

F. No 17011/06/2024-TRI (E file No.27646)
Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(TRI & Media Division)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 18th December, 2025

To,

Principal Secretary/ Secretary/ Commissioner,
Tribal/ Social Welfare Department,
Sikkim

Subject: Minutes of meeting of the Apex Committee meeting held on 25th November, 2025 under the chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – regarding.

Sir/Madam

I am directed to refer to the captioned subject and to forward herewith a copy of minutes of meeting of the Apex Committee meeting held on 25th November, 2025 under the chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in Conference Room in hybrid mode for consideration of proposal of Annual Action Plan of Tribal Research Institute of Sikkim under the scheme, "Support to TRIs" for the year 2025-26, for kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above



(P. Haokip)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Email: haokip.paokholen@tribal.gov.in

Copy to Committee members:

- i. PPS to Secretary (TA) / JS(APP)/ JS&FA/ DDG, MoTA.
- ii. Joint Secretary, M/o Culture
- iii. Joint Secretary, M/o Tourism
- iv. Joint Secretary, M/o Culture
- v. Joint Secretary, M/o Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- vi. Advisor, NITI Aayog
- vii. Director (TRIs) (as per list attached)

Copy for information to

- i. PS to MTA
- ii. PSs to MoS (TA)

Internal circulation:

Tech. Dir (NIC), MoTA, with the request to upload it on the Ministry's website.

List of Participants:

Ministry of Tribal Affairs:

- i. Ms. Ranjana Chopra, Secretary (Tribal Affairs)
- ii. Sh. Anant Prakash Pandey, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- iii. Ms. Debolina Thakur, JS & FA, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- iv. Ms. Hari Kiran Gurla, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- v. Sh. Ganesh Nagarajan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- vi. Mr. P. Haokip, Under Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- vii. Sh. Sanjay Kumar Sharma, ASO TRI Division
- viii. Sh. Mithun Chandravanshi, Program Officer

State Representatives

- i. Ms. Choten D Lana, PS, Tribal Welfare Department, West Bengal
- ii. Ms. Sarika, PS, Tribal Welfare Department, Sikkim.
- iii. Shri Prasanna , Secretary, Tribal Welfare Department, Jammu & Kashmir
- iv. Ms. I. Sino Phom, Director, TRI Nagaland
- v. Shri Manish Shah, Director, TRI Gujarat
- vi. Director, TRI, Mizoram
- vii. Director, TRI Madhya Pradesh
- viii. Director, TRI, Andaman & Nicobar Island
- ix. Director, TRI, Jammu & Kashmir
- x. Ms. Chumkula, DS, TRI, Sikkim
- xi. Dr Debchand Bahoniya, Research Officer, TRI Gujarat
- xii. Dr. Devendra Singh, TRI Uttar Pradesh

Minutes of Apex Committee Meeting held on 25th November 2025 through VC for consideration of Annual Action Plan of States under the Scheme of “Support to TRIs” during FY 2025-26.

A meeting of the Apex Committee was held on 25th November 2025 through hybrid mode to appraise and approve the Annual Action Plans of TRIs for funding under the scheme “Support to TRIs” during FY 2025-26’.

2. Secretary, Tribal Affairs welcomed the participants and informed TRIs that all the activities undertaken by TRI should be impactful and the activities/events to be linked with sustainable livelihood opportunities and income augmentation for the tribal population.
3. The committee considered the annual action plan proposals submitted by the TRIs, Status of pending UC, SNA balance & committed liability of each TRI under the scheme “Support to TRIs” and the following decisions were taken:

- I. The decision with respect to each item proposed in Annual Action Plan by TRIs is given in annexure in relation of each state subject to the following:
- II. **General Decisions:**
 - i. **Quantifiable Targets and Impact:** Each activity in the annual action plan should have measurable outcomes, clearly stating the number of beneficiaries targeted. A follow up action plan should be devised to ensure that the impact is sustainable and that the tribal participants in these events ultimately benefit.
 - ii. **Mapping of PVTG Habitats:** TRIs to conduct mapping of PVTGs habitat in the financial year 2025-26. Domain experts to be involved for efficient and effective mapping.
 - iii. **Publications:** TRIs shall publish a compendium on Tribal Freedom Fighters of their respective states in Hindi, English, and state-specific tribal languages.
 - iv. **Outcome-Based Capacity Building:** Workshops and seminars must focus on tangible outcomes and be assessed for their effectiveness in influencing participants' behaviours, attitudes, and functionality for at least six months via online follow-ups.
 - v. **Livelihood-Linked Skill Training:** Skill and entrepreneurship training programs should contribute to livelihood generation and income enhancement among tribal communities.
 - vi. **Long-Term Engagement of Trainees:** Selected training and workshop participants should be engaged/ supported for a long-term until they are established in the industry.
 - vii. **Research Proposals:** All approved research projects must include a Detailed Project Report (DPR) with clear timelines, actionable objectives, and expected outcomes as well as actionable recommendations, preferably accompanied by a pilot project based on these recommendations.
 - viii. **Outcome-Oriented Seminar/workshop/Documentation:** Seminars/workshop and research documentation must highlight the actionable recommendations. Value addition is to be ensured.
 - ix. **Non-Duplication with other schemes:** TRIs should ensure that there is no duplication of activities with other schemes of the Government including PM-JANMAN and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan.
 - x. **Library Development:** Projects for libraries of TRIs should be limited to the procurement of books, magazines, and the preservation of rare books should integrate with online library networks like LIBNET.



- xi. **Clarity on Deferred Activities:** DPRs including clear objectives and expected outcomes must be provided for all deferred activities.
- xii. **Comprehensive Planning for Approved Activities:** In respect of the events/activities/programs which have been given in-principle approval, a DPR with timelines, financial requirements for the current and subsequent years (if applicable) and actionable objectives should be provided.
- xiii. **Reporting on Events:** Physical and financial details of all approved projects shall be uploaded on the NTRP.
- xiv. **Involvement of Stakeholders:** All TRIs to explore the possibility of contribution from the stakeholders in the form of DAPST funds for their effective utilization by the state, sponsorship, and CSR contributions, volunteerism etc. not only financially but in other ways also especially in the conduct of national and state level events as well as in IEC campaigns and follow up actions on projects.

III. Financial Decisions: TRI must comply with following while implementing the projects sanctioned by the Ministry under the scheme:

- i. State may utilize the funds already available with them under the scheme for the time being. While utilizing the fund, it may be ensured that the head of account is not changed.
- ii. Further funds would be released to the State subject to furnishing of Utilization Certificate, uploading of Physical Progress Report on **National Tribal Research Portal**, and Compliances of SNA requirements in accordance with the instructions of the Department of Expenditure, Government of India as issued time to time. Some projects, as specified, shall also be uploaded on the Aadi Prasaran portal.
- iii. Interest accrued in the SNA Account has to be deposited in Consolidated Fund of India as per DoE OM dt.30.06.2021.
- iv. All procurement will be done following the procedures of obtaining technical & administrative approvals from the competent authorities with transparency norms/GFR.
- v. Intimation regarding conduct of activities should be sent to Ministry of Tribal Affairs at least 15 days prior to conduct of the activity so as to enable participation of Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the same.
- vi. Regular monitoring of the progress of projects shall be undertaken at the TRIs/State Government levels and the reports on such progress shall be shared with the Ministry monthly by the 5th of the succeeding month.
- vii. The expenses should be incurred in a cost-effective manner, following transparency and efficient procurement procedures as per the GFR provisions.
- viii. TRIs must provide a breakup of the amounts to be spent/ required during the current financial year (2025-26), and for the next financial year (2026-27) where projects spill over into the second year.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks.



Annexure for TRI Sikkim

a) UC and SNA Balance:

Amount (₹) in lakh					
Scheme	State	UC pending	SNA balance	Amount last released	Fund Allocation
Support to TRI	TRI Sikkim	0.00	0.00	100.00 (2024-25)	400.00

b) Committed liabilities of previous years:

Amount (₹) in lakh							
Sl. No.	Activities	Year of first approval	MoTA's support	Amount already released	Balance Committed Liability Amount	Amount Approval for release during 2025-26	Remarks/Decision of the Apex Committee
1.	Regular activities	TRI 2023-24	120.00	111.80	08.20	08.20	Approved
2.	Regular activities	TRI 2024-25	121.50	0.00	121.50	121.50	Approved
Total			241.50	111.80	129.70	129.70	

c) New Proposals (2025-26)

Amount (₹) in lakh					
S. No.	Activities		Amount Sought	Amount Approved	Remarks/Decision of the Apex Committee
1.	Research/ Impact Assessment/ Livelihood/ Entrepreneurship/ Projects on Socio-Economic Development				
a)	Using Science to Combat Leaf Blight Disease in Large Cardamom for Tribal Prosperity. Duration: 1 year		15.00	15.00	Approved
b)	Preservation and Documentation of The Dzomsa (Lachung and Lachen Area) – A unique self- Governing Village Administrative Structure of Lachen and Lachung North Sikkim. Duration: 6 months		16.50	16.50	Approved. Activities b & c to be done together.
c)	Video documentation of Tribal Customs of Bhutia, Lepcha, Limbo, Sherpa and Tamang tribal communities with their oral narration pertaining to social Functions. Duration: 6 months		21.60	0.00	Activities b & c to be done together.
d)	Empowering Livelihoods through Sustainable Soap Making in Sikkim Duration: 6 months		13.56	0.00	Not Approved



S. No.	Activities	Amount Sought	Amount Approved	Remarks/Decision of the Apex Committee
e)	Bake for Livelihood: Bakery Skill Development for Tribal Women in Sikkim. (Duration: One Week)	10.02	0.00	Not Approved
f)	Clean and Skilled: Housekeeping Training for Tribal Youth and Women in Sikkim. (Duration: One Week)	12.55	0.00	Not Approved
g)	Training and Study on usage of nettle as path of sustainable livelihood for Tribal Duration:6 months	12.00	0.00	Not Approved
2. Health and Education				
a)	Exploring Perceptions of Alcohol Consumption among Tribal Communities in Sikkim: Cultural Practices, Risks and Responses. Duration: 6 months	11.50	0.00	Not Approved
b)	Intensive Coaching Program for EMRS Class X & XII students. Duration: 2 months	12.00	12.00	Approved
3. Seminars /Workshops (Webinars) /Capacity Building				
a)	Training of Tribal Teachers of Sikkim Duration: 15 Days	25.00	25.00	Approved
4. Tribal Festivals and Events				
a)	North East Level Traditional Food Festival cum Cultural meets 2025 (Duration: Six Days)	69.17	69.17	Approved. This festival to be curated as Northeast Food Festival and develop it as an annual event
5. Tribal Exchange Visit				
a)	Exchange Visit of EMRS/Tribal Students/Tribal Communities for the Augmentation of State TRI of Sikkim Duration: 1 week	10.00	5.00	Approved
Total		228.90	117.92	

d) Total amount approved for release during 2025-26:

Amount (₹) in lakh

A	Committed Liability for Regular TRI Activities for 2023-24	8.20
B	Committed Liability for Regular TRI Activities for 2024-25	121.50
C	New Proposals Consider for Approval by Apex Committee for 2025-26	117.92
	Total	247.62