

Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ko Aarthik Sahayata (VISVAS) Yojana

The VISVAS (Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ko Aarthik Sahayata) Scheme aims to provide interest subvention to OBC/SC Self Help Groups (SHGs) or individuals. It is being implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The objective of the scheme is to provide the direct benefit of a lower rate of interest to the eligible beneficiaries who have availed loans through Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and similar financial institutions hereinafter referred to as Lending Institutions.

About VISVAS Scheme

- Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot released a book containing 33 Action Plans 2020-21 of all the schemes under the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment on September 7, 2020. VISVAS Yojana was one of these schemes
- “*Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta Yojana*” is for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and OBC Self Help Groups/Individual members with annual family income upto Rs. 3 Lakh
- The scheme benefits **OBC/SC SHGs with loans/borrowings of up to Rs.4.00 Lakh** and **OBC/SC individuals with loan/borrowing up to Rs.2.00 Lakh** with a quick interest subvention benefit of 5% directly into the standard accounts of borrowing SHGs/beneficiaries
- **Period of the scheme** - The Yojana is valid for 2020-21. Further extension of the scheme will be evaluated based on the performance of the scheme

Who all are eligible under the VISVAS Scheme?

Eligibility Criteria for Other Backward Classes (OBCs):

- Members of Backward Classes, as notified by Central Government/State Governments
- All OBC Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cardholders, and OBC individuals facing three or more Deprivations in terms of SECC-2011, as per records available at the relevant BDO Office shall be eligible for Interest Subvention
- All OBC beneficiaries involved in Agricultural activities and getting coverage under the PM KISAN
- SHGs must be registered with NRLM/NULM/[NABARD](#) with more than two years of credit history

Eligibility Criteria for Scheduled Castes (SCs):

- NSFDC recognized Self-Help Groups (SHGs) registered with NRLM/NULM and NABARD
- The definition of Scheduled Castes includes all castes notified in the State and/or Central Government lists of SCs
- Valid Annual Income Certificate issued by the competent authority of the State Government
- AAY cardholders, and other individuals facing three or more Deprivations in terms of SECC-2011

- All beneficiaries involved in Agricultural activities and getting coverage under the PM KISAN