2024 Year End Review – Ministry of Panchayati Raj

About the Ministry

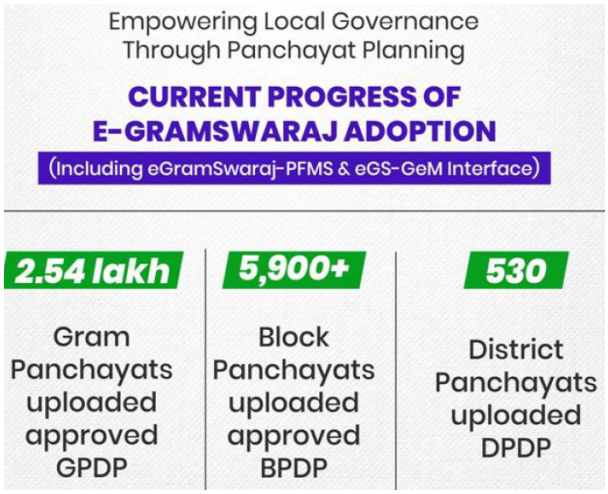
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj *oversees the ongoing process of decentralization and local governance in the states*.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj looks after all matters related to Panchayati Raj and Panchayati Raj institutions.
- It was *formed in May, 2004*.
- The ministry is guided by a cabinet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

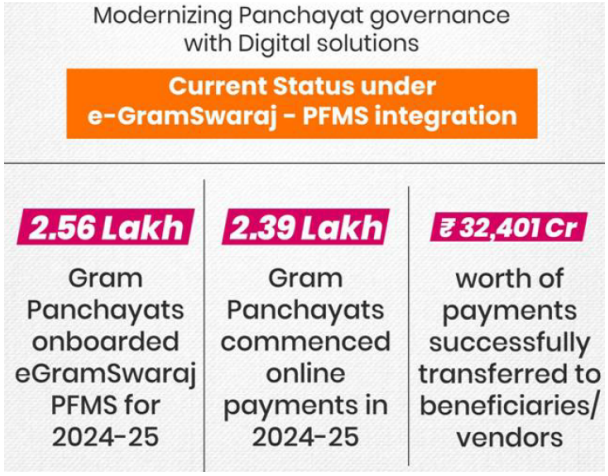


- **Strengthened Panchayat Infrastructure** – Funds were sanctioned for the construction of ***Gram Panchayat Bhawans in 4,604 locations***.
- It ensured that all Gram Panchayats (GPs) with a population of more than 3,000 will have dedicated office premises.
- **Digital Empowerment of Panchayats** – 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.*

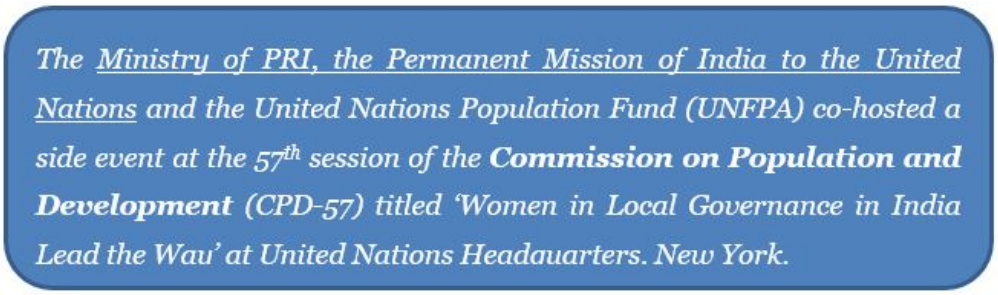
- **Promoting Smart Panchayats** – At the Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show 2024, the

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	
45 awardees	• They were selected across various categories, for their exemplary contributions to the themes of sustainable & inclusive development. • It recognized *42 outstanding Panchayats* and *3 Institutions* across 15 States/ Union Territories.
Inclusive leadership	• *41% of awardee Panchayats* were *headed by women* representatives, showcasing.
Collective commitment	• There were participation from 1.94 lakh Gram Panchayats (77%) across 31 States/UTs.
Transparent & integrated selection process	• There was collaboration with 14 central Ministries/Departments.
Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP)	• It was awarded *to 27 Panchayats* across 9 thematic categories.
Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar	• It was awarded *to 9 Panchayats* for their aggregate performance across all themes.
Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar	• 3 institutions received for their role in strengthening Panchayat governance.
Others	• 3 Panchayats each were recognized with *Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar* and *Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar* for initiatives in renewable energy and carbon neutrality, respectively.

- **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.



Reference

PIB| 2024 Year End Review of Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Related News - Gram Panchayat-Level Weather Forecasting | SVAMITVA Scheme | Digital India Bhashini

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering