

Chhattisgarh Free Smartphone Scheme

President Ram Nath Kovind has launched Free Smartphone Distribution Scheme in Chhattisgarh. Under CG Sanchar Kranti Yojana, govt. will start distribution of free smartphones to around 50 lakh people in the state. This scheme is specifically designed to reduce the digital divide and to increase mobile connectivity which currently stands at 29% in rural areas. Around 13,900 villages will be covered under SKY 2018. At the official launch event, 2 women beneficiaries and 1 college students have received smartphones.

The scheme will ensure various developmental activities to attain new heights in the region and state. In 1st phase, chhattisgarh govt. will distribute smartphones to beneficiaries in urban areas from 30 July to 16 August. In 2nd phase, rural areas will be covered from 17 August to 22 September 2018.

In rural areas, the beneficiaries will be selected by the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development. However, the eligible beneficiaries in the urban areas will be shortlisted by the Urban Development Department. This scheme will also be implemented in colleges for the students by the Department of Higher Education.

In the first phase(2017-18 and 2018-19), the government will distribute 5.08 million smartphones in the state. However, the remaining 480,000 phones will be distributed in the second phase across the state under this scheme. Moreover, the population comprising of less than 1,000 people will be covered at village level in the second phase of this scheme.

Objectives

- To encourage people to use digital mediums.
- To increase digital literacy.
- To increase digital payments and transactions.
- To provide government services online to the citizens.
- To provide transparent governance.
- Make digital resources available to the students.
- To connect them to the world.

Eligibility

- Only the citizens of Chhattisgarh are eligible.
- Below poverty line and low income groups, families who's yearly income is less than 2 lakh are eligible.
- People residing in the villages and remote areas too are eligible.
- School and college students along with women are eligible too.
- Girls and women between 18-60 years of age will be given preference.