

## **Recognition of AFC Foundation as Centre of Excellence on Tribal Empowerment and Development by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India**

We take pride in informing that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India recognized **AFC Foundation** set up by AFC India Ltd. (formerly Agricultural Finance Corporation) **as a "Centre of Excellence (CoE)"** for carrying out action research, devising appropriate strategies for tribal development and undertaking sustainable interventions for holistic development of tribal communities in the most underdeveloped regions of the country.

Towards this, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has identified **"Gajapati" district in Odisha**, one of the 117 Aspirational Districts across India selected by the NITI Aayog, for transformation into a **Model Aspirational Tribal District**. This formidable task has been assigned to AFC Foundation, on a pilot basis.

The Project interventions will revolve around the two flagship programmes of the Government of India - the **"Transformation of Aspirational Districts"** and **"Aatmanirbhar Bharat"**. This initiative will demonstrate **replicable pathways for holistic and accelerated development of tribal communities** that leverage community institutions, phygital (physical + digital) connectivity, integrated technology platforms, social business models, public safety nets and multi-stakeholder convergence. The major interventions will include an array of demand-side and supply-side interventions focused on livelihoods, financial inclusion, health and education.

AFC CoE shall introduce a cutting-edge technology platform to inform, monitor and guide interventions in the focal thematic areas of education, financial inclusion, health and livelihoods by enabling digital tracking of key district development indicators. This will contribute to enhanced visibility of progress, efficacy, sustainability and impact for timely course-correction, resource optimization, digital governance and beneficiary engagement.

### **AFC CoE aims to achieve the following pivotal outcomes:**

- Enhanced livelihoods through community led models
- Self-reliance and local sustainable economic prosperity for communities
- Enhanced utilization of Government schemes.
- Emergence of the district as frontrunner amongst other tribal districts in the region on salient development indicator