



# Empowering Tribal Communities By Transforming India: Policy Framework For Sustainable Development

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## *Abstract*

“Indian Constitution” provides certain safeguards to “Scheduled Tribes” as detailed in “Schedules V and VI”. “705 Scheduled Tribe” people are acknowledged under “Article 342 of the Constitution of India”. “Scheduled Tribes” constitute “8.6 percent” of “India's total population (Census of India, 2011)”, inhabiting around “15 percent” of the geographical area across varied ecological and geo-climatic conditions, primarily in forested, mountainous, and border regions” In India “75 Tribal groups” across “18 states and union territories”, including the “Andaman and Nicobar Islands”, have been identified and classified as “Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” due to their “declining or stagnant populations, low literacy rates, pre-agricultural technology, and economic disadvantage”. The advancement of the “Tribal community” has captured the “government's focus” since “independence”. Efforts for the “welfare and development of Tribal communities” have progressed from the creation of “Scheduled Tribes” via “Community Development Programmes and Special Multipurpose Tribal Development Blocks” to the execution of the “Tribal Sub Plan”. This “book chapter” elucidates the empowerment of “Tribal populations” through “transformational reforms and various welfare programs” undertaken by the “government” within the “Indian context”.

**Keywords:** “Constitution, Community Development, Geographical, Initiative and Welfare - reg.”

## **(1) “Introduction”**

“India” is genuinely a nation of diversities. It is, in fact, a collective of communities. One such community is comprised of “tribals” who own distinct “lifestyles, customs, cultural identities, and traditional methods of cohabitation”, along with their usual approaches to dispute resolution. For ages, they existed in seclusion, distanced from the national mainstream, venerating their “Gods”, whom they associated with the nearby hills, mountains, plains, rivers, woods, and nature at large. This seclusion

rendered them “socially, economically, and politically regressive”, accompanied by the consequent afflictions of “poverty, ignorance, sickness, starvation, and exploitation”. “Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Government of India” was founded in “1999” to implement a unified and targeted plan for the systematic “socio-economic” advancement of “Scheduled Tribes”. “MoTA” functions as the principal “Ministry” tasked with the all-encompassing “strategy, planning, and coordination” of activities intended to encourage the welfare of “Scheduled Tribes”.

The mentioned “Ministry's” programs and initiatives aim to “support and augment”, via “financial aid, the endeavours of other Central Ministries or Departments, State Governments, and Voluntary Organisations”, while addressing major gaps in the needs of “Scheduled Tribes”. “Fifth Schedule of the Constitution” pertains to the “administration and regulation of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes residing in states excluding Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram”. “Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)” extends “Part IX of the Constitution, with specific modifications and exceptions, to the Fifth Schedule Areas” in “10 states”.: “Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana”.

“Post-independence”, the “tribal communities” garnered the focus of the “Central and State governments”, which initiated actions for their “socio-economic welfare and advancement”.

Nonetheless, their function was restricted and solely focused on receiving the benefits afforded to them. The execution of the “Constitutional 73rd Amendment Act” and the subsequent state-specific “Panchayat Raj Acts in India” highlighted significance of “grassroots democratic processes”. These communities, consisting of approximately “705 tribal groups”, are dispersed throughout the country, frequently residing in “remote and inaccessible regions”. “Indian government” has initiated several “plans and policies” to “assist and promote tribal communities”, emphasizing “sustainable development, cultural preservation, and socio-economic empowerment”.

## (2) “Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)”

Contents given below is derived from information available at “<https://socialwelfare.vikaspedia.in/viewcontent/social-welfare/scheduled-tribes-welfare/eklavya-model-residential-schools?lgn=en>”.

### (i) “Concept and Objectives”

“Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)” for “Scheduled Tribe students” are positioned alongside “Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, and Kendriya Vidyalayas”. “Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)” were established in various “States or Union Territories” with the help of “monetary assistance” under “Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India”. “EMRS” offers “complimentary education” for “Scheduled Tribe children” from “Class VI to XII” at “residential environment”. This “work” is executed through “Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India”. “Eklavya Model Day Boarding Schools (EMDBS)” have been consolidated with “EMRS” effective from “29 April 2022”.

(ii) “*Scope of the program*”

Every block with a “Scheduled Tribe” population above “50 percent” and a minimum of “20,000 tribal individuals” would establish an “Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)”. The Ministry has established a goal to establish “728 EMRS nationwide” by the year “2026”. These institutions will be equivalent to “Navodaya Vidyalayas” and will feature specialised facilities for the preservation of “local art and culture”, in addition to offering “training in sports and skill development”. As of “July 2024”, a total of “708 EMRSs” have been sanctioned “nationwide”, of which “405 schools” are believed to be operational.

**(3) “Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)”**

The information provided below is derived from “[https://adiprasaran.tribal.gov.in/pm-janman/janman\\_Download/PM-JANMAN-Operational%20Guidelines.pdf](https://adiprasaran.tribal.gov.in/pm-janman/janman_Download/PM-JANMAN-Operational%20Guidelines.pdf)”

(i) “*Concept and Vision*”

“Union Cabinet” sanctioned the “Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)” with a “budget of Rs. 24,104 Crore” to address “11 priority interventions across 9 line ministries and departments”. On “November 15, 2023”, the “Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi”, inaugurated the “PM JANMAN Mission on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas”, aiming to engage with “tribal communities and primitive tribes”, many of whom continue to reside in forested areas. It “aims” to enhance the “socio-economic condition of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)” through addressing deficiencies in “health, education, and livelihoods”, as well as by “upgrading fundamental infrastructure within PVTG communities, habitations, and families”, in accordance with the existing initiatives of “9 Ministries or Departments”.

(ii) “*Goals*”

The aim of the “Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)” is enhancement of “socio-economic status of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by giving comprehensive access to essential facilities and services for “PVTG” families and communities”.

Particular goals of “PM JANMAN” are as follows.:

- (a) Enhancement of the status of “PVTGs through skill development, vocational training, and other income-generating opportunities”.
- (b) Enhancing the “quality of life of PVTGs” through the advancement of “educational and healthcare facilities”.
- (c) Ensuring fundamental infrastructure in “PVTG settlements and villages”, including “road and cell phone connectivity, power, Anganwadi services, and access to education and healthcare”.
- (d) Furnishing “individual PVTG households” with “permanent housing, potable water, vocational training, power, and access to entitlements”. and
- (e) “Human resource development” through improved access to “education, healthcare services, and skills training.

**(4) “Pre - Matric and Post – Matric Scholarship”**

Contents given below are derived from the information available at “<https://tribal.nic.in/ScholarshiP.aspx>”.

**(i) “Pre-Matric Scholarship”**

This is a “Centrally Sponsored Scheme” executed via “States or Union Territories”, which are tasked with “Inviting applications from students online” via the “State Portal or National Scholarship Portal”, “verifying suitability, and disbursing scholarships directly to entitled Scheduled Tribe students” through “Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into their bank accounts”. “Money” is “disbursed by Ministry to State Governments or Union Territories” contingent upon their submission, which includes a “Statement of Expenditure”, a “Utilisation Certificate”, and “uploading of beneficiary data on the DBT Portal”. “Principal characteristics” of “this mentioned scheme” are as follows.

(a) “Valid” for “pupils studying in Classes IX – X”.

(b) “Parent’s income from all sources must not be beyond Rs.2.50 lakhs annually”.

(c) “Scholarships are distributed at “Rs. 225 per month” for “Day Scholars” and “Rs. 525 per month” for “Hostellers”, for a duration of “10 months annually” ”.

(d) “Money is allocated in a ratio of “75:25” among “Central and State Governments or Union Territories”, and in a ratio of “90:10” for “North Eastern and Special Category States or Union Territories (“specifically the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand”))”.

(e) “Centre” provides a “100 percent grant for Union Territories” without a legislature.

**(ii) “Post-Matric Scholarship”**

This is a “Centrally Sponsored Scheme” executed via “States or Union Territories”, which are tasked with “Inviting applications from students online” via “State Portal or National Scholarship Portal”, “verifying entitlement, and directly disbursing scholarships to suitable Scheduled Tribe students” into their “bank accounts” through “Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)”. “Money” is “disbursed by this Ministry to State Governments or Union Territories” contingent upon their proposal, which includes a “Statement of Expenditure”, a “Utilisation Certificate”, and “uploading of beneficiary data on the DBT Portal”. “Prominent characteristics” of “this scheme” are “given below”.

(a) “Appropriate for learners studying in any accredited program at a recognized higher educational institution”, requiring a “qualification of Matriculation or Class X or higher”.

(b) “Parent’s income from all sources must not be above Rs. 2.50 lakhs annually”.

(c) “Scholarship” comprises of “2 components”. The “initial aspect” is related to the “payment of compulsory fees” imposed by “educational institutions”, constrained by “limits established by relevant State”. “Second component” is the “payment of a Maintenance amount ranging from Rs. 230 to Rs. 1200 per month”, contingent upon the “course of study” undertaken by the “student”.

(d) “Money is allocated in a ratio of “75:25”, among “Centre and State Governments or Union Territories”, and at a ratio of “90:10” for “North Eastern and Special Category States or Union Territories” (“particularly the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand”))”.

“Centre” provides a 100 percent grant for Union Territories without a legislature.

##### **(5) “National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe Students”**

The information provided below is sourced from “<https://tribal.nic.in/ScholarshiP.aspx>”. This program offers financial support to designated “Scheduled Tribe” students for pursuing “Post Graduation, PhD, and Post-Doctoral studies abroad”. The salient characteristics of this scholarship are outlined below.

(i) A total of “20 awards” are conferred annually. “17 awards” is specifically meant for Scheduled Tribes”, and “3 awards are allocated for “students from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)”.

(ii) “Selection is determined by an “Interview-based merit list” (“prepared by “An Expert Committee””.

(iii) “Student is allotted a period of 2 years” to pursue “admission in an International University following selection on the merit list”.

(iv) “Parental or Family income” from “all bases” must not be “above Rs.6.00 lakhs per annum”.

(v) “Scholarship” encompasses “Tuition fee, Annual Maintenance allowance of USD 15,400, Contingency Charges of USD 1,532, Poll Tax, Visa Fee, Medical Insurance, Cost of Air Travel, and Incidental Travel expenses”.

(vi) “Scholarship funds are distributed” via “Indian Missions overseas” by the “Ministry of External Affairs, which is subsequently reimbursed by the Ministry”.

##### **(6) “Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) Development Program”**

The following contents are derived from the information provided at “<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NoteId=153421&ModuleId=3>”.

“Ministry of Tribal Affairs” is involved in executing “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” project for promoting “socioeconomic advancement and welfare of the most at-risk tribal communities”. Intended to “rectify deficiencies for 75 designated PVTG communities” beginning in “2023-2024”, program is incorporated into “PM JANMAN initiative”.

##### **(7) “Strengthening and Capacity Building of Tribal Research Institutions”**

The contents provided below are derived from the contents found at “[https://adiprasaran.tribal.gov.in/Docs/Reports\\_Books/Key%20Initatives%20and%20Reforms%20of%20MOTA.pdf](https://adiprasaran.tribal.gov.in/Docs/Reports_Books/Key%20Initatives%20and%20Reforms%20of%20MOTA.pdf)”.

###### **“7.1. Context”**

“Tribal research institutes” are intended to operate as a holistic “repository of knowledge and a research think tank for Tribal development” and the “protection of Tribal cultural heritage”. They “aim for furnishing valuable insights to states for evidence-based planning and suitable legislation”, enhance “capacity of the tribal community” and “individuals or institutions involved in tribal matters, disseminate information, and foster awareness”. “Ministry of Tribal Affairs” is financing “26 Tribal Research Institutions” through the “Support to Tribal Research Institutions” initiative, allocating a “budget of Rs. 120 Crores” for research activities.

## “7.2. Necessity for Reform”

“Substantial grants” are awarded annually for “research”, although there is no repository for these studies. There was a redundancy of study, and the findings were not associated with evidence-based planning. No monitoring system existed for the conducted research and its quality. No method existed for maintaining a database of trainees and master trainers.

## “7.3. Methodology”

(i) “Digitalization of the Monitoring Mechanism”: “Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India” has built the “Tribal Research Institution portal” (“<https://tritribal.gov.in/>”) to track the progress of sanctioned “projects and enhance contact with Tribal Research Institutions” by enabling the posting of “documents, UCs, and progress reports”. The portal was inaugurated in “January 2020”. “Tribal Research Institutions (TRIs)” must upload all project-related data to the site. The platform allows the “TRIs” to submit their enquiries, upload “UC,” and documents online. The portal may produce data based on the industry in which projects are executed, and it enables digital monitoring of fund flow. The efficacy of each “TRI” can be assessed using multiple metrics.

### **(8) “Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) Awareness Program”**

Contents stated below are based on information available at “[https://adiprasaran.tribal.gov.in/Docs/Reports\\_Books/Key%20Initiatives%20and%20Reforms%20of%20MOTA.pdf](https://adiprasaran.tribal.gov.in/Docs/Reports_Books/Key%20Initiatives%20and%20Reforms%20of%20MOTA.pdf)”.

“Government of India is dedicated to the principle of “Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Viswas” for the “inclusive development” and elevation of all individuals”. “Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India” is “committed” to “enhancing the lives of Tribal communities” by formulating “policies and programs” aimed at benefiting the “Tribal population”, with an emphasis on “Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth”. “Ability of Tribal groups” to obtain their rights and entitlements is contingent upon the efficacy of the “Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)”. “Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India” initiated the “Capacity Building and Awareness Programme” in “Bhubaneswar, Odisha” during “January 2020” to strengthen “Tribal PRI representatives” by improving their “decision-making skills” at the “local government level”. The discussion on “Tribal development” encompasses “Constitutional and legal provisions” that “safeguard and enhance the “rights and welfare” of the “Tribal population”. “Tribal development programs” will facilitate “enhanced involvement of “Scheduled Tribal PRI representatives” in the “planning, implementation, and oversight of governmental policies and programs”. Their enhanced “involvement” in the development process” will facilitate “superior prioritization of Tribal development goal”. “Capacity enhancement of PRI representatives”, “who directly engage in “development projects” at the local government level”. It can significantly assist in bridging the “development disparities” among “peoples and areas”. This would facilitate the efficient execution of numerous “developmental and welfare programs”. It can meaningfully enhance the anticipated outcomes. “Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India”, has collaborated with the “Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and SCSTRI Odisha” towards starting a “national-

level framework for the training program”.

### (9) “Empowering Tribal Migrants - Source of Migratory Data”

The contents provided below are derived from the contents found at “[https://adiprasaran.tribal.gov.in/Docs/Reports\\_Books/Key%20Initiatives%20and%20Reforms%20of%20MOTA.pdf](https://adiprasaran.tribal.gov.in/Docs/Reports_Books/Key%20Initiatives%20and%20Reforms%20of%20MOTA.pdf)”.

“Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India” reported on “Tribal Livelihood Migration” across “12 States”, highlighting the lack of migrant-specific real-time data. This complicates the government's ability to devise appropriate strategies and policy decisions to enhance the effectiveness and user-friendliness of existing schemes, as well as to offer urgent assistance to “Tribal and other migrant workers” in “cities for safe and productive migration”. The protections assured by the “Interstate Migrant Workers Act, 1979” are seldom accessible to these “migrants”.

Informed by the study's conclusions and considering the current “COVID-2019 situation”, “Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India” developed “Action Plan” targeting following key areas.:

- (i) Compilation of “village-level migration data” alongside “skill mapping of migrants”;
- (ii) Integration of the “migrant population” with current “Welfare Schemes under Aatmanirbhar Bharat”;
- (iii) Formation of a “Migration Cell” in both originating and destination “States”;
- (iv) Provision of “Pre-Departure Training” in the originating “State” and “Post-Arrival Assistance” upon arrival at the “Destination”.



“Figure 1: National Tribal Migration Support Portal, Government of India”

(v) Ensuring the provision of health, education, social security, housing, skill development, and legal services, among others.

The initial stage in this endeavour is the necessity for the collecting of real-time data. The “National Migration Support Portal” established by “Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India” with technical contributions from a research organisation focused on “Tribal migration”. The portal has been connected with a mobile application that facilitates the collection of village-level out-migration statistics. This repository aims to collect data regarding districts with a “Tribal population of 25 percent or above”. The data set will encompass “skill mapping, migration patterns, including duration and season of travel, migration destinations, work sectors, daily income, and access to basic amenities during migration (health,

education, food security, etc.)". The data will facilitate the implementation of need-based interventions. The projected data will be "electronically" accessible and shown through "dashboards" at "multiple tiers": "village, block, district, state, and national levels". It will assist "State and Central Governments" in devising appropriate strategies and policies to facilitate the "migrating tribal population".

#### **(10) "Entrepreneurial Capabilities of Tribal Population ASSOCHAM and FICCI"**

Contents stated below are based on information available at "[https://adiprasaran.tribal.gov.in/Docs/Reports\\_Books/Key%20Initiatives%20and%20Reforms%20of%20MOTA.pdf](https://adiprasaran.tribal.gov.in/Docs/Reports_Books/Key%20Initiatives%20and%20Reforms%20of%20MOTA.pdf)".

A project named "Tribal Entrepreneurship Development Program" is being executed by partnership with the "Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, and ASSOCHAM", aiming to identify "1000 entrepreneurs" in various sectors nationwide. This effort aims to develop and augment the "entrepreneurial capacities of entrepreneurs", hence increasing their visibility in both "domestic and international markets". "Tribal entrepreneurs" would be linked with the identified market's prospective client base. Similarly, "FICCI" is engaged in the "Tribal districts of Jharkhand" for an "Entrepreneurship development initiative".

#### **(11) "National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)"**

Contents stated below are based on information available at "[https://nstfdc.tribal.gov.in/\(S\(suig1cmpqr4cq250s0taargx\)\)/frm\\_about\\_us.aspx](https://nstfdc.tribal.gov.in/(S(suig1cmpqr4cq250s0taargx))/frm_about_us.aspx)".

It was established in "2001 by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India". Its "head office is in New Delhi". "Primary objectives of this Corporation" is to "promote the socio-economic and educational advancement of Scheduled Tribes (STs)" and to facilitate improved "self-employment opportunities, enabling them to achieve "economic independence and self-reliance". It engages in "various initiatives aimed at the "socio-economic and educational advancement" of "Scheduled Tribes" by "developing and executing financial assistance programs" specifically for them". These programs are designed to offer loans to "economically disadvantaged Scheduled Tribes" at "preferential interest rates" and lenient "terms and conditions". "Loans" subsidised by the "Ministry of Education, Government of India", are provided to assist "Tribal students" in pursuing "higher education". It also offers "subsidies for implementing training and skill development initiatives for Tribal youth". The aim is to boost their "employability, productivity, or engage in entrepreneurial activities".

#### **(12) "Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)"**

The information provided below is based on contents from "<https://trifed.tribal.gov.in/about-us-1>". "TRIFED" was founded in "August 1987" under "Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984" by "Government of India" as a "national-level cooperative entity" under the "administrative oversight" of the former "Ministry of Welfare of India", with the primary objective of facilitating the "socio-economic development of the country's tribal population by institutionalizing the trade of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) gathered or cultivated by them". "As a market developer and service provider", "TRIFED" aims to "achieve "socio-economic development of tribal communities"

in the country through the “marketing development of tribal products”, which are crucial for the “livelihoods of tribal individuals”, as they invest significant time and derive a substantial share of their “revenue” from these products”. This approach's philosophy is to empower “tribal people” with “knowledge, tools, and a reservoir of information”. This would enable them to conduct their operations in a more orderly and scientific manner. The strategy entails enhancing the capabilities of “Tribal communities” through “awareness initiatives, the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and providing training for specific activities”, while investigating “marketing opportunities in both national and international markets”, and fostering “sustainable marketing avenues for tribal products”, alongside “brand development”. “TRIFED's Minimum Support Price (MSP)” for “Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and the Van Dhan program” align with “Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Forest Rights Act, 2006)”. It is a pivotal piece of “forest legislation” aimed at safeguarding the “protection and livelihood of impoverished tribal populations” and addressing the “rights of forest-dwelling communities” to land and other natural resources”.

### **(13) “Aadi Mahotsav”**

Contents specified below are based on information available at “<https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/aadi-mahotsav-upsc-notes/>”.

This initiative aims to present “Tribal culture” to a “national audience”, celebrating the “Essence of Tribal Culture, Crafts, Cuisine, Commerce, and Traditional Art”. It is “an annual endeavour for the “Ministry of Tribal Affairs' Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited (TRIFED)”. It is “National-level Tribal celebration”. It commemorates “traditions, products, and culture of India's tribes”.

### **(14) “Socio - Economic Enablement of Tribal Communities”**

The information provided below is based on contents from “<https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2024/nov/doc20241115435301.pdf>”.

“Government” has initiated multiple programs to empower “tribal populations”, emphasizing “income production and economic growth”.

Project known as the “National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)” offers “concessional loans” to facilitate “self-employment and income-generating activities” for “Scheduled Tribes”.

1. “Term Loan Scheme”: It offers “loans for revenue-creating projects” with a “maximum cost of ₹50 lakh per unit”.
2. “Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana (AMSY)”: This initiative aims to empower women from “Scheduled Tribes” by providing “loans for income-generating enterprises”, with a “maximum amount of ₹2 lakh per unit”.
3. “Micro Credit Scheme for Self-Help Groups (SHGs)”: It allows “NSTFDC” to offer “loans of up to ₹5 lakh per SHG and ₹50,000 per member”.
4. “Adivasi Shiksha Rin Yojana (Education Loan)”: This initiative offers “financial help of “up to ₹10

lakh” to “Scheduled Tribe students” doing “professional or technical education” in “India”.

### **(15) “Enhanced Infrastructure and Economic Opportunities”**

Contents specified below are based on information available at “<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1882862>”.

#### **(i) “Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna”**

“Ministry of Tribal Affairs” restructured current “Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)” under the title “Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojna (PMAAGY)” for “execution from 2021-22 to 2025-26”. This “initiative aims to transform villages with substantial “tribal populations into model villages (Adarsh Gram)”, encompassing approximately “4.22 crore individuals”, which constitutes about “40 percent of the total Tribal population”. The plan aims to encompass “36,428 villages” with “a minimum of 50 percent Tribal population and 500 Scheduled Tribes across States or Union Territories with designated Scheduled Tribes”. The “primary aim of this initiative” is to “attain integrated socio-economic development of designated villages” using a “convergence approach”. It involves “creating a “Village Development Plan” based on the needs, capabilities, and ambitions”. It encompasses “optimizing reach of individual or family benefit schemes” provided by “Central or State Governments”. It also “aims at enhancing the “infrastructure” in essential sectors (“such as “health, education, connectivity, and livelihood”)”. The mentioned “scheme aims to address deficiencies in “8 development sectors” (namely, “Road Connectivity (Internal and Inter-Village or Block), Telecom Connectivity (Mobile or Internet), Schools, Anganwadi Centers, Health Sub - Centers, Drinking Water facilities, Drainage, and Solid Waste Management”).

### **(16) “Initiatives for Better Health Outcomes”**

The information provided below is based on contents from “<https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2024/nov/doc20241115435301.pdf>”.

“Government” has initiated numerous significant “health programs” designed to enhance the welfare of “Tribal populations”. “Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission” initiated on “July 1, 2023”, aims to eradicate “Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)” with “awareness campaigns, universal screening, and affordable care”, particularly targeting “Tribal populations” in “Central, Western, and Southern India”.

“Mission Indradhanush” guarantees “comprehensive immunization” for “children up to 2 years and pregnant women”, prioritizing “Tribal communities”. It has been “augmented to encompass complimentary COVID-19 vaccines”. “Nikshay Mitra Initiative” offers “diagnostic, nutritional, and occupational assistance to “Tuberculosis (TB) patients”, predominantly from “Tribal regions”. The objective is to “enhance TB treatment and outcomes”. Additional health initiatives, such as “Mission Indra Dhanush”, “seek to guarantee comprehensive immunization for children up to 2 years old and pregnant women”. It provides “particular emphasis on Adivasi communities”. “This mission is also broadened to offer complimentary COVID-19 immunizations”. Hence, it has enhanced “healthcare accessibility” for “Tribal groups” (Suresh Vadranam, 2024).

### (17) “Valuing and Acknowledging India’s Indigenous Communities”

Contents specified below are based on information available at “<https://www.pib.gov.in/FeaturesDeatils.aspx?NoteId=151692>”.

“10 museums” dedicated to “Tribal freedom fighters” is “approved in States” where “Tribal communities” resided, resisted “British colonial rule”, and demonstrated “resilience”. “On November 1, 2022”, “Honourable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi” urged “formulation of a framework for the development of Mangarh Dham” in “Rajasthan's Banswara district”. “Mangarh Dham”, located near the “Rajasthan-Gujarat border”, is the “place where over 1,500 Bhil independence fighters died” in “1913” during a “mass shooting” by the “British”. “Mangarh Dham will be established as a collaborative initiative” with the “governments of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra”, serving as a “national memorial” that highlights “Tribal legacy and their rich cultural heritage”. These “endeavours, in conjunction with additional measures” implemented by the “government”, have facilitated “integration of Tribal populations” into “mainstream” while respecting their “cultures, legacies, and lifestyles” (Suresh Vadranam, 2025).

### (18) “Conclusion”

“Government of India is steadfast in its dedication to the development of “Tribal groups”. “Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, has envisioned and executed various initiatives” while anticipating the significant “challenges of developing and preserving the cultural heritage” of “over 705 distinct tribal communities” across the country. “Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India”, is utilizing a comprehensive “data-driven digital governance model” to engage with the diverse “Tribal population”, addressing important “sectors such as education, health, livelihood, and water and village development”. This initiative aims for “holistic development” by enhancing the living standards of these “marginalized communities” through “programs like Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), Vandhan Vikas Kendra, and scholarship schemes”. These programs are transforming the lives of millions of “Tribal individuals”. The “integration of electronic authentication, digital payments, the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), and Expenditure, Advance, and Transfer (EAT)” has enhanced “accountability and transparency” within the system by “monitoring” the complete utilization of “fund flows for asset creation” or “cash transfers to tribal beneficiaries”, ensuring that every “expenditure on tribal welfare” is effectively utilized and that the implementing agencies are held accountable. These efforts would guarantee a decent existence for tribal groups and fulfil the objective of our “Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi”: “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas”. The empowerment of the “Tribal Community”, positioned at the base of the societal hierarchy, will undoubtedly revolutionize “India”. The initiatives of the “Indian government” for “Tribal empowerment” have substantially improved the “socio-economic and cultural fabric” of these people. “Indian government” seeks to provide essential support to “Tribal people” through these programs, aiming to close the “development gap” and enhance their “socio-economic situations”.

“PM Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan” and Schemes such as “Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM - JANMAN)” demonstrate “government's dedication to empowering Tribal populations and assuring their inclusion in India's development narrative”.

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