

# **SAMAJIK** **NYAY**

**Development With Dignity,  
Reaching The Unreached**





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Reaching the Unreached



# SABKO NYAY, SABKA SAMMAN SAMAJIK NYAY, HAMARI PEHCHAAN

## Justice and Empowerment to the Marginalised

- **Panchteerth** developed at five important sites of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's life as a tribute to him
- **Constitutional status** granted to National Commission for Backward Classes, fulfilling a longstanding demand
- **OBC & EWS reservation** introduced for the first time in All India Quota of Medical NEET (PG&UG)
- **SC/ST Atrocities Act and Rules strengthened**; legal empowerment ensured
- **50% of 38.53 crore** MUDRA Yojana's entrepreneurs from SC/ST/OBC communities
- **SC/ST entrepreneurs received** over ₹5,000 crore worth of financial assistance under Stand Up India

## A New Era for Tribals

- Government notified 15th November, the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, as **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** to commemorate the contribution of tribals in nation's history and culture
- **600% jump** in the number of minor forest produce items covered by MSP, from 12 in 2014 to 87 now!
- **800% increase** in the number of Eklavya model residential schools sanctioned since 2014, compared to 2004-14 period

## Rights and Respect for Divyangjan

- **Inclusion of many different kinds of disabilities** in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act
- **1.3 lakh Divyangjan** trained under National Action Plan for Skill Training since 2016 apart from over **49,000 Divyangjan** under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- Over ₹633 crore disbursed as scholarships to **2.07 lakh Divyang students** since 2014
- **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan** launched to enhance accessibility to public infrastructure and services for Divyanagjan

## Raising the Bar on Worker Welfare

- **Over 28.84 crore unorganized sector workers** registered on the E-SHRAM portal
- **1.5 crore MSME jobs saved** due to Emergency Credit Loan Guarantee Scheme launched under Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- **49.3 lakh unorganized sector workers** enrolled under PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, assuring pension in old age
- **60 lakh jobs formalized** under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana

## Nari Shakti Bani Rashtra ki Shakti

- **78.6% of women** use bank accounts compared to just 15% in 2005-06!
- **70% of 38.53 crore** loans under MUDRA Yojana given to women entrepreneurs
- Duration of **paid maternity leave** increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks
- **Gender Parity achieved** in enrolment of women in Higher Education
- Women granted **Permanent Commission in Army**, appointed on board **warships** and as **fighter pilots**
- **Breaking new ground** with women poised to join NDA
- **Sainik Schools now admitting girls**, ensuring equal opportunities
- **Reservation for women in Police** in Union Territories, Central Armed Police Forces along with several States has in the last seven years almost doubled their representation in Police Forces
- CRPF has raised **three new mahila batallions** since 2014-15 and also inducted women personnel into its specialised jungle warfare commando force CoBRA
- **More women than men**, at 1,020 women per 1,000 men for the first time ever!
- The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019 enacted to **eradicate Triple Talaq**.
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 introduced in Parliament to **increase the minimum age of marriage of females** to 21 years

## Support To All The Disadvantaged Sections Of The Society

- The Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019 enacted to provide **10% reservation to economically weaker sections**.
- **For the first time ever**, Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities set up
- The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act passed and National Council for Transgender Persons constituted to **uphold transgender rights**
- 12 'Garima Greh' Shelter Homes for Transgender Persons set up to provide **safe and secure shelter**

**SAMAJIK NYAY**  
**HAMARA DHYEY**  
**PRATYEK KO SAMMAN,**  
**PRATYEK KO SHREY**

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# INTRODUCTION

**S**ustainable growth can be achieved by a nation only when that growth reaches the people who need it the most. It is the duty of the government to ensure this through reform of social structures, creation of impactful socio-economic programmes and more importantly, through societal transformation towards an equal and just society.

By strengthening the most vulnerable, ostracised and marginalised citizens of India, we automatically strengthen our nation.

However, social justice and empowerment of the marginalised sections of society is not just a responsibility, but also fundamental to our civilisational and Constitutional values.

Since time immemorial India, has been considered one of the world's most vibrant and diverse civilizations. From the perspective of development that is equitable and holistic – this diversity calls for policy

interventions that are equally diverse. Over the last nine years, several policy initiatives have enabled Indian citizens to take their destiny into their own hands and build for themselves a future that is secure as well as prosperous.

This book is an attempt to delve into the matters of how social justice and empowerment have been ensured. The seven chapters that follow, make up seven pillars of social justice that, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, have been reinforced with policies that enable and empower.

One chapter focuses on the empowerment of Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) communities. From the social to the legal to the economic – reforms have spanned multiple dimensions.

Another chapter focuses on India's vibrant tribal communities and the work done for them. From respecting their way of life to enabling education and increased

income, a plethora of steps have been taken.

There are some remarkable people around us who overcome all odds and succeed. They are the strong and resilient 'Divyangjan'. From transforming mindsets to reforming systems, the Modi government has worked on holistic welfare for Divyangjan. A chapter in the book covers this.

Workers are the engine of any society. Doing justice to them is doing justice to society. Improving their lives is crucial for the nation's continued growth. A chapter in this book is dedicated to worker welfare initiatives.

In any section of society, often, women are worse off than others due to prevailing social attitudes. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked to change remove obstacles from the path women take as well as to ensure policy support for any choices or decisions they make. A chapter covers the journey of women-led development in the past 9 years.

Poverty is as much social as it is about the economic state of the people. Empowering the poor to fight against poverty by enabling them with a safety net and ease of living, is, therefore, an act of social justice. The initiatives taken for the poor are covered in another chapter.

Further, there are many communities that are so extremely disadvantaged that some of them, although they exist, have been completely ignored. Transgenders, denotified tribes and nomadic

tribes fall in this category. The measures taken for their welfare are discussed in one chapter of the book.

The wide-ranging work to empower the most vulnerable and marginalised sections of society bodes well for India, especially as the Amrit Kaal begins. As India begins to take off into a new orbit of growth, the ideals of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar will continue to guide the Prime Minister to make growth equitable and empowering.

The fact that this book is being written as we celebrate 75 years of our Independence as Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is no coincidence. As we remember the great men and women who led us to freedom, it is imperative that we bring alive their vision of a strong, prosperous and inclusive India.

This is possible only with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas* mantra.



# RIGHTS, RESPECT AND DIGNITY FOR THE MARGINALISED

PM Modi pays a floral tribute  
to Babasaheb Ambedkar  
at the Dr B. R. Ambedkar  
Memorial in London



**T**oday, social justice is being carefully transitioned into an everyday reality in India. The genesis of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive to ensure equality, dignity and opportunity actually goes back several years before he held any public office.

**In 1987, Narendra Modi as a karyakarta organized the Nyay Yatra that demanded an end to atrocities against marginalised communities, amongst other issues.** In the years that followed, as Chief Minister and as Prime Minister, the ideals of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar that championed social equality and empowerment made their way into the political fabric of India.

It is therefore unsurprising that the development of five prominent sites associated with Dr B R Ambedkar as the Panchteerth was accomplished under the leadership of Narendra Modi as India's PM, even as PM Modi's government went over and above on working for Dr B. R. Ambedkar's India.

In his capacity as Gujarat's Chief Minister, Narendra Modi used to organise several Garib Kalyan Melas where a large number of SCs, STs and OBCs were assisted with the means to live a secure and self-reliant life. These fairs resulted in benefits for marginalised people. From each village many people – comprising largely of barbers, cobblers, tailors, drivers etc,

were enabled and empowered to work towards better, more prosperous lives.

Mr. Modi had later fondly recalled the incident of a barber who was assisted to expand his business through this fair. The barber was so enthused that he opened a stall in Gujarat's Himmatnagar. As his income steadily increased, the barber expressed an urgent wish to meet the then CM Modi, who of course, obliged. When the CM met this barber in Modasa, he spoke to the CM at length about how the fair helped him create and sustain a source of income. Before he left, the barber made sure to donate Rs. 251 towards public service as a token of gratitude. That amount, though small, was a





**“GIVEN THE BACKGROUND IN WHICH I WAS BORN AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH I GREW UP, I WOULD NOT HAVE REACHED HERE IF BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR HAD NOT BEEN THERE. IT IS NOT THE CASE THAT GOOD WAS DONE ONLY FOR THE DALITS, THE OPPRESSED, AND THE EXPLOITED, DEPRIVED SECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY.... RATHER, HIS WORK WAS FOR ALL OF MANKIND.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

sign of an empowered person looking to help others as well.

## **The New Grammar of Social Empowerment**

When someone who was helping around in a tea stall in remote Vadnagar goes on to head the country, he does so with a complete understanding of the challenges that the underprivileged communities face.

This is why PM Modi heads an administration that is ensuring that children are provided every institutional opportunity to succeed, rather than face an uphill climb.

The 63.8 lakh students from the SC, ST and OBC

communities who receive pre- and post-matric scholarships under the Government of India are enabling young minds to receive a good education.

The Modi government has thought out of the box by recognising that skill development and employability are at the core of social justice and empowerment. The multiple Skill Development programmes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme have given empowerment an entirely new dynamic.

**50% of the funds for Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana is earmarked for SCs and**

**STs.** Over 13.8 lakh people have been trained with over 8.2 lakh successful placements. Skill development has been effectively transformed into a tool for furthering social justice.

In a nation that has the capacity to utilize and optimize every capable individual, a skilled professional is an asset to any employer. As a result, social mobility increases for the skilled individual who is sought

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New Delhi



# **DEVELOPING PANCHTEERTH as a tribute to Dr B R Ambedkar**

**“WE TALK ABOUT  
MARTIN LUTHER KING,  
BUT FORGET BABASAHEB,  
AND THEREFORE, WE  
SHOULD ENSURE THAT IF  
THE WORLD TALKS ABOUT  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, THEN  
THE WORLD MUST ALSO TALK  
OF BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR.  
THAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN  
WE PRESENT THE CORRECT  
PICTURE OF BABASAHEB TO  
THE WORLD, PRESENT HIS  
THOUGHTS IN THE RIGHT  
MANNER, AND HIGHLIGHT  
HIS CONTRIBUTIONS  
ADEQUATELY.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**DEEKSHA BHOOMI**  
Nagpur, Maharashtra



**CHAITYA BHOOMI**  
Mumbai, Maharashtra



after by many opportunities.

Every skilled individual is an empowered Indian that holds within him or her the power to script the future. **Consider, as an example how the reservation for OBC students that has been raised to 27% in Medical Colleges. It leads to more doctors from the OBC communities. But consider the much greater second-order benefit – these people become an inspiration to many more OBC youth, who will nurture similar dreams and succeed.**

## Reaching the Last Person at the Last Mile

A government initiative designed to reach the last person at the last mile can positively impact the lives of those from the marginalised communities.

Ensuring permanent empowerment means ensuring the legal and foundational structures respond to social realities. Granting Constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes and fulfilling a long-standing demand is, therefore, a step in the right direction. Similarly, strengthening the SC/ST Atrocities Act goes a long way to show that the architect of the Nyay Yatra of 1987 is still working for social justice and empowerment with the same commitment.

## Empowering Entrepreneurs, Empowering Communities

Even as permanent change, equal opportunities, and skill development form an important part of India's policy mindset, another pillar of empowerment for the disadvantaged sections has been the support for entrepreneurship.

Why should any institution expect underprivileged people to provide a collateral for entrepreneurship loans? The Modi government has stepped in to ensure that entrepreneurs are now supported through easily accessible loans that require no collateral.

50% of 39 crore beneficiaries under MUDRA Yojana, which provides collateral-free loans to entrepreneurs, are from SC, ST and OBC communities.

Similarly, a massive amount of Rs. 41,464 Crore has been provided to SC/ST/women entrepreneurs under the Stand Up India scheme.

This is empowerment that is lasting in nature.

On the same lines, over Rs. 500 crore has been given as assistance to 141 companies under Venture Capital Funds for SC and OBC communities. The Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM) mentors budding SC entrepreneurs and also provides financial support.

A farmer is the most important entrepreneur in the

**THE MODI GOVERNMENT HAS THOUGHT OUT OF THE BOX BY RECOGNISING THAT SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY ARE AT THE CORE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT.**

country. The country's food security depends on his or her risk-taking. So, supporting farmers with direct income support is crucial. **As of 2020, over 63% of the beneficiaries under the PM-KISAN scheme belonged to either SC, ST or OBC communities.** PM Fasal Bima Yojana, the crop insurance scheme has saved countless farmers from falling into debt traps. Over 70% of farmers covered by this crop insurance scheme were from SC, ST or OBC communities for the 2021 Kharif season. Clearly, 'no one to be left behind' is a mantra that PM Modi and his government has consciously followed.

## Making Ease of Living a Reality for Marginalised Communities

Ease of Living is becoming a reality for crores of Indians belonging to marginalised





PM Modi interacts with beneficiaries of various schemes in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

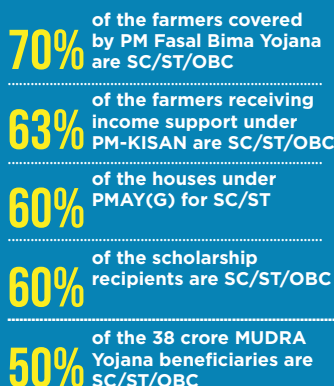
communities. The earlier conception of Ease of Living as something that only urban, upper-class Indians must experience is now history.

The PM Awaas Yojana – Gramin for example, has earmarked 60% of the total houses for SC and ST households - a rough estimate would put the total sanctioned houses for SC and ST households at over 1.7 crore. Each such house is being conceived as a convergence of schemes such as Ujjwala Yojana for LPG connections, Jal Jeevan Mission for tap water connections, SAUBHAGYA Yojana for electricity, Swachh Bharat Mission for toilets, etc.

**This convergence shows a government that is not thinking of piecemeal empowerment but complete and comprehensive empowerment.**

The perfect example of a success story comes from Kottayam, Kerala. Vijayamma

### PRIORITIZING THE MARGINALISED



T R belonging to the SC community, had dreamed of her own house but could not begin construction even after an allotment was made under a previous housing scheme. Dejected and without hope, she continued to live in a kuccha house. It was only when nine women from her village were trained under the PMAY-G (Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin) mason training programme that Vijayamma's dream transitioned into reality.

These nine women, given

their newly acquired skill set came together and constructed a house for Vijayamma within just 45 days. Not only did the women help someone in need, through their work they managed to inspire many other women across the state to come forward and work towards skill development, that too in areas historically dominated by men.

Similarly, during an interaction with the Prime Minister in Kanpur, another beneficiary of PMAY-G recounted how getting her own house enabled her to receive a ration card, an LPG connection under Ujjwala Yojana and a plethora of benefits under all schemes that converge under this housing scheme. Moreover, the same beneficiary also mentioned how her children suffered in their kuccha home, particularly in the rainy season when it became impossible to study with ceiling constantly dripping. But ever since they took possession of their home, not only did their aspirations

get a concrete and stable launch pad, the children were also enabled to work towards a better future.

## A Transformation of Mindsets Led by the Prime Minister

By washing the feet of safai karamcharis (sanitation workers) at the Kumbh, PM Modi sent a message to the nation that the marginalised have to be brought to the centre of our society and respected.

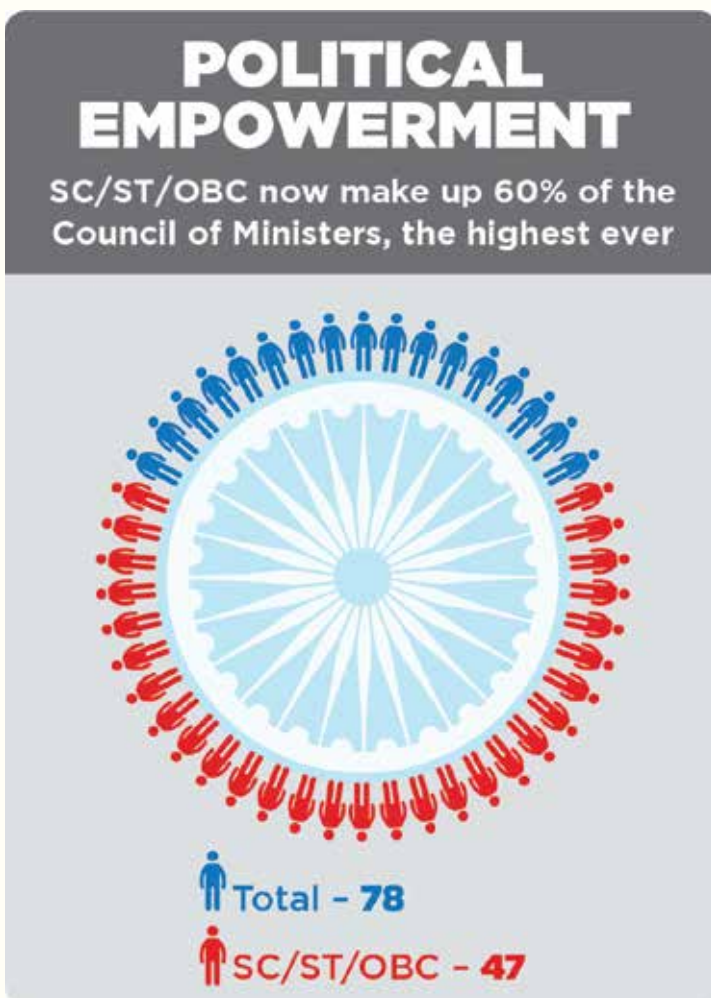
Apart from the respect for Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar through the Panchteerth, there are many other important ways in which the contributions of people from marginalised communities to our nation are being celebrated.

The declaration of Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary and Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, the redevelopment and upgradation of Seer Govardhan in Varanasi and the special notes of respect offered by PM Modi to Guru Ravidas are creating a social transformation in society.

Political empowerment is also an important part of this transformation. **With PM Modi at the helm, India saw the highest-ever representation from SCs, STs and OBCs in the Council of Ministers.** After the expansion in 2021, there are now 12 SC ministers, 8 ST ministers and 27 OBC ministers, taking the total to 47. This move in itself sent out a strong message that the New India is inclusive as well as progressive.



PM Modi cleaning the feet of a sanitation worker in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh during the Kumbh Mela







# A NEW CHAPTER IN **TRIBAL** EMPOWERMENT



PM Modi in traditional Naga clothing during the inauguration ceremony of the Hornbill Festival in Nagaland

**O**ver the last few years, tribal culture and people have been brought to the centre of national consciousness due to the relentless efforts of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government. Be it through the recognition of tribal heroes in our freedom struggle or the economic benefits through various initiatives, social justice and empowerment are finally reaching the unreachable.

## Specific Focus that was Dearly Awaited

**The proverbial winds of change first began blowing with Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the Prime Minister of India.**

It was under his administration that a separate Ministry of Tribal Affairs was formed in 1999. This was followed by the creation of another Ministry dedicated to the welfare of India's North-Eastern

region i.e., the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region in 2001. The creation of specific ministries meant that political focus was assured.

PM Modi took this political empowerment one step ahead when he inducted 8 ministers from the Scheduled Tribes communities into the Union Council of Ministers, the highest ever share in a government. A further consolidation can also be observed in the geographic



## SETTING AN EXAMPLE AT THE TOP

### PM MODI'S CABINET HAS **8 ST** MINISTERS, THE HIGHEST EVER!

location of the tribes these ministers belong to - which range from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal and Odisha to Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh as well as Maharashtra.

### Recognition for the Tribal Community

**PM Modi has often been seen sporting traditional outfits, headdresses and products from tribal areas. This goes a long way in showcasing the vibrant colours of their culture** while simultaneously instilling a sense of pride amongst the tribal communities.

The simple albeit powerful gesture speaks a lot about the changed outlook which now forms the basis for all schemes from the government aimed at social justice and empowerment. The era where India's tribal population was

looked down upon from a semi-colonial lens has long since passed. Today, taking a cue from its Prime Minister, our nation is choosing to opt for local handmade products over imported goods. Consumers today are realising the important part they play in promoting as well as preserving India's tribal traditions.

In the same light, the celebration of tribal festivals and the acknowledgement of tribal heroes has raised awareness. Some examples include the Aadi Mahotsav organized in New Delhi with over 1,000 artisans from 30 states participating, the announcement to observe November 15, Bhagwan Birsa Munda's Jayanti, as the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, renaming the Habibganj Railway Station as the Rani Kamalapati Railway Station as well the Rani Gaidinliu station in Manipur.

Moreover, given a national push to immortalize the supreme sacrifice of the unsung heroes of India's freedom movement under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the contributions of tribal heroes are also coming to the fore. Therefore, **10 new tribal freedom fighter museums are being set up.**

In 2017, with the passing of Indian Forest (Amendment) Act, bamboo was no longer recognized as a tree, thereby allowing unhindered production, processing and

## RIGHT INTENTIONS, BIG IMPACT

A song by Gujarati folk singer Geeta Rabari, dedicated to PM Modi went viral on social media a few years ago. Rabari, a singer from the Maldhari tribe of Gujarat was singing to show her gratitude to the PM after meeting him in the Parliament.

During his tenure as the Chief minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi had started many initiatives to encourage enrolment of girls in schools. One such message had influenced Geeta Rabari's father deeply, and he got her admitted in a school. Later, she also got to meet CM Modi when he visited her school. On listening to her song, CM Modi gave her Rs. 250 and advised her to keep practicing and never give up on her dreams.

Today, Geeta Rabari is one of the most celebrated folk singers in Gujarat.



## CARING FOR TRIBALS – FROM CM TO PM

As the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi had learnt about the Sickle Cell Disease that primarily affects the tribal communities.

When he travelled to Japan in 2014 as the PM, he held extensive talks with S Yamanaka, the Nobel Prize winner for Medicine, about the disease.

He also ensured that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs started specific programmes to decrease the occurrence of the disease. Since then, the Unmukt project is strengthening screening and promoting timely management of the disease.



PM Modi pays tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda on the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas



## Recognising the Immense Sacrifice of Tribal Heroes

**“During the period of colonial rule, there were many struggles against foreign rule including Khasi-Garo movement, Mizo movement, Kol movement. Be it the bravery of Gond Maharani Veer Durgavati or the sacrifice of Gond Rani Kamalapati, the country cannot forget them. The struggle of the brave Maharana Pratap cannot be imagined without the brave Bhils who sacrificed themselves while fighting in the battle field. We are all indebted to them. We can never repay this debt, but we can definitely fulfil our responsibility by cherishing this heritage and according proper respect.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

transportation. As long as the classification existed, bamboo as a source of income remained inaccessible to the economically disadvantaged forest-dwelling and rural communities. However, **since its declassification, there has also been a spurt in enterprises marketing products made from locally sourced bamboo, in turn boosting the income generated for primarily tribal households.**

Similarly, there has been an almost 190% increase in the budgetary allocation for various schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Compared to Rs. 4,296 crore in 2013-14, the allocation this year is to the tune of Rs.12,462 crore.

## Transforming Tribal Livelihoods

Under the leadership of PM Modi, inclusion is at the core of every government initiative. However small or large the decision may be, a key element of every central scheme since 2014 has been to reach the people and support them to create their own destiny.

It was this motivation, among others, that led to the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana in 2018. This scheme was designed to implement PM Modi's vision *"to ensure the availability of primary processing and value*

*addition for forest produce and to provide employment for tribals and increase tribal income,"* by establishing 50,000 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras.

These Kendras function as nodal institutes for monetizing Minor Forest Produce (MFP) through a Minimum Support Price (MSP). A critical part of the scheme also involves training the tribal population through Self Help Groups while simultaneously raising awareness around basic value addition to forest produce.

**So far under Mission Van Dhan, almost 55,000 Self Help Groups have been sanctioned benefiting 9.63 lakh tribals in 27 States/UTs. The products eligible for MSP have also risen from just 12 to 87 – a massive rise. Further, MSP for 50 of these products was also hiked during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Shining examples of the Van

## SMALL STEP FOR A BIG TRANSFORMATION

Earlier, bamboo which is an important source of income for tribals, had been classified as a tree. This created a lot of regulatory hassles for poor tribals. Now, the Modi government declassified it from its tree status, which impacted thousands of lives.



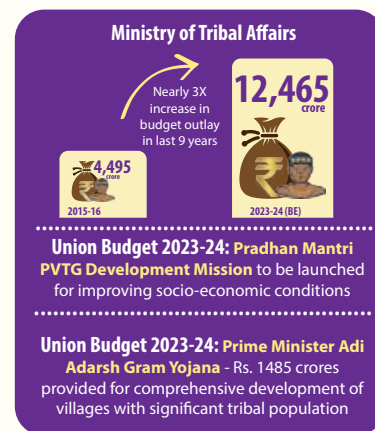


The Champion Van Dhan Entrepreneur - Smt. Mugli Bai



promotes and effectively generates income for households, it is imperative to arm tribal youth with education that opens up opportunities.

To this end, establishment of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) is being prioritised. The budget for EMRS has increased more than 21 times, from Rs. 278 crore in 2013-14 to Rs.5943 Crore in 2023-24. The sanctioning of EMRS has also gone up more than 8-fold - against just 90 sanctioned in the decade spanning 2004-14, the number now stands at 740.



Dhan Yojana's success are easily visible across the country.

In Rajasthan, Mugli Bai has become a champion entrepreneur by collecting and processing flowers from the densely forested tribal area of Jhadol in Udaipur. These flowers are collected and deposited at the Van Dhan cluster in Mangwas where they are processed into herbal gual. This endeavour by Mugli Bai has achieved significant sales within a short time, making it a highly profitable venture for the over tribal women of the area. Moreover, the venture has also risen as a perfect example of PM Modi's vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the idea of Vocal for Local.

In Manipur, Van Dhan Kendras have achieved immense success with sales of over Rs. 45 lakhs. These products are collected from the dense forests primarily by tribal women and deposited at the Kendras. Having received

training as well as equipment under the scheme, these women can make effective value additions and market the products in clean as well as hygienic packaging.

Be it Honey from Assam or products made from Mahua flowers in Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh – many tribal traditions and products are making their way into the mainstream due to the sustained focus of the government.

## The Right Platform - Education

In addition to building a conducive ecosystem that



The next step of course, would be training tribal youth to become industry leaders, thereby spreading the prosperity within the community. For the same, the Going Online as Leaders (GOAL) Program was launched in 2020 to empower 5,000 tribal youths with the help of renowned industry leaders.

Under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, special mechanisms over and above the initiatives already in place have also been mandated for the benefit of tribal students. Given the focus on local Indian languages as well as the higher education scholarships that have been envisioned under the NEP, tribal youth are set to expeditiously receive benefits they are entitled to.

## Self Employment and Entrepreneurship for Empowerment

Enterprising individuals, particularly the youth have been at the centre of the government's schemes due to their ability to inspire those around them. In the case of India's tribal population too, the same holds true.

Through schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Jan Shikshan Sansthan and National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, skill development

**“WHENEVER THERE WAS MENTION OF TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT, THERE WAS A COMMON REFRAIN THAT TRIBAL AREAS ARE INACCESSIBLE GEOGRAPHICALLY AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE FACILITIES THERE. THESE EXPLANATIONS WERE NOTHING BUT EXCUSES FOR NOT DOING ANYTHING. SUCH EXCUSES WERE MADE TO NOT PRIORITISE DEVELOPMENT IN TRIBAL AREAS. PEOPLE WERE LEFT TO THEIR OWN FATE. DUE TO SUCH POLITICS AND THINKING, THE TRIBAL DOMINATED DISTRICTS WERE DEPRIVED OF EVEN THE BASIC FACILITIES OF DEVELOPMENT. RATHER THAN MAKING EFFORTS FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT, THESE DISTRICTS WERE TAGGED AS BACKWARD.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

of the tribal youth has been fast-tracked. A consequential outcome has been an exponential increase in the possibilities for better, easier and more prosperous lives not just for the youth, but those around them as well.

Similarly, over 7,800 ST entrepreneurs have been provided loans of value between Rs.10 lakh and Rs.1 crore under Stand Up India.

## From ‘Backward’ to ‘Aspirational’

A key factor for any development measure, particularly in tribal districts, is its permeation down to the ground level. The prevalent trend in such areas was to mark certain areas as backward districts and then allow the developmental needs to languish. Because these areas were called backward, it created a self-fulfilling prophecy where officials too did not feel much could be done about these areas, since they were backward.

First, this mindset that created a vicious cycle had to be changed. This is the reason why PM Modi called them ‘Aspirational Districts’. This was an attitude that recognised the aspirations of the people living in these underserved regions. The Aspirational Districts programme was launched by the government. More than 100 districts that were identified under this scheme comprised a

## A NEW ERA OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE

- ✓ Naga Peace Accord, 2015
- ✓ Twipra Peace accord, 2019
- ✓ Bodo Peace Accord, 2020
- ✓ Bru Reang Peace Accord, 2020
- ✓ Karbi-Anglong Peace Accord, 2021
- ✓ Assam-Meghalaya Boundary Agreement, 2022

large number of those districts that have a considerable tribal population. The initiative has made these districts the singular focus for permeation and saturation of government schemes.

**Most of these districts, after five years of implementation, are performing significantly better than a large number of other prominent districts in India.**

Similarly, the relentless drive to achieve development across the North-eastern region has led to a new dawn of progress, prosperity and performance. The North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) was launched in 2018 at a total cost of Rs. 5,300 crore. Under this one umbrella initiative, over

145 development projects across varied sectors – from agriculture to power and from health to sports – have been rolled out.

### Spearheading the Movement for Peace and Safety

Another pillar of a sustained development push is the creation of a safe environment for progress.

The strategy to aggressively combat Left Wing Extremist outfits has made room for development to be achieved at breakneck speeds. **A drop of 77% has been witnessed in cases of violence perpetrated by LWE outfits which has allowed development to reach the people faster.**

In a more secure

environment, schemes like Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana have emerged as a beacon of progress in these areas. The scheme was first launched in 2007 in Gujarat with Narendra Modi as the CM. In Gujarat alone, it resulted in doubling the incomes of 7 lakh tribal families while reducing the gap in literacy level between the tribal and general population to just 15.5%.

Since 2014-15, the scheme was expanded to cover tribal areas across the country – it has been deployed as a special administrative vehicle to provide holistic development of employment, infrastructure (roads, houses, tap water connections), healthcare as well as better opportunities for farming and conservation tribal heritage.

Similarly, the string of peace accords that have been signed between different stakeholders in the North-Eastern region has resulted in peace becoming a lived reality.

**Under the able leadership of PM Modi, New India is rising, one that is inclusive, empowered and proud of every aspect of its heritage.**

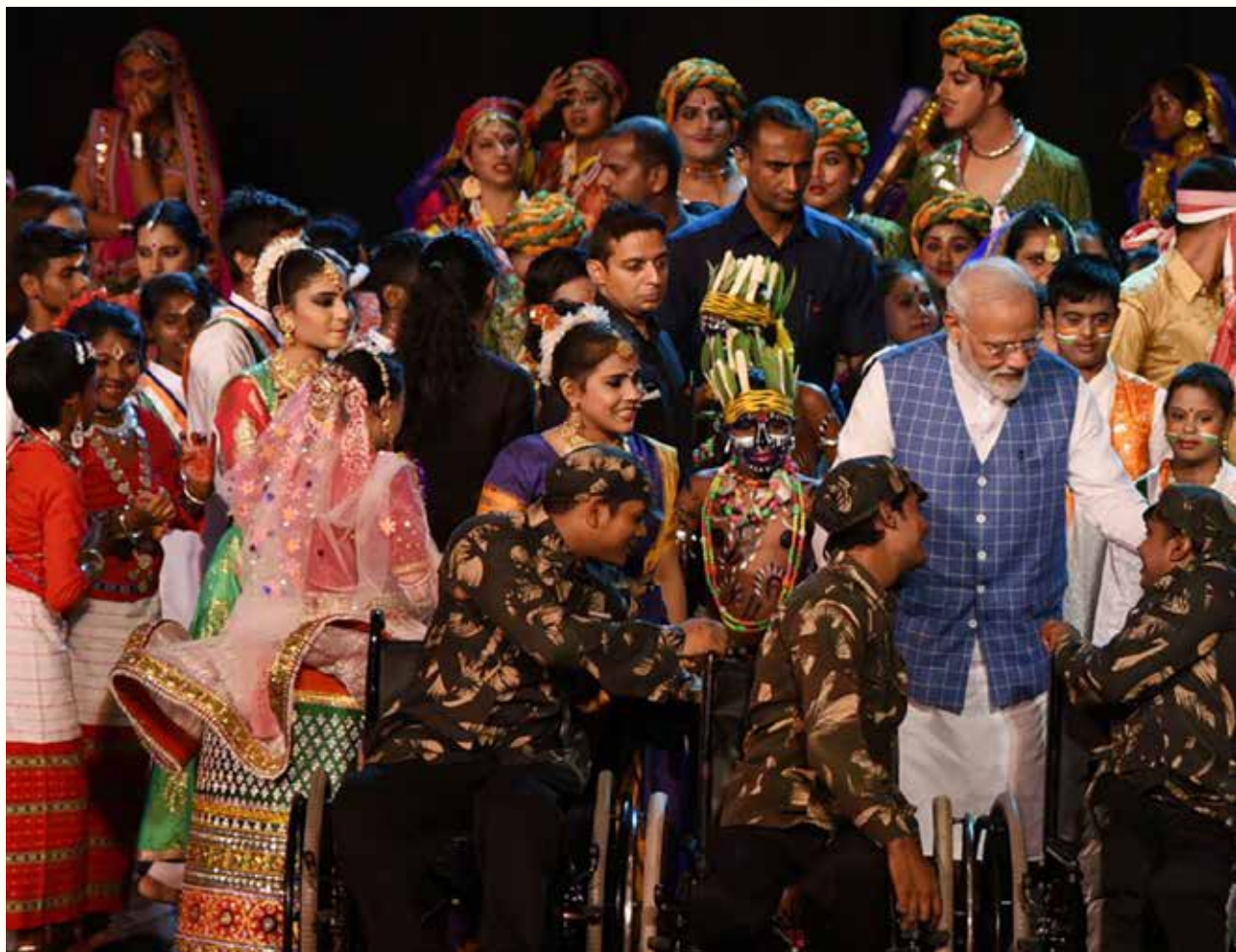








PM Modi pays floral tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda during the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Mahasammelan in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh



# INCLUSION OF DIVYANGJAN

**T**he makers of our Constitution envisaged a society that would be nurtured devoid of discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, colour, sex, etc. That is why one sees that the Constitution has laid emphasis on taking the benefits

of development to all kinds of marginalised members of the society. PM Modi in his goal to inspire a society with no discrimination has taken concrete steps to bring in reforms that not just seek to support the marginalized, but also empower them to

become self-reliant. In this, the attention paid to the Divyang communities deserves special mention.

## Empowering the Divyangjan

PM Modi has taken up the cause for empowering the classes that have faced discrimination due to being differently-abled. It began with the PM's 'Mann Ki Baat' program, where he suggested alternative nomenclature to address them as 'Divyangjan' instead of the prevalent



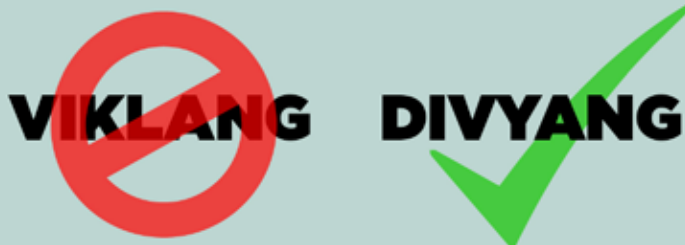


PM Modi meets Divyang children during the Divya Kala Shakti cultural event in New Delhi

**“WHY NOT USE THE WORD ‘DIVYANG’ INSTEAD OF ‘VIKLANG’? THEY ARE NOT DISABLED OR HANDICAPPED PEOPLE. THEY ARE PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL AND DIVINE POWER TO ACHIEVE DESPITE ALL ODDS.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION  
INSPIRED BY PM MODI**



‘Viklang’. This heralded an important transformation of attitudes in society, as people quickly adopted this suggestion. Suddenly, discourse around the Divyangjan had changed from the focus on their ‘disabilities’ to the focus on their skills and strengths.

**When the Modi government came in, previous governments had not even bothered to take the effort towards ensuring the basic minimum right of ‘accessibility’ to the Divyangjan. The existing laws in the country for them**

**had not been amended for 21 years!**

This state of affairs was definitely unacceptable to PM Modi. His government ensured that reforms were fast paced, ensuring that progress denied to the community earlier were expedited at breakneck speed. ‘The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act’ replaced the PwD Act of 1995. This Act ensured that all the hurdles posed to slowing down the community were removed in entirety, and also acknowledged the existence of several additional types of ‘disabilities’

that were sadly ignored till then.

For the first time, technology was utilised to create a nationwide database to ensure that benefits are availed without any hurdles. **A unique mapping exercise was done to issue Unique Disability Cards to the Divyang citizens of India.** These cards are helpful in ensuring that applicants who avail benefits do not have to repeat processes in the form of documentation, bringing in much relief from the cumbersome processes that frustrated the Divyang citizens

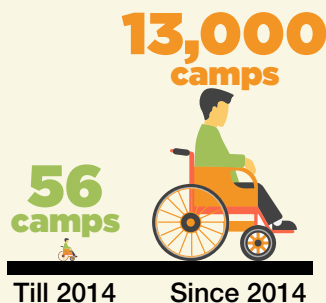
often.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment conducts camps to distribute assistive equipment to Divyangjan. Till 2014, only 56 such camps were conducted. Since 2014, nearly 13,000 camps have been conducted, empowering over 23 lakh Divyangjan.

## Accessibility and Assistance

To ensure that the momentum isn't lost in the quest for empowering Divyangjan, over 1.30 lakh Divyangjan students were trained under National Action Plan for Skill Training since 2016. Along with this,

### MASSIVE RISE IN CAMPS TO SUPPORT DIVYANGJAN



government has provided rehabilitation to over 2.73 lakh Divyangjan under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)

Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Scheme) is a scheme which aims to make India a friendlier

country for Divyangjan. The campaign has focused on the three verticals – Built-up Environment, Transportation Sector and Information and Communication Technology ecosystem, for creation of a Universal Barrier-Free Environment. 'Sugamya Bharat App' was developed to raise issues related to accessibility. This was launched on 02 March, 2021. The app helped in ensuring that whenever a difficulty was faced complaints could be raised for swift solutions.

The National Educational Policy 2020 was developed in such a way that the needs of the Divyangjan were addressed. As part of this, a **dictionary consisting of 10,000 words** as per the **Indian Sign Language** was launched. This helps students in their early ages to be more inclusive and accommodating of the needs of their fellow Divyangjan students. **2.07 lakh Divyangjan students received scholarships worth Rs. 633.47 Crore** under the scholarship scheme. special



### NEW GRAMMAR OF DIVYANG EMPOWERMENT

A dictionary consisting of 10,000 words as per the Indian Sign Language was launched

disability allowances under other schemes to enable them to pursue education. The sphere of sports too is part of vision to empower the Divyangjan. To **promote sports amongst the Divyangjan, Rs. 13.73 crore was released** as part of Khelo India scheme. The results produced due to the encouragement was incredible- in the recent Tokyo Paralympics India won 19 medals. This is more than the total tally of all Paralympics medals won by India in all previous editions! This fact highlights the impact of the encouragement as well as support provided to the Divyang athletes.

This encouragement comes from a place of deep sincerity



and concern that PM Modi brings to the empowerment of Divyangjan. Deepa Malik, the first woman Paralympic medallist had once shared a memorable anecdote on an interaction with PM Modi. In an event held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, PM Modi had invited

Paralympic Athletes to interact with them. When he approached, other people, in their excitement to meet the Prime Minister started to crowd around her. PM Modi, even in the middle of many people, noticed this and personally took action to create space for her, as she had undergone several spine-related surgeries. The fact that PM Modi remembered her health condition and took upon himself to ensure her safety like an elder brother, is a memory that, she said she would always cherish.

## Inspiring Change

One of the responsibilities of any democratically elected





government is to bring in change and inspire society to be more acceptable towards all. An important way to do this is for leaders to take it upon themselves to send out a message to society on inclusion, respect and dignity.

A picture is worth a thousand words. The sight of PM Modi seeking the blessings from a Divyang woman in one of his visits to Varanasi, spoke volumes about his attitude towards Divyangjan.

PM Modi has ensured that the Divyangjan, have an opportunity to participate and



PM Modi seeking the blessings from a Divyang woman in one of his visits to Varanasi

contribute towards the growth of the nation. The government has ensured that the hurdles preventing them are done away with, reforms are brought in whenever required based on the feedback or results observed. With increase in avenues to become self-reliant, whether its innovation or entrepreneurship, Divyangjan are aspiring for and achieving progress, with the active support of the government.



PM Modi with Avani Lekhara, the first Indian woman to win more than one medal in a single Paralympic Games



PM Modi in conversation with divyangjan during a public meeting in Varanasi, UP



PM Modi meeting 12-year-old Sabari Venkat in Coimbatore, TN. Sabari suffers from visual impairment and had expressed a wish to meet the PM



PM Modi interacts with divyangjan during the celebrations for the International Day of Yoga



A divyang person takes a selfie with PM Modi during an event in Varanasi



# USHERING IN WORKER WELFARE

**T**here has been much veneration of the labour force of India. Right from the days of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr B. R. Ambedkar, the power of labour in determining India's future was repeatedly witnessed. At the dawn of independence, a basic framework was created to ensure labour rights.

However, much like the lopsided story of India's industrialization, the progress necessary for improving the lives of India's workers and enhancing their welfare remained stuck in politics and general apathy.

How can social justice be

complete without efforts to empower the workers of India? This is a question that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly put forth in myriad ways and answered them. He has made efforts to push for the rights of the labour force in India. Driven by the ideals of such luminaries as Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, PM Modi since 2014 has been pursuing a path that sets the base for labour force to feel assured –that their rights are secure; that their due will reach them. **This comes from PM Modi's belief that industrialization or economic expansion cannot**



PM Modi expresses his gratitude to sanitation workers for their work at the Kashi Vishwanath Dham by showering flower petals on them





be a mere one-way street – rather, it has to be mutually beneficial to all stakeholders in the process. Those who build our nation brick by brick deserve rights, dignity and respect. The respect that the Prime Minister has for hardworking workers has been amply evident on many occasions. For example, PM Modi felicitated the shramiks who worked on the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, interacted with them and had a meal with them. This is a gesture that conveys to workers that their efforts are valued not merely transactionally but also in a much deeper sense.

But this incident was not an aberration. There are innumerable examples that show PM Modi's unique bond

**“WE HAVE FAITH IN INDIA'S SHRAM SHAKTI. FOR OUR SHRAM SHAKTI, THERE IS EMPHASIS ON: RE-SKILLING AND UP-SKILLING. ENSURING PROPER HOUSING. ADEQUATE MONETARY SUPPORT. BETTER HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

with the industrious people of India. A rickshaw puller from Varanasi, Mangal Kevat, had invited PM Modi to his daughter's wedding. Kevat had personally handed over the invitation in the PMO. Giving the matter high priority, PM Modi himself replied back to Kevat through a letter that extended congratulatory wishes for Kevat's daughter's wedding, which left Kevat and his family overjoyed. He even met Kevat later in person in Varanasi, apologizing for his inability to attend the wedding.

## Securing Lives and Livelihoods

The first step of empowerment is to secure livelihoods and lives at the



PM Modi shares a snack with workers from India at their camp during a visit to Doha, Qatar

There are innumerable examples that show PM Modi's unique bond with the industrious people of India. A rickshaw puller from Varanasi, Mangal Kevat, had invited PM Modi to his daughter's wedding. Kevat had personally handed over the invitation in the PMO. Giving the matter high priority, PM Modi himself replied back to Kevat through a letter that extended congratulatory wishes for Kevat's daughter's wedding, which left Kevat and his family overjoyed. He even met Kevat later in person in Varanasi, apologizing for his inability to attend the wedding.



Platform for  
Opportunities  
**28.8 crore**  
e-SHRAM cards

## SECURING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS OF WORKERS

**“A news story from Unnao in Uttar Pradesh caught my attention. There, a government school building was being deployed as a temporary quarantine centre. The workers who had come back primarily from Hyderabad, had been in quarantine there. These workers were experts in painting and construction work. They wanted to do something for their village. So, while in the government school, these workers, with their skills, transformed the school! When I came to know about this, their patriotism and skill inspired me.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

same time. 3.1 crore formal jobs were created between 2018-19 and 2020-21, of which 82.4 lakh got created within 8 months of 2021-22 alone. With opportunities being created, the doors to a better future open automatically, as workers can now use their skills and strengths to build a better future for themselves and the nation.

Similarly, when 28.8 crore unorganized sector workers get registered on the E-SHRAM portal and are issued e-SHRAM cards, their chances to secure jobs they want increase significantly.

That need for support is also the reason why a scheme like the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana was introduced by PM Modi, which has seen 49.3 lakh unorganized sector workers enrolled in it to date. An assured pension gives people hope that their future is secure. For example, when it reaches a labourer pulling the cart on the street or a transgender who would otherwise be forced to the streets, comes as a saviour. Similarly, when it comes to

securing lives and helping during emergencies, insurance has emerged as a relief during crisis. 15.42 crore PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and 32.78 crore PM Suraksha Bima Yojana accounts are providing affordable life and accident insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakh with premiums as low as 1 rupee per month or day.

For securing lives, one of the greatest steps has been the expansion of the existing Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) coverage

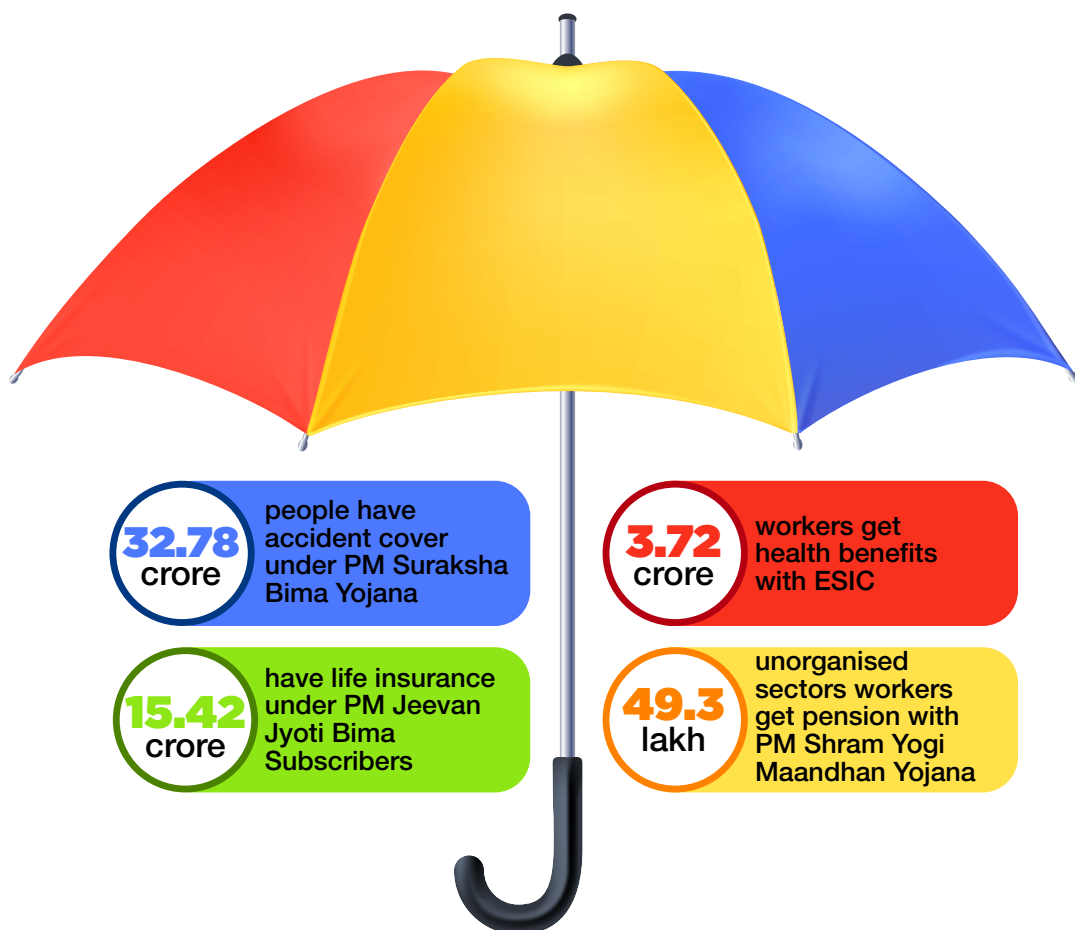
in a major way. Thanks to the effort, today there are 3.72 crore workers and their families who have health insurance cover to protect them in emergencies. With new infrastructure being built in many places by ESIC, and the ambit being expanded, there has been a marked transformation in the process. The same system is now being deployed in the way it was meant to be – labour friendly.

Another aspect of empowering workers is skill

development. To ensure employability, skill upgradation is a necessity. It is no wonder then that PM Modi and his government have laid so much emphasis on Kaushal Vikas. Thanks to the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, more than 1.37 crore people have received skill development training and certification, enhancing employability and increasing chances to earn higher incomes.

For many like Geetika Saini of Kanpur, the initiative has

## SAFETY COVER DURING CRISIS





Learn how Geetika developed skills to achieve financial independence. Scan the QR code to read her inspiring story.

## Giving Wings to Dreams of a Better Future

Geetika Saini of Kanpur led a tough life, as her father, the sole bread earner in the house always struggled to keep them afloat. Getting a job was not easy for Geetika despite being a graduate.

Thanks to the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, she got certified as an Inventory Clerk. Her confidence grew and she was able to secure a job with the State Bank of India, drawing a substantial salary.

Geetika feels that the elaborate training under PMKVY not only gave her a platform to start a career but also gave her the confidence to dream for a better future, as she is now able to help her family.

given wings to their dreams, as it has enabled them to earn, be independent and also help their families financially.

### Labour Reforms that Truly Empower

Labour laws should not be a maze of confusion. That is a firm belief of PM Modi. Only if laws are easy to comprehend and follow will they be adhered to in earnest. This is a big departure from the approach that was the norm earlier – adopt a short-term fix in the form of passing a law and imagine the problem has been solved. Implementation was never a priority. However, 29 labour laws have now been codified into 4 Labour Codes for simplicity and transparency, benefiting both the employer and the employee, and these

reforms now truly help with their focus on implementation. **Moreover, the Code lays down clearly what the rights of women are, expanding the scope of professions in which they can now seek employment, and also ensuring security at workplaces. A feather in the cap here is the provision for crèche facility in all establishments having 50 or more workers. This ensures that the women workers are assured of their children's wellbeing, enabling them to focus on their work with increased productivity.**

### Shielding Workers from the Pandemic's Disruption

The importance of job security is often not given due

importance. However, PM Modi and his government went out of the way to ensure that livelihoods of the workers were secured at all costs. **Thanks to the Emergency Credit Loan Guarantee Scheme launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, a study found that 1.5 crore MSME sector jobs were saved, since nearly 13.5 lakh MSMEs were saved from becoming non-performing assets (NPAs), which would have led to massive job losses.**

How is this significant? Well, thanks to these MSMEs being saved, 6 crore lives dependent on these jobs were saved from facing hardships during and after the COVID pandemic. Moreover, 60 lakh jobs were formalized under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY), thanks to PM Modi's government crediting



Rs. 2,583 crore in EPF accounts in small firms, helping firms who would have struggled while saving the jobs of the people simultaneously.

Another less talked of initiative in the pandemic was the support given to the utilization of the Building and Construction Workers Welfare Funds at the state level, pushed by the Centre. Due to this measure, State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards were able to disburse around Rs. 7,413 crore to about 2 crore building and other construction workers during first and second wave of COVID-19. This money, which was meant for their welfare, saw optimal usage, helping many of them who are also migrant workers. Further, to enable their rapid transition back and forth, the government left no stone unturned, running Shramik Trains in high volumes so that they could return.

What would these people do after coming home for their livelihoods? This question was answered with the Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan, under which 50.78 crore person-days employment was generated with an investment of Rs. 39,293 crore. Under this program, a 125-day campaign was run to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers and similarly affected persons across 116 selected districts across

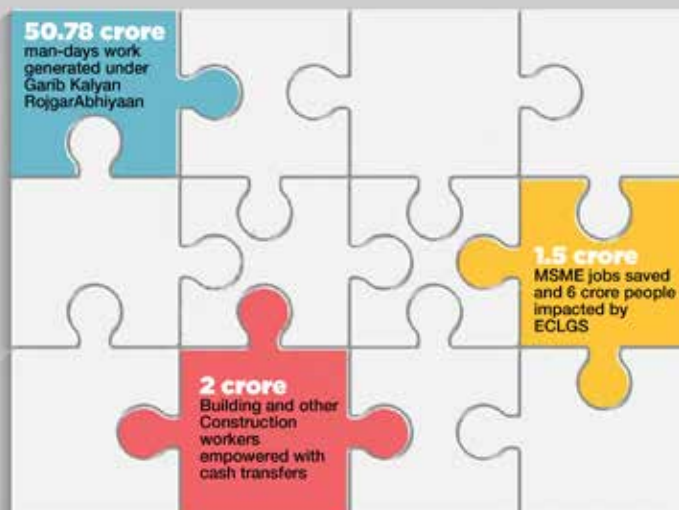


## Simpler Legal Framework Ensures Greater Compliance

If laws are simple and easy to comprehend, then they are also easy to implement. Earlier, as a short-term fix, many laws were made for worker welfare, but never implemented properly.

Now, PM Modi has reformed labour laws by removing confusion and redundancies, fixing clear accountability. Therefore, implementation is better and so is compliance.

### SAVING LIVES, PREVENTING POVERTY DURING THE PANDEMIC





6 states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh which had significant number of migrant worker returnees, thus preventing destitution without loss of dignity.

It was in the same vein that a special recognition was made of the people who are the most visible yet the most invisible when it comes to policy making. Through the Rs. 5,958 crore worth PM SVANidhi loans disbursed to 47.94 lakh street vendors, a new lease of life has been injected into their businesses.

To many street vendors like Chagan Lal of Indore, who received this small loan and managed to revive his broom making business in quick time, it was a lifesaver, preventing them from seeking financial assistance from loan sharks. Chagan Lal ran a business of making 50-60 brooms every day and selling it on the streets. COVID-induced disruptions hit his business, and he was left vulnerable enough to slide back into poverty as the family income was affected.

Thanks to the loan sanctioned under PM SVANidhi scheme Chagan Lal was able to resume his business once again.



**Chagan Lal from Indore had a business of making and selling brooms. COVID-19 would have destroyed his business and financial prospects if not for PM-SVANidhi scheme. Now, his business is up and running again.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in the initial years of his government raised the slogan of *Shramev Jayate*. His government truly lives up to that ideal, as it has worked to bring greater dignity to the lives of those toiling for existence on a daily basis. The government has provided a healing touch to their lives that is essential in the process of bringing an improvement in the lives of the countless people who build

New India.

# NARI SHAKTI BANI RASHTRA KI SHAKTI

**E**mpowering women to participate in a nation's growth is an article of faith for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is reflected in the way in which many policy decisions emphasise the approach of creating opportunities and removing obstacles from the path of women. **The Modi government's view of women empowerment is unique in that it doesn't tell women what to do but increases the array of choices women have, and provides institutional support for each of those choices.**

Be it in Gujarat or at the Centre, the theme of women empowerment has been a signature of Narendra Modi. Who can forget the way he questioned society, during his speech in the abode of Umiya Mata in Gujarat, to stop the practice of female infanticide? Who can forget him extracting promises from people on the same issue as Prime Minister?

The positive result from the promises made by the society is a feat only inspiring leaders



PM Narendra Modi interacts with members of Self-Help Groups at the Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

can achieve. PM Modi, due to the credibility he has earned with a clean public life, has been able to instil the emotion in the people that 'he is one of us', which helps him show a mirror and inspire social transformation.

## Removing Structural Constraints

India has a rich history of women pioneers leading the way to contribute to nation building. But post-independence, the lack of development meant that many daily, drudgery-filled tasks sapped away the time and energy of women. Efforts have been made to ensure that these hurdles which stopped women from greater socio-economic participation are removed. This is a key part of ensuring social justice to women.

The impact of the schemes varies from direct to indirect benefits, which cumulate to form synergies far greater than the sum of their parts. Providing piped drinking water through the **Jal Jeevan Mission** which has covered **8.42 crore households** frees up time for women to pursue other goals that helps improve their lives. Given how schoolgirls have borne the brunt of the drudgery of water collection, access to tap water at home actually frees them to attend school.

**“WITH MAA UMIYA’S BLESSINGS I WANT SOMETHING FROM YOU. WILL YOU GIVE IT TO ME? PEOPLE OFTEN COME TO YOU FOR DONATIONS. BUT I DO NOT WANT A SINGLE PAISA. I WANT SOMETHING ELSE. WILL YOU GIVE IT TO ME? RAISE YOUR HANDS AND MAKE A PROMISE IN THE NAME OF MAA UMIYA THAT YOU WILL NOT COMMIT THE SIN OF KILLING THE GIRL CHILD, THAT YOU WILL NOT COMMIT THE SIN OF FEMALE FOETICIDE. DOCTORS WILL ALSO NOT RESORT TO THIS WRONG PRACTICE TO EARN MONEY. WE WILL COME TOGETHER AND CONVINCE EVERYONE THAT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SON AND A DAUGHTER.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

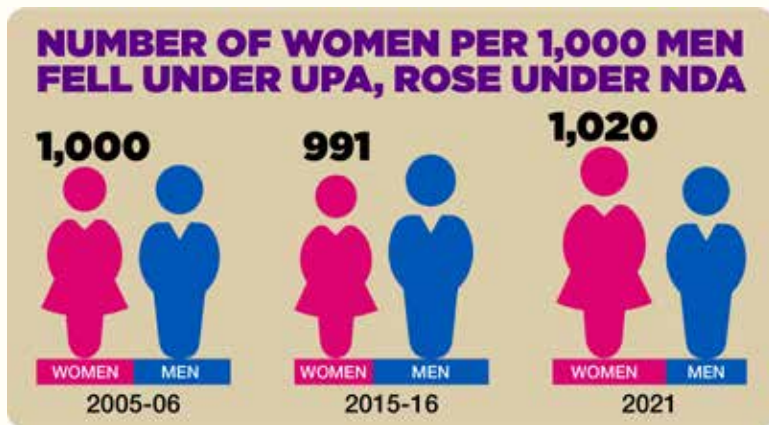
The Ujjwala Yojana, which provided 9.6 crore LPG connections and reduced the time taken by women for cooking, had shown that many women are now using their time for skill development and income generation. This is clearly demonstrating that it was not that women were hesitant to participate socio-economically, but it was structural constraints that were at the root of their problems. Now, those constraints are being addressed.

The first obstacle in the path of the girl was the prevalent societal attitude in many places, which even went to the extent of preventing a girl from being born!

The response to this was PM Modi's call for 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'. It has transcended its boundaries of a government scheme and become a mass movement. **In 2005-06, the ratio of females to males was reported to be equal, i.e., 1,000:1,000. However, under the UPA government, it went down to 991:1,000, which was reported in 2015-16. As of 2021, the female to male ratio has been reported as 1,020:1,000. This is the first time, in any NFHS or Census, that the sex ratio is skewed in favour of women.** This stupendous improvement is an important outcome of a societal transformation.

Further, the **Sukanya Samridhi** scheme aided this





transformation by encouraging parents to create savings for their girl child for the future.

**Over 3.44 crore accounts have been created** under this scheme.

The positive social environment has also higher enrolment of girls in schools along with completion of education up to higher secondary level schooling. For the years 2018-19 and 2019-20, the enrolment of girl students is 101.78 and 103.69 respectively. This indicates the increasing interest among parents to enrol their girl children for primary education.

Between the years 2018-19 and 2019-20, the enrolment of girl students at the upper primary level showed increase from 88.54 and 90.46 respectively. Between the years 2018-19 and 2019-20, the enrolment of girl students in secondary education have registered positive growth with 76.93 for the former and 77.83 in the latter. The indicates that the schemes related to supporting continued education

for girl child are becoming effective.

To ensure that girls have an opportunity to continue their education, an important reform was needed to create the conducive atmosphere for it. PM Modi who understood the educational opportunities being missed by women, **introduced**

the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 bill to raise the marriageable age of girls from 18 to 21. This move was welcomed by all sections of the society, as it gave a fighting chance for girls to choose their future.

Opening up new avenues in education and employment, especially in places that were out of the reach of women earlier, is an important step in bringing about social transformation. This is a key part of social justice.

Now, Sainik schools have also started admitting girls in line with the goal of giving equal opportunity in the armed forces. It was with the Modi



government that the doors of the National Defence Academy and women are poised to join the NDA and play a bigger part in national defence. **The government's decision to induct women into combat roles in all three wings of the armed forces as Commissioned Officers was a tectonic shift for women aspiring to serve the nation. For the first time, women are also being appointed on board warships and as fighter pilots.**

Reservation for women in police in union territories and Central Armed Police Forces along with several states has, in the last seven years, almost doubled their representation in

police forces.

Meanwhile, the Central Reserve Police Force has raised three new women battalions since 2014-15 and also inducted women personnel into its specialised jungle warfare commando force CoBRA.

PM Modi also ensured that the historical injustice done to Muslim women for decades was undone. Right from the time of the Shah Bano case, Muslim women had been denied their rights by the regressive practice of Triple Talaq. In 2019, the government passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, making divorce through Triple Talaq a punishable offence. Correction of this injustice was welcomed

by the women of the Muslim community across India.

## From Help to Self-Help

Education is one pillar; skill enhancement is another. To enhance the employability of women workers, the Modi government is providing training to women increasingly through a network of Women Industrial Training Institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Kendras lay emphasis on creating additional infrastructure both for training and apprenticeship for women.



# NARI SHAKTI PROTECTS THE NATION

**For the 1st time:**

- ✈ Women IAF pilots participated in the Republic Day parade
- ✈ Women IAF pilots took part in the Republic Day fly past
- ✈ A female pilot was inducted in the Indian Navy in 2019
- ✈ An all-women SWAT commando team was constituted to combat terrorism

This also helps in employment of women trainers, equity in remuneration, and a robust complaint redressal mechanism.

All this however is preceded by the need for financial inclusion. This is necessary because women feel assured if they have savings or disposable money in their hands. Presence of a bank account further adds to their sense of security. **Thanks to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana's push for bank accounts, today 55% of the 48.2 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts belong to women. Meanwhile, it has been reported that 78.6% women use bank accounts now compared to just 15% in 2005-06!**

The financial inclusion of women is also being helped by the expanding network of Self-Help Groups (SHG) across India consisting of only women. The group consists of women from economically backward sections, who can get together to pool in resources to help boost entrepreneurship. **PM Modi had commended their contribution during the**

**“THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WILL KEEP FOCUSING ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ITS VARIOUS SCHEMES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON DIGNITY AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITY. FROM FINANCIAL INCLUSION TO SOCIAL SECURITY, QUALITY HEALTHCARE TO HOUSING, EDUCATION TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP, MANY EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PUT OUR NARI SHAKTI AT THE FOREFRONT OF INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY. THESE EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE WITH EVEN GREATER VIGOUR IN THE COMING TIMES.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**pandemic**, which varied from creating awareness, to helping the needy by supplying food and aiding in manufacture of critical items such as masks and sanitisers. Today, there are over 82 lakh women's SHGs across the country, mobilising a total of 8.9 crore women from poor and vulnerable communities.


Thanks to these initiatives, the movement for real empowerment has gained significant momentum. It is also noteworthy that the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) aims to reach out to 10 crore women from rural households and mobilise them into SHG members by 2024

An interesting fact highlighted by PM Modi in this regard is worth noting - the successful repayment of loans by the SHGs clearly indicates that they too are contributing to the growth of the economy. PM Modi ensures that the successes of the women in grassroots entrepreneurship are highlighted in order to create role models.

One such success story


## Ministry of Women & Child Development

1.5X increase in Budget Allocation in last 9 years



17.2  
thousand  
crore

2015-16




25.9  
thousand  
crore

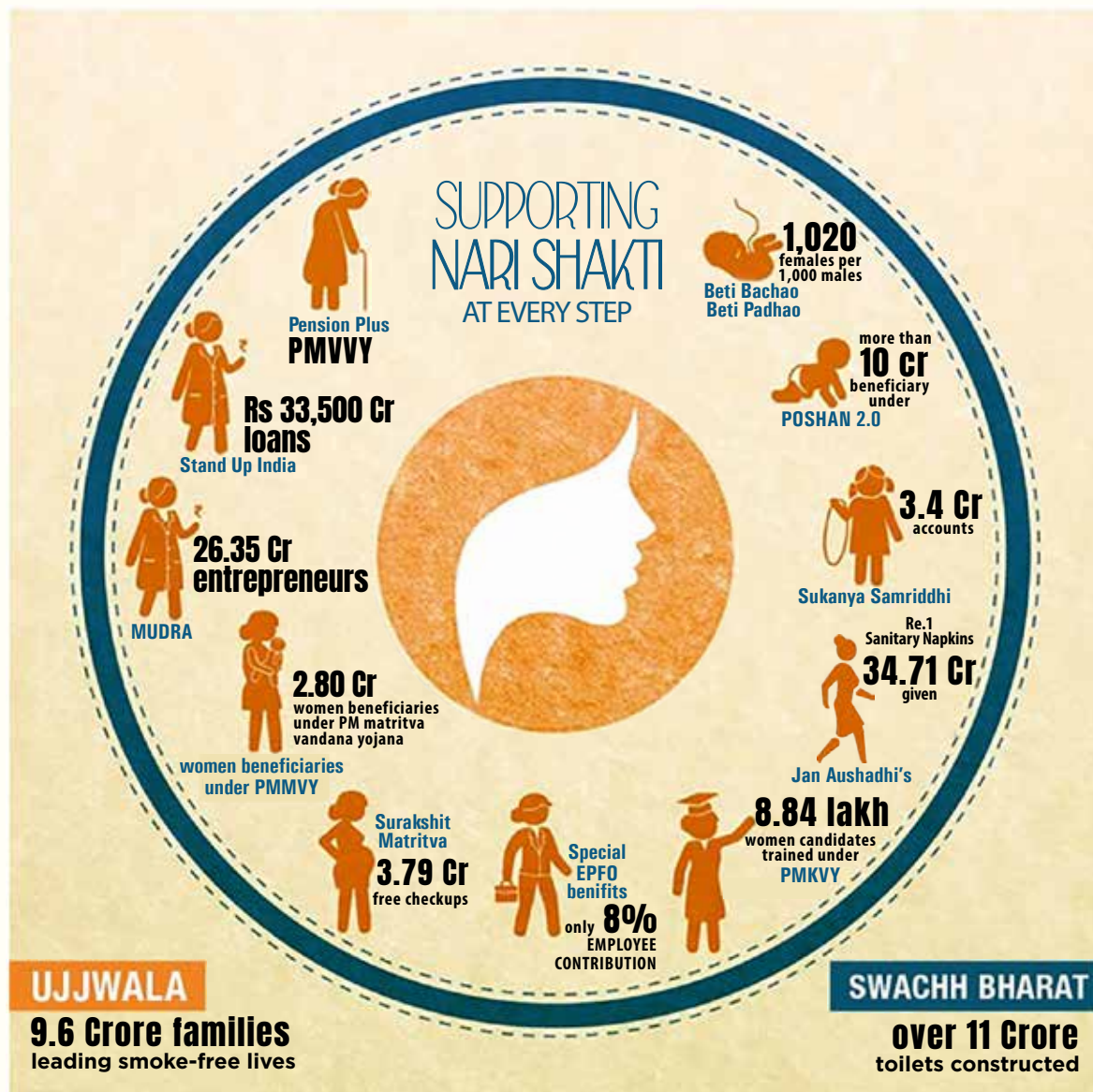
2023-24 (BE)

### Mahila Samman Savings Certificates

scheme announced in 2023-24 Budget will offer deposit facility up to ₹2 Lakhs at a fixed interest rate of 7.5% with partial withdrawal option







shared is of Ms. Veena Devi, from Kathua District of Jammu and Kashmir, who is a weaver by profession. She had heard about the MUDRA Yojana and applied for a loan of Rs. 1 lakh. She is now one of the leading manufacturers of Pashmina shawls in her area. During an interaction with PM Modi, she had even shared one of the Pashmina shawls manufactured by her.

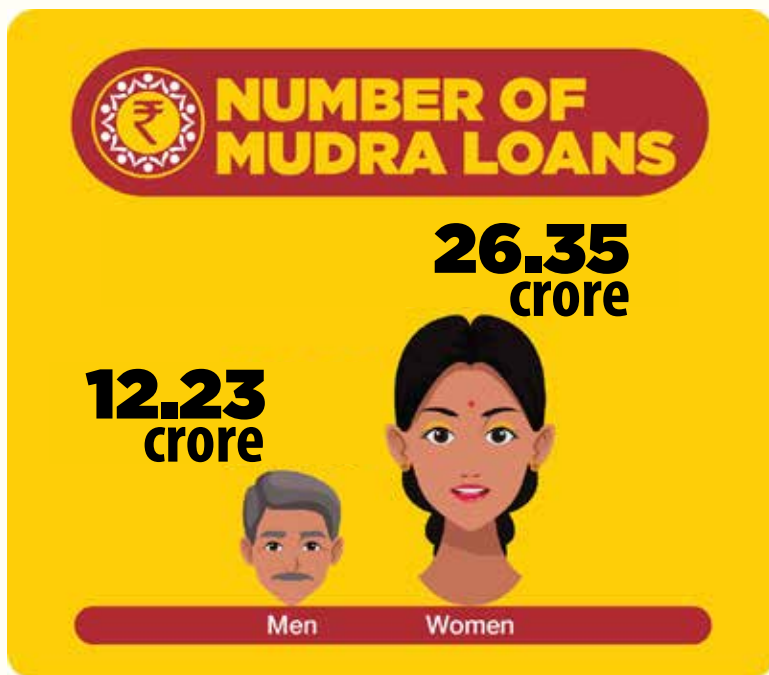
## Changing Perspectives, Reforming Policies

The change in mindset for ensuring women-led-development has not been limited just to women centric schemes but change in policies too. In 2017, the government **amended the law to ensure 26 weeks of paid maternity leave, which was hailed by**

**women across the board.**

Working Women Hostels are being built with child-care facilities to encourage women to have a safe space to live and go to work, if they are employed far away from home. There are **494 functional Working Women Hostels.**

Such measures enable a sense of assurance among working women with respect to their careers and their families,



giving them pride and confidence to take greater part in decision making at home and outside.

PM Modi has also announced the implementation of ‘**Mission Shakti**’. This is an umbrella scheme for **Safety, Security and Empowerment of Women** as an integrated women empowerment program, for addressing the issues of women and for making them equal partners in nation-building through convergence at different levels of governance and a participative approach.

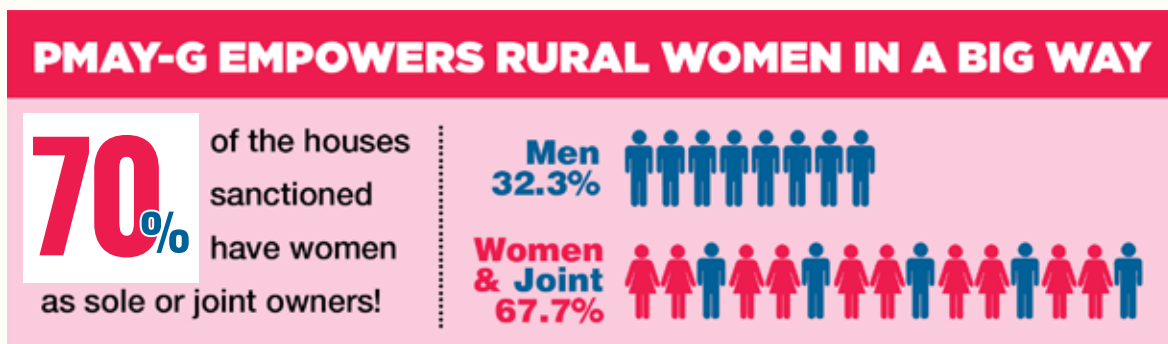
Promising outcomes from government programs such as skill development, providing loans for MSMEs led by women and other policy reforms will help in accelerating the participation of women in the economy. Updating policies to encourage active participation of women in the workplace too plays a significant role. However, all of this is doing an even more important role for the nation – it is giving women the long due respect they deserved.

enhancing their productivity.

The government has also taken up proactive reforms to support women in workplaces. A number of enabling provisions have been incorporated in the recently enacted Labour Codes such as the Code on Wages, the Industrial Relations Code, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code and the Code on Social Security. The amended laws provide greater job security as well as ensure equal pay and

give greater freedom to women when it comes to choosing professions.

**Providing affordable housing under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) has also helped in providing a secure environment for women, as 70% of the over 2.86 crore houses are owned by women, either as sole or joint owners.** Making women lakhpatis through meaningful asset creation support has transformed women’s lives,







PM Modi meets 105-year-old organic farmer R Pappammal, a Padma Shri awardee, in Coimbatore, TN



PM Modi sharing a light moment with a beneficiary of the Ayushman Bharat Yojana



PM Modi interacting with the Indian women's hockey team



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting the all-female crew of the sailing vessel, INSV Tarini, before they embark on the voyage to circumnavigate the globe



# DIGNITY TO THE POOR THROUGH SOCIO- ECONOMIC JUSTICE

**A**n incident from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's life was recently brought to light by someone who had worked with him. Back in the days when Mr. Modi was not yet in active politics, but was a social worker, he visited a fellow social worker's house, which was in a slum. There was little to eat, and yet the friend's wife, knowing fully well the hunger of her child for milk, offered a Bajra roti with milk to eat to Mr. Modi. He could sense

the hunger in the eyes of the child staring at the milk. He offered the milk to the child and watched him gulp the milk down in one go. Mr. Modi was so moved by this that he excused himself and rushed out to control his tears. That day, he decided to dedicate his life to the cause of empowerment of the poor, a promise he has lived up to ever since, be it in Gujarat as the Chief Minister or the national arena as the Prime Minister.



PM Modi in conversation with a poor divyang person in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

## Resilient, Irreversible Empowerment

After his election victory in 2014, when he was on the verge of being sworn in as India's Prime Minister, he made the aims and intentions of his government amply clear - *"The government will be dedicated towards poor, youth and women"*, he said from the Central Hall of the Parliament building.

In a nation that has seen many slogans against poverty,



## **MODI MANTRA AGAINST POVERTY**

**“For the first time after independence, a government that feels the pain of the poor and works for the poor has been formed. Basic facilities like houses, electricity, water, roads, toilets, gas connections are being given high priority. Such work of development transforms the life of the poor and downtrodden.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

why is it that the motto of 'Sabka Vikas' has resonated with the country?

**Because, unlike earlier sloganeering, the approach is not of mere patronage and piecemeal fixes. Instead, the work being done is of holistic and sustained upliftment that is resilient and irreversible, developments which won't go away even if governments change.** It is accompanied by a social safety net that works to prevent people from falling back into poverty for reasons beyond their control.

Be it bank accounts, direct transfer of social benefits, electricity connections, LPG coverage, tap water, toilets or affordable housing – these are fundamental basic necessities that the poor were deprived of. Once these resources reach them, they bring in irreversible transformation in their lives.

## A Comprehensive Social Safety Net

In economics literature, commonly acceptable points become self-evident. Poor people want to save for a rainy day, and they want to build houses to live in. They want reduced worries when it comes to the essential daily needs, and want some security against the threat of health issues which hold the potential to make any progress vulnerable.

For nearly six decades, the progress on each of these fronts left much to be desired. Essential services were kept out of the reach of the poor, so that the game of patronage and the mai-baap culture could benefit a political elite that wanted

**“INDIA HAS ONLY TWO CASTES – THE POOR AND THOSE WHO WANT TO REMOVE POVERTY.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

the poor dependent on them. Twentieth century challenges that should have been addressed long back are finally being addressed by PM Modi's government in the twenty-first century.

**Any kind of empowerment has to be premised on the foundations of financial inclusion, which is possible only when the poor are made a part of the financial system.** For decades, there was a lot of grandstanding but very little action.

It was only PM Modi's government that took meaningful steps for inclusion and empowerment through the Jan Dhan ecosystem:

- Opening a bank account (Jan Dhan)
- Linking it to Aadhar for authenticity
- Direct transfer of benefits

48 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts were the first step



**Be it bank accounts, direct transfer of social benefits, electricity connections, LPG coverage, tap water, toilets or affordable housing – these are fundamental basic necessities that the poor were deprived of. Once these resources reach them, they bring in irreversible transformation in their lives.**



## EFFECTIVE DELIVERY, NO LEAKAGES

**Rs 28.84 lakh crore transferred  
directly via DBT, eliminating  
middlemen and removing corruption**

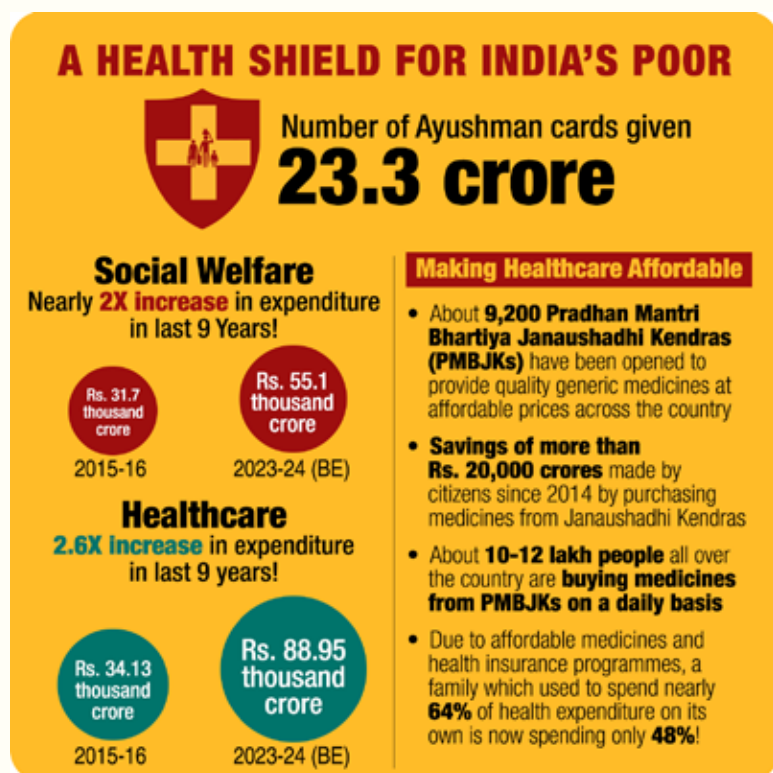
seem to vote for PM Modi in such big numbers, but have they ever wondered that this vote is a blessing of the voiceless to the one they feel has worked the to improve their lives meaningfully?

## A Roof over Every Head

Owning a house may seem a rather innocuous routine part of life to some. However, the value of a place that one can call one's own provides such emotional security that no dream seems unreachable from there. This is why it is a common belief in our culture that one should have a space to call their own, however small. It is this that PM Modi and his government recognized as an important step on the journey towards ensuring social justice.

So, when you see some of the 2.8 crore plus Awas Yojana beneficiaries of rural India or the 1.2 crore plus poor beneficiaries of the Urban Awas Yojana they exude a sense of achievement. If that seemed small, imagine 4 lakh people living in unauthorized colonies receiving title ownership for their houses in Delhi and more than 1.1 lakh rental units at various stages under Affordable Rental Housing Scheme for urban migrants.

**These are not mere numbers. People who were struggling for the basics have suddenly discovered**



towards financial inclusion of India's poorest, **with women owning half of these accounts.** With direct transfers to the tune of Rs. 28.84 lakh crore get to the vulnerable and the needy without any leakages, **the poor have been brought in to the system while the corrupt have been taken out of the system.**

Similarly, 23.3 crore Ayushman Bharat health cards

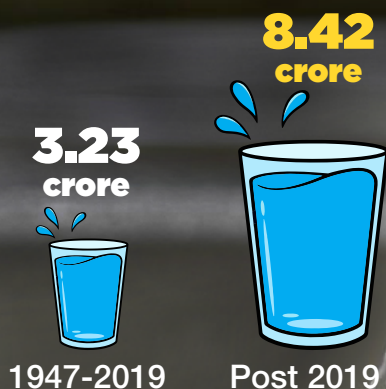
have resulted in the poor being able to afford quality treatment, **preventing the poor from losing all the gains they made in the battle against poverty to a healthcare emergency.**

Such a safety net creates a **huge psychological impact among the poor.** They feel empowered, and hopeful that their fortunes too can change. People wonder why the poor

# PAANIPOWER

**MORE ACHIEVED IN TWO YEARS  
THAN SEVEN DECADES**

Number of households  
with tap connections



that they matter, their dreams matter and more importantly, their dreams are achievable.

Similarly, when 2.86 crore households get free electricity connections through the Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA), children can study while the elderly can work a few more hours, giving a sense of renewed determination to escape the clutches of poverty. Add the 9 crore free Ujjwala LPG connections and the

## URJA TO IMPROVE LIVES

**9**  
crore

Ujjwala LPG connections enabling cleaner air for women and more productive time at their disposal

**2.86**  
crore

SAUBHAGYA electricity connections lighting up poor people's lives, enabling productivity

8.42 crore tap water connections, and you see the contours of an improvement in living standards. **Ease of Living after all cannot just be restricted to the more affluent and resourceful of India. Thanks to PM Modi, it is now what it should be – a universal right.** That it has become a people's movement is visible from stories such as those of Sandeep Sahu of Ranchi district in Jharkhand, who even donated their own farm land to ensure that their village kin got access to drinking water.

## Lives and Livelihoods Matter

Lives and livelihoods are a necessary step in the journey towards a life of dignity. During the COVID pandemic, one saw in particular major efforts being put to ensure the security of lives and livelihoods.

The free food grains ensured per family member under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana was undertaken at an expense of more than Rs. 3.9 lakh crore to ensure food on the plate of the poor. More than 14 crore free Ujjwala cylinder refills were also ensured to keep the kitchens running, while 42 crore poor people received cash transfers to the tune of Rs. 68,820 crore directly into their accounts, thanks to the Jan Dhan and JAM trinity architecture that had been brought in earlier. Even during the lockdown, care was taken through measures like Skill Mapping, Rozgar Kalyan Abhiyan and similar measures to prevent a slip back into poverty among the returnee migrants in their native places.

The One Nation, One Ration Card initiative ensures that migrant labour in particular can secure their fair share of food from the public distribution system anywhere across the country.

Women in particular gain a sense of empowerment when they are able to earn money to help their families, and this is what the Deen Dayal

Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission has done. Thanks to the NRLM, 8.93 crore women today are mobilized into 82.61 lakhs SHGs, bringing many more women for the first time into the scheme's fold and giving them an opportunity the poor were unaware of.

With PM SVANidhi, street vendors have also been given a much needed helping hand so as to be freed from the clutches of unscrupulous moneylenders. 47.94 lakh vendors across India have been disbursed Rs. 5,958 crore. This loan may seem insignificant to some, but to the poor street vendor, it is a lifeline by which (s)he is immensely benefited in restarting business post-pandemic. This was something people like V Selvam of Port Blair discovered, as the PM-SVANidhi loan came to his aid when it was needed the most.

Poverty alleviation is a journey, and not an end unto itself, as some would like to idealise. It is however a process where all of government converges to ensure last mile delivery for the poor of the country. Social justice is not just to be heard in words, it also should be visible in action and delivery. With the kind of monumental effort in solving twentieth century issues undertaken by PM Modi and his government, **it is no wonder then that PM Modi today is a name increasingly**

## How PMSVANidhi Helped People Restart Their Lives

V. Selvam runs a breakfast-cum-pan shop near STS bus stand, Aberdeen bazaar in Port Blair. He supports a family of 4 members, including his wife and twin daughters. He struggled hard to provide a living for the family during the pandemic period, as his only source of livelihood had come to a standstill. They had to survive on government provided free ration, while simultaneously borrowing money for every other need.

Selvam heard about the collateral free loan under PM SVANidhi and approached the local municipal office for assistance. On receipt of the loan, he first bought ration for his family and essential stocks for his shop to restart his business. He ran his business well, paid back the loans. Despite the pandemic's disruption, his livelihood has been restored.

**being identified with the term Samajik Nyay.**



# **Sandeep Sahu, the Local Hero of Tungri Tola due to Jal Jeevan Mission**

Sandeep Sahu from Tungri Tola of Bodhdihi village, Tamar block, district Ranchi, Jharkhand, had to wake up daily around 4:30 am in the morning to fetch water from the distant hand pump, as he didn't want his wife and daughter to venture outside so far. He faced a lot of difficulties in getting water as the Chapakal (hand pump) was too far from the house. He used to fetch water four-to-five times daily. And, if the hand pump went out of order, he would have to travel to other habitations. Managing his farm land and a small tiffin shop used to be very difficult because most of his time was spent in fetching water.

After the Modi government started the Jal Jeevan Mission, a team reached their village. But, they didn't find any government land for the bore well and for the overhead tank and Sandeep Sahu came forward and donated land for construction of the water supply scheme.

He also took leadership in monitoring and supervision of the construction work, assured of the 'ease of living' his family and other people of his small hamlet would experience.

The water supply structure work started in June 2021 and was completed by October the same year. Sandeep Sahu and the people of his village were overjoyed.





PM Modi greeting transgender folk-dancer Manjamma Jogati at the civil investiture ceremony in New Delhi

# A SHOULDER OF SUPPORT TO DISADVANTAGED SECTIONS





**“TODAY WE ARE DEVELOPING A SYSTEM WHERE THERE IS NO PLACE FOR DISCRIMINATION, WE ARE CREATING A SOCIETY THAT IS FIRMLY ROOTED IN THE FOUNDATION OF EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AND WE ARE SEEING THE EMERGENCE OF AN INDIA WHOSE THINKING AND APPROACH IS NEW AND WHOSE DECISIONS ARE PROGRESSIVE.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**T**he idea of an all-encompassing equality as envisioned by Dr B. R. Ambedkar enshrined in the Constitution, meant that every citizen must be treated equally.

However, for some sections of our society – even when they were mentioned in our ancient epics – recognition and dignity were still a distant dream. The concept of a place of respect for transgenders in

India is not new. Despite being recognised by the society for long, post-Independence, they were treated by successive governments as if they did not even exist.

In the same light, De-Notified and Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, that form an alienable part of India’s vibrant cultural fabric were also ignored. Neither did the members of these tribes receive

benefits accorded to SCs and STs nor was a specific policy framework devised for them.

But, for a government that considers the idea of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas as its mantra, no section of society can be ignored. Therefore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government initiated a long-awaited process of not only recognising the aspirations of these previously ignored sections of our society, but also began laying the groundwork for an institutionalised way to ensure an empowerment framework that translates this intention into reality.

## From Ostracisation to Inclusion

One of the reasons why the cause of transgenders wasn’t taken up in earnest by previous governments was, perhaps, the fact that they don’t form a significant vote bank. As per the 2011 census, the total population of transgender is around 4.88 lakh. But when there is a government that is not bothered about vote banks but concerned about the well-being of every section of society, empowerment is guaranteed. This is why PM Modi and his government have taken steps to support transgenders, ensuring that they aren’t denied their rights.

The first step taken was to bring in reforms through the ‘Transgender Persons Act’. This

law has ensured that the rights of transgenders are protected. This law ensures that they don't face discrimination or denial of rights in any form or kind. Due to this, **opportunities are now officially available in regards to education, employment, healthcare, holding or disposing of property, holding public or private office and access to and use of public services and benefits.** The law also ensured that the right to self-perceived gender identity and the procedure to issue the transgender certificate and identity card was notified accordingly. This helps them in availing benefits that were denied to them earlier. This also means that they can no longer be discriminated against when it comes to reporting crimes or be turned away by local authorities. These reforms are a watershed moment with respect to social justice.

A 'National Council for Transgender Persons' was constituted to advise the government on policies, programmes, legislation and projects related to transgender persons. A scheme of 'Garima Greh' that provides shelter facility, food, clothing, recreational facilities, skill development opportunities, Yoga, meditation/prayers, physical fitness, library facilities, legal support, technical advice for gender transition and surgeries, capacity building of

**“THERE USED TO BE GREAT INDIFFERENCE IN SOCIETY TOWARDS TRANSGENDERS. WHATEVER GOD HAS GIVEN, THEY CANNOT ALTER IT. BUT WHO ARE WE TO DO INJUSTICE TO THEM? WE ARE REFORMING THE SYSTEM. CHANGES ARE BEING BROUGHT IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM. THE GOVERNMENT IS CHANGING ITS APPROACH. THERE ARE MANY SUCH PEOPLE WHO HAVE FACED INJUSTICE AND WE MUST ALL COME TOGETHER TO ENSURE JUSTICE FOR THEM.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

trans-friendly organizations, employment and skill-building support, etc was initiated, with 12 being set up across India. These shelters ensure that the transgenders have a safe space where they can find safety while at the same time,

they are upskilled for gaining employment.

The ministry also initiated a National Portal for Transgenders named “SMILE - Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise”, where they can apply for a **Certificate of Identity and Identity Card to help avoid any physical interface with the office of issue. This would help in ease of obtaining relevant documents.**

Another notable scheme created was the 'Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi' (DAKSH) Yojana. This was initiated to upskill or reskill persons who are having minimal economic assets. A provision of training and enhancing their competencies is essential for the economic empowerment of these marginalised groups.

The Padma awards - one of the most celebrated civilian honours of India - are announced annually on the eve of Republic Day. Transgender folk dancer Manjamma Jogati received a Padma Shri honour for her contribution to arts. This award was appreciated not just by the transgender community, but also welcomed by Indian society at large as a gesture that would go a long way in instilling a sense of belonging and acceptance of this community's contribution to society.

## PHOTOS OF TRANSGENDER PADMA AWARDEE MANJAMMA JOGATI WENT VIRAL CREATING A WAVE OF POSITIVITY AND RESPECT TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY



### An Era of Equality and Empowerment

Even before India's Independence in 1947, De-notified Tribes, Nomadic Tribes and Semi Nomadic Tribes have been among the most deprived; economically as well as socially. With the enactment of the Criminal Tribes Act in 1871 under colonial rule, members of many

of these communities came to be considered as criminals the moment they were born.

Even after independence, their situation did not improve much. After almost seven decades of forced alienation, it was only in 2014 that the first-ever National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes was set up. With the PM Modi-led government at the centre, a

government was learning about the troubles of the members of these previously ignored tribes for the first time in India's history – signalling the beginning of an era of recognition, respect and empowerment.

Today, there exist over 1,200 such De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (also known as DNTs) in India, making them a priority



for welfare, building trust and initiating development.

Within a year of the commission submitting its report (2018), a **Development and Welfare Board for De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities was set up (2019)**. In simpler terms, the survey of tribes that was conducted is being utilized to place the members such communities in either the SC, ST or OBC category – thereby allowing them to receive various benefits. Yet again, the fact that work in this direction began seven decades after India's Independence is a matter for deep introspection for those who ruled for the greater part of this period.

**Moreover, even before the survey is complete, considering the shortage of houses for DNTs, it has been proposed to earmark a separate outlay for Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana to support provision of houses specifically for DNTs living in rural areas.**

The provision of these homes actually forms an important part of the much larger Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED). Under SEED, members from these communities will be enabled to build a more prosperous future – be it educational empowerment, affordable healthcare, better and more viable livelihoods as well as housing.

## HELPING THE MARGINALISED OVERCOME CHALLENGES

Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)

**BUDGET - RS. 200 CRORE**

Educational empowerment:

**NO. OF STUDENTS - 6,250**

Health insurance:

**NO. OF FAMILIES COVERED - 4.4 LAKH**

Housing:

**NO. OF HOUSES - 4,200**

Facilitating livelihoods:

**2,000 CLUSTERS WILL BENEFIT IN 5 YEARS**

## Helping Those Who Need it the Most

In addition to the welfare measures that have raised the living standards for the majority of the Indian population, the Modi government has been relentlessly pursuing the upliftment of those that have historically been marginalised. In almost all cases, these are the people who have suffered the economic brunt of being ignored for decades, which is

### **FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER**

**Board for the welfare of De-Notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities set up in 2019**

why they now form the core of welfare policies.

For Prime Minister Modi, enshrining the values of social

justice and empowerment in a more permanent manner is the only solution. **In the same regard, the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act of 2019 has also been enacted to provide 10% reservation for economically weaker sections.**

This recognises the fact that poverty, by itself, is also an important oppressor and to do complete social justice, even those who affected by poverty must be empowered.



## HOW VAN DHAN VIKAS KENDRA EMPOWERED BASANTI DEVI

**B**asanti Devi is one of the active members of Van Dhan Vikas Kendra, Siladon, Khunti District, Jharkhand . She is one of the over 300 women who are associated with the Kendra , and has expertise in making of traditional method of lac bangles & earrings.

The Kendra had received Rs 15 lakh in two instalments, due to which the tribal women like Basanti Devi were able to work on processing raw materials. For this, they also got trained at the centres. Some of the other materials made from this Kendra include tamarind paste, pickles, candles, agarbattis etc.

Basanti Devi, due to her expertise, can make 5 sets of bangles (60 pieces of bangles) working 8-10 hours a day, which helps her to earn a profit of around Rs. 60,000 annually, making her Aatmanirbhar and gain respect in society while contributing to the family income.







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