



Tribal Welfare Measures in Budget 2025-26

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Why in News?

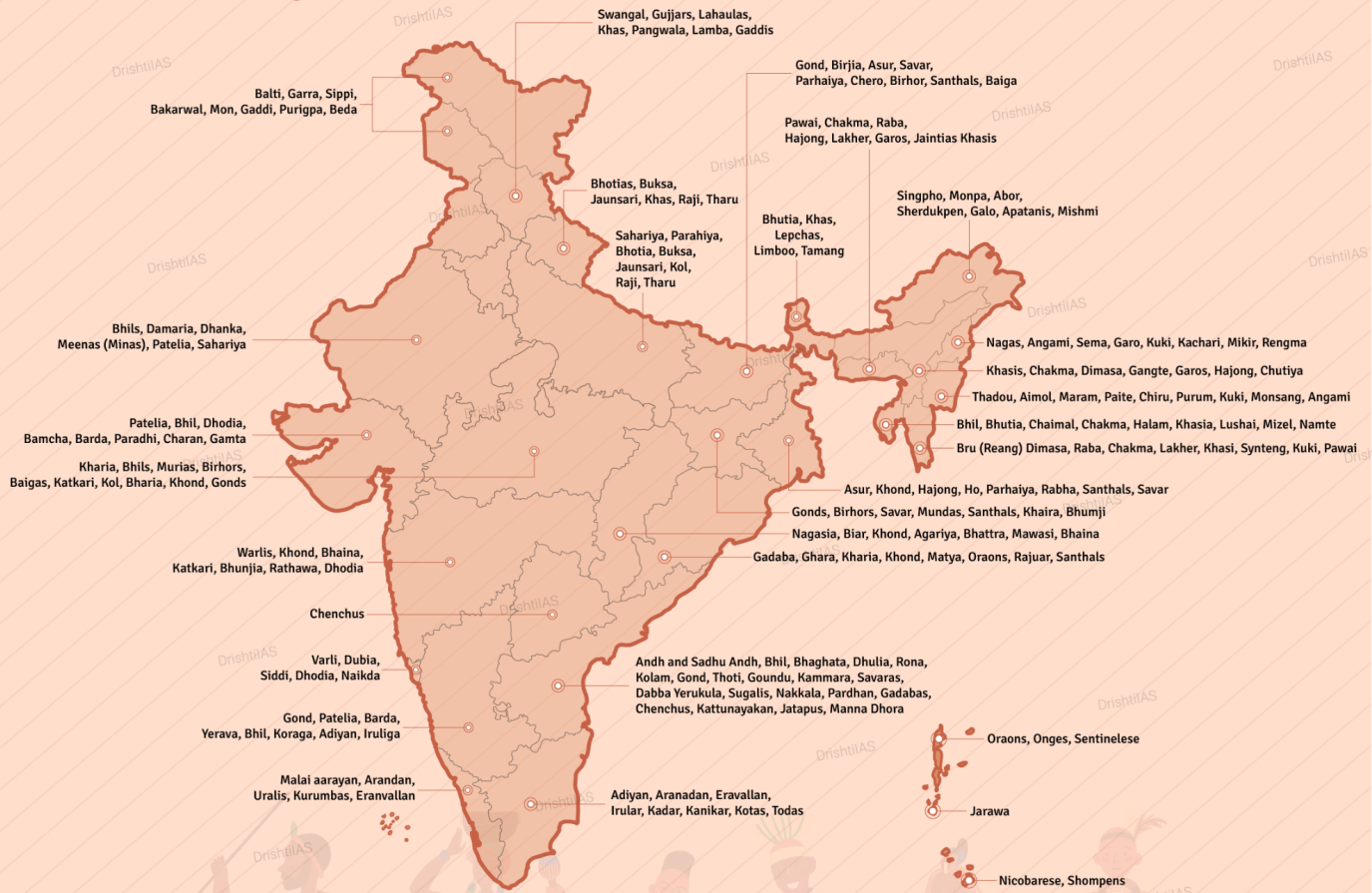
The [Union Budget 2025-26](#) has increased the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' allocation by **45.79%** from 2024, emphasizing **education, infrastructure, and socio-economic development**.

What are the Key Highlights of Union Budget 2025-26 for Tribal Welfare?

- **Increased Budgetary Allocation:** The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** received Rs 14,925.81 crore in Budget 2025-26, a **45.79% increase** from 2024-25.
 - The **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment** received **Rs 13,611 crore** (35.75% increase).
 - The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** focuses on the welfare and development of [Scheduled Tribes \(STs\)](#), while the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) works for the welfare of **SCs, STs, OBCs, PwDs, the elderly, and the transgender community**.
- **Expansion of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS):** The **Budget 2025-26** allocates **Rs 7,088.60 crore** for [EMRS](#), with the aim to operationalize 728 schools by March 2026, benefiting **3.5 lakh tribal students** with quality education and residential facilities.
- **DA-JGUA:** The [Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan \(DA-JGUA\)](#), originally named the **PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA)** received **Rs 2,000 crore**, a **fourfold increase** from **Rs 500 crore**, to enhance **infrastructure, education, and livelihoods** in tribal regions.
- **Expediting PM-JANMAN:** The [Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan \(PM-JANMAN\)](#) allocation has doubled to **Rs 300 crore** in **Budget 2025-26** to enhance healthcare, education, and livelihoods for **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
 - To expedite the [PM-JANMAN Housing Scheme](#), the Ministry of Tribal Affairs revised the approval process for **PM-AWAS homes**, aiming for **4.90 lakh houses** for **PVTGs**.

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Major Tribes in India



- STs constitute **8.6%** of the population of India (Census 2011). Draft National Tribal Policy, 2006 records **698 STs** in India.
- **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Among the 75 listed PVTGs, the highest number is found in Odisha.
- **Bhil** is the largest tribal group (38% of the total scheduled tribal population of India) followed by the Gonds.
- **Madhya Pradesh** has the highest tribal population in India (Census 2011).
- The **Santhal** are the oldest tribes in India. The Santhal system of governance, known as **Manjhi-Paragana**, can be compared to local self-governance.
- According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes list (modification orders), 1956, the inhabitants of **Lakshadweep** who and both of whose parents were born in these islands are treated as STs.
- **Article 342** of the Constitution prescribes procedure to be followed for specification of STs.
- **Article 275** provides for the **grant of special funds** by the Union Government to the State Government for promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and providing them with a better administration.

What are the Various Government Initiatives Related to Tribals?

- **TRIFED**
- **Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools**
- **Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**
- **Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana**
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**
- **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**
- **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**
- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)**

What are the Challenges Faced by Tribes in India?

Click to Read: [Problems Faced By Tribes in India](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. At the national level, which ministry is the nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006?

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- (c) Ministry of Rural Development
- (d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Ans: (d)

Q. Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India: (2019)

1. PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory.
2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.
3. There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far.
4. Irular and Konda Reddi tribes are included in the list of PVTGs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 2 and 4
- (d) 1, 3 and 4

Ans: (c)