Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY)

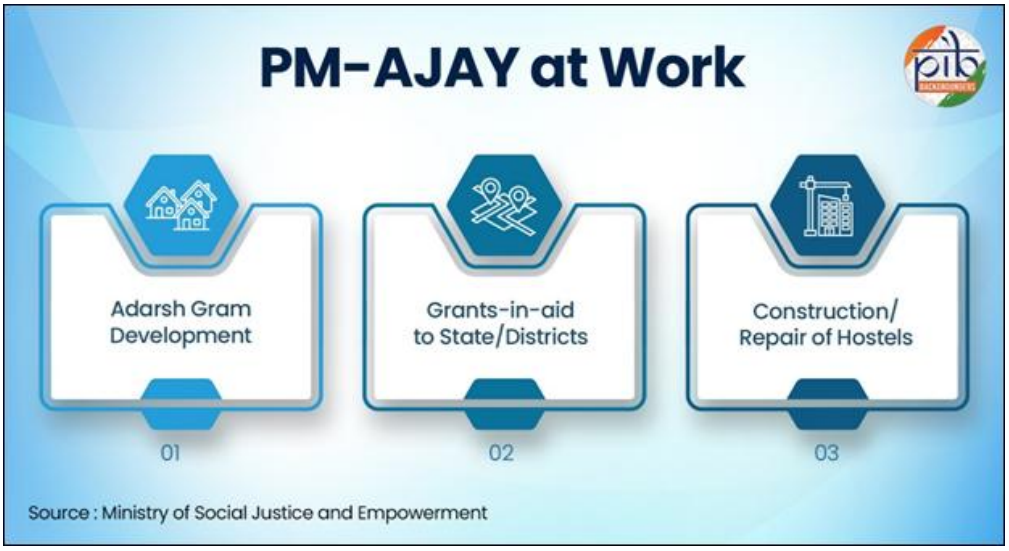
PIB Analysis

Overview

- **Target Demographic –** Addresses disparities faced by Scheduled Castes (SCs), who constitute 16.6% of India's population, ensuring social justice, equal opportunity, and inclusive growth.
- **Launch and Funding –** Launched in FY 2021-22 as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Merger Scheme –** Consolidates three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes –
- *Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)*
- *Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP)*
- *Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)*

Primary Objectives

- **Poverty Reduction and Skill Development –** Generates employment opportunities through income-generating schemes and vocational skilling.
- **Infrastructure Improvement –** Enhances socio-economic indicators by developing critical infrastructure and essential services in SC-dominated areas.
- **Education and Literacy –** Promotes school and higher education enrolment by constructing and maintaining quality residential hostel facilities.



Eligibility Criteria

- **Grants-in-Aid (GIA) –** Priority for individuals/families with an annual income ≤ Rs. 2.50 lakh per annum, as well as members of SC-majority groups.
- **Infrastructure Development –** Villages with ≥ 40% SC population and a total population of 500 or more.

Implementation and Achievements across Core Components

Development of SC-Dominated Villages into "Adarsh Gram"

- **Scope and Reach –** Covered 47,243 villages, benefiting over 47.79 lakh citizens.
- **Project Progress –** Completed 46,944 development works and prepared 27,032 Village Development Plans (VDPs).
- **Milestone –** 18,093 villages officially declared as *Adarsh Grams*.

Grants-in-Aid for Socio-Economic Projects

- **Financial Outlay –** Over Rs. 1,730 crore released directly to States/UTs from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26.
- **Impact –** Extended skilling and livelihood support to more than 2.5 lakh individual and group beneficiaries.

Construction and Repair of Student Hostels

- **Objective –** Supports SC students from rural/remote regions in pursuing quality education.
- **Completed Infrastructure –** 785 student hostels completed as of

September 2026.

- **FY 2026-27 Allocation –** Central assistance of Rs. 61.46 crore allocated for two new hostel projects (one boys', one girls') accommodating 264 students.

Funding Allocation Framework

Component	Purpose and Target Application
Up to 50%	Gap-filling infrastructure activities in selected *Adarsh Gram* villages.
Up to 5%	Operations of Technical Support Groups (TSG) and Project Implementation Units (PIU) across Central, State, and District levels.
Up to 2%	Construction and repair of hostels (released directly to implementing agencies/Central Institutions).
Remaining Funds	Grants-in-aid for District/State-level livelihood and skilling projects based on SC population ratios.

- **Maintenance and Upkeep –** Managed directly by State Governments and local implementing agencies.

Digital Monitoring Framework

- **PM-AJAY Portal and Mobile App –** Shifts implementation to an end-to-end, paperless, real-time digital workflow.
- **Governance Impact –** Enhances field-level monitoring, tracking accuracy, transparency, and administrative accountability.



Reference

[PIB]

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