



सत्यमेव जयते

**राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग**  
**National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**

(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय)  
(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

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To,

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| 1. Principal Secretary,<br>SCs & STs Development and Minorities and<br>Backward Classes Welfare Department,<br>Govt. of Kerala,<br>Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) | 2. Secretary,<br>Agricultural Department,<br>Govt. of Kerala,<br>Thiruvananthapuram<br>(Kerala) |
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Sub: Visit report of Secretary, NCST to Thrissur District (Kerala) on 01.03.2024

महोदय,

I am directed to refer to NCST's Wireless Message No. Secy / Tour / 2024 dated 22.02.2024 on the subject cited above and to say that as per programme the Secretary, NCST visited the local areas of Thrissur District on 01.03.2024. A copy of the visit report of Smt. Alaka Tiwari, Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is enclosed, for taking appropriate action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(आर.एस.मिश्र/R.S. Misra)

अनुसंधान अधिकारी/Research Officer

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Copy for information to:

1. PS to Secretary, NCST
2. O/o JS, NCST
3. NIC, NCST for uploading on the website of the Commission

**Government of India**  
**National Commission for Scheduled Tribes**

**Visit Report of Smt. Alka Tiwari, Secretary, NCST to Athirappilly, Vazhachal habitation of Kadar PVTG and ST of Kerala and Athirappilly Tribal Valley Agricultural Project (D/o Agriculture, Govt. of Kerala), Vettilappara District – Thrissur (Kerala).**

**Village near by Vazhachal Water Fall:-**

As per programme, the Secretary, NCST and other officers of NCST proceeded from Kochi to Thrissur on 01.03.2024. On the way, the team visited the forest village near by Vazhachal Water Fall inhabited by "Kadar" community notified as Scheduled Tribe and also identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in the State of Kerala. The persons of other ST community namely Muthuvan and Malayar also residing there. Near about 610 families were residing there. Out of which 75 family belongs to Kadar ST community. In the habitation, there was a Anganwadi Center and one GWLPA school (which from class 1 to 4). The Secretary, NCST interacted and had a discussion with Ms. Geeta, (belongs to Kadar community) who is the head of Anganwadi Center. She had informed that the all members, who above 18 years are working with the Forest Department and Tourism Department, as the water fall of Vazhachal and Athirappilly are famous tourist spot of the State of Kerala. There was no health center in the habitation. The PHC is above 10 KM from the habitation. The food department of the state provides the ration through PDS. The information about ration comes through online, then the beneficiary collect the items from distributor. The items (Rice 30 Kg, Wheat 03Kg and Maida 02Kg) provided for each family but Sugar and other items are not provided.

After discussion, the following points emerged for taking a suitable action for welfare and development of the STs of the forest village near by Vazhachal:-

1. The Mobile Medical Van may be launched by the State Govt. to take care of the health status of the STs.
2. The facility for middle and higher education of the residents of village may be arranged.
3. The necessary items like Sugar & other daily used items (as per local needs) may be added in the PDS system for distribution of the residents.
4. The tourists may be sensitized about the Scheduled Tribes – specially PVTGs.

**Vettilappara – Athirappilly Tribal Valley Agricultural Project.**

After meeting with the residents of Vazhachal Forest Village, the Secretary, NCST and other officers of NCST proceeded for the site of Athirappilly Tribal Valley Agricultural Projects. The project situated in Vettilappara Village. The team of NCST met with Nodal officer of the project. The officer informed that the objectives of the project to support the traditional agricultural practices and thus

conserve local varieties in the region. Through hand holding tribal producers and enhancing livelihood opportunities, we hope to give them access to a global market that appreciates the value of what is natural and unadulterated. The product diversity were reported (i) Black Pepper, (ii) White Pepper, (iii) Cardamom, (iv) Turmeric Powder, (v) Coffee Powder, (vi) Roasted Coffee Beans, (vii) Honey, (viii) Cashew, (ix) Ginger, (x) Dammer/Thelli, (xi) Bamboo Rice, (xii) Cocoa Powder, (xiii) Manjakoova, (xiv) Pepper Powder, (xv) Arecanut Dry, (xvi) Shikakay Powder, (xvii) Bamboo Rice

The Govt. of Kerala had taken initiative and setup this project in 2021 for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes of the State. The projects is covered Annamalai Mountain Ranges to the native of the forest- Kadar, Muthuvan, Malayar ST. This project covered about 14 tribal hamlets and near about 429 families. The organization has made four Women Tribal Groups for running the various activities related to the harvesting and collection of the Forest Products. The organization also provides training to beneficiaries inform of (i) Pre – plantation; (ii) Pre-summer; (iii) Harvesting and (iv) Post-harvesting. The small factory was also functioning at the project site. The officer of the project informed that the local people are very happy from the initiative taken by the State Govt. of Kerala for well being and development of Scheduled Tribes.

After discussion, the Secretary, NCST suggested the following for betterment of Scheduled Tribes of the State.

1. The State Govt. of Kerala may continue this project and also setup such type of projects in the other habitations of Scheduled Tribes of the State living in the forests.
2. The Project in-Charge and related officers may be encouraged to attend / participate at the national level events (like Aadi Mahotsav - organized by Tribal Co-Operative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd., at New Delhi and the various places in the country).

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