SKOCH Gold Award for Ministry of Tribal Affairs

August 1, 2020

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has received **SKOCH Gold Award for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project** of scholarship division of the Ministry. The 66th SKOCH 2020 Competition was entitled "**India responds to COVID through digital governance**".

Award for Ministry of Tribal Affairs

The MoTA project is a step towards achieving the commitment of the Government of India towards realizing the dreams of **Digital India and bringing transparency as well as ease in the delivery of services.** To assimilate with the larger vision of 'Digital India' and to realize the cherished goal of e-governance, **MoTA has integrated all 5 Scholarship Schemes with DBT Portal under the guidance of DBT Mission.**

During 2019-20, under 5 Scholarship schemes, about **Rs. 2500 Cr were directly transferred to student's bank accounts through DBT to approximately 30 lakh students in 31 States and UTs.** The portal **provides facilities to States for data sharing through web services and States can up-load proposals, UCs and SOE online.** This has brought a paradigm shift from paper based UC monitoring mandated for budget release to data enabled budget release and monitoring process. This has **considerably reduced scholarship release time and now it is possible to release scholarship in the same academic year in which admission is taken.**

MoTA has also entered into CEDA (Centre for Data Analytics), which **analyzes and prepares State wise data analysis reports, which helps in data based planning**. In the Fellowship Scheme run by the Ministry for doing PhD, all 331 Universities have been integrated with the portal thereby enabling application

verification online. Portal is also integrated with Digi-Locker developed by MeiTY so that documents are directly fetched and saves verification time.

The portal has a facility to upload documents which are not on Digi-Locker. Each of these **portals have grievance redressal and communication mechanism** and all stakeholders, universities, banks, PFMS, students and states can upload queries, grievances and upload documents, which has made grievance redressal mechanism easy, transparent and fast. KPMG, as part of its mandate for NITI Aayog, has carried out a national evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes focused on social inclusion, in which it has recognized the **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) 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.

In order to have connect with 7000 students studying in top 246 institutions across India and 4000 students doing PhD in more than 300 universities, **MoTA has conceptualized a unique concept of talent pool for empowering ST scholars which can be connected to various research projects run by TRIs and States.** The project is implemented by IIPA and would help in understanding the aspirations of tribal youth and help in realizing their cherished dream to develop as entrepreneurs, researchers and flag-bearers of schemes of Government of India meant for welfare for STs.