

NATIONAL POLICY REVIEW: PRADHAN MANTRI JANJATIYA UNNAT GRAM ABHIYAN (PMJUGA)

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INTRODUCTION :

In order to promote holistic socioeconomic development among the nation's tribal people, especially in rural areas, the Indian government has established a game-changing program known as the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gramme Abhiyan (PMJUGA). This ambitious program aims to empower over 5 crore tribal people living in over 63,000 villages by providing comprehensive development and empowerment for tribal families in villages with a tribal majority and aspirational districts. Based on information from the 2011 Census of India, the statement "over 5 crore tribal people living in over 63,000 villages" is made. In 2011, the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population was estimated to be 10.43 crore, or around 8.6% of India's overall population, according to the Census. A report or analysis based on that census, which is frequently incorporated into government plans and programs, might specifically identify 5 crore indigenous people living in 63,000 villages. With the Ministry of Tribal Affairs leading the charge, PMJUGA aims to close the developmental divide between populations that are tribal and those that are not. By a number of focused actions, it aims to improve livelihood opportunities, infrastructure, education, and healthcare. Alongside enabling tribal groups to actively contribute to India's wider economic prosperity, the initiative places a strong emphasis on protecting their cultural legacy. With its focus on vital issues including connectivity, skill development, clean water availability, and sanitation, PMJUGA is well-positioned to establish a long-lasting framework for inclusive and empowered tribal communities. With this scheme, India's tribal populations would no longer be marginalised but will instead play a vital role in the socioeconomic development of their country.

BACKGROUND :

India has a sizable tribal population dispersed throughout numerous states, with socioeconomic development trailing in many tribal areas. Tribal communities suffer from poor infrastructure, restricted access to healthcare and education, and a lack of employment possibilities due to historical neglect and underdevelopment. Tribal areas frequently have inadequate infrastructure, such as a deficiency of electricity, roads, and safe drinking water. In addition, there are deficiencies in healthcare and educational resources, and contemporary economic shifts regularly jeopardise conventional means of subsistence. Over time, several initiatives have

been implemented to tackle these problems, including the Scheduled Tribes Component Plan (STCP) and the Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) programs. But the necessity of a more thorough and coordinated strategy became clear. By guaranteeing saturation coverage of villages with a tribal majority and aspirational districts, PMJUGA was introduced to offer a comprehensive approach to tribal development. It seeks to maximise convergence across current programs, emphasising the development of infrastructure, improvement of livelihood, health and education, and cultural preservation.

OBJECTIVES OF PMJUGA :

- Improve basic facilities and bridge infrastructural gaps in indigenous villages.
- Increase work opportunities and support traditional means of subsistence through skill development and job creation.
- Expand tribal inhabitants' access to healthcare and education.
- Preserve and advance the legacy, customs, and culture of the tribe.

PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF PMJUGA:

- In order to maximise impact, the initiative encourages synergy between several government programs.
- Concentrates on constructing necessary infrastructure, such as water facilities, bridges, and highways.
- Promotes gardening, agriculture, and other non-farm pursuits to increase revenue and employment stability.
- Creates schools and health facilities to cater to the unique requirements of tribal populations.

IMPLEMENTATION :

1.Targeted Coverage of Tribal Areas:

- PMJUGA concentrates on tribal families in villages with a tribal majority and aspirational district.
- Based on underdeveloped indicators such as infrastructure, healthcare, education, and access to basic services, these places have been identified.
- With a significant indigenous population, the initiative aims to assist 63,000 communities and makes sure they get the help they need to promote inclusive growth.

2.Overall Development Approach:

- By addressing all facets of tribal life, the project aims to offer comprehensive development coverage.
- The creation of training facilities, schools, and scholarships to help indigenous youngsters become more literate and skilled.
- Enhancing medical infrastructure, supplying mobile clinics, and tackling undernourishment and additional health issues that mostly impact indigenous populations.
- In distant tribal villages, constructing roads, supplying clean drinking water, and making sure sanitary amenities are in place.
- Improving job prospects by supporting traditional tribal crafts, encouraging both agricultural and non-agricultural revenue-generating endeavours, and offering skill development programs.

3.Cultural Development and Conservation:

- PMJUGA places a strong emphasis on maintaining the distinctive cultural legacy and identity of tribal groups.
- The initiative aims to preserve the rich diversity of tribal cultures while incorporating them into the larger framework of national development by encouraging indigenous arts, crafts, and customs.

4.Infrastructure renovations:

The program gives priority to infrastructure renovations, such as :

- village electrification.
- Constructing community centres, schools, and medical facilities.
- Improving connection to guarantee market and government service accessibility.

5. Cooperation and Monitoring:

- In coordination with other ministries, local government entities, and non-governmental organisations, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is responsible for supervising the implementation of PMJUGA.
- To make sure the interventions are successful and reaching the intended recipients, regular data collection and monitoring are carried out.

6. Empowerment via Skill Development:

- Supporting local industries, such as traditional crafts and agriculture, and providing vocational training are some of the ways that PMJUGA works to empower tribal youth and women.
- This promotes self-sufficiency and lessens reliance on the outside world in tribal places.

7. Leveraging Technology for Inclusion:

- Another program goal is to encourage the use of digital technology to improve service delivery, governance, and transparency.
- Digital platforms are employed to oversee training, track advancements, and guarantee that benefits are effectively distributed to the local level.

8. Integrated Social and Economic Improvement:

- By removing poverty, guaranteeing improved living conditions, and creating a more inclusive society that allows tribal people to take part in India’s expanding economy, PMJUGA seeks to improve the general quality of life for tribal communities.

FINANCE MECHANISM:

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs works with state and federal agencies to coordinate activities.
- These committees monitor project implementation in tribal areas and determine what needs to be developed.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs now enjoys a much larger budget from the federal government, with an allocation of Rs 13,000 crore, compared to Rs 7,605 crore the year before.

IMPACT OF THE PMJUGA :

- By concentrating on building vital infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and water facilities, tribal areas will have far better connectivity and access to basic services. It is anticipated that this infrastructural development will raise living standards and stimulate the economy.
- PMJUGA promotes a variety of livelihood options in order to raise income levels and economic security for tribal people through skill development, horticulture, agriculture, and non-farm enterprises. This could lead to increased economic stability as well as a decline in poverty.
- Building health centres and schools will help close the gaps in healthcare and education that are frequently more obvious in tribal regions; improved educational and health services will benefit tribal populations’ general well-being as well as the development of their human capital.
- A feeling of identification and pride will be fostered among tribal populations through initiatives to conserve and promote their cultures, customs, and heritage. Increased

cultural awareness and the preservation of India's tribal heritage's rich diversity may result from this.

- Through programs to preserve and promote their cultures, customs, and legacy, tribal inhabitants will be encouraged to develop a sense of identity and pride. This could lead to a greater understanding of other cultures and the maintenance of the vast diversity of India's tribal heritage.
- PMJUGA wants to guarantee that no tribal village is left behind by using a saturation approach. By bridging the socioeconomic divide between tribal and non-tribal areas, this inclusive approach could promote more equal development.
- The integration of several government initiatives under PMJUGA is expected to augment the efficacy and efficiency of resource allocation. It is anticipated that this integrated strategy will minimise effort duplication and increase the impact of development programs.
- The initiative aims to empower tribal communities and assist them in becoming more self-sufficient and incorporated into the mainstream socioeconomic structure of society by placing a strong emphasis on skill development and providing opportunities for employment.

THE GOAL OF PMJUGA :

- Gaps and improve indigenous communities' socioeconomic standing by implementing a variety of targeted interventions.
- The program seeks to establish self-sufficient and cohesive tribal communities through filling in infrastructure deficiencies, expanding options for livelihood, expanding access to healthcare and

education, and encouraging cultural preservation.

- Reducing the gaps in development and improving the general welfare of the indigenous population.
- Facilitating progress in 63,000 villages, yielding advantages for 5 crore people.

INDIAN TRIBAL POPULATION CONTEXT:

The Indian Constitution's Article 342 recognises Scheduled Tribes (STs).

- Article 342 in Constitution of India talks about Scheduled Tribes
 - (1) With regard to any State or Union territory, the President may, by public notification, and in the event that the State is a State, after consulting with the Governor thereof, designate the tribes, tribal communities, or portions of or groups within tribes or tribal communities, that shall, for the purposes of this Constitution, be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes with regard to that State or Union territory, as the case may be.
 - (2) A notification issued under clause (1) may include or exclude any tribe, tribal community, or portion or group within a tribe or tribal community by law. However, once a notification is issued under the said clause, it cannot be changed by a subsequent notification.
- The tribal population of India is heterogeneous, having notable centres in states such as Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram. With over 38% of the scheduled tribal population, the Bhil tribe is the largest tribal group.

ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION THAT SUPPORT TRIBAL EMPOWERMENT:

- In higher education institutions, reservations are provided under Part III and Article 15(4).
- The State may provide specific measures for the advancement of any socially and educationally

disadvantaged citizen classes, as well as for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, under Article 15(4) of the Constitution. As a result, provisions for reservation have been implemented in places of employment and higher learning.

- The promotion of the interests of STs and SCs is required under Articles 38(2) and 46.
- Article 38(2) in Constitution of India says that, The State will specifically work to reduce income disparities and work towards eliminating status, opportunity, and facility disparities not only between individuals but also between groups of persons living in various regions or pursuing different careers.
- Article 46 in Constitution of India says that , Advancement of the economic and educational interests of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, and other marginalised groups
- The weaker segments of society, including the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, must have their educational and economic interests given special attention by the State, which will also shield them against exploitation and social injustice.
- Reserved seats for STs in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies are guaranteed by Articles 330 and 332.
- Article 330: Seats in the House of the People reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
 - (i) Seats shall be reserved in the House of the People for- a) The Scheduled Castes;
 - b) The Scheduled Tribes, excluding those in the Assamese autonomous districts;
 - c) The Scheduled Tribes in the Assamese autonomous districts should all have seats reserved in the House of People.
- Article 338A establishes the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes to oversee tribal welfare.

- Article 338 A states that there would be a National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes, often known as the National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes, for the Scheduled Tribes.

WELFARE ACTIONS AND PROACTIVENESS:

- Reserved positions in companies and educational institutions.
- Projects like the building of conventional homes and the supply of necessities.
- Honours tribal fighters for independence.
- Concentrate on giving tribal youngsters a top-notch education.
- Encourages the trading of small-scale forest products and excess agricultural products that native people gather.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE DIRECTIONS :

1. Digital Literacy and Technology Integration:

- To close the digital divide, encourage digital literacy and give indigenous communities access to contemporary technology.
- Create digital training facilities in association with non-profits and tech firms in the private sector. Describe plans to provide tribal communities with mobile devices and inexpensive internet connectivity so they can participate in e-commerce, online learning, and digital financial services.
- Enable indigenous communities to better access government programs, expand their market reach, and enhance their quality of education.

2. Micro-Entrepreneurship and Skill Development :

- Provide skill development and microfinance access to indigenous populations to foster micro-entrepreneurship.
- Create centres for skill development that specialise in teaching modern trades, traditional crafts, and entrepreneurship.

Give tribal entrepreneurs grants and microloans to establish small enterprises such as food processing, textiles, and handicrafts.

- Promote economic independence and lessen reliance on conventional job types, raising income levels in areas inhabited by tribes.

3. Renewable Energy Initiatives:

- Give tribal homes access to reasonably priced, eco-friendly energy options.
- Initiate a project to equip tribal homes and community centres with solar panels and biofuel systems. Assist businesses and governmental organisations in making sure that infrastructure for renewable energy reaches isolated regions.
- Lower energy poverty, raise living standards, and encourage environmental sustainability.

4. Legal and Financial Literacy Campaigns :

- Improve tribal populations' comprehension of legal rights, forest rights (FRA), and money management.
- Work with financial institutions and legal aid societies to organise outreach initiatives and workshops. Rights to land and forests, credit availability, savings, insurance, and government assistance programs are a few examples of possible topics.
- Give tribal communities the tools they need to protect their legal rights, handle their money more wisely, and take advantage of the government's resources.

5. Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness ;

- Enhance the climatic resilience of indigenous populations at risk of natural calamities.
- Create strategies for climate adaptation that prioritise soil preservation, water conservation, and disaster readiness. Install early warning systems and

provide communities with disaster response training in tribal areas that are vulnerable to forest fires, floods, or droughts.

- increased ability of indigenous communities to resist and bounce back from climate-related shocks.

SIMILAR NATIONAL SCHEME:

The Scheduled Tribes Component Plan (STCP) is a federal program that is comparable to the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gramme Abhiyan (PMJUGA) Program:

SCHEDULED TRIBES COMPONENT PLAN (STCP):

1. Goal:

To guarantee that tribal regions receive their fair share of advantages and resources through focused programs and initiatives created especially for their socioeconomic advancement.

2. Important Aspects:

- Set asides a certain portion of money from different federal and state programs for the advancement of Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- Concentrates on constructing and renovating drinking water supplies, schools, hospitals, and roads in tribal communities.
- Encourages the creation of jobs, the improvement of skills, and the promotion of non-farm and traditional livelihoods.
- Increases indigenous inhabitants' access to healthcare and educational resources in an effort to close gaps in these fields. Supports the preservation and advancement of indigenous languages, customs, and cultures.

3. Application :

The STCP is carried out by a number of federal and state ministries and departments, guaranteeing that a specific percentage of financial allotments is devoted to the development of tribal territories.

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY):

1. Goal :

The goal is to increase rural connection by building all-weather roads in rural areas. Unconnected villages, which are frequently found in remote and tribal areas, will be the focus of this effort.

2. Important Elements

- Concentrates on building and improving rural roads, especially those that link isolated and tribal communities to the larger system of roads and highways. The goal is to build all-weather roads that will link all qualifying communities with a population of 500 or more (or 250 or more in hill and tribal areas) in order to improve access to healthcare, schools, and marketplaces.
- Gives priority to building roads in the most underserved and isolated areas, which frequently include places inhabited by tribes.

3. Execution:

- Utilises a combination of federal and state funds, with the central government contributing a large percentage of the financial support;
- Managed by the Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with state governments and local authorities.

4. Impact:

- Facilitates market access for rural and tribal communities, potentially strengthening local economies and reducing poverty;
- Improves accessibility and mobility for rural populations, which is critical for economic growth and access to essential services.

CONCLUSION :

Enhancing the socio-economic status of tribal communities is a major goal of the Pradhan PMJUGA. With a focus on health, education, livelihood enhancement, and cultural preservation, PMJUGA seeks to guarantee that tribal settlements are self-sufficient and completely included into India's socioeconomic

mainstream. The government's commitment to attaining inclusive growth and preserving the constitutional mandate of tribal empowerment is shown in this project. PMJUGA is a significant step towards achieving inclusive growth and fair development for India's tribal population. The PMJUGA aims to raise tribal communities' standard of living.

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