



Policy Brief

Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Overseas Scholarship Scheme 2021

November, 2021

CONTEXT

The eastern state of Jharkhand is home to approximately 8.3 percent of the tribal population in India and 32 tribal communities reside here. Being among the relatively economically weaker and backward states owing to high density of population which is multi-dimensionally poverty stricken, there is a limited access to welfare facilities. The literacy rate of the tribal population stands at 38 percent, which is comparably lower than the state's average of 54.1 percent.

LEGACY OF A CENTURY

Jaipal Singh Munda was the first tribal student from India to study at the University of Oxford in England between 1922 and 1929. While there, he also captained the Indian Hockey team for the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam, leading them to win a gold medal. The visionary leader who was also a member of the Constituent Assembly is fondly remembered by the tribal people as 'Marang Gomke' or the *Supreme Leader* because of the major role he played in giving them a voice and an identity in the country.

After almost a century, to honour his memory and contributions to the state, the **Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Overseas Scholarship Scheme** was launched by Chief Minister Hemant

Soren to support the dreams and aspirations of young tribal students.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INITIATIVE

The state of Jharkhand witnessed the launch of Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Overseas Scholarship (MGJMOS) Scheme on 29th December 2020. With the formal launch of this scholarship scheme, Jharkhand became one of the first states to provide support to the students from indigenous or marginal communities and to help them pursue their studies at international institutions of excellence in higher education.

The scholarship is a tribute to the tribal icon, Jaipal Singh Munda. It seeks to bridge the gap between inequitable access to quality higher education faced by marginal communities in India and support the aspirations of young talent.

» **Coverage:** The scholarship seeks to provide complete financial support including tuition fees, living costs, and journey expenses for ten tribal students of Jharkhand for a one-year Masters or a two-years MPhil degree across 22 courses in 15 top-tier universities of the United Kingdom

» **Eligibility:** Students who hail from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category in Jharkhand and are not older than 40 years during the time of application. Priority is assigned to students with

relevant research or teaching experience

» **Implementing Agency:** The initiative is housed within the Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare, Government of Jharkhand

In the first cohort, six students qualified for the maiden (MGJMOS) Scheme and received their awards on 23rd September 2021. The respective students are currently studying across the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University College London, Loughborough University, University of Sussex, and University of Warwick.

The first batch has paved the way for young minds from tribal communities to fulfil their dreams and apply for studying abroad with complete support from the state government.

OUR INVOLVEMENT

Established in 2018, Policy and Development Advisory Group (PDAG) is a policy advisory and research enterprise, working closely with policy-makers, researchers, and non-profit foundations to foster a data driven people centric public policy framework. PDAG is engaged with the Chief Minister's Office, Jharkhand to provide strategic advisory support in public policy, data, and strategic communications.

Throughout the different stages of the MGJMOS scheme, including conceptualisation, design, and stakeholder management, our team has support-

ed and provided technical assistance to the Department of Scheduled Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare, Government of Jharkhand. The team also was instrumental in coordinating with respective university authorities in the UK, arranging for clearances and conversations with the British High Commission (BHC) in New Delhi and mentoring the selected scholars through sensitisation programmes on new cultures and curriculum of education.

NEXT STEPS: MGJMOS Scheme 2.0

PDAG is supporting the Government of Jharkhand to expand the ambit of the scheme by covering all the marginal communities in the state including Scheduled Tribes (ST), Scheduled Castes (SC), Minorities and Other Backward Classes (OBC). Budgetary allocations will also be increased and the number of scholars to a total of 25

We are also supporting the Government of Jharkhand and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) through the British High Commission (BHC) to actualise a joint Chevening Marang Gomke Overseas Scholarship for the students from marginal communities in India, thereby, aiding in bridging the gap in higher education.

