

Gram Panchayat-Level Weather Forecasting

Why in News?

Recently, Indian Government has launched the System of Weather Forecast at Gram Panchayat Level.

What is Gram Panchayat level weather forecasting?

- It is part of the Government's *100 Days Agenda* and reflects a *Whole of Government approach*.
- **Launch** - It was launched **in 2024**, a joint programme of
 - Panchayat Raj Ministry
 - India Meteorological Department (IMD)
 - Ministry of Earth Sciences
- **Aim** - It is aimed at *empowering rural communities* and enhancing *disaster preparedness* at the grassroots, and will benefit farmers and villagers across the country.
- **Localised forecasting** - It is based on gram panchayat boundaries data provided by the Panchayati Raj Ministry.
- **Target** - It will be available for *nearly all 2.6 lakh panchayats* across India
- **Dissemination of information** - It will be made through Panchayat Raj Ministry's digital platforms like
 - **Mausamgram** of IMD
 - **e-GramSwaraj** of Ministry of Panchayati Raj
 - **Meri Panchayat app** of Ministry of Panchayati Raj

What are the features of localised weather forecasting?

- **SMS alerts on weather warning** - It will also be sent to Panchayat representatives regarding extreme weather events like cyclones and heavy rainfall, ensuring immediate action to protect lives, crops, and property.
- **Hourly forecasts** - It can see data on the current temperature, wind speed, cloud cover (in percentage), rainfall, and relative humidity at the level of gram panchayats.
- **Five-day forecasts** - It will be of minimum and maximum temperatures, rainfall, cloud cover, wind direction, and wind speed, and an overall weather forecast.
- **Coverage** - It is available at the district and block levels.
- **Accuracy** - It currently has the ability to forecast weather events over a *12 km x 12 km area*
 - **Experimental forecasts** - For 3 km x 3 km grids
 - **Future objective** - To make hyper-local forecasts for 1 km x 1 km areas.

- It is a noble initiative aiming at “HAR HAR MAUSAM HAR GHAR MAUSAM” (weather information at each house hold at any time).
- **Developed by** – Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)
- **Aim** – To provide location specific forecast at Gram Panchayat level.
- **Weather forecasts**
 - hourly up to 36 hours
 - 3-hourly from 36 hrs to next five days
 - Every 6-hourly from next 5 days to 10 days.
- It will be further augmented with the implementation of Mission Mausam.

e-GramSwaraj

- **Launched by** – Ministry of Panchayat Raj
- **Objectives** – It helps to prepare and execute Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).
- It will ensure real time monitoring and accountability.

Meri Panchayat app

- **Launched by** – Ministry of Panchayat Raj
- **Objectives** – It aims to create a unified mobile governance platform for rural areas, including residents, functionaries, and Panchayati Raj Institution System stakeholders.
- It seeks to streamline and consolidate various functions and information scattered across different portals into one cohesive mobile platform, thus serving the varied needs of Gram Panchayats.

[Mission Mausam](#) is a two-year initiative by the Indian government to improve India's weather forecasting and climate resilience.

How does it help the public?

- **Efficient disaster management** – It will also reduce the loss of life and property from the meteorological disasters.
- **Promote sustainable agriculture** – It empowers the cultivators to make critical decisions in agriculture, such as planning sowing, irrigation, and harvesting activities
- **Enhance farmer’s livelihood** – It can ensure better returns and increase their profits.
- **Strengthen grassroots governance** – It improves administration and ensures tailor made approaches in information dissemination.
- **Enable climate-resilient rural population** – It enable rural communities to better plan agricultural activities and prepare for weather-related risks.

There are 2.55 lakh village panchayats across the country, with resident populations of a few thousands on average.

References

1. [The Indian Express| Launch of Panchayat Level weather Forecasts](#)
2. [IMD| Mausamgram](#)



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