

**F.No. 11024/1/2014 – Research
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs**

**Operational Guidelines for
The scheme “Grant-in Aid to Tribal Research Institutes (TRI)”**

1. Introduction:

1.1 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India has taken a decision to continue the scheme “Grants-in-aid to Tribal Research Institutes” as a component of the scheme “Research and Mass Information” with revised financial norms and identified interventions. Scheduled Tribe people comprise about 8.6 % of the population (census, 2011) of the country and the policy adopted in independent India reaffirms the commitment of the state to preserve and protect the distinctiveness of their culture, habit and language. However, in spite of political, social and economic commitments, the development gaps exist between tribal and non-tribal people. The uniqueness of the tribal culture is disappearing fast. There is lack of awareness about the various development programmes available to the ST population. Identifying challenges in the field of Socio-economic development of tribal and understanding, promoting and preserving their culture have become important while formulating various developmental programmes for the tribal and there is need for knowledge advocacy, which in return would help formulate evidence based policy and planning.

1.2 The basic objective of the scheme is to Strengthen the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in the following areas:

- (i) Research & Documentation:
 - Documentation of tribal welfare.
 - Preservation of tribal culture through among others written medium, support to tribal artisans, exhibitions.

- (ii) Training and Capacity building: (a) Laws/constitutional provisions in respect of Scheduled areas/tribal rights.
(b) Capacity building of functionaries and tribal representatives on socio-economic programs.

2. Institutional Mechanism and scope

2.1. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India shall be the nodal Ministry for operationalizing the scheme. The scheme shall continue during the remaining period of the 12th Plan i.e. 2014-2015 to 2017-2018 as a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding by the Central Government for selected activities only. Under this sub-scheme, grant will be given to the Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) set up by various State Governments. At present, TRIs function in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur and Tripura. In so far as Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is concerned, the funding includes administrative expenses also.

2.2. The scope and functions of TRIs would be :

- a. To work as body of knowledge and research,
- b. To support evidence based policy, planning and legislations,
- c. Capacity building of tribals and persons and institutions associated with tribal affairs,
- d. Dissemination of information and creation of awareness.

2.3. The goals and aims are to be achieved through:

- a. Conducting field research, seminar and workshops,
- b. Preserving and promoting tribal culture through documentation work, tribal festivals etc.,
- c. Training, personnel engaged in tribal welfare programs/ schemes, SHGs etc. on the matter relating to livelihood and laws relating to tribals such as Forest Rights

making them aware about various constitutional provisions and initiatives of the central/ state government for the benefit of STs such as local land laws, money lending, excise etc.

- c. Orientation Training on FRA, PESA Act/State laws/Rules where provisions of PESA Act have been incorporated.
- d. Provisions of various ongoing schemes and programs for the Welfare of STs, centrally sponsored schemes which also benefit ST people but access is limited because of remoteness etc. entitlements of the STs and any other issue that is felt essential/helpful for sharpening the implementation of development initiatives for the STs.

3.3 Documentation and preservation of tangible and intangible privilege:-

- a. Construction and maintenance of additional exhibition or audio-visual rooms, within the premises of existing Museums, for purchase, maintenance and preservation of artifacts, and also procurement of electronic equipment.
- b. Organizing tribal exhibitions, dance and painting events and competitions, documenting Art & Craft to provide protection under IPR regime.
- c. Monographs on tribal communities
- d. Preparation of books /dictionaries of Tribal Languages
- e. Translating some of the policy provisions in the major tribal languages and disseminate them by publishing those among tribal communities
- f. Purchasing and preservation of books for tribal libraries and digitization of their collection so as to make it available on line (with due recognition of IPR), and digital cataloguing of books and publications.

3.4 Organizing "exchange of visits by tribals": TRI shall arrange visit to other parts of the State/Country. The visiting groups may comprise of people for various tribes, have adequate representation from women and officials. The objectives should include to get a wider perspective of culture and traditions, to learn about socio- economic development/ best practices of other areas and to see how TRIs can be managed more efficiently and to see how socio-economic development can happen without losing core culture etc.

Act (FRA), PESA Act, Regulations in Scheduled Areas, and protection of land rights of tribals.

- d. TRIs will develop and maintain infrastructure like class rooms, hostels, exhibition halls, teaching equipment's etc. for the above purpose,
- e. Coordination and networking with related research institutes and organisations as well as academic bodies,
- f. Maintaining basic minimum infrastructure with a Research/ Evaluation/ Training Wing, Conference Hall, Library, Data Bank/ Resources Centre, Training hostel and Museum as per requirement as part of the TRI structure,
- g. Involvement/ recruitment of a Core Group of Professionals on regular or deputation basis (suggestive staff strength at Annex-I).

3. Activities to be undertaken under the scheme:

3.1 Research and Documentation:

- a. Research projects on relevant subjects such as; PESA, FRA, LARR Act Displacement/ Migration/ Human Trafficking/ Gender Issues/ Health etc.
- b. State Level Seminar/Workshop pertaining to local important tribal Issues
- c. Evaluation Studies of the ongoing development initiatives/programs/schemes in the state concerned; such as school dropouts, nutrition status, immunization, sanitation, witchcraft, teenage pregnancy etc.
- d. Documentation of intangible heritage/ arts and crafts of the tribal communities in various modes: models, Audio-Visuals, written form etc.
- e. Conducting ethnographic and anthropological studies and supporting fellowship.
- f. Developing data base for STs and PVTGs including collection of documentation, translation and publication on the tribal heritage, festivals, oral and visual folklore, arts, local games, sports, songs, literature etc.
- g. Development and printing of primers in tribal languages / local official languages.

3.2 Training:

- a. Foundation training of officials of Tribal Welfare department after recruitment,
- b. Training programme for functionaries of tribal affairs department, tribal representatives, interface staff, teachers, health functionaries, SHGs, youth etc.,

3.5 **“Organization of Tribal Festivals”** for the preservation, promotion and dissemination of tribal art and culture and traditional sports events. It also attempts documentation of the items as commodities of unique origin and being priceless from the historical and cultural angle. The festivals at the regional level include activities such as dances, melas, exhibitions of art and artefacts including photos, sports events and documentary film festivals. These may be organised at the local, district, state and/or national levels. The scheme addresses itself mainly to the well-identified and urgent need for creating awareness, promotion and dissemination of tribal culture and traditions. The main objectives of the scheme are:

- (i) To generate awareness of the richness and diversity of tribal culture and disseminate among the urban educated people so as to inculcate respect and admiration in them for the tribals.
- (ii) To provide the tribal communities with opportunities to preserve and conduct cultural activities including their traditional festivals, traditional sports events and showcase such events of the communities, in their own environment.
- (iii) To tap the inherent talent of upcoming tribal folk artists, sports persons, etc and encourage their participation at national and international events.
- (iv) To provide a platform for interaction across various tribal groups thereby promoting camaraderie and a sense of brotherhood among them
- (v) To preserve intangible heritage like performing arts is a live form.

4. Manpower Requirement:

- 4.1 A suggestive staff structure has been given in Annex, which needs to be maintained for undertaking the Common Minimum Programme of a TRI.
- 4.2 A dedicated core staff structure is essential in order to maintain the institutions.
- 4.3 The staff strength of TRI needs to be maintained by direct recruitment on regular or contract basis. Some of the training staff may be taken on deputation from various line departments of the concerned State Government or elsewhere. There should be a panel of experts for part time faculty.

5. National Tribal Award:

The TRIs would suggest nominations for National Tribal Awards. The award will be admissible to the members of the Scheduled Tribes who excel in different fields and institutions active in the field. Such recognition will also go a long way in reinforcing a positive image of tribal people and in molding the societal mind to accept and encourage the versatile roles of tribal people in Indian society. The awards admissible are:


- Awards for excellence in Individual category, carrying an amount of Rs. 2.00 lakh each, a citation and a trophy, in the fields of sports, education, culture, science and entrepreneurship;
- Award, carrying an amount of Rs. 5.00 lakh, a citation and a trophy, for exemplary community services in each category, viz. (i) Individual (ii) Panchayati Raj Institutions and NGOs (iv) community based groups; and
- Award, carrying an amount of Rs. 5.00 lakh, a citation and a trophy, for best performing ITDP/ITDA/ Micro projects/TRIs.
- A National festival will be organised by MOTA as an annual function.

6. Funding:

- 6.1 This would be a Central Sector Scheme and 100% grant-in-aid will be provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the TRIs. TRIs would be responsible to prepare proposal and detailed action plan for the year along with budgetary requirement and submit it to the Ministry.
- 6.2 The action plan submitted by the TRI would include all the details as mentioned at para 3.1 and 3.2 above and selected or all activities mentioned under para 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and para 5 above.
- 6.3 The proposals shall be accompanied by utilization certificates as per provisions of GFR.
- 6.4 Item-wise proposed budgetary expenditure shall be mentioned
- 6.5 Any other activities of national/ inter-state relevance may also be included along with budgetary proposal.

7. Monitoring:

- 7.1 The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India will be responsible for concurrent monitoring through physical and financial reports and visits by officers of the Ministry to review the scheme.
- 7.2 The scheme will be evaluated before the end of the 12th plan period through an independent agency.
- 7.3 There will be an annual plan and a perspective plan. An Apex Level Committee will approve the plan and shall monitor implementation of the same.



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Annexure

Basic Staff Structure of a TRI (indicative)

Sl. No.	Category of Staff	Number
1.	Director	
2.	Anthropologists/Social Scientists	3 (Three)
3.	Librarian/Asst. Librarian	1 (One)
4.	Museum Curator	1 (One)
5.	Asst. Curator	1 (One)
6.	Administration Officer	1 (One)