Panchayat Advancement Index

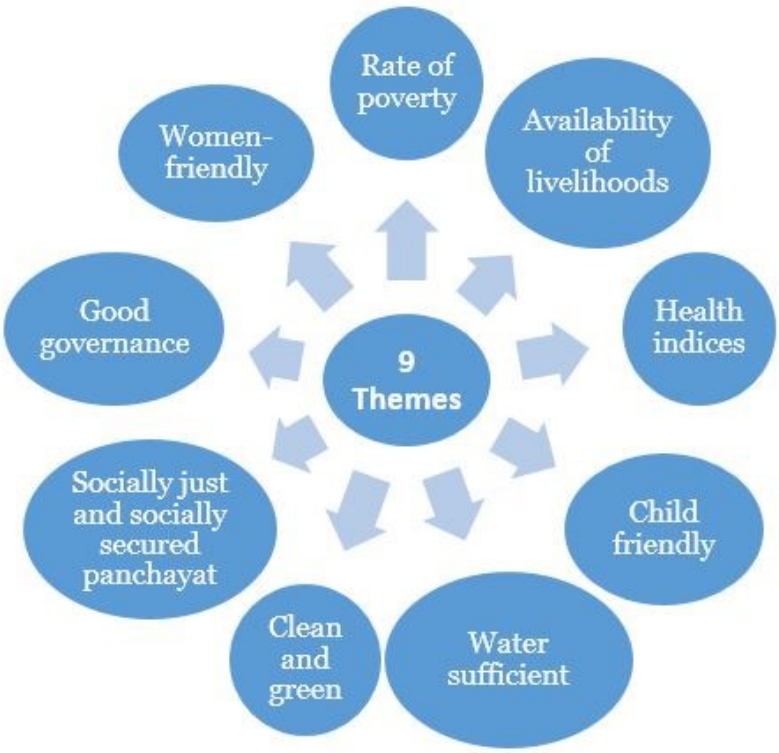
Prelims – *Indian Polity and Governance-Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc.*

Mains (GS II) – *Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance.*

Why in news?

In a push for data driven governance, the Department of Panchayati Raj has come up with the first ever Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI).

- **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)** – Aims to assess and measure the progress made by grassroots-level institutions in achieving localized SDGs, thereby contributing to the attainment of SDG 2030.
- It is a *multi-domain and multi-sectoral index* that is intended to be used to assess the overall holistic development, performance & progress of Panchayats.
- The index takes into account *various socio-economic indicators and parameters* to gauge the well-being and development status of the local communities within the jurisdiction of a Panchayat.
- **Launched by** – Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- **9 themes** – PAI has been compiled based on 435 unique local Indicators (331 mandatory & 104 optional) on nine themes.



- These themes align global goals with rural realities, helping local governments tailor their strategies for holistic development.
- **Categories of performance** – Based on these, gram panchayats are grouped into one of the 5 categories of performance
    1. Achiever (90+)
    2. Front runner (75 to below 90)
    3. Performer(60 to below 75)
    4. Aspirant (40 to below 60)
    5. Beginners (below 40)
- **Performance** – The 2022-23 PAI data reveals that out of 2,55,699 Gram Panchayats, 2,16,285 submitted validated data.
- *699 (0.3%) Panchayats emerged as Front Runners*, 77,298 (35.8%) were Performers, 1,32,392 (61.2%) were Aspirants while 5,896(2.7%) Gram Panchayats were at the Beginner Level.
- *None of the Gram Panchayat was qualified as an Achiever* and as of now, no inter-state comparison has been done.
- *Gujarat led the index* with 346 Gram Panchayat as Front Runners, followed by Telangana with 270 Front Runners.
- States with a high number of Performers include Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana along with Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- *Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh have a significant share of Aspirant Gram Panchayats*.
- **Significance of PAI** – Promotes Evidence-Based Planning.
- Enhances Accountability & Transparency.
- Fosters Competitive Federalism.
- Localizing SDGs.
- Informs Resource Allocation.

References

1. The Hindu | Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)
2. PIB | Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)

