

SYMPOSIUM ON START-UP ECOSYSTEM

Posted On: 07 AUG 2025 3:06PM by PIB Delhi

Replying to un-starred question of **Shri Bhojraj Nag, Smt. Sandhya Ray, Dr. Hemant Vishnu Savara, Smt. Himadri Singh, Shri Mahendra Singh Solanky, Shri Basavaraj Bommai, Shri Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Godam Nagesh, Ms KangnaRanaut, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Mukesh Rajput, Shri NabaCharan Majhi**, the Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs **Shri Durgadas Uikey** informed Lok Sabha today that the Ministry had launched the scheme of 'Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes' (VCF-ST) on 10th February, 2024 with a corpus of Rs. 50 crore to promote entrepreneurship among STs across the country including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana. The fund is floated as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) Category-II under Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as debt oriented. The scheme is implemented through IFCI VCF Ltd. So far, an amount of Rs. 8.41 crores have been sanctioned to two tribal companies – one in Telangana (Rs. 5.00 crores) and one in Chhattisgarh (Rs. 3.41 crores).

Under the scheme, IFCI VCF Ltd. organized a Symposium on 28th January, 2025 wherein major Venture Capitalists and Impact Investors were invited to deliberate on actionable strategies aimed at uplifting tribal entrepreneurs, catalyzing investments in tribal-led startups and fostering inclusive growth. The participants included representatives from Indian Angel Network, Info Edge, IVCA, Aavishkaar Capital, GrowthCap Ventures, Villgro, SKI Capital, IFCI Venture and former officials of SIDBI. The key recommendations from the symposium included building quality tribal enterprises, targeted capacity-building programs at village level, identify specific industries with high potential for tribal empowerment and innovation, such as agriculture, handicrafts, and sustainable development and promote Fund of Funds (FOF) models to channel investments into innovative and impactful sectors.

RN/

(Release ID: 2153508)