

I/8744/2022

Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
(PM-AJAY Cell)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Dated:04.03.2022

To,

1. The Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries in charge of Social Welfare/Scheduled Castes Welfare Department in the State/UTs of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
2. The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries, Rural Development Department, Government of Jharkhand and Haryana.
3. The Secretary, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department, Govt. of Telangana.

Subject: Selection of Districts for the 'Best District' Awards for the year 2021 under the 'Adarsh Gram' component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana(PM-AJAY) - reg.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am directed to say that the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana(PMAGY) is being implemented since 2018-19 under the revised implementation guidelines and presently being implemented successfully in 23 States/UTs. Further, for effective implementation and monitoring of the Scheme, a MIS portal of the Scheme has also been put in place for this purpose. Since 2021-22 this scheme has been merged with other two Centrally Sponsored Schemes of this Ministry and being implemented as Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana(PM-AJAY) making it one of the components of the merged Scheme.

2. With a view to encourage the ground level officials implementing the scheme, the Ministry is selecting Districts which have done exceptional work in implementation of scheme as per the defined parameter for best Districts Awards since 2020. For selecting the Districts for the Best District awards the year 2021, the Guidelines for the Award is enclosed for your kind information please.

3. The last date for assessment of performance of the Districts is **31.03.2022** and in case non-qualifying of adequate number of districts within the set parameters, the cutoff date will be extended suitably. Further, in order to give the uniform platform to compete each of the participating districts of the country, it is propose not to include those 03 Districts, which have already won the PMAGY Award-2020.

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4. It is requested that the guidelines may be brought to the knowledge of all the concerned Districts for their information.

Encl: as above

Yours faithfully,

(Deepak Kumar Sah)
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PRADHAN MANTRI ANUSUCHIT JAATI ABHYUDAY YOJANA (PM-AJAY)

**GUIDELINES
for
AWARDS FOR BEST PERFORMING DISTRICTS
UNDER 'ADARSH GRAM' COMPONENT**

**Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Social Justice and Empowerment
(www.pmagy.gov.in)**

PRADHAN MANTRI ANUSUCHIT JAATI ABHYUDAY YOJANA

(PM-AJAY)

AWARDS FOR BEST PERFORMING DISTRICTS UNDER 'ADARSH GRAM' COMPONENT

Guidelines

1. Introduction

a. The Scheduled Castes (SCs) have historically suffered social and educational disabilities and economic deprivation arising therefrom. Accordingly, special provisions have been enshrined in the Constitution for advancement of their interests. These provisions range from measures to remove any kind of social disabilities imposed on them to ensure equality of opportunity in every sphere, to measures of positive discrimination to bring them on par with rest of the population.

b. Accordingly, the Government has taken a number of initiatives for development of SCs which have yielded positive outcomes, and have also resulted in narrowing the gap between the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and rest of the population. However, the objective of bringing SCs on par with the general population is still far from being achieved, particularly due to lack of convergence in implementation of the Schemes. Further, the focus of most of the welfare Schemes for SCs has been mainly on individual beneficiaries rather than on the integrated development of SCs pockets.

c. To enable an area based approach, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana(PMAGY) was launched in 2009-10 on pilot basis for integrated development of SC majority villages i.e. villages having population of Scheduled Castes more than 50%, with 1000 such villages which was further extended to 1500 more villages in 2014-15.

d. In 2018-19, the Scheme has been further extended to more villages with revised implementation guidelines having clarity on socioeconomic developmental indicators under a pre-defined domain. Further the selection criteria for villages under the scheme has also been revised with the stipulation that villages having a total population of 500 or more only be eligible at present and selection will be done at District level in descending order of their SC population. Accordingly since 2018-19, the scheme being implemented in 19000 such villages(appox.) in 23 States/UTs.

e. For end-to-end implementation and monitoring of the Scheme, an MIS portal for this Scheme has also been put in place which enables auto generation of Village Development Plan (VDP) and its Implementation.

2. Awards

a. With a view to encourage the implementing officials, Districts which have done exceptional work in implementation of the scheme in their respective Districts, will be considered for the 'Best District' award.

b. There will be three awards to be given to three best performing districts in the country.

c. The selection of Districts for the awards will be done based on data available on the PMAGY portal as per the timelines fixed by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoS&E).

d. Relaxation, if any will be decided depending upon special circumstances.

3. Performance Assessment Committee(PAC)

- a. A Committee set up under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment will guide the selection of best Districts.
- b. This Committee will be known as Performance Assessment Committee (PAC).
- c. PAC will oversee the whole process of selection of best performing districts and make recommendations to the Minister of SJ&E for approval.

4. Qualifying criteria for selection:

- a. The District should have at least 10 villages selected for implementation of the Scheme.
- b. The Village Development Plans (VDPs) of at least 05 villages should have been finalized and approved by the Gram Sabha and District Level Convergence Committee (DLCC).
- c. The VDPs should have convergence of at least three times of Gap-filling funds from other Schemes/State share.
- d. The works identified for execution under the VDPs should have been started and at least 25% of the Gap Filling Funds provided for the purpose should have been utilized.

5. Short-listing of Districts on the basis of qualifying criteria: For short listing of best performing districts on the eligibility criteria, a preliminary scrutiny may be done by a Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (SCD-B) with two Directors as members of the Committee.

6. Grading of the Qualified Districts: Performance based grading of the Districts will be done on the basis of below mentioned scoring system:

Sl. No.	Criteria	Achievements	Marks obtained
1.	VDP finalized and approved by the Gram Sabha and DLCC	>80%	10
		>70% up to 80%	8
		> 60 up to 70%	6
		> 50 up to 60%	4
2.	Extent of Convergence achieved with other Schemes /State share	>5.0 times	10
		>4.0 times up to 5.0 times	8
		>3.5 times up to 4.0 times	6
		>3.0 times up to 3.5 times	4
3.	Commencement of works selected for execution under the VDP	>75%	10
		>50% up to 75%	8
		> 25% up to 50%	6
		> 0 up to 25%	4
4.	Gap Filling Funds utilized	>90%	10
		>70% up to 90%	8
		> 50 up to 70%	6
		> 25 up to 50%	4

7. Number of Awards and Award Amount

- a. Three best performing districts in the country will be awarded.
- b. In case of two districts achieving the same score, the district with higher number of villages selected for implementation will be given preference.
- c. Amount of award will be Rs. 10 (Ten) lakh each and may be subject to periodical amendments.
- d. Amount of award money would be transferred to the concerned State/UT for the winning District during the relevant financial year and/or after the felicitation/ award ceremony.

8. Utilization of Award Money

- a. The State will ensure proper utilization of award money by the district concerned.
- b. The award money will be utilized for public purposes especially for livelihood support, asset creation, civic amenities creation & maintenance and bridging the gaps in the funds received from Union/State Government/UT Administration for various projects.

9. Utilization Certificate (UC)

- a. The State Government/UT Administration concerned will furnish an UC (in GFR 12-C format) indicating transfer of award amount to awardee district within 15 days.
- b. As per General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017, the UC must be submitted by the State Government/UT Administration counter-signed by the Administrative Secretary of the Department regulating the Scheme/Finance Secretary.

10. Documentation of Best Practices

- a. States/UTs, if/when directed by MoSJ&E, may be required to submit the best practices followed in the award-winning districts for further widespread dissemination of these best practices across the country.
- b. Video Spots for the purpose would be developed by the State/District/Ministry.

11. Selection of best Districts and Award as a whole is a continuous policy intervention which may be done from time to time for continuous improvement and refinement of indicators, bringing changes in the interventions, bridging the gaps in execution of the Scheme and to bring awareness among States Teams.

12. States/UTs will be free to go for State Level Awards for best performing Districts/Villages on their own. They can either utilize the available fund under 'Administrative head' of the Scheme for the purpose, or they can use their own resources.
