India's Largest Tribal Village Development Scheme

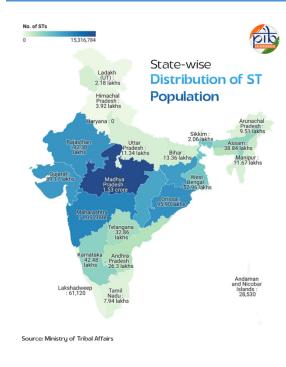
Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan

July 22, 2025

Key Takeaways

- PM JUGA, launched on October 2, 2024, to benefit over 5 crore tribal people across
 63,000 villages
- **17-line ministries** are coordinating to address critical gaps in housing, healthcare, education, and connectivity, among others.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs achievements: Over the past decade, 23.88 lakh Forest Rights
 Act titles were distributed, 1 crore+ ST students got scholarships, among others.

Introduction



"Development should be all-round, development should be all-pervasive, development should be all-inclusive," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during his Independence Day speech in 2021. "Be it our coastal belt or the tribal region, these regions are going to turn into a major foundation for India's development in future."

A month later, in September 2024, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM JUGA) for the socioeconomic development of Scheduled Tribes in India. Also known as the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, PM JUGA aims to benefit more than 5 crore tribal people—about half of India's tribal population—through comprehensive development initiatives. It is the largest tribal

 $^{{}^{1}\}underline{https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2055996\#:\sim:text=79\%2C156\%20crore,Janjati\%20Adivasi\%20Nyaya\%20\underline{Maha\%20Abhiyan})}.$

development program in India's history.

Tribal Village Development Mission

Seventeen-line ministries are collaborating on PM JUGA. These ministries are implementing flagship schemes to bridge critical gaps in social infrastructure, healthcare, education and livelihoods in tribal-majority villages and Aspirational Districts.²

The scheme covers **tribal-majority villages** (with a population of 500 or more, and at least 50% tribal residents as well as villages in Aspirational Districts with a tribal population of 50 or more).³

The scheme has a budget of **Rs. 79,156 crores**, with the union government contributing Rs. 56,333 crores and state governments Rs. 22,823 crores. It aims to develop over 63,000 tribal-majority villages in remote and hard-to-reach areas in 549 districts, which covers about **71% of India's districts**.

The ministries that are implementing their flagship schemes are as follows:⁴

Table 1 - PM JUGA Sector-wise Targets and Budget Allocation

Sector	Target	Scheme Name	State & Central Funding Share (₹ Cr) Central Share State Share
Housing Ministry of Rural Developme nt	20 lakh <i>pucca</i> houses	PM Awas Yojana Gramin	22,530 11,270 0% 50% 100%
Roads Ministry of Rural Developme nt	25,000 km of roads	PM Gram Sadak Yojana	16,665 8,335 0% 50% 100%

 $^{^2\,\}underline{\text{https://www.niti.gov.in/aspirational-districts-programme}}$

³ <u>Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (Manthan Shivir) September 2024</u> (Page No. 2)

 $[\]label{lem:https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2055996\#:\sim:text=79\%2C156\%20crore, Janjati\%20Adivasi\%20Nyaya\%20Maha\%20Abhiyan$

Tribal Developme nt Ministry of Tribal Affairs	Tribal marketing centres, upgrading tribal schools and hostels, setting up sickle cell disease treatment centres, strengthening Forest Rights Act, and providing incentive funds for topperforming tribal districts	PM Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana	0%	9,800 50%	100%
Education Departmen t of School Education and Literacy	1,000 hostels for tribal children's education; upgrading Ashram schools, hostels and government tribal residential schools	Samagra Shiksha	0%	1,833	100%
Agricultur e Departmen t of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Promoting sustainable farming practices for Forest Rights Act permit holders to cultivate forest lands and enable collective forest management	DoAFW schemes for FRA states	0%	1,500 1 50%	100%
Primary Healthcare Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	1,000 mobile medical units to provide primary healthcare in remote and difficult-to-reach tribal areas	PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission	0%	1,129	100%
Electricity Ministry of Power	Electricity connections to approximately 2.35 lakh unconnected households	Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme	0%	1,019	100%
LPG Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Liquified petroleum gas connections to 25 lakh tribal households	PM Ujjwala Yojana	0%	550 50%	100%

Connectivi ty Departmen t of Telecommu nications	High-speed broadband connectivity to 5,000 tribal villages	Universal Service Obligation Fund/Bharat Net	0%	500 50%	100%
Solar Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	Solar power systems for households in areas without grid electricity access	New Solar Power Scheme PM Surya	0%	500 50%	100%
Fisheries Departmen t of Fisheries	Fish culture support to 10,000 tribal community groups and 1 lakh individual beneficiaries	PM Matsya Sampada Yojana	0%	50%	100%
Nutrition Ministry of Women and Child Developme nt	8,000 enhanced Anganwadi centres—2,000 newly constructed and 6,000 upgraded existing centers—to provide improved childcare, nutrition and early education services in tribal villages	Poshan Abhiyan	0%	300 50%	100%
Digital Services Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Digital services including Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface, DigiLocker, etc.	Digital India Programme	0%	250 50%	100%
Van Dhan Vikas Kendra Training Ministry of Skill Developme nt and	Training of Van Dhan Vikas Kendra centres (forest- based livelihood centres)	Jan Shikshan Sansthan	0%	100	100%

Entreprene urship					
Skilling Ministry of Skill Developme nt and Entreprene urship	Skilling centres in tribal districts for capacity building and business development of 1,000 VDVKs and other tribal groups	Jan Shikshan Sansthan	0%	81 50%	100%
Livestock Departmen t of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Livestock rearing support for 8,500 individual and group beneficiaries	National Livestock Mission	0%	50%	100%
Tourism Ministry of Tourism	1,000 tribal homestays to promote sustainable tourism and provide alternative livelihoods for tribal communities and funding homestay development	Swadesh Darshan	0%	60 50%	100%
Nutrition Gardens Ministry of AYUSH	700 Poshan Vatikas (nutrition gardens) to provide tribal communities with accessible fruits, vegetables, medicinal plants and herbs	National AYUSH Mission	0%	50 50%	100%
Health Insurance Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Health insurance cards to eligible tribal households for government-funded healthcare	PM Jan Arogya Yojana	0%	50 50%	100%
Water Ministry of Jal Shakti	Water supply to every household in eligible villages and to 5,000 hamlets with 20 or fewer tribal households.	Jal Jeevan Mission	0%	50%	100%

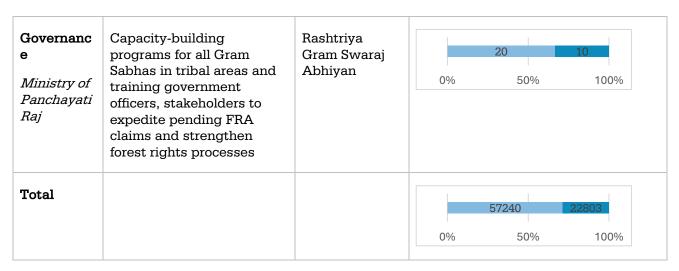
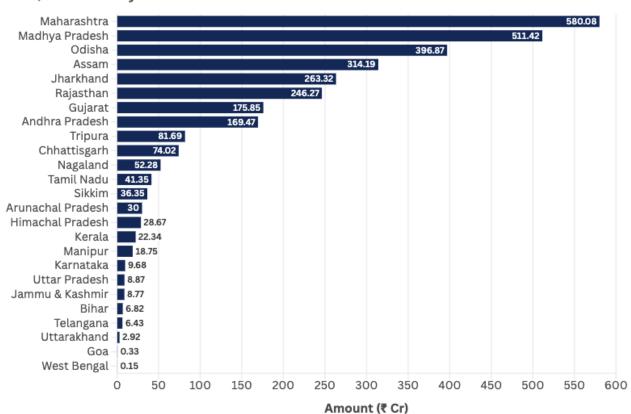


Table 2 - State-wise Funding for PM JUGA

State/Union Territory



When Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated PM JUGA from Hazaribagh in Jharkhand on

October 2, 2024 ⁵, he invoked Mahatma Gandhi's vision. "Gandhi *ji* believed that Bharat's development could only be achieved when the tribal community progressed rapidly," he said. ⁶

PM JUGA is rooted in Gandhian ideology. A year earlier, on November 15, 2023—celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas to commemorate tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda's birth—the prime minister had launched the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) for the holistic development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

PM JUGA builds on the PM JANMAN scheme. While PM JANMAN focuses on improving

living conditions for approximately 28 lakh individuals across 22,000 villages, the PM JUGA scheme has a broader mandate, targeting all Scheduled Tribes residing in tribal-majority

villages and aspirational districts.

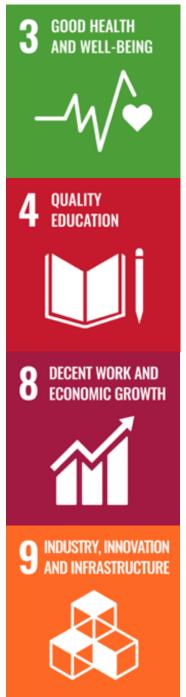




⁵ https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2061196

⁶ https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2061196

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PM JUGA is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ⁸, demonstrating India's commitment to tribal development that contributes to poverty eradication, environmental protection and the promotion of the well-being of the communities. The goals recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go together with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.⁹

SDG 3: Healthy Life and Dignified Ageing

Mobile Medical Units for primary health care in remote areas, Centre of Competence centres, Anganwadi centres, Poshan Vatikas

SDG 4: Universalisation of Access to Good Education

Hostels, ashrams, residential schools

SDG 8: Promotion of Economic Empowerment

Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centres, tourist homestays, support for animal husbandry and pisciculture

SDG 9: Develop Enabling Infrastructure

Pucca houses, tap water supply, electricity, internet, LPG gas connections, roads, health insurance, primary healthcare centres, education, nutrition

⁸ https://sdgs.un.org/goals

⁹ https://sdgs.un.org/goals

 $^{^{\}rm 10}$ Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (Manthan Shivir) September 2024 (Page No. 3)

PM JUGA: Transforming Tribal India

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Yojana - Progress Highlights

₹**79,156** crores

Budget

63,000+ Villages 5 crores Tribals

549 Districts

Key Interventions & Progress Achieved

Intervention Area	Progress Achieved
Houses	11.45 lakh houses sanctioned and 76,704 houses completed
Electrification	1,84,551 household electrification connections sanctioned and 3,827 public places sanctioned
Drinking water supply	62,515 villages sanctioned and 25,870 villages saturated
Agriculture support to FRA Patta holders	Proposals approved for 4 states Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Jammu & Kashmir benefiting 1,73,097 beneficiaries
Fish culture support to tribal fisherman	Proposals for support to tribal fishermen valued at ₹52.18 crore have been approved for 10 states/UTs
Upgradation of ashram Schools / tribal residential schools	3,420 projects approved.
Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centres	71 TMMCs approved covering more than 5 lakh beneficiaries
Centre of Competence for Sickle Cell Disease	15 CoCs approved in 14 States
Community Forest Resource Rights Management plans	920 CFRM plans approved covering more than 90,000 hectares of forest land
Forest Rights Act cells	17 state-level FRA cells for 17 states/UT and 414 district-level cells in 19 states/UT approved
Mobile Medical Units	36 MMUs operationalised
Hostels	604 hostels sanctioned
Anganwadi Centres	236 AWCs sanctioned
Telecom connectivity	4,543 villages sanctioned and 2,983 villages covered

As of June 14, 2025

From Water Scarcity to Community Ownership: The Bairlutygudem Story

Bairlutygudem, a remote tribal village nestled in the forests of Andhra Pradesh's Nandyal district, exemplifies how government intervention can transform lives. Home to the Chenchus—a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group—and the Koya tribe, the village had long struggled with limited access to water and forest resources. For generations, women risked their lives walking through dangerous, wildlife-inhabited terrain to fetch water. Despite years of failed interventions, real change came only through the **Jal Jeevan Mission**.

Following this intervention, village women took leadership by forming a Village Water and Sanitation Committee, ensuring all 64 homes received tap connections. Trained local women now maintain water quality using Field Testing Kits, eliminating the dangerous daily treks through forests home to wildlife.





Photos (from left): Women walking miles to fetch water and a paradigm shift with JJM (Source: RWS&S department, Andhra Pradesh)

This transformation has fundamentally changed women's lives while establishing Bairlutygudem as a model of **community ownership and sustainable development** for other tribal villages to emulate.

As Prime Minister Modi emphasized during his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2024: "Our tribal population, though small, is scattered across remote locations throughout the country in tiny, isolated groups. The government is deeply committed to their well-being and development. Ensuring that government schemes reach every tribal family in remote villages, hills, and forests presents significant challenges, but we are determined to overcome every obstacle."

A Decade of Achievements



Figure 1: President of India Droupadi Murmu with Minister of Tribal Affairs Jual Oram at the Aadi Mahotsav in 2025. New Delhi

February 2025 during Mahotsav, President of India Droupadi Murmu acknowledged the significant strides made over the past decade for tribal community development. She emphasized that "only when the tribal society progresses, our country will also progress in the true sense." This statement encapsulates the ministry's core philosophy of inclusive development. 11 12

Inclusive development is the cornerstone of the ministry's work. The ministry has also grown in scope and

size to achieve it. From 2013-14 to 2025-26, the ministry's **budget has expanded by over 200%** from Rs. 4,296 crores to Rs. 14,926, demonstrating the government's commitment to tribal welfare and embodying the vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas." ¹³ 14

This increased investment is enabling the ministry to achieve the holistic development of marginalized tribal communities. The ministry has made significant progress in transforming tribal welfare through **supporting NGOs**, implementing the **Forest Rights Act**, 2006, supporting **higher education** for tribal children and youth, and celebrating and preserving **tribal culture**, among other initiatives.

Table 4 - Key Achievements of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Welfare Schemes

Scheme	Progress
PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan	1,88,696 pucca houses; 3,001.698 km connecting roads; 300 Mobile Medical Units; 2,92,941 piped water connections; 1,050 Anganwadi Centres; 100 functional hostels; 502 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras set up; 822 Multipurpose Centers; 1,24,016 electrified households; 227 mobile towers covering 559 villages; and 5,067 households sanctioned under New Solar

¹¹ https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2103858

¹² https://x.com/rashtrapatibhvn/status/1891100741911371882/photo/2

 $^{^{13}\,\}underline{https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NoteId=154651\&ModuleId=3}$

¹⁴ https://www.mygov.in/campaigns/sabka-vikas/

	Power Scheme as of March 31, 2024. ¹⁵
PM Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana	15,989 villages approved for Village Development Programs; ₹2,283.31 crores released as of March 31, 2024 ¹⁶
Forest Rights Act	23.88 lakh individual titles distributed as of March 2025 ¹⁷
NGO Support	185 NGOs, 310 projects, 9.35 lakh beneficiaries as of March 1, 2025 ¹⁸
Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes	5x increase in allocation: ₹24,598 crores (2013-14) to ₹1.07 lakh crores (2023-24) ¹⁹ . Status: Rs. 127,434.2 crore allocated for Scheduled Tribe Component for 204 schemes July 21, 2025 ²⁰
Post Matric Scholarship	1.02 crore students benefited (2019-20 to 2024-25) ²¹
National Fellowship Scheme	0.16 lakh PhD scholars benefited (2019-18 to 2024-23); 78% increase in disbursements from ₹81 crores to ₹145 crores ²²
Top Class Education Scheme	0.22 lakh students benefited (2019-18 to 2024-23); 402% increase in disbursements from ₹19 crores to ₹95 crores
Pre Matric Scholarship	54.41 lakh students benefited (2019-20 to 2024-25)
Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)	346 functional and completed schools, 138,336 students enrolled; ₹68,418 lakhs released; target: 722 schools
Van Dhan Vikas Kendra	Sanctioned 4,465 VDVKs across 29 states/UTs with 2,507 operational

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¹⁵ Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Annual Report 2023-24 (Page No. 24-25)

¹⁶ <u>Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Annual Report 2023-24</u> (Page No. 22)

 $^{^{17}\,\}underline{\text{https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=154651\&NoteId=154651\&ModuleId=3}}$

¹⁸ https://dashboard.tribal.gov.in/

 $^{^{19}\,\}underline{\text{https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?id=154651\&NoteId=154651\&ModuleId=3}}$

 $^{^{20}~\}underline{https://stcmis.gov.in/Dashboard.aspx}$

²¹ https://dashboard.tribal.gov.in/

²² https://dashboard.tribal.gov.in/

	centers and ₹609.32 crores sanctioned as of February 2025 ²³
Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd (TRIFED)	Expanded to 118 TRIBES INDIA outlets (99 own, 11 consignments, 8 franchisee) through 14 regional offices with 3,069 empaneled tribal suppliers as of 2023-24 ²⁴
National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)	Sanctioned ₹383.18 crore financial assistance for 93,609 tribal beneficiaries and released ₹351.65 crore for scheme implementation as of March 31, 2024 ²⁵
Tribal Research Institute (TRI)	Sanctioned 9 new TRIs after 2014-15 (AP, UK, J&K, Sikkim, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Goa) ²⁶ with TRI Uttarakhand inaugurated in 2019 ²⁷ and TRI Andhra Pradesh on 15th August, 2021 ²⁸

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas: Celebrating Tribal Heritage

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs also works to preserve and promote tribal culture. Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is celebrated every **November 15th** on the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter **Birsa Munda** (1874-1900)²⁹ to honour tribal communities' contributions to the freedom struggle.³⁰

 $^{^{23}\,\}underline{https://trifed.tribal.gov.in/sites/default/files/2025-03/Status\%20of\%20VDVKs\%20as\%20on\%2028.02.2025.pdf}$

²⁴ Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Annual Report 2023-24 (Page No. 27)

²⁵ Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Annual Report 2023-24 (Page No. 26)

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²⁹ https://magazines.odisha.gov.in/orissareview/aug2004/engishPdf/Pages14-15.pdf

³⁰ https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1772251



Figure 2: Prime Minister Modi gave a floral tribute at the statue of Birsa Munda in the Parliament Complex, New Delhi, November 15, 2021

The 2024 celebration marked the historical tribal leader's 150th birth anniversary with unprecedented participation—over 1 crore people joined virtually, and the prime minister attended the main event in Jamui, Bihar³¹. The government sanctioned 11 **Tribal Freedom Fighter Museums** across 10 states and organized more than 46,000 activities nationwide covering education, health, livelihood, and culture from November 15-26, 2024.³²

Conclusion

India's tribal development initiatives have been transformed through coordinated approaches that have achieved unprecedented scale and impact. The changes include a more than 200% budget increase over the past 11 years, the launch of India's largest

tribal village development program, PM JUGA, benefiting more than 5 crore, and successful implementation of the Forest Rights Act, scholarship schemes for tribal empowerment, among others. The tribal affairs ministry and other line ministries are bridging historical gaps.

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