



The Free Laptop Scheme: Secret Weapon behind Goa's Digital Generation

Like an outstretched hand of support, governments across the world have launched various schemes to tackle societal challenges and uplift communities. In Goa, one such initiative is the free Laptop Distribution Scheme which empowers meritorious students from Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) communities by providing them with a powerful tool for learning and growth.

Under the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (DITE&C), through the Info Tech Corporation of Goa Ltd. (ITG), laptops are being provided to Class X top 10 meritorious students (5 boys and 5 girls) belonging to the Scheduled Tribe (ST), and top 10 meritorious students (5 boys and 5 girls) belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) in each taluka of Goa, ensuring students are well-equipped for a tech-driven future.

In an increasingly digitalised world today, digital tools have opened endless possibilities. Be it online learning, skill development or career advancement, having tools like laptops to access technology are putting students on the path of excellence and unlocking doors to knowledge, creativity and opportunities.

Actively working towards bridging the digital divide in the State, the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (DITE&C) under the leadership of Shri Rohan Khaunte, is providing digital tools and resources to marginalized communities.

“Initiatives like the free Laptop Distribution Scheme and IT Knowledge Centres (ITKCs) are equipping our students to become creators, entrepreneurs and leaders of tomorrow. I urge youngsters to seize opportunities like these, continuously learn and build a brighter future for themselves and the State,” says Goa ITE&C Minister, Shri Rohan Khaunte.

Since its inception in 2022, the free Laptop Distribution Scheme has aided over 450 students from the ST and SC communities from across Goa.

Diti Gaude, a student from Government High School Pissurlem has recently benefited from the scheme. “I’m grateful to the Government of Goa and the Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (DITE&C) for providing us with these laptops. As for me, I’m in the Science stream and plan on answering my NEET exam, for which there’ll be online coaching classes. Mobile phone screens are sometimes too small, so now I can use this laptop,” shares Diti.

Another student beneficiary, Richel Costa from Holy Rosary Convent High School, Nuvem, is thankful to the Government for providing meritorious students like her with free laptops. “It’s been a privilege receiving these laptops, as it’s going to help us a lot with technology and upgrading ourselves accordingly,” highlights Richel.

And like Diti Gaude and Richel Costa, Shrivar Kunkalyekar, a student from Ponda, is grateful to the Government. “This will open paths to multiple learning opportunities in the tech field. This is a huge opportunity and for this initiative I would like to say thank you to the Government,” says Shrivar.

The impact of the free Laptop Distribution Scheme extends far beyond the classroom. The Goa Department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (DITE&C) further empowers the ST and SC communities through free IT training programs at the IT Knowledge Centres (ITKCs) across Goa.

Expanding its reach, the government also plans to enhance the free Laptop Distribution Scheme and include deserving students from EWS and OBC backgrounds in Goa. By digitally empowering students, the Goa Government is ensuring youth become active participants in the State’s growing digital landscape, driving economic growth, innovation and social progress.