

National Panchayati Raj Day

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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](#)