

## 2024 Year End Review - Ministry of Panchayati Raj

### About the Ministry

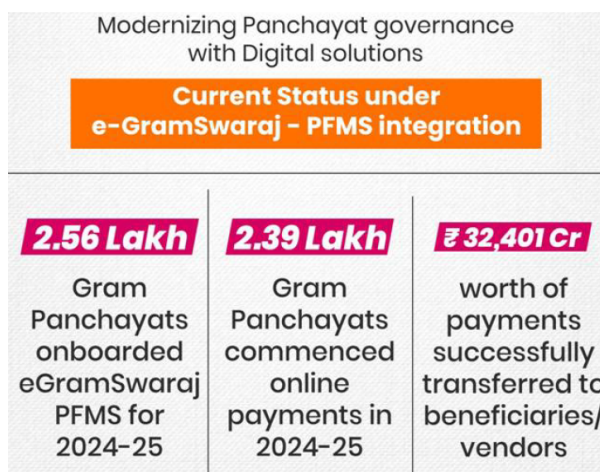
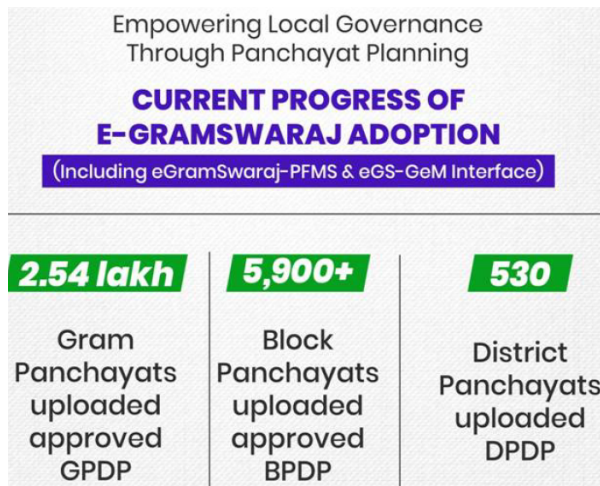
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj oversees the ongoing process of decentralization and local governance in the states.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj looks after all matters related to Panchayati Raj and Panchayati Raj institutions.
- It was formed in May, 2004.
- The ministry is guided by a cabinet level minister.
- The ministry is currently headed and guided by the Hon'ble Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh aka Lallan Singh ji.



- **Strengthened Panchayat Infrastructure** - Funds were sanctioned for the construction of ***Gram Panchayat Bhawans in 4,604 locations.***
- It ensured that all Gram Panchayats (GPs) with a population of more than 3,000 will have dedicated office premises.
- **Digital Empowerment of Panchayats** - It is done by sanctioning 31,003 computers for Gram Panchayats that already have established office buildings.
- **eGramSwaraj** - All Rural local bodies in India function on a digital platform called eGramSwaraj which enables them to plan, budget, implement and make payments seamlessly.

### Features of EGram Swaraj

- Workflow enabled.
- Assets available on Gram Manchitra GIS
- Supports multi-tenancy, multiple tenants in the same instance.
- Strong authentication mechanism based on open-source technologies.
- **EGramswaraj-PFMS integration** - Automation of accounting done by the Panchayats under XV Finance Commission grants.
- **eGram Swaraj-GeM interface** - Facilitates the Panchayats in procurement of items/services through GeM at standardized rates and seamless payment through eGS-PFMS interface, thus establishing a transparent procurement system.



- **E-Financial Management System (EFMS)** - It assists in enhancing the credibility of Panchayat through inducing greater devolution of funds to PRIs.
- **Audit Online application** - It facilitates carrying out online audit of Panchayat accounts pertaining to Central Finance Commission Grants.
- **Weather Forecasting at the Gram Panchayat Level** - It was launched in 2024 by India Meteorological Department (IMD), provides localized 5-day and hourly weather forecasts to over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats across India.
- It aligns with the Government's 100 Days Agenda, enhances agricultural productivity, mitigates climate risks, and empowers rural communities with timely weather intelligence.
- **Language Inclusivity** - eGramSwaraj was integrated with Bhashini that allows eGramSwaraj to provide services in 22 scheduled languages of India.
- It is provided through **Bhashini's AI-powered translation**, making local-language accessibility a reality for users across India.

- It promotes inclusive participation among Panchayat officials and citizens, improving service delivery and empowering Panchayats to address community needs more effectively.
- *Voice-to-voice translation tools* was showcased prominently during the *People's Plan Campaign 2024 - Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas*, where live broadcasts in 8 regional languages, including Bengali, Tamil, Gujarati, and Telugu, were conducted successfully in 2024.
- The Ministry launched its *Hindi website* in 2024 during Hindi Pakhwada celebrations.
- **Initiatives for Women led Development** - They developed comprehensive *training modules for the Women Elected Representatives* of Panchayats for effective service delivery.
- An *advisory committee* has been constituted in 2023 to examine the issues of Women Pradhans being represented by the male members of their families and also examine other issues related thereto.
- It created ***Model Women Friendly Gram Panchayats*** in an attempt to promote Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) accelerating women rights, entitlements and empowerment in all States/UTs in collaboration with UNFPA.
  - One Gram Panchayat per District would be identified and made as ***Women Friendly Gram Panchayat*** (WFGP).
- **Empowering Tribal Communities** - *Centres of Excellence in Central Universities* is to set up to institutionalize the efforts to implement a multi- pronged strategy to realize the objectives of PESA for our tribal communities.
- Substantial efforts were made to strengthen the implementation of the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA Act).
- **Making Panchayats Financially Atmanirbhar** - The Ministry in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management Ahmadabad (IIM-A), is developing a training module on Own Source Revenue (OSR) to empower Gram Panchayats towards becoming '***Atma Nirbhar Panchayats***'.
- The Ministry has developed the ***Samarth Portal***, with an aim to facilitate effective collection, monitoring and evaluation of Own Sources of Revenue, both tax and non-tax.
- It is developing *Model Rules for Own Source Revenue* (OSR) to assist states, as several states currently lack rules to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in generating their own revenue.
- *Finance Commissions' Conclave* on "Devolution to Development" brought together key stakeholders to deliberate on strengthening fiscal decentralization and financial empowerment of PRIs.

*India enacted the **PESA Act, 1996** in 10 states based on the report submitted by the Bhuria Committee in 1995, to extend the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution to the Scheduled Areas of the country.*

- **Promoting Smart Panchayats** - At the Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show 2024, the

Ministry presented the '*Smart Panchayat*' model, highlighting initiatives like the

- SVAMITVA Scheme, solar-powered Panchayat Bhawans, digital tax payments and Common Service Centres (CSCs) for rural service delivery.
- **Celebrating Excellence in Local Governance** - The *President of India conferred the National Panchayat Awards*.

Key Highlights of National Panchayat Awards 2024	
<b>45 awardees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They were selected across various categories, for their exemplary contributions to the themes of sustainable &amp; inclusive development.</li> <li>• It recognized <u>42 outstanding Panchayats</u> and <u>3 Institutions</u> across 15 States/ Union Territories.</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusive leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>41% of awardee Panchayats</u> were <u>headed by women</u> representatives, showcasing.</li> </ul>
<b>Collective commitment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were participation from 1.94 lakh Gram Panchayats (77%) across 31 States/UTs.</li> </ul>
<b>Transparent &amp; integrated selection process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was collaboration with 14 central Ministries/Departments.</li> </ul>
<b>Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSV)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was awarded <u>to 27 Panchayats</u> across 9 thematic categories.</li> </ul>
<b>Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was awarded <u>to 9 Panchayats</u> for their aggregate performance across all themes.</li> </ul>
<b>Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 institutions received for their role in strengthening Panchayat governance.</li> </ul>
<b>Others</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Panchayats each were recognized with <u>Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar</u> and <u>Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar</u> for initiatives in renewable energy and carbon neutrality, respectively.</li> </ul>

- **SVAMITVA** - Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas was launched on National Panchayati Raj Day, 24 April 2020.
- It is to enable economic progress of Rural India by providing "***Record of Rights***" to every rural household owner.
  - **Aim** - To ***demarcate inhabited (Abadi) land*** in rural areas through the latest surveying drone-technology.
  - **Collaboration** - Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Revenue Departments, State Panchayati Raj Departments & Survey of India.
  - **Duration of implementation** - 2020-21 to 2025-26.
  - **Features** - Facilitates monetisation of properties.
  - Enables bank loan reducing property related disputes.
  - Provides comprehensive village level planning
  - Assures the rural local government a good source of revenue.
  - **Coverage** - About 2.19 crore property cards have been prepared for 1.49 lakh villages.
- **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)** - A *Centrally Sponsored Scheme*, for strengthening decentralized governance and improving implementation efficiency.



- It ensures that Panchayats across the country are well-equipped to serve as robust pillars of local self-governance.
- Annual Action Plans comprises of admissible activities of the scheme of 32 States/UTs have been approved during 2023-24.
- **Management Development Program** - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with several Indian Institute of Management (IIM) to re-orient the training of Panchayats, as mandated under revamped RGSA.
- **Projects approved under Nirbhaya Funds** - The Empowered Committee of Nirbhaya Fund of Ministry of Women & Child Development has approved the 2 projects
  - **Freedom from Violence** - Capacity Building of Elected Women Representatives on Legal Provisions on Safety and Security of Women.
  - **Sensitization of Men** towards women related issues including Safety and Security of Women.
- **International representation of the Ministry** - It represented India in Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review held in 2024 in Bangkok.

*The Ministry of PRI, the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) co-hosted a side event at the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the **Commission on Population and Development (CPD-57)** titled 'Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Wav' at United Nations Headquarters, New York.*

## Reference

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