



# Charan Paduka Scheme

## Why in News?

The Chhattisgarh government has revived the **Charan Paduka scheme**, a footwear scheme aimed at **benefiting [tendu leaf collectors](#)** across the state.

- The scheme **will benefit over 1.24 million tendu leaf collectors**, and the state government has approved a budget of Rs 40 crore for its implementation.

## Key Points

- **About the Scheme:**
  - The Charan Paduka scheme was **originally launched in November 2005** by the state government.
  - The scheme **provides one pair of footwear per year** to up to two family members, aged 18 years or above, involved in **tendu leaf collection**.
  - Initially, only one male member per family qualified. However, in 2008, the government extended eligibility to female members as well.
  - The scheme **applies exclusively to native residents of Chhattisgarh**.
- **Significance of the Relaunch of the Scheme:**
  - The relaunch reflects the government's firm commitment to **uplifting [tribal](#) and [forest-dependent communities](#)**.
  - Tendu leaf collectors' families play a vital role in preserving forest-based livelihoods and sustaining Chhattisgarh's traditional economy.
    - Reaffirming support for forest livelihoods, CM announced a **hike in the tendu leaf collection rate from Rs 4,500 to Rs 5,500 per standard sack**.

## Tendu Leaves

- **About:**
  - Tendu (Kendu) leaf, also called the **green gold**, is a **Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP)**.
  - The botanical name of the **Tendu leaf is *Diospyros Melanoxylon***.
  - The leaves are **used to wrap bidis, a popular smoke among the locals**.
- **States Producing Tendu Leaves:**
  - The states producing bidi leaves in India comprise mainly **Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Maharashtra**.
- **Significance:**
  - **Medicament:**
    - Traditional medical practitioners use these tiny fruits of Kendu to **treat [malaria](#), [diarrhoea](#) and [dysentery](#)**.
    - Due to their antimicrobial properties, the leaves are applied on cuts and bruises as well.
  - **Source of Livelihood:**
    - Tendu leaves are the major source for tribal villages, since it is the most prominent **[Minor Forest Produce \(MFP\)](#)** of the state.

- MFP includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and includes bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins and many forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, honey, lac, tusser etc.
- They form a major portion of their food, fruits, medicines and other consumption items and also provide cash income through sales.

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