National Panchayati Raj Day

Prelims: *Current events of national importance | Polity & Governance*

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj observed National Panchayati Raj Day, marking 33 years of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.

- **Panchayati Raj –** It is a ***rural local self-government system*** in India, based on decentralisation.
- Power transferred from the State to elected bodies at village, block, district levels.
- **Panchayati Raj Day –** It is to commemorate the constitutional recognition of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and reaffirm their role in
  - Grassroots democracy,
  - Fiscal federalism, and
  - Participatory governance.
- **Celebrated on –** 24th April every year.
- **Began in –** 2010, when the first National Panchayati Raj Day was observed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Constitutional & Governance Context

- **73rd Amendment Act, 1992** – Accorded constitutional status to PRIs; added **Part IX (Articles 243-243O)** and 11th Schedule.
  - **Eleventh Schedule** contains **29 subjects** devolved to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
  - *Agriculture, health, and education* are core subjects, making Panchayats responsible for local planning and implementation in these areas.
- **Gram Sabha** – Bedrock of Panchayati Raj.
  - It is an *assembly of all registered voters in a village.*
  - Foundation of participatory democracy.
  - Empowers citizens to approve plans, budgets, and social audits.

Highlights, 2026

- **Vision of Viksit Bharat** – Empowered Panchayats seen as the foundation for self-reliant villages, farmers, and communities.
- **Capacity Building & Women Leadership** – Training programmes and exposure visits have strengthened decision-making, particularly among women representatives.
- **Fiscal Empowerment** – 16th Finance Commission recommended an **84% increase in grants** to Rural Local Bodies compared to the Fifteenth Finance Commission.
    - **80:20 ratio** – Basic Grants (assured flows) vs Performance Grants (linked to own-source revenue mobilisation).
- **Digital Governance Tools** – Digital governance platforms like **e-GramSwaraj** (online accounting & planning) and **SabhaSaar** (transparency in Gram Sabhas) advance accountability, efficiency, and SDG localisation.
- **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0**
    - India's nationwide framework to assess Gram Panchayat performance, aligned with ***9 SDG*** themes.
    - Indicators rationalised from 516 to 150, with 97.3% participation across 33 States/UTs.
- **Cultural Heritage** – Release of monographs under *Panchayat Dharohar Initiative* (Tripura, Tirupati, Uttarkashi) showcasing rural heritage.

References

1. PIB | National Panchayati Raj Day
2. My Gov | National Panchayati Raj Day

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