PM Janjatiya Vikas Mission: Minor Forest Produce Drives Tribal Livelihoods

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15 November 2026: On Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas (Birsa Munda's birth anniversary, observed since 2021) and the Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada (1-15 November 2026), the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM) and Minor Forest Produce (MFP)-based tribal livelihoods are in focus. 246 tribal projects (173 inaugurations, 73 foundation stones; about Rs 3,000 crore) and two national digital initiatives - the Jan-HIT Portal and the National FRA Digital Platform - were launched to mark the occasion.

MFP and tribal livelihoods

Income share: Many of India's 10.4 crore Scheduled Tribe people earn 20-40% of their annual income from MFP - honey, tendu leaves, mahua, tamarind, lac, bamboo and medicinal plants.

Legal basis: The Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 defines MFP as all non-timber forest produce; PESA (1996) gives tribal gram panchayats ownership rights over MFP.

MSP: The government has notified minimum support prices for 87 MFP items under PMJVM; TRIFED procures through state agencies - since 2013-14, over 2,67,954 MT of MFP worth Rs 693.98 crore has been procured.

PMJVM and Van Dhan Vikas Kendras

Mission (2021-22): Turn tribals from raw-material sellers into value-adding entrepreneurs; the Van Dhan Yojana (14 April 2018) is its core scheme.

VDVK model: 15 self-help groups (about 300 tribal members) form one cluster-level Van Dhan Vikas Kendra; at least 60% members must be ST. VDVKs get processing equipment, training, working capital (including from NSTFDC) and storage-transport support.

Progress: By March 2026, 4,172 VDVKs sanctioned (2,911 functional), covering 12.48 lakh beneficiaries; sales of about Rs 168 crore by July 2026.

Market linkage: Modernisation of over 5,000 tribal haats, e-commerce, GI tags, fairs and exhibitions - with a special role for tribal women's empowerment.

Quiz: Test your knowledge

Q1: Consider the following about PMJVM and MFP: 1. MSP notified for 87 MFP items 2. Van Dhan Yojana began on 14 April 2018 3. At least 50% VDVK members must be ST. Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only(b) 2 and 3 only(c) 1 and 3 only(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer and explanation: (a) Statements 1 and 2 are correct; the VDVK membership requirement is at least 60% ST, not 50%.

Q2: Which body procures MFP at the notified MSP?

(a) NABARD(b) TRIFED(c) FCI(d) NSTFDC

Answer and explanation: (b) TRIFED (Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India) procures through state-level agencies at the notified MSP.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

In short: PMJVM organises tribals into Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for MFP value-addition, MSP procurement and market access - 4,172 VDVKs sanctioned, 12.48 lakh beneficiaries so far.

Question: What is PMJVM?

A mission launched in 2021-22 that organises tribal communities into VDVKs for value addition of minor forest produce, with skill training, working capital and market linkage; the Van Dhan Yojana (2018) is part of it.

Question: What is Minor Forest Produce and who fixes its MSP?

Under FRA 2006, all non-timber forest produce - honey, tendu, mahua, lac, bamboo etc. MSP has been notified for 87 MFP items; procurement is by TRIFED.

Question: When is Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas observed?

On 15 November - Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary; declared in 2021. This year the Gaurav Pakhwada ran from 1-15 November.

Sources:

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?ModuleId=3&NoteId=160792&lang=1®=3