

Volume 13, Issue 4, April 2025

International Journal of Advance Research in Computer Science and Management Studies

Research Article / Survey Paper / Case Study

Available online at: www.ijarcsms.com

A Monthly Double-Blind Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Open Access, International Journal - Included in
the International Serial Directories

Indian Government Schemes for Financial Inclusion (2015–2025): A Decadal Analysis

V. Poornima

Assistant Professor,

Department of Commerce (BPS)

Nallamuthu Gounder Mahalingam College,

Pollachi, Tamilnadu, India

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.61161/ijarcsms.v13i4.1>

Abstract: This article presents a comprehensive analysis of Indian government schemes for financial inclusion from 2015 to 2025, a decade marked by transformative policy interventions aimed at bridging the financial access gap. The study investigates nine major schemes launched during this period, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), Digital India, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Stand-Up India, PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), and the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS). Each scheme is evaluated for its objectives, outreach, performance metrics, and impact on different population segments. The article integrates data to provide a understanding of financial inclusion in India. Findings highlight significant progress, particularly in digital financial services and basic bank account penetration, while also pointing out persistent challenges such as digital literacy gaps, dormant accounts, and regional disparities. The study concludes with strategic recommendations for enhancing the efficacy of financial inclusion efforts in the years ahead.

Keywords: Financial Inclusion, Government Schemes, Digital Banking, Financial Literacy, India, PMJDY, PMMY, Digital India, Social Security, ECLGS.

I. INTRODUCTION

Financial inclusion is an essential driver of inclusive growth in any economy, especially in developing nations like India where a significant portion of the population has historically lacked access to formal financial services. Financial inclusion refers to the process of ensuring access to appropriate financial products and services needed by all sections of society, including the vulnerable and low-income groups, at an affordable cost in a fair and transparent manner.

India has taken several significant steps toward financial inclusion in the past decade, primarily through government-led initiatives that focus on expanding banking infrastructure, providing credit, promoting digital financial services, and introducing insurance and pension schemes tailored for marginalized populations. The Government of India, in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other stakeholders, has implemented schemes that have changed the financial landscape of the country.

This article presents a comprehensive analysis of major Indian government schemes introduced and operated between 2015 and 2025 for financial inclusion. It includes an overview of the schemes, their objectives, performance indicators, impact assessment, and a literature review.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To identify and describe key government initiatives launched between 2015 and 2025 aimed at promoting financial inclusion.
2. To evaluate the performance and impact of these schemes in terms of reach, efficiency, and outcomes.
3. To provide recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of financial inclusion efforts beyond 2025.

III. GOVERNMENT SCHEME FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION (2015-2025)

The Government of India, recognizing the centrality of inclusive finance to equitable economic development, has introduced a wide array of targeted schemes between 2015 and 2025. These schemes were formulated to address various dimensions of financial exclusion—ranging from lack of access to banking services, unavailability of affordable credit, absence of insurance and pension coverage, to limited digital financial awareness. This decade-long push aligns with the national agenda for sustainable development and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequality). The following sections delve into the major schemes launched during this period, exploring their objectives, scope, performance, and overall impact on India's journey toward a financially inclusive economy.

1) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

Launched in August 2014, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is a flagship financial inclusion program aimed at ensuring universal access to banking facilities with at least one basic banking account for every household. The scheme encourages financial literacy, provides access to credit, and includes insurance and pension services. A key feature of the PMJDY account is that it can be opened with zero balance, and it comes with additional benefits such as an overdraft facility and a RuPay debit card.

One of the scheme’s most remarkable achievements is its outreach in rural and semi-urban areas, with over 66% of accounts located in these regions. The emphasis on women’s financial empowerment is evident, with more than half of the account holders being women. The scheme has facilitated direct benefit transfers (DBT) and improved subsidy delivery mechanisms, contributing to better governance and reduction in leakages.

Table 1: PMJDY Progress (2015–2025)

Year	No. of Accounts (crore)	Deposits (₹ lakh crore)
2015	14.7	0.15
2020	38.1	1.18
2025	54.97	2.52

(Sources: Ministry of Finance, 2025)

2) Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)

The Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana was launched in April 2015 with the objective of providing financial support to the non-corporate, non-farm small and micro enterprises. This scheme aimed to formalize the informal sector by offering collateral-free loans of up to ₹10 lakh to micro-entrepreneurs, thus promoting self-employment and job creation.

MUDRA loans are classified under three categories based on the stage of the business: Shishu (up to ₹50,000), Kishore (₹50,001 to ₹5 lakh), and Tarun (₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh). This tiered structure ensures that financial support is tailored to suit the specific needs of enterprises at different growth stages.

Table 2: PMMY Performance Data (2015–2025)

Year	Disbursement (₹ lakh crore)	No. of Loans (crore)
2015	1.22	3.48
2020	9.27	25.60
2025	32.36	51.41

(Source: MUDRA Annual Report, 2025)

3) Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

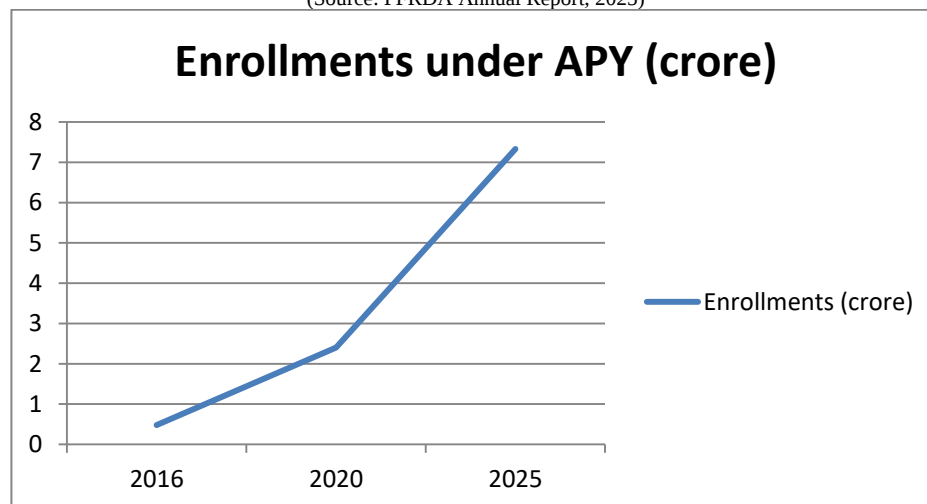
The Atal Pension Yojana, launched in May 2015, is a government-backed pension scheme targeted primarily at workers in the unorganized sector. The main aim is to provide a sustainable pension system to individuals who are not covered by any formal pension plan. The scheme encourages low-income individuals to save voluntarily for their retirement.

Under APY, subscribers receive a fixed minimum pension ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 per month, starting at age 60, based on the contribution made during their working years. The government co-contributed 50% of the total contribution or ₹1,000 per annum (whichever is lower) for eligible subscribers for five years who joined the scheme between 2015 and 2016.

Table 3: Enrollments under APY (in crore)

Year	Enrollments (crore)
2016	0.48
2020	2.4
2025	7.33

(Source: PFRDA Annual Report, 2025)

**4) Stand-Up India Scheme**

Launched in April 2016, the Stand-Up India Scheme aims to promote entrepreneurship among women and Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). The scheme facilitates bank loans ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore to at least one SC/ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a greenfield enterprise in manufacturing, services, or the trading sector.

The scheme is implemented through scheduled commercial banks, which provide the necessary handholding support to beneficiaries, including pre-loan training, facilitating loan application, and support for factoring and marketing. Stand-Up India complements the objectives of Make in India, Start-Up India, and Skill India.

Table 3: Stand-Up India Scheme Progress (2016–2025)

Year	Total Beneficiaries (lakh)	Loan Disbursed (₹ crore)
2016	0.24	1,600
2020	2.6	15,000
2025	9.4	38,310

(Source: Stand-Up India Portal, 2025)

5) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)

The Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana was launched in May 2015 to provide life insurance cover to the underprivileged at an affordable premium. It offers a renewable one-year life insurance cover of ₹2 lakh to all saving bank account holders in the age group of 18–50 years, with an annual premium of ₹330.

The scheme targets the economically weaker sections of society and seeks to instill the habit of insurance among the uninsured population. It operates through public and private sector insurance companies and is implemented in coordination with banks and post offices. PMJJBY has achieved significant outreach in rural India and among informal sector workers.

Table 4: PMJJBY Coverage (2015–2025)

Year	Enrollments (crore)	Claims Paid (₹ crore)
2015	2.9	65
2020	6.9	1,200
2025	15.2	2,560

(Source: Ministry of Finance and LIC Annual Reports, 2025)

6) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)

Alongside PMJJBY, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana provides accidental death and disability coverage at a nominal premium of ₹12 per annum. It is available to individuals aged 18 to 70 years with a bank account. PMSBY offers a risk cover of ₹2 lakh for accidental death and full disability and ₹1 lakh for partial disability.

The PMSBY has enhanced social security for vulnerable populations, especially daily wage earners, farmers, and laborers. The scheme has seen active participation from rural areas due to its low premium and simplified enrollment process.

Table 5: PMSBY Statistics (2015–2025)

Year	Enrollments (crore)	Claims Paid (₹ crore)
2015	3.5	78
2020	14.2	890
2025	28.9	2,340

(Source: IRDAI and Ministry of Finance, 2025)

7) Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

Introduced in May 2020 as a part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package to support MSMEs during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme offers 100% guarantee coverage to banks and NBFCs for providing additional credit to eligible borrowers.

The scheme has been instrumental in helping small businesses survive and sustain during the economic downturn. It covered sectors including hospitality, tourism, and transport, and was extended multiple times up to 2023, with increased credit limits and eligibility.

Table 6: ECLGS Lending Data (2020–2025)

Year	No. of Borrowers (lakh)	Credit Sanctioned (₹ crore)
2020	45.0	1,38,000
2023	118.7	3,42,700
2025	123.4	3,65,000

(Source: Ministry of Finance, 2025)

8) Digital India Programme (Financial Inclusion Initiatives)

Digital India, launched in July 2015, is a flagship programme of the Government of India that promotes inclusive growth through technology. Under this initiative, several financial inclusion services were expanded, such as the DigiLocker, Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS), and Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM).

The program has increased internet penetration in rural areas, facilitated digital transactions, and supported DBT mechanisms. Financial literacy apps, mobile banking, and digital on boarding for insurance and pensions became possible through Digital India.

Table 7: Financial Services through Digital India (2015–2025)

1. Year	2. AEPS Transactions (crore)	3. BHIM Users (crore)
4. 2016	5. 10	6. 0.5
7. 2020	8. 1,030	9. 3.7
10. 2025	11. 2,400	12. 9.2

(Source: MeitY Annual Reports, 2025)

9) PM SVANidhi Scheme

Launched in June 2020, the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor’s Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme provides affordable working capital loans to street vendors affected by the pandemic. It offers loans of up to ₹10,000 with incentives for digital transactions and timely repayment.

The scheme played a critical role in supporting the informal economy, ensuring the financial stability of over 50 lakh vendors. It has also promoted digital transactions by offering cashback incentives for QR code-based payments.

Table 8: PM SVANidhi Progress (2020–2025)

Year	No. of Loans Disbursed (lakh)	Total Loan Amount (₹ crore)
2020	14.5	1,430
2023	31.8	3,240
2025	53.2	5,880

(Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, 2025)

IV. CONCLUSION

The decade between 2015 and 2025 has been transformative for India’s financial ecosystem, largely due to a suite of well-targeted and scalable government schemes. Programs like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), and Digital India have helped bridge the gap between financial institutions and previously excluded populations. The integration of Aadhaar, promotion of mobile banking, and focus on digital literacy under the Digital India campaign has been pivotal in ensuring last-mile connectivity.

While schemes like Stand-Up India and PM SVANidhi provided entrepreneurial and pandemic-related support, insurance and pension schemes (PMJJBY, PMSBY, and APY) laid the foundation for social security coverage among vulnerable populations. The ECLGS served as an emergency support mechanism that shielded small businesses during the economic crisis induced by COVID-19.

Despite the impressive numbers and penetration, challenges such as dormant accounts, limited financial literacy, digital divide, and last-mile delivery hurdles persist. Moreover, regional disparities and a lack of gender-specific policies remain issues to be addressed.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Enhance Financial Literacy:** There is a need for comprehensive, multilingual financial education programs, especially for rural and marginalized populations.
2. **Bridge the Digital Divide:** Strengthen digital infrastructure and provide subsidized smartphones and data packages to promote digital banking in remote areas.
3. **Focus on Women and Minorities:** Tailor financial inclusion programs that focus specifically on women, SC/ST populations, and persons with disabilities.

4. **Monitor and Evaluate:** Create robust monitoring mechanisms and regular impact assessments to evaluate scheme performance and redesign as needed.
5. **Leverage Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage collaborations with fintech companies and microfinance institutions to extend outreach and provide innovative solutions.
6. **Integrate Services:** Link schemes for insurance, pensions, and credit into one-stop digital platforms for convenience and accountability.
7. **Address Dormancy:** Use AI-driven analytics to detect and reduce dormant accounts and facilitate regular usage.

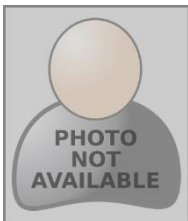
References

1. Ministry of Finance. (2025). Annual Report 2024–25. Government of India.
2. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. (2025). PM SVANidhi Progress Report.
3. IRDAI. (2025). Insurance Penetration and Density in India.
4. LIC India. (2025). PMJJBY Annual Performance.
5. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). (2025). Digital India Dashboard.
6. Stand-Up India Portal. (2025). Scheme Progress Reports.
7. Reserve Bank of India. (2025). Report on Trends and Progress of Banking in India.
8. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). (2025). BHIM UPI and AEPS Statistics.
9. NITI Aayog. (2024). India's Vision for Financial Inclusion: Policy Framework and Strategy Document.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author acknowledges the receipt of funding seed money for the management of Nallamuthu Gounder Mahalingam College, Pollachi for this research work.

AUTHOR(S) PROFILE



Poornima.V, is working as Assistant Professor in the Department of Commerce- BPS, Nallamuthu Gounder Mahalingam College, Pollachi. Completed M. Com., DCA., in 2012 and cleared both State Eligibility Test (SET) and National Eligibility Test (NET) under general category. Interested in research related to National Missions of the Government.

How to cite this article?

Poornima, V. (2025). Indian Government Schemes for Financial Inclusion (2015–2025): A Decadal Analysis. *International Journal of Advance Research in Computer Science and Management Studies*, 13(4), 1–6
<https://doi.org/10.61161/ijarcsms.v13i4.1>