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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Date: 25 October 2023**

## PM ANUSUCHIT JAATI ABHUYDAY YOJANA

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM-AJAY)". This topic has relevance in the "Polity and Governance" section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

### For Prelims:

*What is Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM-AJAY)?*

### For Mains:

*GS2: Polity and Governance*

*Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes*

### Why in the news?

In the current financial year, 1260 villages became Adarsh Grams, and nine new hostels were approved for construction under Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM-AJAY).

### Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM-AJAY)

- The Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM-AJAY) is a comprehensive program initiated in 2021-22, encompassing the merger of three **centrally sponsored schemes**:
  1. Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (**PMAGY**)
  2. Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (**SCA to SCSP**)
  3. Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (**BJRCY**)
- This integrated scheme **aims to uplift Scheduled Caste (SC) communities** by generating additional employment opportunities through skill development, income-generating projects, and various initiatives.
- The Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM-AJAY) is implemented by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

### Key Objectives of PM- AJAY:

- Reducing poverty within SC communities.
- Creating additional employment opportunities through skill development and income-generating schemes.
- Enhancing socio-economic indicators.
- Ensuring adequate infrastructure in SC-dominant villages.
- Elevating the living standards and livelihood security of SC families.

- Promoting education and addressing maternal and infant mortality.
- Eliminating malnutrition, particularly among children and women.

**Components of PM- AJAY:**

• **Development of SC Dominated Villages (Adarsh Gram)**

- The primary goal of this component is the integrated development of SC-majority villages.
- It includes providing essential infrastructure and improving socio-economic indicators to eliminate disparities between SC and non-SC populations.

• **Grants-in-Aid for District/State-level Projects**

- This component focuses on the socio-economic betterment of SCs and may encompass the following types of projects:
- **Comprehensive Livelihood Projects:** Projects that create sustainable income opportunities for SCs.
- **Skill Development:** Skill development courses and infrastructure as per government norms.
- **Grants for Creation/Acquisition of Assets:** Financial assistance for asset creation needed for livelihood generation.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Enhancing infrastructure related to projects, including hostels and residential schools.

**Special Provisions for Allocation of Resources**

- Economically Viable Projects for SC Women – Up to 15%
- Infrastructure Development – Up to 30%
- Skill Development – At least 10%
- Promotion of SC women cooperatives involved in producing and marketing consumer goods and services.

• **Construction of Hostels**

- This component focuses on constructing hostels in top-ranked higher educational institutions and schools funded by the central, state, or union territory governments.

**Sources:** Press Information Bureau ([pib.gov.in](http://pib.gov.in))

**Q1. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana (PM-AJAY), consider the following statements:**

1. PM AJAY is a central sector scheme.
2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
3. This integrated scheme aims to uplift Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) None

**Answer: (d)**

**Q2. Consider the following:**

1. Development of Villages
2. Skill Development
3. Infrastructure Development

4. Construction of Hostels
5. Scholarships to Meritorious Students

**How many of the above are components/ sub-components of Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhuyday Yojana?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) Only four

**Answer: (d)**

**Q3. Discuss the various welfare schemes for Scheduled Caste (SC) communities in India. Analyse the key challenges and achievements in the implementation of these schemes.**

**Gaurav Nikumbh**

## **EDAKKAL CAVES**

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Edakkal Caves". This topic has relevance in the Art and Culture section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

*GS 1: Art and Culture*

### **Why in the news?**

Kerala Tourism has initiated a project worth ₹2.9 crore to enhance public facilities around the Edakkal Caves in Wayanad.

### **About Edakkal Caves**

The Edakkal Caves, located in the **Wayanad district of Kerala** on Ambukutty Mala, a prominent hill in the region, hold great historical and cultural significance. These caves are not your typical caves but rather natural clefts, rifts, or rock shelters formed when a piece of rock split away from the main hill. It was discovered in 1890 by British police official **Fred Fawcett**.

### **Significance of the Edakkal Caves:**

- **Historical Significance:** The caves are historically significant due to their proximity to an ancient trade route connecting the high mountains of Mysore to the ports of the Malabar Coast.
- **Pictorial Writings:** Inside the Edakkal Caves, one can find pictorial writings that date back to at least 6,000 BCE during the Neolithic period.
- **Unique Stone Age Carvings:** The Stone Age carvings found in these caves are rare and represent the only known examples from South India, belonging to the Mesolithic era.
- **Cultural Significance:** The petroglyphs found in the caves include depictions of human and animal figures, tools used by humans, and enigmatic symbols that are yet to be deciphered. These artworks indicate a rich cultural and historical heritage.

- **Indus Valley Connection:** Some of the paintings found in the Edakkal Caves, particularly those depicting a “man with a jar cup,” have led to speculation about a possible connection to the Indus Valley civilization.



Source:

Pre-historic rock art site in Wayanad cries for conservation – The Hindu

**Q.1 Edakkal Caves, recently seen in the news are situated in:**

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Kerala
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Karnataka

**ANSWER: B**

**Q.2 Consider the following statements about Edakkal Caves:**

1. It was discovered in 1890 by Fred Fawcett.
2. Inside the caves, pictorial writings dating back to at least 6,000 BCE during the Neolithic period can be found.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: C**

**Q.3 Discuss the historical and cultural significance of cave architecture in India, with a focus on notable cave complexes and their contributions to art, religion, and the preservation of ancient heritage**

**Rishabh**