

Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojna (PM-AJAY)

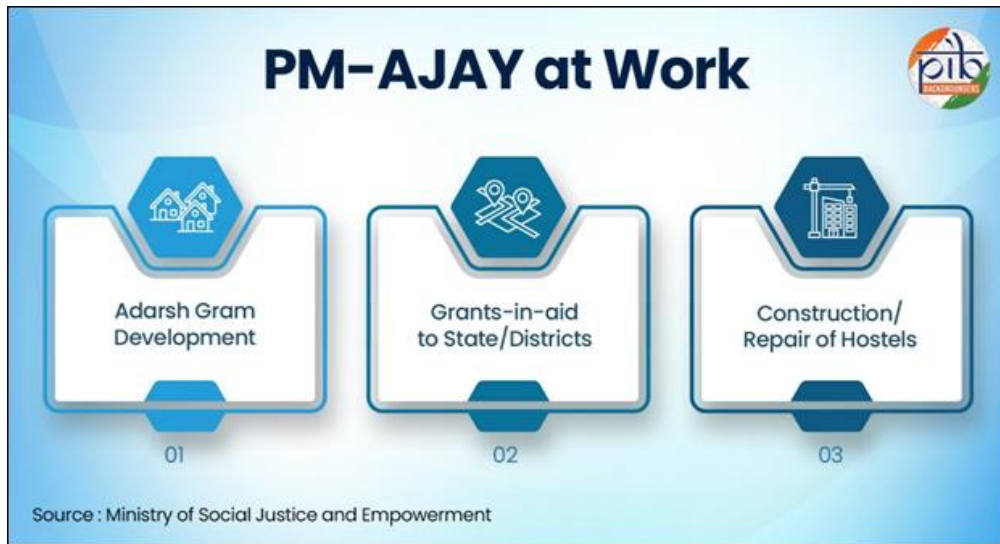
PIB Analysis

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 $\leq$ Rs. 2.50 lakh per annum, as well as members of SC-majority groups.
- **Infrastructure Development** - Villages with $\geq$ 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 <i>Adarsh Gram</i> 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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