Budget Series #7
Union Budget 2022-23: New Vibrant Villages Programme

A Major Boost to Infrastructure Development of Northern Border Villages

(Ministry of Rural Development)

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“We have decided that we will develop the villages on India's borders. For the same, we are moving forward with a holistic approach. Such villages will have all facilities- electricity, water & others - and a special provision has been made in the budget.”

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Vibrant Villages Programme:

- The Union Budget 2022-23 has announced that villages on the northern border will be covered under the new Vibrant Villages Programme.
- The activities will include construction of village infrastructure, housing, tourist centres, road connectivity, provisioning of decentralized renewable energy, direct to home access for Doordarshan and educational channels, and support for livelihood generation.
- Additional funding for these activities will be provided.
- Existing schemes will be converged and their outcomes will be defined and monitored on a constant basis.
- The programme aims to enhance infrastructure in villages along India's border with China, in states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Arunachal Pradesh.

1 PM Modi addresses at Aatmanirbhar Arthvyavastha programme via Video Conference (narendramodi.in)
2 Budget_Speech.pdf (indiabudget.gov.in)
• The Border Management fund allotted to the Ministry of Home Affairs has seen a jump of more than 42 per cent to Rs 2,517.02 crore from Rs 1,921.39 crore last year.³
• Addressing a webinar on the positive impact of the Union Budget on rural development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has further emphasized that “Vibrant Villages programme, announced in the budget is very important for the border villages.”⁴

Significance of ‘Vibrant Villages Programme’

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing a programme on 'Aatmanirbhar Arthvyavastha', stated that the migration from border villages is not appropriate for national security, and the current budget has provisions for designing vibrant villages on the border.⁵

• The border villages of the country are characterised by difficult terrain, weak transport networks and suboptimal socioeconomic indicators.⁶

• Such villages have sparse population, limited connectivity and infrastructure and are often get left out from the development gains.⁷ These regions lack development benefits that other states enjoy.⁸

• Additionally, development of Border Villages had been an important area for the Government. In 2018, with the implementation of Border Area Development Programme (BADP), the then Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh stressed that the border population is a strategic asset to the country and an important element to maintain border security.⁹

• Shri Rajnath Singh also emphasized that all efforts must be made to improve social and economic infrastructure to ensure that these people continue to live in border villages. He mentioned that the government accords utmost priority to social and economic well-being of border population and to provide them all facilities like connectivity, safe drinking water, schools, hospitals and other facilities to ensure sustainable living in these areas.¹⁰

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³ Budget 2022: Transformation Roadmap for Rural India (investindia.gov.in)
⁵ Budget 2022: Transformation Roadmap for Rural India (investindia.gov.in)
⁶ Budget 2022: Vibrant Villages Programme for Transformed Border Regions (investindia.gov.in)
⁷ Budget_Speech.pdf (indiabudget.gov.in)
⁸ Budget 2022: Vibrant Villages Programme for Transformed Border Regions (investindia.gov.in)
⁹ Border population is our strategic asset: Shri Rajnath Singh (pib.gov.in)
¹⁰ Border population is our strategic asset: Shri Rajnath Singh (pib.gov.in)
Thus, to ensure the inclusion of these border areas in the mainstream gains, the 'New Vibrant Villages Programme' has been announced in Union Budget 2022-23.¹¹

Schemes for the development of rural areas

![Schemes](image)

The following major programmes are being operated by the Ministry of Rural Development in rural areas: ¹²

- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act - MGNREGA** for providing wage employment,
- **National Rural Livelihoods Mission (RL) - NRLM** (NRLM) for self-employment and skill development,
- **Housing for All: Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - PMAYG** for providing housing to BPL households,
- **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - PMGSY** for construction of quality roads,
- **National Social Assistance Programme - NSAP** for social pension,
- **Shyama Prasad Mukherjee RURBAN Mission - (SPMRM)** for the development of a cluster of villages that preserve and nurture the essence of rural community life with focus on equity and inclusiveness without compromising with the facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature¹³
- **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana - DDUGKY** to transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce.¹⁴

¹¹ [Budget 2022: Vibrant Villages Programme for Transformed Border Regions (investindia.gov.in)]
¹² [Home | Ministry of Rural Development | Government of India](https://ruraldevelopment.gov.in)
¹³ [SPMRM | Ministry of Rural Development | GOI (rurban.gov.in)]
¹⁴ [About Us | Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), MoRD, Government of India (ddugky.gov.in)]
• **Mission Antyodaya - (MA)** to bring optimum use and management of resources allocated by 27 Ministries/Department\(^{15}\)
• **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)** for holistic development of the identified Gram Panchayats, leading to sustainable improvement in Standard of Living.\(^{16}\)

**The Future Envisioned**

- The Union Budget has placed great focus on developing roads in border regions which will greatly enhance livelihood of people residing in border areas. The **Ministry of Tourism** has been making efforts to boost border tourism in the country.\(^{17}\)
- The ‘**Vibrant Villages Programme**’ aims to initiate the transformation of India’s border villages. This is imperative to secure the country’s sovereignty and further safeguard them from any possible friction with the neighbours.\(^{18}\)
- The budget also concentrated on development of villages at the border while adding that the **National Cadet Corps (NCC) Centres** will be brought in at schools.

\(^{15}\) **Mission Antyodaya 2020**
\(^{16}\) **SAGY | Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (saanjhi.gov.in)**
\(^{17}\) **The Union Budget will give a big boost to Tourism in the country (pib.gov.in)**
\(^{18}\) **Budget 2022: Vibrant Villages Programme for Transformed Border Regions (investindia.gov.in)**
situated at the borders. The government is taking a holistic method to supply electricity, water, among other things.\textsuperscript{19}

- The government wishes to supply all villages and their citizens with access to e-services, communication establishments, and digital resources. The contracts for laying \textbf{optical fibre} in all villages, including remote areas, will be granted under the \textbf{Bharatnet Project} through PPP in 2022-23. The completion of the same is expected in 2025, and actions will be taken to facilitate better and more efficient use of optical fibre.\textsuperscript{20}

\textbf{References}

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4. Home Page:Press Information Bureau (pib.gov.in)
5. Home | Ministry of Rural Development | Government of India
6. SPMRM | Ministry of Rural Development | GOI (rurban.gov.in)
7. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), MoRD, Government of India (ddugky.gov.in)
8. Mission Antyodaya 2020
9. SAGY | Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (saanjhi.gov.in)

AG/HP/RC/AM

\textsuperscript{19} Budget 2022: Transformation Roadmap for Rural India (investindia.gov.in)
\textsuperscript{20} Budget 2022: Transformation Roadmap for Rural India (investindia.gov.in)