

Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)

Upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SCs)

What is PM-AJAY?

- PM-AJAY is a scheme launched in **2021-22** to **improve the lives of Scheduled Castes (SCs)**.
- It combines three old schemes:
 1. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)
 2. Special Central Assistance to SCSP
 3. Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana
- Run by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- **Fully funded by the Central Government**.

Main Goals

- Reduce poverty in SC communities
- Improve education and skills
- Build better infrastructure in SC-majority villages

Where is it implemented?

- Active in **28 States and UTs**
- Not implemented in:
Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Lakshadweep, Ladakh, A&N Islands, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli

Who can get benefits?

- **SC individuals** living **below the poverty line (BPL)**

- **Villages with 50% or more SC population** can get funds for development
- Selection based on **Panchayati Raj process** and Planning Commission guidelines

▪ **Main Features of PM-AJAY**

▪ **Adarsh Gram Development**

- Converts SC-majority villages into **Model Villages (Adarsh Gram)**
- Focus on basic needs: water, toilets, roads, education, nutrition
- In 2024-25:
 - **4,991 villages** declared Adarsh Grams
 - **4.25 lakh people** benefited
 - **11,000+ villages** developed so far

▪ **Grants for Socio-Economic Projects**

- **Funds for district/state projects** such as:
 - Roads, water, schools
 - Hostels and skill training centres
 - Support for starting small businesses
- Projects selected based on **SC population and plans submitted by states**
- In 2023-25:
 - ₹457.82 crore released
 - **8,146 projects** approved
 - **987 skill development projects** included

▪ **Hostel Construction**

- Hostels built in top-ranked colleges and government schools

- Supports **higher education for SC students**
- 891 hostels approved (till 2025)
- ₹936.27 crore spent
- Over **69,000 students** benefited

Monitoring and Evaluation

- 5% of funds used for:
 - IT systems and online portals
 - Social audits
 - Hiring technical teams
- Helps ensure transparency and proper usage of funds

Success Stories

- **Kesavan (Vellore)**: Lost job in COVID; started a medical shop with help from PM-AJAY.
- **Durai (Kanchipuram)**: From welding worker to business owner with ₹5 lakh loan and now employs 6 people.

Conclusion

PM-AJAY is helping **SC communities grow** with better education, jobs, and village infrastructure.

It is a step toward **equality and empowerment**, ensuring everyone gets a fair chance to succeed.

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