January 2020. The TRIs are required to upload the entire data relating to the project on the portal. Through the portal the TRIs can raise their query, upload UC, and documents online. The portal can generate reports based on sector in which the projects are undertaken and digital monitoring of fund flow can be done. The performance of each TRI can be evaluated based on various indicators.



Tribal Document Digital Repository: In last 70 years, TRIs have undertaken thousands of research projects, evaluation projects, documentations, documentaries, policy researches, and ethnographic/ monographic studies, however, these are not readily available in the public domain at a single place. It also requires manpower and funds to preserve this knowledge treasure. Realizing this, with technical assistance of NIC, a dynamic searchable Tribal Digital Document Repository (<http://repository.tribal.gov.in>) digital initiative was undertaken, which works towards the goal by providing IT platform for uploading documentation prepared by the the TRIs and the CoEs pertaining to the tribal community. About 1000 documents have been uploaded by various TRIs which also includes thesis of tribal scholars pursuing PhD from scholarship given by Ministry.

About 1000 documents have been uploaded by various TRIs which also include thesis of tribal scholars pursuing PhD from the scholarship grants provided by the Ministry.



Setting up of new Tribal Research Institutes: Till 2014-15, Tribal Research Institute (TRI) existed in 18 States and 1 UT of A&N. New TRIs have been sanctioned in 8 States of Uttarakhand, J&K, Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Goa. Construction of TRI Buildings in these states is underway. Besides, funds were also sanctioned to Manipur, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha for strengthening of existing infrastructure. Ministry is also contemplating establishment of NTRI, for coordinating and monitoring work of research, trainings, seminars and to provide handholding support to state TRIs in their functioning. Request has been sent to MoHUA for land allocation.

Impact

Through these digital initiatives Ministry is able to monitor online progress of the research projects, and the manner in which the funds are utilised and the quality of research projects. The document repository facilitates cross learning by TRIs, and is useful for researchers and persons interested in tribal-related data and policy makers for making developmental plans for tribal communities and tribal areas in the future. The NTRI in coordination with State TRIs have initiated the training and awareness programs for Panchayati Raj Institute representatives on FRA, PESA and other schemes of Central and State Governments. The data base of all these functionaries, master trainers and trainees would be useful for developing comprehensive training programs relating to tribal issues in the coming years.



Museums for Tribal Freedom Fighters

Background

Hon'ble PM made an announcement in his Independence Day Speech on 15th August 2016, regarding setting up of museums for tribal freedom fighters.

Pursuant to Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs held a series of consultations to construct Freedom Fighter Museums in states where the tribals lived, struggled against the British and refused to bow down, so that the coming generations may know how the Indian tribal community made sacrifices for the pride of mother India.

Need for Reform

Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums would be dedicated to the contributions of the Indian tribal people in the freedom struggle. Since there is no proper documentation of the sacrifices made by them if the knowledge is not preserved and documented, coming generations will not be able to know about their role in the freedom struggle of the country. These museums will trace the history along which the tribal people residing in the hills and the forests fought for their right to live and, will therefore, seek to combine ex situ display with in situ conservation & regeneration initiatives. These museums will also demonstrate the way tribal people struggled for protecting their forests and land rights and their culture, and would showcase the biological and cultural diversity of the country which is important for nation building.

Approach

Ministry constituted a National Level Committee (NLC) under the Chairpersonship of the Secretary (Tribal Affairs) to appraise and approve the proposals including monitoring of the progress. The NLC consists of members from various Ministries / organisations including Ministry of Culture, National Museum, School of Planning and Architecture, ICHR, including one external expert. The NLC meets once in every quarter.

Detailed discussions were held with various stakeholders, historians, anthropologists, private architects and officials of the State Governments. These officials were given exposure visit to *Virasat-e-Khalsa* museum, Punjab and *Manav Sangrahalaya* at Bhopal to acquaint them with the designing of the museum in sync with the storyline and the use of technology.



Progress

Approvals were given to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Manipur and Mizoram for construction of the museums. States where Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum has been sanctioned alongwith the fund release status is given as below:

(₹. In Crore)						
Sl.N	State	Location	Project Cost	Year of Sanction	MoTA Commitment	Fund Released
1	Gujarat	Rajpipla	102.55	2017-18	50.00	50.00
2	Jharkhand	Ranchi	36.66	2017-18	25.00	25.00
3	Andhra Pradesh	Lambasingi	35.00	2017-18	15.00	7.50
4	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	25.66	2017-18	15.00	4.65
5	Kerala	Kozhikode	16.16	2017-18	15.00	7.50
6	Madhya Pradesh	Chhindwara	38.26	2017-18	15.00	6.93
7	Telangana	Hyderabad	18.00	2018-19	15.00	1.00
8.	Mizoram	Mualngo, Kelsih	15.00	2019-20	15.00	7.00
Total					165.00	110.58

The works in these museums is in full swing so that these can be inaugurated and expected to be fully-functional in the 75th year of Indian Independence.

Impact

The museums recognize and showcase the Tribal Freedom Fighters' contributions in the Indian freedom struggle so that the coming generations know and appreciate about their sacrifices for the country. These museums are envisioned to be centres of tourist attraction due to their location, architect and the audio-video displays. They are bound to play an important role in preserving and promoting tribal culture, handicraft and tribal art.



Partnership with Reputed Organisations to Develop Innovative Development Models for Tribal Development

Hon'ble Prime Minister in infrastructure review meeting of Ministry of Power and MNRE on 18.12.2019 impressed upon to introduce Innovative business model, dismantle inefficient and burdensome monopolies and encourage investment and participation of the private sector as partners. Taking his vision forward, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has partnered with reputed organizations to develop innovative models based on pilot projects who also contribute CSR funds under affirmative action to address development challenges in tribal regions.

Performance Dashboard: Empowering Tribals - Transforming India

As part of the commitment of the Government to fulfill Digital India goals, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has developed data-driven Governance model for evidence-based decision making, outcome-oriented planning and service delivery. All schemes and initiatives of the Ministry are end-to-end digitized with 20 dedicated portals/Websites/Mobile Apps, which are integrated with the mother website of the Ministry through the Performance Dashboard. The Dashboard was launched by CEO NITI Aayog, and Member NITI Aayog in August 2020.

The IT Interface provides output-outcome indicators for each scheme, showing performance of states and implementing agencies under various parameters. The website & the dashboard combined provide a detailed insight of demographic profile of the tribal population, gap analysis of 1,17,000 tribal villages on 17 infrastructural parameters, state of health infrastructure, and disease burden in 117 aspirational districts, along with showcasing performance of schemes with easy navigation through website homepage and dynamic-interactive interface. The data fetched from the multiple sources is compiled, transformed, assessed for quality and analyzed by the Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA) NICS I for further deployment using MS-PowerBI.

The all-pervasive Digital-Initiative has brought a paradigm-shift from paper-based to data-driven e-governance model, and is bound to emerge as a successful futuristic, sustainable and replicable e-governance model to unleash digital-transformation with the use of emerging technology. The IT initiative has also won the Skoch award under Digitalization.



Eco-Rehabilitation of Villages through Ice Stupas in Ladakh in Collaboration with SECMOL

Water is a critical life source for the inhabitants of the Himalayan region of Leh & Ladakh. Due to poor rainfall and shrinking of glaciers, water has become a scarce resource, causing disruption of agriculture and displacement of villagers. In the areas, where temperatures fall below -30 degrees, Ice Stupas, which are artificially created glacier structures, have been created to store large quantities of water in the form of ice during the harsh winter months.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs in partnership with the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL) are demonstrating how these Ice Stupas, which store underutilized frozen water during the winter months, can resolve the water and livelihood problem during the summer months when the dome-shaped stupas melts and feed the farms and villages in the crucial sowing season..



During 2019-20, 25 Ice Stupas were established, that stored water with more than 60 million litres capacity. It will help in rehabilitation of abandoned villages and can change economy of the village by solving the water problem, and enabling plantation of trees and irrigation facilities. The stupas are not only source of tourist attraction but by engaging local Home-Stay project will help in their economic upliftment. It is a participative and collaborative model with joint initiative of Government, NGO and Corporate for bringing change through community participation in becoming Aatmanirbhar. Further, new 25 Stupas are underway in 2020-21 at different locations. This project has received Skoch Award for 2020 in the sector of preserving environment through innovative ways.



1000 Springs Initiative: Harnessing the Potential of Springs to Address Water Scarcity in Tribal Areas in Partnership with United Nations Development Programme

Water scarcity impacts food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities. Due to tricky geography and complex hydro-geological limitations, ground water development potential through conventional means is limited in hilly and thickly forested areas where majority of tribal community lives. However, springs – a natural source of groundwater in the hilly areas – has potential to address the various multi-dimensional vulnerabilities associated with lack of water security.

The '1000 Springs Initiative' by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and UNDP demonstrated a localized solution by harnessing the potential of perennial springs to meet the water needs of remote tribal habitations by converting them from source to resource. An inventory of springs titled the Spring ATLAS has been developed and tribal youths have been trained as barefoot hydrogeologists to map aquifers and support in protection and conservation measures of the springs. This is being done with community participation through convergence of various government schemes including MNREGA and watershed development.

Improving Sustainable Livelihood in Ladakh Region- Tata Trust

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also undertaken a multi-pronged initiative to promote sustainable livelihoods in the villages of the Ladakh region. To implement this, Tata Trust has been given a project on Sheep Rearing, packaging of Apricot, vegetables and fruits as these are perishable items and locals do not get remunerative price for their products. This initiative would largely focus on productivity enhancing, harvesting, post-harvesting, processing and marketing of various products belonging to Ladakh region in 31 villages of Sham Valley, Changthan and Tharu Valley. Apricot, peas and vegetables are the main crops which are grown in 4 months in the valley. With improved solar drying and packaging techniques, it will help in marketability of these perishable items as locals do not get remunerative price for their products.

Taking Tribal Farmers towards Self – Reliance (Aatmanirbhar) through Organic Farming- Art of Living Foundation

COVID has shown us how immunity is important for protecting us from various diseases. Tribal areas are naturally organic and almost all medicinal plants used in improving immunity are grown there. At the same time, the demand of organic food products has increased immensely in last few months. Ministry of Tribal Affairs is ensuring that through farm and non-farm producer groups, organic and medicinal plant clusters are developed in tribal areas under Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Some north-eastern states like Sikkim have shown the way in organic farming. There is need for promotion of Paramparagat khete techniques so that tribal areas can be saved from the menace of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. On one hand, Ministry is exploring collaborations with ministries of Ayush, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry



and Rural Development and, on the other it is also working with Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog for promotion of desi cow based organic farming. There is also a need to educate children about the benefits of these techniques at the school level.

In recent years, Agro-chemicals and hybrid seeds have started penetrating into tribal areas. This is leading to rapid erosion of the soil's microbial diversity as well as the varietal diversity of cultivated crops. It is essential to protect the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), revive the Indigenous Seed Banks and promote sustainable farming techniques based on "Go-Adharith" principles. MoTA has partnered with SSISAT (Sri Sri Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology), connected to the Art of Living Foundation, to promote sustainable agriculture. This is a 3 year-long project, which would impart Organic Farming Training to 10,000 farmers in the Tribal district of Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

The key feature of this model is based on SSIASST's experience in the states of Andhra, Telengana, Chhattisgarh and Assam, where local youth are trained as mentors to handhold the farmers for a period of three years. This handholding has been the prime reason why farmers have stayed with chemical free farming. This initiative would involve people participation in a way that can impart training to the entire community across genders, promulgate awareness programs on all aspects of livelihood, as well as Satsang programs for community bonding and holistic understanding of the principles of Circular Bioeconomy to recycle inputs. Under this initiative, farmers will also be registered for PGS-India Organic Certification and train them to use other marketing portals like e-Nam, Sfurthi etc.

GOAL (Going Online as Leaders) Programme - Mentoring Tribal Youth through Digital Platform in Collaboration with Facebook

GOAL, a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Facebook aims to empower 5000 youth from tribal communities over the next five years through digital entrepreneurship development program. The project is an affirmative action program fully funded by Facebook, which aims to identify and mobilise 2500 renowned people from different domains, to personally mentor tribal youth. Each selected youth will be given a smart phone and internet connection by Facebook. The nine-month program includes seven months of mentorship in areas such as digital literacy, life skills, leadership & entrepreneurship followed by a two-month internship for the mentees to gain an on-ground experience. The initiative was launched in May 2020 by Hon'ble Minister and a dedicated website goal.tribal.gov.in was developed for inviting online applications. More than 30,000 applications of mentors and mentees were received across India.

Leveraging on digital tools for e-learning, interaction and monitoring, this initiative will empower the tribal youths to become village-level digital leaders and entrepreneurs for their communities. This program is likely to ignite competitiveness by offering them an opportunity to come forward to showcase their creative potential by making use of digital platforms.





Evidence based Planning and Development for Tribal Empowerment

Data forms the backbone of decentralized evidence-based decision making and policy formulation. Unfortunately, till 2014-15, there was poor availability of robust tribal specific data in respect of various socio-economic indicators, incidence of diseases, school dropout rates, infrastructural and human resource gaps. On one hand, there is marked under-development and huge gaps in infrastructure and socio-economic indicators and on the other hand, there is under-allocation, under-utilization and mis-utilization of funds due to lack of robust monitoring mechanism. In order to undertake data-based planning, Ministry has undertaken gap analysis of 1,17,000 tribal dominated villages with tribal population of more than 25% based on Census and Antyodaya Mission data to ensure evidence-based planning.

Partnership has been forged with Department of Management Studies (DMS) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi with an objective to develop a data driven framework to identify the tribal villages that have maximum infrastructural gaps. Data and decision science is applied on the data collected on twenty-two different infrastructural gap areas in the Antyodaya Mission in the year 2019. Various analytical tools and techniques are applied to identify/prioritize tribal villages in each state that require immediate attention for infrastructural development. The initiative aims to provide clear picture on the current status of the infrastructure gaps in the tribal villages focusing on two states of Telangana and Jharkhand. The outcome of the project will provide a road map to the Central and State Governments to select least developed tribal villages to make them into a model village.



Model Village (Aadarsh Gram)

Tribal villages located in remote areas face multi-dimensional development challenges in terms of degradation of natural resources, low agricultural productivity, limited reach of technologies and government schemes and distress migration among others.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs in partnership with BAIF Development Research Foundation has adopted a context specific, bottom-up and integrated village development approach under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana in Malsamot Gram Panchayat, Narmada, Gujarat. This village is adopted by Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs. Malsamot is a group gram panchayat consisting of 10 villages situated in the eastern tribal belt of Gujarat. The entire ten villages are tribal dominated with 98% of the population comprised of tribals, mainly inhabited by Vasava and Bhils.

The Gram Panchayat identified various issues including lack of livelihood opportunities, absence of scientific livestock management, poor health care, improper land use and ground water depletion among others. An end-to-end strategy from the need analysis to implementation of the project, along the lines of participatory approach was adopted. Through a community led approach, the interventions focussed on improving the natural resources and ensuring dignified livelihoods for the ST communities. Thrust is laid on facilitating convergence of resources from different government programmes for ensuring last mile reach of intended benefits to the villagers. Tribal households were linked with their rightful entitlements under PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Awas Yojana (Grameen), Pension Schemes, MGNREGA and many other state and centrally sponsored social welfare schemes. The model villages are seeing transformation in terms of:

- increased rural-based livelihoods/employment opportunities
- reduction in distress migration
- improved awareness and uptake of social entitlements by the eligible households
- improved knowledge and skills and creation of local cadre for future development
- environment enrichment



Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) Awareness Program

Government of India is committed to the agenda of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Viswas' for inclusive development and upliftment of all. With the focus on sustainable development and inclusive growth, Ministry is dedicated to improving the lives of the tribal communities through designing policies and programmes benefitting tribal population. The extent to which tribal communities are able to access their rights and entitlements is dependent on how effectively the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) function.

Capacity building and awareness programme was launched by the Ministry in Bhubaneswar in January 2020 with the aim to empower tribal PRI representatives by enhancing their decision-making capabilities at local government level. Among other issues concerning tribal development, it also focuses on constitutional and legal provisions that protect and promote the rights and welfare of the tribal population. The programme will ensure greater participation of ST PRI representatives in planning, execution and monitoring of government policies and programmes. Their better participation in the development process would ensure better prioritization of the tribal development agenda.

The capacity building of PRI representatives, who directly participate in the development initiatives at local government level, can be of great help in bridging the development gaps among communities and regions. This will help in effective and better implementation of various developmental and welfare programmes and substantially improve the expected outcomes.

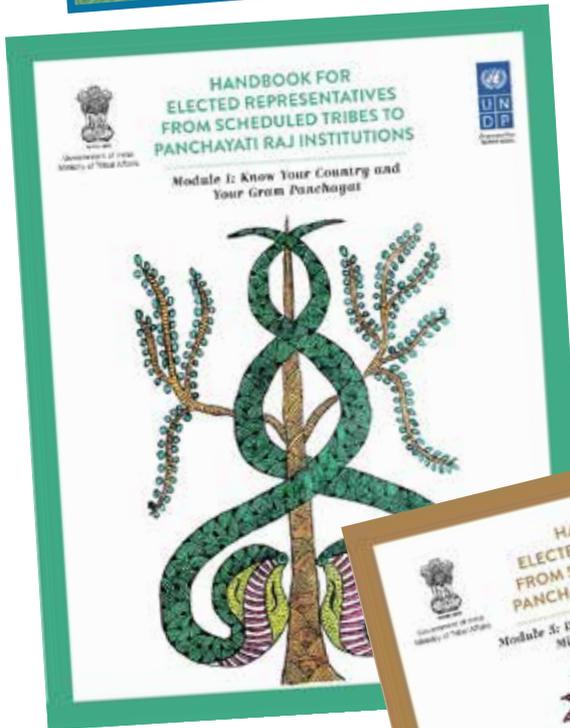
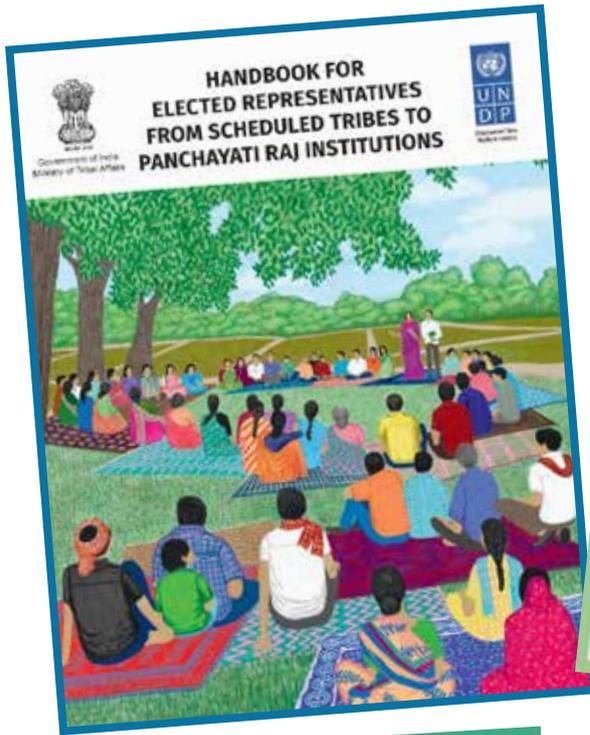
Ministry has partnered with Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and SCSTRI Odisha to develop the National level framework for the training programme. Facilitators from within the tribal communities will be involved in the Capacity Building process so that information sought to be conveyed can be better done in the local dialects. On pilot basis, the program has been started in Jharkhand and Odisha. Many NGOs and reputed organisations have also supported the initiative of ministry through collaborative and participative approach model.

In coming days, the programme will be implemented by the state governments through respective State Tribal Research Institutes with customised training material in local language including audio-video material.

Preservation of Indigenous Knowledge Tribal Medicine, Plants and Herbs used by Tribal Healers

The tribal communities have treasure of indigenous knowledge of tribal medicine using plants and herbs practised through tribal healers. The tribals have lot of faith and trust in such healers, though they have not been recognised as registered practitioners. The preservation and validation of tribal medicine/herbs used by Tribal Healers is being done through NIPER, Assam. In order to protect traditional tribal knowledge of treating diseases with locally available medicinal plants, which is fast vanishing, various reputed organisations are working on this project. AIIMS-Jodhpur, Parvara Institute of Medical Sciences-Maharashtra, Mata Amritamai Institute-Kerala, Patanjali Research Institute-Uttarakhand are working under the guidance of respective TRIs. In order to bring tribal healers to the mainstream,





curriculum for tribal healers is being prepared by these Institutes. Pravara also organised International Tribal Health Convention in September 2019 to work out a Comprehensive Health Action Plan for bringing health at the door step of tribal and tribal healers “vedu” were invited to demonstrate their products and medicine.

Empowering Tribal Migrants- Repository of Migrant Data

Research study commissioned by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on ‘Tribal Livelihood Migration’ in 12 States pointed to unavailability of migrant-specific real time data. Due to this, it becomes difficult for the government to formulate suitable strategies and policy decisions for making existing schemes more effective and beneficiary friendly and for providing immediate support for tribal and other migrant workers in cities for safe and productive migration. Besides, safeguards guaranteed through ‘Interstate Migrant Workers Act, 1979’ are hardly available to these migrants.

Based on findings of the study and in the light of facts and circumstances under the prevailing COVID-19 situation, MoTA has prepared an Action Plan to address the issue which focuses mainly on the following areas:

- Collection of village level migration data with skill mapping of the migrants.
- Linking of migrant population with existing Welfare Scheme- under Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- Establishment of Migration cell at originating and destination States.
- Pre-Departure Training at originating State and Post Arrival Help on arrival at destination State.



- Ensuring provision of health, education, social security, housing facility, skill development, social security and legal facilities etc.

The first step in this direction is need for collection of real time data. In this regard, “**National Migration Support Portal**” has been developed by Ministry with technical inputs from Research Organisation engaged in Tribal Migration. The portal has also been integrated with mobile app which helps to capture village level out-migration data.

This repository is proposed to capture data in respect of the districts having tribal population $\geq 25\%$ of tribal population. The data set will capture skill mapping, migration pattern which will include duration and season of migration, migration destination, sector of jobs, daily income, how they access basic services during migration (health, education, food security etc.). The data will be helpful in undertaking need-based interventions.

The proposed data will be electronically available and visible via dashboards at various levels: village-block-district-state and national level, and will help State and Central Governments to formulate suitable strategies and policies to support migrating tribal population.

Building and Enhancing Entrepreneurial Capabilities of Tribal Population-ASSOCHAM and FICCI

A project titled ‘Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program’ is being implemented in partnership between Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI and ASSOCHAM, wherein 1000 entrepreneurs will be identified in diverse areas across the country. This initiative would help in building and enhancing entrepreneurial capabilities of the entrepreneurs and help them to enhance their visibility in domestic and international market. Also, tribal entrepreneurs would be connected with the potential customer base identified market. On similar lines, FICCI is working in tribal districts of Jharkhand for entrepreneurship development program.

Tribal Health

Health and wellbeing of the vulnerable population is a priority area for the government. The National Health Policy – 2017, by envisaging “health for all” as its goal, bears testament to that. The Ministry is making continuous efforts to mitigate the health gap among tribal populations through schematic interventions under various programmes. Despite suffering from poor health and nutrition status compared to the rest of the population there is lack of credible data on the health situation of different tribal communities, which was pointed out by expert committee also. In the absence of a comprehensive picture of tribal health in the country, policy measures and government programmes are often ad-hoc. There is a vast disparity between the health outcomes of India’s tribal population vis-à-vis its non-tribal population. Maternal mortality, under-five mortality, and malnutrition rates are much higher among tribal groups, in addition to a higher incidence of malaria, tuberculosis, and several other communicable diseases.



Approach

Tribal Health Action Plan: Recognizing the need for mitigating the gaps related to lack of authentic and scientific data on tribal health and nutrition, Ministry has developed Tribal Health Action Plan based on the findings of the gap analysis conducted for mitigating the infrastructure gaps in tribal areas.

Swasthya- Health and Nutrition Portal: The Ministry pioneered a flagship initiative in the form of Swasthya Portal (<http://swasthya.tribal.gov.in>) with Piramal Foundation, which is working with NITI Aayog in aspirational districts. The portal was launched in August 2020 by Hon'ble Minister. Swasthya is a single point source for presenting the health and nutrition related data and information of the tribal population of India in 177 tribal dominated districts. It provides information and data as well as curates innovative practices, research briefs, case studies and best practices collected from different parts of India to facilitate the exchange of evidence, expertise and experiences. It is envisaged that information available on Swasthya will provide insights to all stakeholders working with the tribal population of India in the areas of health and nutrition. It will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and learnings, driving evidence-based policymaking.



Quarterly Newsletter "ALEKH": A Learning Endeavour for Knowledge in Healthcare (ALEKH), theme-based quarterly newsletter is also being published. The first edition of the newsletter is based on the theme of COVID-19 response in the tribal regions.

The district wise data for 177 Aspirational districts in respect of infrastructure, availability of doctors, health workers, para-medical staff and disease burden is shared through a Monitoring dashboard.

Sickle Cell Disease Support Corner: The Ministry has launched an online Sickle Cell Disease Support Portal (SCDSP) on 19.6.2020. It has following features:

- Provides information related to SCD, along with other health related information, including informative videos.
- Enables data-driven policy making and monitoring of needs of sickle cell patients.
- Connects individuals with SCD to welfare schemes, disease-specific healthcare services and validated health information.





Controlling Malaria and Tuberculosis in the tribal population: The Ministry in collaboration with Central TB Division, M/o Health & Family Welfare has communicated a joint letter dated 13.10.2020 to all the states enclosing Joint Action Plan to address the burden of TB in tribal population.

Impact

The Swasthya Portal, SCD support corner and Tribal Health Plan plugs the critical data gap which is generally seen in tribal health. A unique initiative, the district-level availability of key information is expected to improve programme designing and decision-making, enabling both policy-makers and practitioners to re-strategize their current interventions and design interventions based on the current gaps. Tribal Health Action Plan, which is a multi-pronged strategy to improve the health services in the tribal dominated areas by way of providing health infrastructure along with essential human resources and infusion of technology while preserving and promoting the traditional medicine and medicinal practices as well as age-old healing techniques are expected to fetch holistic strengthening of the health care delivery system in tribal areas.



Glimpses from the Media

The Ministry's website tribal.gov.in is linked to several social media pages such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Adi-Prasaran, the media website of Ministry gives insight on various new initiatives of the Ministry, PIB and media coverage along with photos and videos of various events.



Conclusion

Government of India has an unwavering commitment towards development of Tribal communities. While anticipating the tremendous challenges in developing them, and at the same time conserving their cultural heritage, for a population so diverse and unique in their own ways with more than 705 different tribal communities spread across the country, the ministry has envisaged and implemented several initiatives.

The MoTA through comprehensive data-driven digital governance model is reaching out to the diverse tribal population while covering all critical sectors like, education, health, livelihood, water and village development to achieve holistic development through improving standard of life of these deprived communities through initiatives like EMRS, Vandhan Vikas Kendra and scholarship schemes. These initiatives are changing lives of millions of tribal people. Integration with electronic authentication, digital payments, PFMS and EAT has brought accountability and transparency to the system by tracking entire fund flow utilization for asset creation or cash transfer to tribal beneficiary and every penny spent on the welfare of the tribals is utilised effectively and the agencies implementing the schemes are made accountable. These initiatives would ensure a dignified life to the tribal communities and realise the cherished goal of our Hon'ble Prime Minister; "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas". The empowerment of Tribal Community, which is at the bottom of the ladder, would surely transform India.





सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Government of India