

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4200
ANSWERED ON 18.03.2026

PRADHAN MANTRI VIRASAT KA SAMVARDHAN SCHEME

4200. SHRI P V MIDHUN REDDY:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) scheme;
- (b) the number of beneficiaries under the PM VIKAS scheme, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide skill development, market access and financial support to traditional artisans under the said scheme?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

(a): The Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) scheme is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs aimed at socio-economic empowerment of minority communities through skill development; leadership & entrepreneurship development among minority women, and education support for school dropouts. The scheme integrates five earlier schemes of the Ministry, namely Seekho aur Kamao, USTTAD, Hamari Dharohar, Nai Roshni and Nai Manzil.

The key features of the PM VIKAS scheme include:

- i. Skill development and livelihood support for minority youth and artisans through market-oriented training.
- ii. Preservation and promotion of traditional arts and crafts, including safeguarding of cultural heritage and intangible cultural heritage (ICH).
- iii. Entrepreneurship and leadership development, particularly among minority women.
- iv. Education support through bridge programmes and open schooling for school dropouts.
- v. Convergence with other Government schemes and institutions to enhance employment opportunities and credit access.

(b): Under the PM VIKAS scheme, beneficiaries are trained through empanelled Project Implementing Agencies across States and Union Territories. The State/UT-wise number of beneficiaries enrolled under the scheme as on 16.03.2026 is as follows:

SI No	State/ UT	No. of beneficiaries enrolled
1	Punjab	4828
2	Uttar Pradesh	3533
3	Assam	2451
4	Jammu & Kashmir	1620
5	Jharkhand	1440

6	Madhya Pradesh	1372
7	Uttarakhand	1440
8	Delhi	1316
9	Karnataka	442
10	Bihar	360
11	Haryana	283
12	Tripura	264
13	Rajasthan	204
14	Andhra Pradesh	180
15	Meghalaya	209
16	Telangana	150
17	Maharashtra	147
18	Kerala	117
19	Nagaland	113
20	Tamil Nadu	60

(c): The Government has undertaken several measures under PM VIKAS to promote skill development, market access and financial support for traditional artisans, including:

- i. NSQF-aligned training programmes for artisans engaged in traditional arts and crafts to upgrade their skills.
- ii. Customized workshops covering product development, packaging, design improvement, financial literacy, e-commerce onboarding and export management.
- iii. Support for preservation and promotion of traditional crafts and cultural heritage, including documentation and propagation of traditional art forms.
- iv. Market linkages and exposure opportunities through events, exhibitions and participation in fairs.
- v. Facilitating credit and financial linkages through institutions such as National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC), banks and other financial institutions for enterprise development.
- vi. Encouraging formation of self-help groups, artisan producer organizations and enterprises to enhance livelihood opportunities.

These initiatives aim to strengthen the livelihoods of traditional artisans while preserving the cultural heritage of minority communities.

Further, under the PM VIKAS scheme, Ministry has been organising 'Lok Samvardhan Parv', bringing together minority artisans from across India and assist them to scale up their operations and businesses. So far, the Ministry has organised 05 Lok Samvardhan Parvs, in Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir and Kerala.
