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# ITDC Tribal Homestay Capacity Building Programme 2026

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# ITDC Tribal Homestay Capacity Building Programme 2026

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## ▼ On this Page

**01** What is the Tribal Homestay Capacity...

**02** About ITDC

**03** Significance for Tribal Communities

**04** Policy Context

## WHY IN NEWS

The India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, inaugurated a Capacity Building Programme for Tribal Homestay Owners on March 18, 2026, releasing a first-of-its-kind operational manual for tribal homestay management.

## WHAT IS THE TRIBAL HOMESTAY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME?

The programme is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Tourism** (through ITDC) and the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, designed to professionalise tribal homestay operations across India. It is implemented through **IHM Ashok** – ITDC’s dedicated hospitality education arm.

### PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Improve **service standards** and visitor experience at tribal homestays

Create **sustainable livelihood opportunities** for tribal communities

Bridge the **shortage of conventional hotel infrastructure** in tribal, mountainous, and forest regions

Tap growing demand for **immersive, nature-based, off-beat travel** experiences

### KEY FEATURES

**Inaugural batch:** 40 participants from **Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Gujarat**

Released: “**Tribal Homestay – Operation and Development Manual 2026**” — developed by IHM Ashok; translated into **Hindi and Gujarati**

Scale target: Train ~**1,500 participants**, who then act as **regional multipliers/trainers**

Structured training covers hospitality, hygiene, guest relations, local cuisine presentation, and safe infrastructure

## ABOUT ITDC

The **India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)** was established in **1966** under the Ministry of Tourism.

### KEY FUNCTIONS

Develops and manages tourism infrastructure (Ashok Group of Hotels, transport services, duty-free shops)

Runs **IHM Ashok** — one of India’s premier hotel management institutes

Undertakes consultancy for tourism projects domestically and internationally

Organises cultural events and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) services

### IHM ASHOK

Full name: **Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Ashok** — ITDC’s flagship hospitality education institution in New Delhi. It develops training curricula and operational manuals for hospitality professionals.

## SIGNIFICANCE FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

### ECONOMIC DIMENSION

Tribal homestays provide **direct income** to host families without displacement from their land or culture. Unlike large hotel chains, revenue stays within the community. Linked to **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras** (Ministry of Tribal Affairs) for ancillary forest-produce-based income.

### TOURISM DIMENSION

India’s **responsible tourism** policy encourages experiential travel. Tribal homestays offer:

Authentic cultural immersion (local food, art, festivals)

Low-carbon-footprint accommodation

Access to biodiversity-rich areas otherwise underserved by formal hotels

### INTER-MINISTERIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The collaboration between the **Ministry of Tourism** and the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** exemplifies convergent governance — two ministries co-creating a livelihood-plus-tourism model without duplicating delivery infrastructure.

## POLICY CONTEXT

### **NATIONAL TOURISM POLICY 2022 (DRAFT)**

Emphasises **community-based tourism**, **rural tourism**, and **tribal tourism circuits**. Specific mention of North-Eastern States, Himalayan regions, and tribal belts of Central India.

### **ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME**

Many tribal districts are designated as Aspirational Districts under NITI Aayog — tourism and livelihood programmes here get additional central support.

### **TRIBAL SUB-PLAN (TSP) / SCHEDULED TRIBES COMPONENT (STC)**

Budget allocations under STC from Ministries of Tourism, Skill Development, and Rural Development can fund such capacity building programmes.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

ITDC founding year, IHM Ashok, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras.

### **MAINS GS-2:**

Inter-ministerial coordination; tribal welfare schemes; community-based governance.

### **GS-3:**

Sustainable tourism; rural livelihood programmes.

**★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA**
**ITDC — CORE DATA:**

Full form: India Tourism Development Corporation  
 Established: **1966**  
 Under: **Ministry of Tourism**, Government of India  
 Hotels operated: **Ashok Group** (including The Ashok, New Delhi)  
 Education arm: **IHM Ashok** (New Delhi)

**TRIBAL HOMESTAY PROGRAMME:**

States in inaugural batch: **Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Gujarat**  
 Batch size: **40 participants**  
 Scale target: **~1,500 trainers** (regional multiplier model)  
 Manual: “Tribal Homestay – Operation and Development Manual 2026”  
 Languages: English, **Hindi, Gujarati**

**RELATED SCHEMES:**

**Van Dhan Vikas Kendras:** SHG-based centres for value-addition of tribal forest produce (under TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs)  
**TRIFED:** Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India  
**Aspirational Districts Programme:** NITI Aayog-led convergence for backward districts  
**Tribal Sub-Plan / Scheduled Tribes Component (STC):** Earmarked budget for tribal welfare across central ministries

**OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:**

India has 705 Scheduled Tribes (Census 2011); tribal population ~8.6% of total  
 North-East India, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh are major tribal tourism destinations  
 Responsible tourism circuits in tribal areas help reduce over-tourism at mainstream destinations  
 MICE = Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions (ITDC service vertical)

 Sources: [PIB](#), [Ministry of Tourism](#)
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