

SEVA BHOJ YOJANA

Prelims - Current events of national and international importance | Government policies and interventions.

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Culture published state-wise and institution-wise data on the financial assistance disbursed under the Seva Bhoj Yojana.

- **Aim** - To reimburse Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Central Government's share of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) as financial assistance, paid on purchase of specific raw food items.
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- **Launched by** - Ministry of Culture in 2018.
- **Eligibility** - It will be applicable ***only to charitable/ religious institutions*** that fulfill the eligibility criteria.
- **Quantum of assistance** - Financial assistance in the form of reimbursement shall be provided where the institution has already paid GST on any of the raw food items.
 - **Raw food items** - Ghee, Edible oil, Sugar, Burra, Jaggery, Rice, Atta, Maida, Rava, Pulses.
- **Criteria for financial assistance**
 - **Legal Registration** - Registered under *Income Tax Act, 1961* or *Companies Act* or *Companies Act, 1956* or *Societies Registration Act, 1860*, for charitable/religious purposes.
 - **Existence** - Institutions should have been in existence *preceding 3 years before applying* for assistance.
 - **Food Distribution** - Institutions which have been distributing food, prasad, langar (community kitchen), bhandara *free of cost without discrimination*.
 - **Beneficiaries** - The institutions shall serve free food to *at least 5000 people* in a calendar month.
 - **Government Aid** - Institutions which are *not receiving any financial assistance* from the Government for free food, self- certificate.
 - **FCRA Status** - Institution should not get blacklisted under foreign contribution regulation Act (FCRA).
- **Activities supported** - Free prasad or free food offered by charitable religious institutions like Gurudwara, Temples, Dharmik Ashram, Mosques, Dargah, Church, Mutt, Monasteries.

References

1. [PIB| Seva Bhoj Yojana](#)
2. [My Scheme| SBY Criteria](#)

