

Ministry of Panchayati Raj  
Government of India

# GRAMODAY SANKALP



**Giriraj Singh**  
Minister of Panchayati Raj  
& Rural Development



**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister



**Kapil Moreshwar Patil**  
Minister of state for  
panchayati Raj

## Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Panchayats



सशक्त पंचायत सतत् विकास



# PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES SWACHH BHARAT DIWAS CELEBRATIONS

Government is sincerely working towards achieving the goal of providing tap water, toilets and electricity to every household: Shri Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development



The President of India, Smt. Draupadi Murmu, graced the event organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to celebrate the Swachh Bharat Diwas in New Delhi on Gandhi Jayanti 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022. She presented Swachh Survekshan Grameen awards in various categories.

Speaking on the occasion, the President paid tributes to the Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi. She said that Gandhiji's thoughts are eternal. Like truth and non-violence, he also stressed on cleanliness. His resolve on cleanliness was aimed to remove social distortion and to build a new India. Therefore, celebrating his birthday as 'Swachh Bharat Diwas' is a true tribute to him.

The President noted that since the launch of 'Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin' in 2014, more than 11 crore toilets have been constructed and about 60 crore people have changed their habit of open defecation. She expressed happiness that through this mission, India has achieved the UN's Sustainable Development Goal number 6, eleven years before the deadline of 2030.

Union Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister Shri Giriraj Singh also attended the function.

Minister Shri Giriraj Singh also attended the function. Speaking about the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen, he said that more than 11 crore toilets have been built and more than 10 crore tap water connections provided in rural households under the guidance of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Union Minister said that India is working towards achieving the goal of Swachh Bharat with Jan Bhagidari Andolan. He added that this Jan Andolan for Swachhta should reach each and every nook and corner of the country. Shri Singh said, Government is sincerely working towards achieving the goal of providing tap water, toilets and electricity to every household.

Secretary, Panchayati Raj, Shri Sunil Kumar in his address said that public participation is the most important aspect of Jal Jeevan Mission and ODF plus. He said the responsibility of maintaining both these schemes' rests with the Gram Panchayats. He said people are ready to pay services charges if they are provided good services rendered by the service provider. He said that panchayats are coming forward and engaging the state authorities and gearing up to provide this service to the residents in best possible manner.

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गिरिराज सिंह  
GIRIRAJ SINGH



सत्यमेव जयते



ग्रामीण विकास तथा पंचायती राज मंत्री  
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MINISTER OF  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
KRISHI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

### Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is publishing 13th issue of the 'GramodaySankalp' magazine with the theme 'Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Panchayats'.

As a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, India is committed towards the achievement of 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Government of India is strongly committed to the 2030 Agenda and national development goals and its inclusive development moto of "Sab Ka Saath, Sab KaVikas" or "development with all, and for all".

Given that nearly 68% of India is Rural India, and in the words of Mahatma Gandhi ji-the heart of India lies in the villages, attainment of Sustainable Development Goals at National level will require actions at the grassroots of Villages that is at the Panchayat level. The Panchayats have a pivotal role to play in integrated rural development by focusing on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals subsumed under 9 themes to ensure poverty free and enhanced livelihood, healthy, child friendly, water sufficient, clean and green, self-sufficient infrastructure, socially secured and socially just, good governed and women friendly villages by the target year of 2030.This issue of Gramoday Sankalp encompasses the ideas, roadmap, action plan and achievements in the direction of localization of SDGs.

I am sure that this issue of Gramoday Sankalp, based on the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Panchayats, will be useful for the Panchayats, elected Panchayat representatives and office bearers as well as the general public to understand this global agenda with local approach and they will be move to achieve it.

(GIRIRAJ SINGH)

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KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL  
MINISTER OF STATE  
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



### Message

It is a matter of great pleasure that 13th issue of '**Gramoday Sankalp**' is being published by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on the theme '**Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Panchayats**'.

As a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, India is committed towards the achievement of 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Recognising the fact that nearly 68% of India lives in villages, the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals will require actions at the grassroot level i.e. localization of SDGs through Panchayati Raj Institutions.

In this direction, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has adopted the thematic framework of the localization of SDGs for Rural Local Bodies to achieve their vision and to build poverty free and enhanced livelihoods Panchayats ensuring healthy lives with water sufficiency while fighting inequality and injustice and work to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change by 2030 in rural India and ensuring 'inclusive development. This issue of Gramoday Sankalp encompasses the ideas, roadmap, action plan and achievements in the direction of localization of SDGs.

I am sure that this issue of Gramoday Sankalp, based on the LSDGs will be useful for the Panchayats, elected Panchayat representatives and office bearers as well as the general public.

(Kapil Moreshwar Patil)

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## MESSAGE

I am happy to note that the 13<sup>th</sup> issue of Gramoday Sankalp magazine is dedicated to the initiative and efforts of the Ministry on 'Localization of Sustainable Development Goals' (LSDGs) in which Panchayats will be major active partner.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the blueprint to achieve a better, more equitable and sustainable future for all. The 17 SDGs and 169 related targets were adopted and signed by all UN Member States in 2015, as part of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development. Government of India is also a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 agenda.

Given that nearly 68% of India live in rural areas, attainment of Sustainable Development Goals at National level will require actions at the grassroots level through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Hence, role of PRIs especially Gram Panchayats is very crucial in localizing the SDGs. Accordingly, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has adopted thematic approach towards SDG where by all the 17 SDGs have been re-grouped into 9 themes. Each of these themes covers more than one SDGs, the attainment of which depends on collective action by different Ministries through their schemes and programmes.

Continuous and concerted steps have been taken and new steps are being taken by the Ministry to build the capacity of Panchayats and equip them with all possible resources to achieve the SDGs at the grassroot level.

The focus of the scheme of Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) is on re-imagining Panchayati Raj Institutions as vibrant centres of local self-governance with special focus on actualisation of SDG at grassroot level by adopting thematic approach through concerted and collaborative efforts of Central Ministries and State Line departments and other Stakeholders with 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Society' approach.

Series of interventions are being made to take forward the process of localization of SDGs that cover working together with Central Ministries, State Governments, UN Agencies, Educational Institutions, CSOs and others to draw attention of the grassroot stakeholders.

In this issue of Gramoday Sankalp, informative and concise articles on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals have been included along with the information of events organized by MoPR on LSDGs to sensitise all stakeholders.

I hope this issue will be helpful to Panchayat Representatives, Functionaries and Rural masses to learn about LSDGs and to achieve the targets of LSDGs at Village level.

  
(Sunil Kumar)

## SDGS: THINK GLOBALLY AND ACT LOCALLY

\* Views are Shri S.M.Vijayanand's

\* Written form a lecture note by Dr. R. Ramesh

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are very ambitious development goals which human-kind set for itself. It covers the whole of humanity. There are 17 goals. They are cross-sectoral. They are interlinked, and they embody the philosophy of 'Think Globally and Act Locally'. Though this has been decided internationally and has been ratified by India, essentially the action should start the cutting edge - at the level of Gram Panchayat. Now clear goals have been set for us. Targets are laid down. There will be basically national targets then brought down to the states, then integrated performance will also be laid down. This is a process but when a Gram Panchayat starts we don't have to look at these kinds of things. Let us focus on what we can do in respect of different goals.

There are a lot of peculiarities in the sustainable development goals specialities, We should call them. (1) They are universal. Nobody should be left behind. So it's a total coverage reaching the last person in keeping with our National Philosophy of Antyodaya which is a Gandhian approach to reaching out to the poorest and most distant person. (2) Then there is a special focus on values of inclusion, peace which normally we do not talk about while discussing development. Then there is focus on the Institutions - and Gram Panchayat is typically the institution we can refer to in the Indian context. (3) There is focus on Governance. Good governance as Gandhiji said "the Swaraj of my dream is the poor man's Swaraj". That is what he called Poorna Swaraj. Now we need to learn to rule / govern ourselves. He talks about corruption free governance. So SDGs are a very wide range of goals.

Now where do we start? We start at the level of Gram Panchayat. Let's not wait for any written instructions. We have got started. Getting started is most important because we have another eight years to achieve. But gaining momentum will take some time. How do we get started ?

We have the schedule of the constitution detailing the possible functions of the Panchayats. Let's first map all the SDGs onto them. Then you find there are a lot of common elements. Come down to the next thing.

Map them on to the functions given to the Panchayats under the respective State Acts. Then it becomes well-known and well-accepted. These functions are mostly in laws, but often not operationalised. So let's now find out what exactly the functions of the Panchayats are? What exactly are they performing? And map the SDGs on to them. So you will find areas of commonality. That is the area where we have to focus.

We now have lots of Rights-based laws in our country. India is a pioneer in rights-based legislations. We have Right to Information, Right to Work, Right to Education, Right to food, and recently we have added Rights to persons with Disabilities etc. Map all the SDGs on to these Rights-based laws. Panchayats have a very significant role in their implementation and particularly in monitoring progress on SDG indicators. Such mapping is also very critical.

Lots of schemes are being implemented by the Panchayats varying from States to States. Map the SDGs on to their schemes. Again, we have taken a lot of programmes under the Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) using the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Grants. Map the SDGs on to them. Once you do this mapping you will have automatically what the State Panchayats can do for SDGs. This is the first step when it comes to deciding what you can do.

Panchayats at the intermediate and district levels can also do such mapping. But I strongly suggest focussing on the strengths of Gram Panchayats, first of all. What are the strengths of Gram Panchayats? The biggest strength is that they are face-to-face with the people. They know the problems. They know the groups which need to be attended to on socio-economic priority basis. So, they can hand us the prescription for real attainment of these goals. You need participation and collective local actions. This can be done best by the Gram Panchayats. This is especially because 'Reaching the unreached is something that the Gram Panchayats can do very well.

<sup>1</sup> Former Secretary, Government of INDIA

<sup>2</sup> Associate Professor, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad.

The goals are not at the same levels of attainment. They are not at the same levels everywhere in the country or everywhere in the world. Huge variations can be noticed even within a district. Only Gram Panchayats will be able to plug into that level of development. Then in certain things like sanitation, Natural Resource Management (NRM) reaching out to the poor Gram Panchayats have definite advantages. Then the sheer number of Gram Panchayats members is about 30 lakhs or 3 million out of which about 13 lakhs to 14 lakhs are women and they would be the frontline volunteers or frontline action volunteers for SDGs.

Generally much of these SDGs are different from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). SDGs call for softer aspects for social capital building which can be done by the Gram Panchayats better. Extension is very important in attaining of many of these goals. The Gram Panchayats have a distinct advantage anywhere especially where it's about the social sector. It needs to create an effective demand for action to emerge. This demand creation again can be best done from below through Gram Panchayats.

Historically and practically Gram Panchayats are better at breaking the departmental silos. On the higher level we have high departmentalism and we think in compartments. Gram Panchayats generally tend to think of any problem as a whole and solution as a whole. SDGs are typical, where it is a cross-sectoral and a solution beyond department would be required.

Gram Panchayats are very critical in finding solutions for cross-sectoral problems. It thinks in terms of special geographies – such as you have to focus on the special groups, special places, and special areas. Thus, Gram Panchayats or clusters of Gram Panchayats would come in for a solution. For Gram Panchayats local needs and local priorities matter much. Gram Panchayats are well-positioned to nurture beckons, identify and recognise outstanding performers, and promote schools of practice.

Before one start implementation, one needs to understand certain critical development concepts which are encapsulated in the goals. If you understand them in the right perspective, taking a programs or action point becomes easy. For instance, 'what is poverty in a local context' which affects every person of every age, every locality is something you can find out. What is being malnourished? What is malnutrition? And what is the climate change in a local context? What is the problem of a 'gender'?

And what is genetic-diversity or Traditions Knowledge in a local context? What is equitable quality education? SDGs have all these mentioned. What is Natural Resource Management? What is Inclusive Growth? A Gram Panchayat is trying to understand these and other concepts such as the meaning of 'decent work' and what are 'Labour Rights'? What is meant by financial inclusion; and what does the peace or non-violence do to local development? These concepts need to be internalized and they can be internalized better in the Gram Panchayats.

Now let's take a few goals and indicate what the Gram Panchayats can do?

The first goal is about poverty. MGNREGS is a Gram Panchayat's subject and you can do a lot.

**Goal-2** is about Hunger, which is to do with reducing hunger, improving food security nutrition, and sustainable agriculture.

Here again MGNREGS comes in very handy. **Goal-3** is about Healthy Life. Maybe the hospitals are not under the Gram Panchayats but Gram Panchayats can bring about the last mile connectivity between the service delivery of the hospitals or the primary health centres and the people. So here again they have a huge contribution to make. Same thing holds good with the **Goal-4** which is about Education, ensuring access, ensuring quality, ensuring that nobody is left behind. Ensuring equitable quality education for all is something which Gram Panchayats can do.

**Goal-5** is about Gender Equality. Gram Panchayats can work with the SHGs of the poor. About 45% of the Gram Panchayats members are women. They can be pioneering volunteers.

**Goal-6** is something a totally Gram Panchayat subject i.e. Water and Sanitation for all. Using Gram Panchayat Development Plan, using Jal Jeevan Mission, and the 15th Finance Commission Grants plus the MGNREGS funds Gram Panchayats can ensure water and sanitation for all and address water and sanitation issues to the level of saturation. SDG's principle of 'Nobody shall be left behind' can very well apply here.

**Goal-7** is about Energy. Energy is much above street lights, and cooking gas. Feasibility for extensive use of bio-gas is one area we need to seriously consider. There is a lot of government support towards it. Non-Conventional energy is a subject Gram Panchayats can handle very comfortably.



**Goal-8** is about Growth. Gram Panchayats can contribute a little here, yet decent works, employment generation and micro enterprise promotion etc. can be taken up at Gram Panchayat level. For this we can bring in MGNREGS and other programmes of the NABARD, KVIC, SIDBI etc. through local actions. Youth in MGNREGS should be moved towards upskilling through DDU-GKY. Lots of work to different sections of society can be generated here.

**Goal-10** Reduce Inequalities. In a Country like India inequality is a far dangerous a damn poverty. Inequality reduction can be through Macro Policies but who are they left out people to give them comfort, bring them into the mainstream, bring them into the development process, this is something which Gram Panchayats can do with ease.

**Goal-12** is about Sustainable Consumption and Production. This is behavioral change and this Gram Panchayats can attain by continuous engagement with people, and working with them. Panchayats, with the help of green development movements, can promote sustainable production methods.

**Goal-16** is about Peaceful and Inclusive Society. Peace begins in the Gram Sabha, from the way you include everyone - including the poorest of the poor man / woman. Gandhiji said about the starving and toiling millions - they all need to be brought into the Gram Sabha that is peace and inclusion.

**(Goal 17)** is about strengthening implementation. Gram Panchayats need to be capacitated and strengthened for materialising implementation of SDGs. We need to build a momentum at the Gram Panchayat level. Young Professionals need to work closely with communities, and guide Panchayats. This must be highly participatory. Let us ride on Panchayati Raj institutional structure. Let us not create a separate planning system for SDGs. Panchayats can be the best vehicles to act locally for a global impact.

Now the Government of India wants to take up planning for poverty free panchayats. So let us bring all the activities together. Planning for a labour budget, planning for SDGs and planning for poverty free panchayats by using the momentum created through People's Plan Campaigns for Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). Let's move forward. The priority should be on understanding the concepts. How to operationalise them on the ground by systematic mapping of SDGs is what we have outlined in this article. Once you understand the problem you can address them better, and things will fit in automatically. We need to make full use of training institutions such as NIRD & PR, SIRD & PRs, State Governments, District Administrations, and some of the Panchayat level 'schools of practice' and 'beacon leaders' for this purpose. The environment is conducive for local action. Let's get started through people's plan campaigns, and intensify as we go.

♦♦♦♦

# FROM INDIA TO HER VILLAGES - LOCALISATION OF SDGS WITH LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

\*Jayashree Raghunandan

"We the peoples" are the celebrated opening words of the Charter of the United Nations. It is "we the peoples" who are embarking today on the road to 2030." Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – adopted in the UN General Assembly September 2015, A/RES/70/1

"We, the people of India, give to ourselves", are the resounding words of the Preamble to the Constitution of India.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are universal goals and targets. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development-economic, social and environmental. The journey of the 17 SDGs with 169 global targets, was committed to by 193 countries in September 2015, and it came into effect on 1 January 2016.

The year 2015-2016 was also the year that the process of development planning through the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) was introduced in the Village Panchayats in India. It was also a landmark year in devolution of funds of Rs. 200,292.20 crores to rural local bodies under the XIV<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (2015-2020).

## SDG India Index

NITI Aayog had brought out the first SDG India Index (SDGII) Baseline Report in 2018. This consisted of a set of 62 priority indicators out of the 306 indicators of the National Indicator Framework (NIF) flowing from 39 Global Targets covering 13 goals, based on national priorities. The composite score for India was 57. The range of scores of States (including Union Territories) was 42 to 69. Kerala & Himachal Pradesh were at 68. Chandigarh was at 69. At the lower end of the scores was Uttar Pradesh (42), Bihar (48) & Assam (49).

The SDGII 2.0 in 2019 covered 16 goals, 54 National Targets with 100 indicators from the NIF. States positions and scores and SDG-wise, target and indicator-wise positions were brought out.

The last SDGII 3.0 in March 2021, covers 16 goals, 70 targets and 115 National indicators showing that the

Composite score for India has moved to 66, score range is 52 to 75, Kerala continues at the top at 75, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh at 74, the fastest movers Mizoram reaching 68 and Uttarakhand 72 (both +12), Odisha (+10) at 61, since 2018. Uttar Pradesh from the lowest score is now at 60 & Assam has moved upto 57, while Bihar stays at the lowest position at 52. The argument that the addition of targets and modification of indicators makes it a comparison of apples to oranges is to be seen in context that all States are operating from the same basket of indicators of apples and oranges and it is the interse positionality which also is of significant relevance and calls on States to look at the progress against goals, targets and indicators.

Of greater significance and for attention for action is the actual figures of the SDGs, targets and indicators therein. These figures show huge ups in SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) (+22), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) (+26), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) (+19), while the downs are in SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation) (-5), SDG 13 (Climate Action) (-6), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) (-10). State wise and indicator wise details are available showing that clearly there are goals and indicators requiring attention, and States need to see why they are where they are.

## State and District

From a NIF, there is also need to look at the State Indicator Framework, which emanates from not only the NIF, but to what is of relevance to individual States. The selection of indicators and its weightages would provide annual progress monitors.

More important still is moving to the sub-State level. Inter-district disparities on specific measurable indicators enable focused investment by State under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Sponsored Schemes. Many States have prepared their District Indicator Framework (DIF). How effectively the DIF can be used can be gauged by the Aspirational Districts programme (ADP)

\* Former, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Tamilnadu.

of NITI Aayog focusing on identified 113 backward districts. The range of improvement in 49 indicators has been upto 50% in 2 years. Remote and difficult districts such as Rayagada in Odisha was in position 112 in September 2018 and moved to 5 in October 2020; Fatehpur in UP at 105 in November 2018 moved to 2 in May 2019 (Delta rankings). Undoubtedly the improvements at such a pace, in these and other districts can be attributed to the impact of the philosophy behind the programme, of measurable indicators, comparison and close monitoring with focused action. The ADP looks at health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure. These sectors identified fall in the realm of Sustainable Development Goals.

### Sub-district

What SDGII can do is show a mirror to States of their performance on SDGs. What the DIF can do is give evidence of details of the inter-district disparities for the State Government to see and act upon. From National to State, the 2 levels of Government are covered in the process for achieving SDGs. The Government of India and State Government are directly involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the programmes. Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Sponsored Schemes programmes are implemented in rural areas, through government officials with Districts being the critical level for delivery responsibility. Yet it is necessary to go more into Sub-district level,

to Block and Village Panchayats which undoubtedly show different levels of development and different issues calling for attention in different places and the need for decentralized and targeted approach. Neither is the term, nor the philosophy, nor action new.

A stark example to state support for this is that ironically, the race for achieving top rank in providing 55 lpcd under JJM seems to get greater attention by State governments (and district administration), than addressing villages and hamlets needs for water, quality drinking water and water sources, though funds is not an issue at all under this most critical mission.

Going further, the holistic view of water needs of a village beyond drinking water and household needs, to assessment of agriculture needs, ground water levels, water harvesting etc. and use of available multiple schemes from different departments is not planned around the target of what the Village Panchayat seeks to achieve and prioritize, but on disparate physical targets as achievements under

– including the poorest of the poor man / woman. Gandhiji said about the starving and toiling millions– they all need to be brought into the Gram Sabha that is peace and inclusion. The last goal

(Goal 17) is about strengthening implementation. Gram Panchayats need to be capacitated and strengthened for materialising implementation of SDGs. We need to build a momentum at the Gram Panchayat level. Young Professionals need to work closely with communities, and guide Panchayats. This must be highly participatory. Let us ride on Panchayati Raj Institutional structure. Let us not create a separate planning system for SDGs. Panchayats can be the best vehicles to act locally for a global impact.

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### Localisation of SDGs with Local self-government

It is impossible to visualize the achievement of the global goals for all without the localization of these global goals relevant for each and every Panchayat, and people there. Officials have long decided what should be given where and we see the inequities within all sectors. The Local Indicator Framework, to achieve locally relevant Targets, at Gram Panchayat level, that also link and aggregate to performance reflected in the Targets and Indicators at Block, District, State and National level would be the next essential step. This would provide the picture of where different panchayats are on the entire spectrum of the SDGs and provide open evidence for planning and interventions.

While many flagship schemes of the Government of India such as the National Health Mission (NHM), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Swachh Bharat Mission

(SBM), Poshan Abhiyan etc. specifically state in the guidelines that there must be village level plans, involvement of Grama Sabhas, sharing of data, training for Elected Representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), amongst others, that seek to involve the Local Self Government in the process, the ground reality is quite different. Devolution, and to what extent the Panchayats are involved is left to State Governments, and the process followed by State Governments. There is no doubt that the progress in SDGs have taken place due to the multiple schemes of the various Ministries implemented by States in the rural areas, as also due to State Specific schemes.

Monitored are the scheme performances data, physical and financial. Reasonable number of these coincide with the Indicators in the NIF, such as those connected to Water, Nutrition, Health, Education etc. However, addressing issues like ground water availability, improving nutrition status, prevention of Crimes against women and children, and support services for the vulnerable, ensuring a targeted approach and follow up to achieve outcomes of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) and leaving no village behind, needs localization of SDGs right down to the village (hamlet) level.

“Localisation relates both to how local and sub-national governments can support the achievement of the SDGs through bottom-up action...Further, the responsibility to localise the SDGs is not limited to the executive arm of the government but also spearheaded by elected representatives at all levels.” - Localising SDGs - Early lessons from India 2019, NITI Aayog

The third tier of Government, local self-Government is most important for the Localisation of SDGs. They need to be recognised as equal partners both by State and Central Government.

The 5Ps for achieving Sustainable Development Goals - People, Partnership, Prosperity, Planet and Peace taken to sub-district levels, to blocks, to each Village Panchayat is best done with the 3 tiers of Local Self Government.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment introduced Part IX in the Constitution; Article 243G of the Constitution to ensure that the Panchayati Raj Institutions at all three levels can function as Institutions of Local self-governance. The 29 subjects listed (transferred) as the responsibility of the PRIs, are directly connected to the SDGs such as Drinking water, health and sanitation, water and watershed management, poverty alleviation, women and child welfare, social and farm forestry, etc.

The way to achieve the SDGs for India, leave no one behind, leave no village behind is to go down to the Village Panchayat, involve them fully, make it a vibrant mission, of both Government of India and State governments. It is their life, and they must be active participants and decision makers.

COVID has pushed back and impacted all walks of life and progress on SDGs across the world. In the process of building back better, we need to consciously, systematically and systemically localise SDGs in rural areas, with involvement of PRIs, moving from the level of Central and State Government to Local Self Government; Panchayat Raj Institutions with 31 lakh elected representatives (over 14 lakh women representatives) in the 2.56 lakh village panchayats, 6,626 Block Panchayats, 621 District Panchayats, are a huge force that can propel change in all of India's villages. Achieving SDGs for India needs Localisation of SDGs in rural areas to the move from India to her villages with equal partnership for Panchayat Raj Institutions, the Local self-government.

“We reaffirm the key role of all levels of government and legislative bodies in promoting sustainable development.” - Extract from the UN Resolution July 2012, 'The Future We Want', endorsed in the UN General Assembly September 2015

(Data Source: SDGII Reports, NITI Aayog)

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# Localising SDGs is for Revitalizing the Local Development: Local Indicator Framework (LIF) and Dashboard for Panchayat

\*Sukanya KU

Localizing development means taking into account regional/local contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress. The objective is to address the challenges of achieving SDGs and to ensure a more coherent and convergence between SDGs, State policies, State development plans and the Local Government Development Plans (Kerala state in India has developed a strong local development system with focus on annual or five year development plans and budget). It is a convergence points of the local and sub-national governments, national governments, businesses, community-based organizations other local actors. Localising SDGs supports local leaders and communities in collaboratively incubating and sharing solutions, unlocking bottlenecks and implementing strategies that will become helpful in advancing the SDGs at the local level. In this background, to revitalize the local development, a comprehensive approach/strategy needs to be developed which envisages SDGs as the beginning to transform the process of development at the local governmental (Panchayat) level. Achieving the objectives of SDGs can and should be built based on existing experience in goal setting, monitoring and implementation. Robust follow-up and review mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires a solid framework of indicators and statistical data. The goals at local governmental level taken through themes, targets and indicators are aspirational in nature, relevant and placing the global goals that are universally applicable, in line with national policies and priorities as well as taking into account local realities in a concise and easy to communicate manner.

Accordingly the objectives of this initiative are to develop and SDG Local Indicator Framework (LIF) and web portal based SDG Dashboard, which help the local government and communities for training, planning and monitoring of SDGs at the local level.

**Local governments are policy makers**, catalysts of change and the level of government best placed to link the global goals with local communities. Localizing development is then a process to empower all local stakeholders, aimed at making sustainable development more responsive, and therefore, relevant to local needs and aspirations. Development goals can be reached only if local actors fully participate, not only in the implementation, but also in the agenda-setting and monitoring. Participation requires that public policies are not imposed from the top, but that the whole policy chain is shared. All relevant actors must be involved in the decision-making process, through consultative and participative mechanisms, at the local, state and national levels. In this background, to revitalize the local development a comprehensive approach/strategies need to be developed which will envisages SDGs as the beginning to transform the process of development at the Panchayat level. This can be operationalizing in the following manner:

## 1. Local indicator framework (LIF)

### Indicator Framework Introduction:

Indicators will be the backbone of monitoring progress towards the SDGs at the local, national, regional, and global levels. A sound indicator framework will turn the SDGs and their targets into a management tool to help not only countries and the global community but also sub national and local levels develop implementation strategies and allocate resources accordingly.

They will also serve as a report card to measure their progress towards sustainable development and to help ensure the accountability of all stakeholders for achieving the SDGs

We also underscore that sustainable development goals should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries, while ta

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king into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. We also recognize that the goals should address and be focused on priority areas for the achievement of sustainable development.

Achieving the objectives of SDGs can and should be built based on existing experience in goal setting, monitoring and implementation. The goals at LSG level taken through Themes, targets and indicators are aspirational in nature, relevant and placing the global goals that are universally applicable, in line with national policies and priorities as well as taking into account local realities in a concise and easy to communicate manner.

The iterative process linking the global indicators and national indicators till the grassroots level until LSG is ensured in the localization of SDGs. Most Targets and Indicators of the SDGs are to be achieved at the local level. Most SDGs are related to the subjects devolved to the LSGs.

Local Indicator Framework developed takes into consideration all the SDGs. However it focuses on those SDGs which have direct relevance for actions at the local level. Thus the major focus of the initiative includes the SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17. The tools developed provide space for local adaptation of indicators and targets to achieve these goals. The basis of this is the fact that the country has carved out a system of local governments and the state of Kerala empowered them with the devolution of functions, functionaries and funds.

The state went on with the participatory local planning and budgeting which touches on various thematic areas applicable to the SDGs mentioned above.

The local indicator framework developed as part of the initiative provides scope for local governments to set the goals, indicators and targets, contextualizing the global and national indicators to suit the local development realities. Thus planning and budgeting become results oriented in alignment with SDGs. Web-portal based Dashboard is an interactive tool which helps in planning and monitoring. It also helps the communities to be aware of the local SDG status which makes the development process transparent and accountable.

Officials of line departments, elected functionaries of local governments and citizens are the major stakeholders.

The initiative provides a planning and monitoring framework, in which the participants have to go

through State level data, compare them with District level data, and to identify the development gaps, if any. Based on the identified development gaps, strategies can be formulated at the local level. It enables the participants to map various schemes and explore convergence possibilities. The monitoring framework introduced in the Web Based Dashboard helps the participants to plan and monitor the progress in attaining SDGs from different angles. Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) provides training to these stakeholders in planning for SDGs, localize them and use the tools developed. These trainings are done in batches, for each stakeholder group and in a cascading way. In addition, the topic is included in the training of local government functionaries for local participatory development planning. This year onwards, the Guidelines for local planning by local governments issued by the Government of Kerala has included SDG based planning.

In localizing SDGs, the indicators and targets need to be adapted to the local level which the LIF provides. Decision makers need information and data to set targets, plan actions and monitor. Access to accurate information and resources, helps to improve planning and allocation of resources. These actions have to be results oriented and the LIF provides this opportunity. Data dashboard provides interactive means of planning, monitoring, measuring, analyzing, and extracting relevant insights from different datasets. Online data visualization is useful for historical patterns, correlations, and trends that help to generate actionable insights in an online environment.

## 2. A Dashboard for Panchayat

*“Dashboards are intended as a tool for governments and other stakeholders to measure progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to highlight gaps in both implementation and data. The interactive dashboards provide a visual representation of countries' performance by SDGs to identify priorities for action.”*

At the Panchayat level, the Data Revolution enables the community to identify and design targets and indicators that make sense specifically for their context. It provides a platform to track the progress that the community makes in achieving their goals. Most importantly, it ensures that everyone gains a voice on development matters. Everyone has the ability to examine the Panchayat's data as well as to generate citizen data that can be used to improve advocacy of their issues based on their realities.

KILA has developed training toolkit for SDGs for local self governments (LSGs). Training tool kit is a searchable data base from the local level to the state level; this supports the efforts to improve the quality, reliability, availability and comparability of data, which helps all the stakeholders to create their own data in their respective area. This ultimately helps the local self governments to review analyze and modify their status with respect to each indicator and helps to identify the gaps in each sector and plan accordingly for the betterment and transformation of the society to address the challenges of achieving SDGs and to ensure a more coherent and convergence between SDGs, State policies, State Five Year Plan and the Local Self-Government Development Plans.

### Towards a Data Revolution for the SDGs: The Role of Indicators:

Indicators will be the backbone of monitoring progress towards the SDGs at the local, national, regional, and global levels. A sound indicator framework will turn the SDGs and their targets into a management tool to help countries and the global community develops implementation strategies and allocates resources accordingly.

They will also serve as a report card to measure progress towards sustainable development and to help ensure the accountability of all stakeholders for achieving the SDGs. This can be operationalizing with developing a LSG level dashboard for monitoring indicator framework for SDGs.

### Dashboard for Panchayat

As monitoring mechanism for Localizing SDGs Decision makers, policy makers and service providers need accurate and timely information and data in order to improve the quality of their services. Access to timely and accurate information and resources, helps to react appropriately to existing issues including planning and allocation of resources and also enables to plan for the preventive actions in the future.

\* Through this dashboard the State, District and local functionaries can develop targets, track and monitor the progress on the attainment of SDGs.

\* Even the public can access this platform in future and Provide guidance for self-assessment and support efforts towards,an improved understanding of:

- The collection, analysis and sharing of data from local to state level.

- Helps to identify innovative sources of data at local level on a variety of themes, including environment, health, education, agriculture, employment, industry and energy etc.

- Monitoring progress towards the SDGs at local and state level.



\* A data dashboard is a tool that provides a centralized, interactive means of monitoring, measuring, analyzing, and extracting relevant insights from different datasets in key areas while displaying information in an interactive, intuitive, and visual way.

\* Online data visualization is a term to describe the process of extracting datasets and presenting them in a visual, graphic way while exposing historical patterns, correlations, and trends that help users generate actionable insights in an online environment.

### Dashboard- Front End

This is the front end of the Dashboard. This consists of the following:

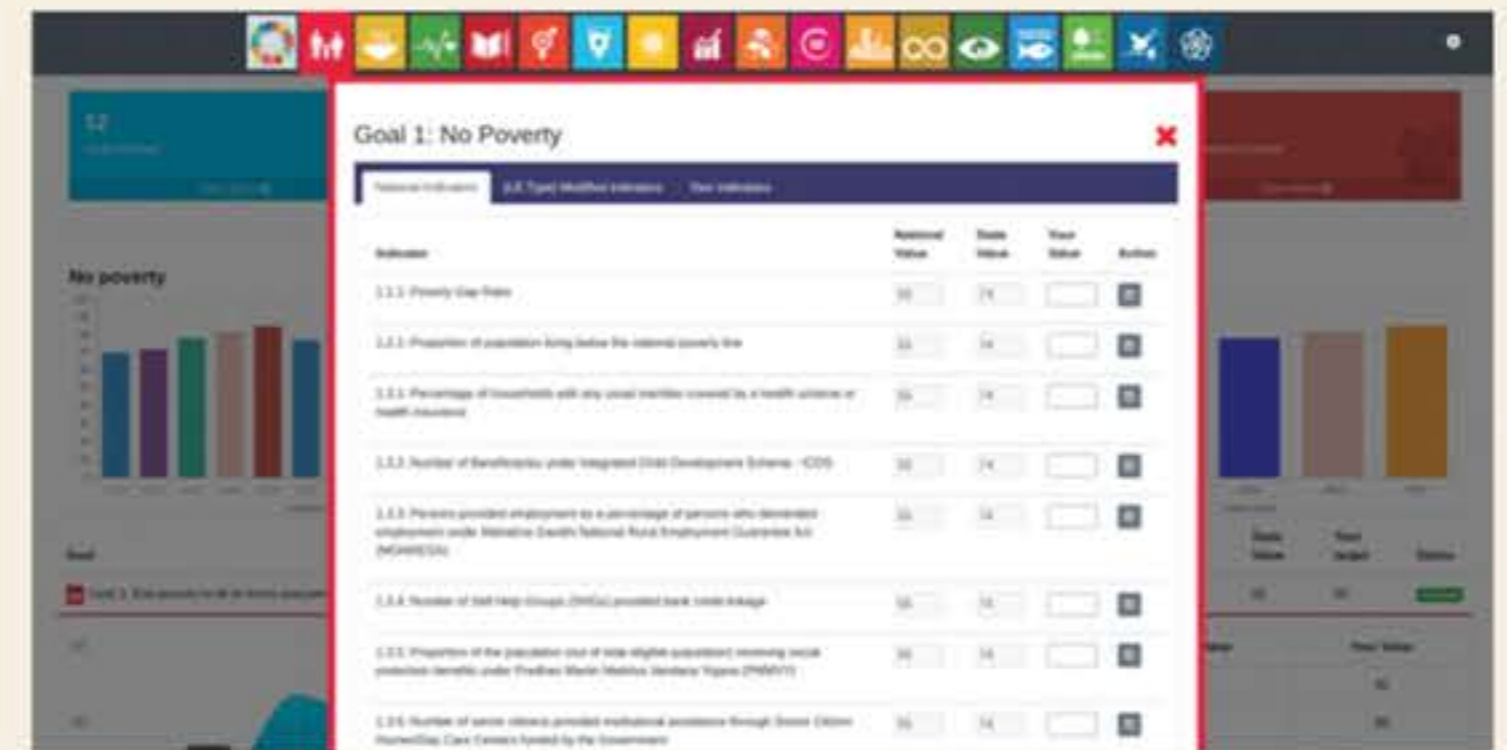
- Quick search for various SDG Indicators by Goals
- Cloud-based Open-Source SDG reporting and monitoring solution
- Targets
- Indicators
- Goal wise performance analysis
- View the SDG indicator performance thematically
- Expand and Collapse the Goals, Targets and Indicators to view data by LSGs and its performance
- Graphical representation of each goal with targets and indicators
- Customizable charts to view the select indicator and its stratifier by time period in various charts
- Customize and view the multi-dimensional data over time period in an animated chart.
- Customize and view the ranking/status of the LSGs by indicators.

- Generate SDG monitoring report for the LSGs
- Download the charts and share them on social media
- Register and view your data on the dashboard
- Contact
- SDG Interactive Data Dashboard can be customized at Regional, National, Sub-national and Panchayat levels or even for a specific Sustainable Development Goal

In the expanded view it shows the goal wise analysis with respect to years with national and state value. And also we can see the year wise status regarding the each GP, BP, DP level.

### Goal with National Indicators

In this page we can see the performance level of each goal with national and state level value.



**Dashboard on Planning and Monitoring SDGs- Expanded View**

### Major Benefits

M&E platform is developed to help track, monitor and report on the SDGs and Panchayat Development Plans, and such other results frameworks. It is a user-friendly and web-based digital platform, which will improve communication and coordination gaps. Using cutting-edge communication approaches it will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Panchayat Development Plans roll out and implementation, including communication of SDGs and national results, and significantly affect the monitoring and evaluation phase through establishing advanced communication channels and enhanced transparency and openness of the implementation process. The platform keeps everyone engaged as one-stop shop where people can find latest information and contents.

- View your National SDG performance by goal, target and indicator.
- Identify data gaps, compare and analyze SDG indicators relevant to LSGs.
- Support the assessment of SDG data availability and gaps, design and develop regional, national, sub-national and Panchayat SDG data monitoring dashboards and reports.
- Where the GP stands vis a vis National and State average.
- Plan for actions through GPDP
- Add new indicators if required for each LSG by themselves
- Set local targets for each by themselves
- Annual update will help in monitoring
- All these could be done by themselves at the Panchayat level



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# Localization of Sustainable Development Goal for Education

\* JP Pandey

Education plays vital role in the progress of humanity. It is also an important factor for betterment of lives. SDG4 envisages to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. SDG4 is made up of 10 targets. To ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational, tertiary education and skill, eliminating gender disparities, equity, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development, substantially increasing the supply of qualified teachers are key educational targets.



## India's Commitment to SDG 4

India is one of the key partner to global SDG commitment. Home of about 26 crore students, India has aligned all its policy, programs and schemes towards achieving the SDGs. India's strong commitment for SDG4 has been echoed in its National Education Policy 2020. This is the first education policy after the declaration of SDG, which aims to address the growing developmental imperatives of our country.

NEP proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of the education structure to align it with the aspirational goals of 21st century, including SDG4, while building upon India's traditions and value systems.

Implementation of the Right to Education Act to provide free and compulsory elementary education for children between six and 14 years of age is testimony of India's vision of making education compulsory for all. It has led to an improved net enrolment rate in primary education.

Department of School Education, Ministry of Education has revamped its flagship Samagra Shiksha Schemes to the aims and objectives of the NEP 2020 to be implemented from 1st April 2021 to 31st March, 2026 with an estimated outlay of Rs 294283.04 crore. Samagra Shiksha is an integrated scheme in school education encompassing from pre-primary to grade 12th aligned to the SDG4 to ensure that all children have access to quality education with an equitable and inclusive classroom environment.

Department has also launched Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) for the five year period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with the financial outlay of Rs. 54061.73 crores. It includes all components of Mid-Day Meal with addition of Balvatika. This scheme is relevant to the SDG 2 and 4 as well as to inclusion in School Education. PM POSHAN aims to improving the nutritional status of children studying in classes I to VIII, encouraging poor children to attend school more regularly and help them concentrate on classroom activities.

## Localisation of SDG 4

Localising can ensure conviction and commitment of all levels to achieve the SDG, especially from grassroots level. Till the time it reaches to all level of administration and implementation, it would be impossible to achieve this in its true spirit. All of the SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local and regional governments. From the setting of targets, to determining the mode of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress at National, State/UT, District, Block and village level is paramount importance. Raising awareness among masses is important as people movement and community, NGOs, Civil Society Organisation's participation and collaboration can play pivotal role. Achievement of SDG 4 will depend on our ability to make them a reality in our villages and schools.

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School ecosystem includes more than 15 lakh schools, over 26 crore students and 96 lakh Teachers from pre-primary to senior secondary level. It also includes involving all stakeholders i.e., Teachers, Teacher educators, Students, Parents, Community, School management committees, SCERTs, DIETs, BITEs, Block resource persons, Cluster resource persons, Volunteers for providing quality, inclusive and equitable education. Recognizing the importance of localization our constitution enlists education in concurrent list.

The process of localization of SDG4 can be viewed in various steps and levels.

### At Centre level

Samagra Shiksha Scheme helps planning, implementation mechanisms and transaction costs at all levels. Centre provide support for strengthening of infrastructure including infrastructure needed for inclusive education of girls and Children with Special Needs (CWSN), Quality and Innovation component Beneficiary oriented Entitlements under RTE, School Grants, Early Childhood Care and Education and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Equity and Inclusion, Teaching Learning Material, Training of school leaders & Capacity building of SMCs/Teachers, ICT, smart classrooms, for using digital, Vocational interventions etc. Project approval board deliberate with states/UTs and provide physical and financial approval for a particular financial year. Scheme uses district and sub-district level systems and resources for implementation.

Department of School Education has made an extensive plan "SARTHAQ" for implementation of NEP 2020. Defining various targets, KPIs and parameters, formulation of strategy and guidelines from national curriculum framework, NIPUN Bharat, NISHTHA teacher training, Learning enhancement programme and Remedial Teaching to assessment reforms are pivotal to ensure quality education.

MoE has conducted National Achievement Survey (NAS) on 12th November 2021 throughout the country assessing the learning outcome of nearly 34 lakh children from Class 3, 5, 8&10. Findings from the NAS 2021 will be published in the form of national, state and district reports, which will help to compare the performance across the spectrum and to take necessary steps for re-mediation at various levels.

The concept of Performance Grading Index (PGI) caters to the transformational change in the field of school education, where the focus has now shifted to the quality of education. The index comprising of 70 indicators propel States and UTs towards undertaking

multipronged interventions. Now district-wise PGI is another step to localise this index to encourage and sensitize districts.

### At States/UTs level

Samagra Shiksha implementing society of all states/UTs incoordination with districts at lower and to centre at top, plans and execute the scheme. India is a diverse nation. Contextualization of components of schemes to local need is important to address the diverse groups. Concept of state boards and state curriculum greatly signify the essence of localisation of education. SCERT and various other institutions of states/UTs help in implementation of educational schemes. Innovative state specific projects are planned for improvement of quality and access of educational activities.

### At District level

Being basic implementation unit, localisation of planning and monitoring and implementation the integrated scheme of Samagra Shiksha at district level has been hallmark.

District Institutes of Teacher Education (DIETs) provide support for continuous teacher professional development, school support and improvement and promoting innovation at district level.



Folk Music under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

Block resource centre and Cluster resource centre at block and cluster level are the most critical units for ensuring and evaluating the quality of education at school level on a constant basis and provide timely remedial interventions. BRCs and CRCs function as a repository of academic resources, conduct in-service teacher training, regular school visit and provide academic support to teachers and schools as well as help in

community mobilization activities, linkages with other state/district level structures. Block Institutes of Teacher Education (BITEs) are also envisaged to provide training support at local level.

### At School Level

School as primary unit is envisioned to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-school to senior secondary stage in accordance with the SDG 4. It is important to support and empower individual students and enabling lifelong learning and employability. Improving academic performance and learning for all students and to promote, nurture and advance the culture of design and innovation at school level is to be achieved.

NEP encouraged teachers to innovate and apply innovative pedagogy in classroom transaction. 'Whole School' based planning and implementation is paradigm shift in approach.

Various interventions are provided directly to schools to improve the teaching learning process. **Annual school composite grant** is provided for the replacement of non-functional school equipment and for other recurring costs such as consumables for play materials, sports equipment, laboratories, electricity charges, internet, water, teaching aids etc. Library is an essential component. **Library Grants** are provided for promoting reading habits. Realizing the need for holistic development of children, yoga and physical activities are encouraged in all schools. **Financial support for sports** and physical activities are provided for purchase of sports equipment, conduct of activities, competitions etc.



Schools are to be converted into activity centre for development of students. Various clubs such as debates, music, arts, sports, reading, youth, science

or eco clubs are instrumental to develop life skills, hobbies, build self-esteem, develop self-confidence and resilience among students. With the view to make school a joyful place for learning, schools organise activities for both students and teachers. Some of the activities undertaken are kala utsav, role play competition, band competition, music teacher competition and folk-dance competitions. NEP envisioned the schools to be used as a "Samajik Chetna Kendra". Optimal synergies in implementation and efficient use of these resources will pave the way to achieve SDG4.

### Community participation and partnership with private, NGOs, Civil Society Organisation-

Localisation of SDG4 should not be limited to lowest administrative unit only but to all stakeholders at large. Universal quality education can only be achieved when all stakeholders collaborate together. school management committees are formed with community members and local authority for formulating school development plans. Role of the private and philanthropic sector play key part of the ecosystem. They bring expertise as well as innovative practices. Collaboration with NGOs/CSOs/Corporates for supporting capacity building, infrastructure and teaching-learning process also add to the educational cause. Parents as home-mentors also play vital role towards the enhancement of learning outcome. Vidyanjali initiative of MoE encourages support of all to develop the infrastructure and enhancement of learning outcomes. Issues of drop-out and Out of School Children can easily be addressed with people support to ensure universal access of education.

### Convergence with all ministries and departments

Convergence with all ministries/departments is important to obtain the SDGs, as all goals are inter-related and interdependent. Localisation of SDG at basic unit of school and village level calls for convergence of all the schemes to have greater impact. It also avoids duplication of efforts, resources and energy and provide opportunity to work in synergy. Efforts are being made with Ministry of WCD for ECCE linkages, Ministry of drinking water & Sanitation for safe drinking water and sanitation, Ministry of Labour and Employment to promote successful mainstreaming into regular neighborhood schools of all children who have been withdrawn from child labour, scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/appliances.

School health programme by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, MoRD for provision of playgrounds, boundary walls, ramps, toilets, etc. in schools and provision of school uniforms through SHGs, MoPR for potable drinking water supply, recycling of waste, maintenance of school premises, including toilets and kitchens. DoT for extension of Bharat Net services to schools, MSDE for skill initiatives, Department of Sports



and Youth Affairs for greater participation in Khelo India and for connecting youth volunteers to the school. various interventions of Samagra Shiksha and PM POSHAN can be planned and implemented at school level to achieve SDG4.

### COVID-19 Pandemic and need for localisation

COVID-19 has severely affected the education. School closures have consequences for children's learning and well-being. Pandemic has shown that management at local level is important and effective to deal with such disaster. We have seen numerous efforts at school and village level to continue the learning of students. When schools were forced to close and no assistance was possible from outside, various steps at local level ie- mohalla pathshala, teaching students by painting the walls of the houses etc played significant role in continuation of learning and toward minimizing the learning loss and educational gap. Actually, localisation assists in making system more resilient to achieve its objective in all circumstances.

### Conclusion

Education is force for sustainable development, nation building and peace. Localizing the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy and cater the diverse need of people across the country. There can not be "one size, fits all" approach to achieve the objective of universal quality education. SDG India Index compare the performance of states on various SDGs. There is further need to localise the SDG index at district and village level. It will induce and encourage them for formulation of policies, implementation and measuring the performances to achieve the SDG at their level. Localisation will enhance our capabilities at mass level. Achieving the SDG for education will spur the attainment of all other goals by 2030, when world would be better place to live in.

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# Revamped National Panchayat Awards

\* Dr. Bijaya Kumar Behera



## 1 Background:

1.1 Panchayats play a pivotal role in implementing flagship schemes/programmes for attainment of SDGs. Incentivizing the Panchayats and conferring awards on them is an integral part of creating a healthy and competitive ecosystem for holistic implementation of developmental plans. Therefore, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been incentivizing the best performing Panchayats through National Panchayat Awards under the Incentivization of Panchayats scheme, one of the central components of Centrally Sponsored scheme of revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). These awards are usually given annually on 24<sup>th</sup> April, celebrated as National Panchayati Raj Day as the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 came into force with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1993.

1.2 The Ministry released the report on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) through Panchayati Raj Institutions prepared by an Expert Committee. The Committee in its report has identified 9 themes aggregating 17 SDGs for action at local (Gram Panchayat) level as a way forward for attainment of SDGs by the year 2030. These 9 themes are (i) Poverty free and enhanced livelihoods village, (ii) Healthy village, (iii) Child friendly village, (iv) Water sufficient village, (v) Clean and Green village, (vi) Self-sufficient infrastructure in village, (vii) Socially secured village, (viii) Village with good governance and (ix) Women-friendly village.

## 2. Rationale:

To nudge PRIs for a systematic planning, implementation, monitoring and accountability towards achieving SDGs at the Panchayat level and for participating in the various eco-social development programmes on 29 subjects listed in Part-IX of the Constitution for ensuring economic development and social justice, the National Panchayat Awards have been revamped to establish a multi-level pyramidal structure of awards competition at Block, District, State/UT and National Level aligning it with 9 LSDGs themes with the aim to:

- Assess the performance of PRIs in attainment of SDGs through 9 identified themes
- Promote competitive spirit among PRIs
- Catalyze the process of 'Localization of SDGs through PRIs' and sensitizing the PRIs about significance of attaining LSDG by 2030.

## 3. Process/Structure/Selection:

3.1 The revamped National Panchayat Awards will provide a platform to all the panchayats to participate in all the 9 award themes. All the panchayats will be ranked based on their performance under each theme. Their performance will be assessed by block level thematic committees and 3 top ranking GPs will be recommended for district level competition. Further district and State/UT will also assess and recommend the 3 top ranking GPs under each theme for national level competition. The selection committees at various levels will be engaging nodal Departments/Ministries for assessing the performance of GPs.

3.2 Thematic Selection Committees for each theme at respective levels will select the awardee Panchayats. States/UTs can felicitate and award the Block, District and State/UT level awardees in cash or kind for providing motivation to Panchayats.

## 4. Questionnaires for Responses

Questionnaires for each theme have been developed by MoPR in consultation with Ministries/Department and States/UTs for assessing and ranking all Gram Panchayats across the country.

\* Economic Advisor, Ministry of Panchayati Raj

## 5. Participation by PRIs:

Under the revamped system, all (around 2.56 lakhs) GPs and similar level traditional local bodies have to participate under all 9 thematic award.

## 6. Categories of Awards:

6.1 Awards at National Level will be given to Gram, Block and District Panchayats under two categories namely:

i. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (for individual theme-wise performance).

ii. Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (for aggregate performance under all the themes).

6.2 Apart from this, the following special categories of awards are also to be considered:

i. Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar for adoption and usage of renewable sources of energy.

ii. Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar for exemplary work towards achieving Net-Zero carbon emissions.

iii. Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar for GPs which qualifies and gets shortlisted for National Panchayat Awards during the subsequent years also.

iv. Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar for Institutions who have provided institutional support to GPs in achieving LSDGs

v. Best Participating State/UT/District/Block Panchayat.

## 7. Standard Operating Procedure for Awards :

7.1 Ministry has prepared and shared the following documents with States UTs:

- Standard Operating Procedure (SoP), with timelines for Cascading Mode of Orientation of State/UT, District and Block level Officials regarding revamped awards and Monitoring online questionnaire filling process by Gram Panchayats.

- SoP on technical aspect relating to application/data entry on National Panchayat Awards portal

7.2 To provide orientation on Revamped National Panchayat Award application process to States/UTs officials from line departments, who will further percolate it till Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in a cascade mode, a National Write-shop on Preparedness of Road Map for Revamped National Panchayat Award was organized during 16-18th August, 2022, in New Delhi. During this event, National Media Strategy on popularization and publicity of the whole award system for large scale participation was also presented to enable States/UTs to formulate the same at their level.

## 8. Awards Portal:

The National Panchayat Awards Portal ([www.panchayataaward.gov.in](http://www.panchayataaward.gov.in)) will provide platform for :

- Application for awards by Panchayats

- Monitoring the orientations and Questionnaire filling at various levels (National, States/UT, District and Block)

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# Journey towards Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Panchayats

\* Dr. Bijaya Kumar Behera

1. India is a signatory to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and committed towards their achievement. NITI Aayog is the Nodal institution for implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). NITI Aayog prepared SDG India Index using National Indicator Framework data. Different ministries and their schemes are mapped with SDGs and targets.

2. Given that nearly 70% of India lives in rural areas, attainment of Sustainable Development Goals at National level will require actions at the grassroots level through Panchayati Raj Institutions. Hence role of Panchayati Raj Institutions especially Gram Panchayats is very crucial in localizing the SDGs.

3. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has evolved a thematic approach towards SDG whereby 9 themes have been developed. Each of these themes covers several SDGs.

Theme	Related SDGs	Theme	Related SDGs
1. Poverty Free Village and Enhanced Livelihood	SDG 1: No Poverty SDG 2: Zero Hunger SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being SDG 4: Quality Education SDG 5: Gender Equality SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 13: Climate Action SDG 15: Life on Land	5. Clean and Green Village	SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Assumption SDG 13: Climate Action SDG 14: Life Below Water SDG 15: Life on Land
2. Healthy Village	SDG 2: Zero Hunger SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being SDG 4: Quality Education SDG 5: Gender Equality SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Assumption	6. Self Sufficient Infrastructure Gram Panchayat	SDG 1: No Poverty SDG 2: Zero Hunger SDG 4: Quality Education SDG 5: Gender Equality SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
3. Child Friendly Village	SDG 1: No Poverty SDG 2: Zero Hunger SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being SDG 4: Quality Education SDG 5: Gender Equality	7. Socially Secured Village	SDG 1: No Poverty SDG 2: Zero Hunger SDG 5: Gender Equality SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
4. Water Sufficient Village	SDG 1: No Poverty SDG 2: Zero Hunger SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being SDG 4: Quality Education SDG 5: Gender Equality SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Assumption SDG 13: Climate Action SDG 14: Life Below Water SDG 15: Life on Land	8. Good Governance	SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
		9. Women Friendly Village	SDG 1: No Poverty SDG 2: Zero Hunger SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being SDG 4: Quality Education SDG 5: Gender Equality SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

4. Adopting a thematic approach will enable easy understanding; acceptance & implementation by Panchayats with community involvement.

5. Each of these themes covers several SDGs, which in turn mapped to different ministries & schemes, adopting a thematic approach. Therefore, it will lead to convergence of resources and augment their availability at Panchayat level.

6. Series of interventions as mentioned below have been made to take forward the process of Localization of SDGs that cover working together with Central Ministries, State Governments, UN Agencies, Educational Institutions, CSOs and others to bring attention to grassroots working in a continued manner:

7. The scheme of RGSA implemented from 2018-19 to 202-21 has been revamped and approved by the Government on 13.04.2022 for implementation from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2026. The focus of Revamped scheme is on re-imagining Panchayati Raj Institutions as vibrant centres of local self-governance and economic growth with special focus on localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at grassroots level adopting thematic approach.

8. Inter-Ministerial Meetings (Ministries/ Departments of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Rural Development, Women & Child Development, Education, Health & Family Welfare, Social Justice & Empowerment, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries, New & Renewable Energy and Land Resources) with the concerned Central Ministries organized for convergent efforts for the attainment of LSDGs.

9. Theme-wise Joint Advisories have been issued to the States by MoPR along with concerned Central Ministries/Departments for convergent activities for taking forward LSDGs.

10. Joint Resolution has also been signed by the 26 Departments of 21 Ministries to work together for LSDGs in rural India, truly embodying the Whole of Government Approach.

11. Four Regional workshops aimed at understanding level of preparedness of States/ UTs and Plan of Action for the time bound interventions on Localization of SDGs were organised in hybrid mode.

12. Meetings have been organised with UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and WHO) for their support in the respective domain in LSDGs. Further, Statement of Understanding (SoU) was signed with these agencies during AKAM for collaborative works in LSDGs at grossroot level.

\* Economic Advisor, Ministry of Panchayati Raj

13. 8 Thematic Committees have been constituted by MoPR for developing the training materials.
- Developing robust data sharing mechanism
  - Revising guidelines and format of GPDP to make it LSDGs oriented
  - Preparing Panchayat Development Index (PDI)
  - Revisiting National Capacity Building framework prepared in 2014 to make it LSDGs oriented
  - Training Modules on thematic areas LSDGs
  - Core Committee on mainstreaming LSDGs through Panchayat



14. Ministry celebrated the Iconic Week under AzadiKaAmritMahotsav from 11-17th April, 2022 with a strong focus on Localization of SDGs. It involved the participation of Line Ministers, State Panchayati Raj Departments and SIRDs, nominated Elected Representatives (ERs) of PRIs and Traditional Local Bodies (TLBs), UN Agencies, Academic Institutions, Domain Experts and other stakeholders from across the country, truly embodying Whole of Government and Whole of Society Approach.

15. Ministry requested the States/UTs to organise special Gram Sabha on 24th April, 2022 on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day wherein 'Sankalp' to be taken for the saturation of 1 to 3 themes.

16. A workshop was organized at NIRD&PR on 30-31 May, 2022 with 11 States in the area of SDGs on cross-sharing of ideas on preparing the roadmap & plan of action towards LSDGs.

17. 3 Days National Write-Shop has been organised on preparation of State Plan of Action and Roadmap on LSDGs through Panchayats on 4th-6th July, 2022 with all States /UTs

18. 2 Days National Workshop on LSDGs through thematic approach focus on Theme 6: Village with Self Sufficient Infrastructure has been organised at Chandigarh, Punjab, on Theme 4&5 : Water Sufficient & Clean Village at Pune, Punjab and on Theme 1: Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihood Village has been organised at Ernalulam, Kerala.

19. MoPR has also advised states for assigning 5 GPs to each of the faculty members in SIRDs/ETCs/PRTCs/SPRCs/DPRCs/BPRCs etc. to provide handholding/mentoring support to the Panchayats for the attainment of themes taken as Sankalp through GPDPs.

20. GPDP Guideline has been revised through the lens of integration of thematic approach in the planning process.

21. Features of Egramsaraj portal has been revised to highlight the activities in align to themes of LSDGs.

22. People's Plan Campaign launched with focus on integration of themes in the preparation of GPDP.

**Way Forward: -**

1. National Workshop on LSDGs through thematic approaches would be organised in different parts of the country.
2. State Action Plan & Roadmap on LSDGs will be developed and launch in the National Workshop.

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## 2 Days National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) through thematic approach in Panchayat

### Theme 6: - Village with Self Sufficient Infrastructure 22nd and 23rd August, 2022, Chandigarh, Punjab



#### Village with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure

**Overview-** Ministry of Panchayati Raj is anchoring the process of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) in PRIs. To this end, it has been our endeavor to bring together different stakeholders at one forum in a 'Whole of Government

& Whole of Society' approach. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has adopted a thematic approach for the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) at the grassroots level through empowering Panchayats and other relevant stakeholders in Rural Areas. Following are the themes for Localization of Sustainable Development Goals



- Theme 1: Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods in Village
- Theme 2: Healthy Village
- Theme 3: Child-Friendly Village
- Theme 4: Water Sufficient Village
- Theme 5: Clean and Green Village
- Theme 6: Village with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure
- Theme 7: Socially Secured and Socially Just Village
- Theme 8: Village with Good Governance
- Theme 9: Women Friendly Village

#### • Piyali Roy Chowdhury

Panchayat plays a pivotal role in different developmental challenges like poverty, public health, nutrition, education, gender, sanitation, drinking water, livelihood generation etc which are in sync with SDGs. Hence, Panchayats are identified as key players in localization of SDGs adopting the 9 thematic approaches for good governance.

At this onset, 2-Day National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) in Panchayats through Thematic Approaches on Theme 6: -Village with Self Sufficient Infrastructure has been organised at Punjab from 22nd and 23rd August, 2022. Representatives from all States/ UTs have participated in the National Workshop. 1300 Elected Representatives of Panchayats across the Country have been exposed to various best practices & innovative models in delivering basic services through developing self-sufficient infrastructure in the areas of Roads, Drinking Water, Sanitation, Streetlights, Schools, Health Centers, Common Service centers, Local Markets, Anganwadi Center, Livestock aid centre and Community Center.



**Objective of the Workshop:** -States / UTs have exhibited exemplary strategies, approaches, convergent actions and innovative models in the context to capacity building & training; best practices;

\* Consultant Thematic Expert, CB Division, Ministry of Panchayati Raj

monitoring framework, incentivization and reflection of themes of SDGs into Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

**Outcome of the Workshop:** -The workshop would have been provided a platform for the peer learning of Panchayats on various models to institutionalize the process of LSDGs through the lens thematic approach at grassroots level. Further, it will provide an opportunity of exchange of information/ideas through international organization and exchange programmes in local governance.

Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Hon'ble Minister of State, Panchayati Raj, Shri Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Panchayats and Cabinet Ministers of the State of Punjab, Secretary, MoPR, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Chief Secretary, Punjab, Financial Commissioner, Joint Secretary, MoPR and other senior Officials graced the program with remarkable views on impetus the process of localization of sustainable development goals in Panchayats through institutionalized the thematic approach by adopting different technology and innovative models for delivery of basic services to the villagers.



street lights and sanitation for ease of living. Short films covering good practices on various aspects of self-sufficient infrastructures were shared by Elected Representatives of the Gram Panchayat. Sarpanch / President of Gram Panchayat got an opportunity to exchange the good cases with other Panchayat representatives with an objective to replicate the innovative models at village levels.



In the workshop, a few initiatives taken by the State of Punjab in LSDGs have been launched by the dignitaries to keep the momentum of the process such as SDG Anthem; State Rural Livelihood Mission Website; Prime Mobile App; SDG Brochure and Gram Sabha Booklet.

Different Gram Panchayats of Punjab have shared their best practices in regards to strategies & approaches adopted; capacity building of different stakeholders; adoption of technology & models and convergent mapping with funds/ schemes and human resources in building self-sufficient infrastructure to ensure quality delivery of services in the sectors of health; drinking water; education; common service center; roads; connectivity; Local markets, recreational centers;



Name of the Gram Panchayat shown best practices are mentioned below: -

Sector	Gram Panchayat
Education	Sanghol
Health	Rurka Kalan, Jalandhar.
Water Supply & Sanitation	Sangrur.
ICDS / AWC	S.B.S Nagar

Exhibitions stalls on different handicrafts; cottage industries and rural enterprises were put up by Self Help Group (SHG), SRLM of Punjab. SHG members exhibited different farm & non-farm products for the promotion of local entrepreneurship skills.



Representatives from Gram Panchayats of different States shared their case studies with a focus on innovative models & strategies and the application of modern technology to strengthen good governance with self-sufficient infrastructures. Short films/movies were shown by the Sarpanch of the GP highlighting the mechanisms to localise SDGs in rural areas.

Cultural Night was organized to depict the rich culture, traditional folks of Punjab. The event has thrown the lights on various heritage and cultural richness through songs; dance and boliyan.



To take forward: -

- a. Platform for exchanging the best practices adopted by the Gram Panchayat in the institutionalization of LSDGs in Rural Areas through thematic approach
  - b. Transformation in skills and knowledge through the development of confidence of the Gram Panchayat.
  - c. Repository / Archive of the Best Practices
  - d. Capacity Building of the Gram Panchayat through the lens of LSDGs
  - e. Mela or Sangam of Elected Representatives in one Forum.
  - f. Portrait of Local Traditions & Cultures through handicrafts and rural artisans.
- Consultant Thematic Expert, CB Division, Ministry of Panchayati Raj

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# National Workshop on Poverty-Free Gram Panchayats: A Cross-Learning Platform for Stakeholders

• **Suddhasattwa Barik<sup>1</sup> and Priyanka Dutta<sup>2</sup>**



सशक्त पंचायत सतत् विकास

A National Workshop on 'Theme - 1: Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihood Gram Panchayats' hosted by MoPR in collaboration with the Local Self-Governments Department (LSGD), and Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA),

Government of Kerala held during 14th – 16th November 2022 at CIAL-Convention Centre, Kochi, Kerala. The objectives mostly emphasized:



● Promoting and advocating Theme 1: Poverty-free and Enhanced Livelihood Gram Panchayats among stakeholders.

● Providing a platform for the peer learning of PRI members on various models to institutionalize the process of LSDGs through the lens thematic approach at the grassroots.

● Encouraging different stakeholders to exchange of information, ideas, and actions for strengthening local governance.

● Exhibiting the seminal and exemplary strategies, approaches, address convergent actions, and innovative models in context to capacity-building training; best practices on theme-specific issues and concerns; monitoring framework, incentivization and reflection of themes of SDGs into GPDP.

Out of the 3-day event, the first two days comprises sessions of panel discussions. A total of seven sessions including the inaugural session were designed to address the major aspects of Poverty Alleviation in rural areas. Each panel comprises ERs and EWRs from the Best Performing GPs, Functionaries and Self-Help Group (SHGs) members, government officials, domain experts, NGOs, UN Agencies, Academic Institutions and Financial Institutions as panellists chaired by respective Secretaries of concerned Ministries and Department. The session details are:

- Inaugural Session.
- Addressing Marginalisation – Inclusion and Multi-dimensional Poverty.
- Realizing the potential of SHGs for Income Enhancement and Community Development.
- Livelihoods – The Role of Panchayats in Addressing Income Poverty.
- Safety Net for Social, Economic and Environmental Protection through Panchayats.
- Best Practices on Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihood GPs from the State of Kerala.
- Way Forward.



Panel Discussion Session

Learning from previous experiences it has been observed that a more interactive, effective, and engaging mode of communication tool is required in organising such workshops for disseminating information to a greater audience in a short duration of time.

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<sup>2</sup>Consultant (RGSA-NPMU) in the Capacity Building (CB) Division, Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

For which, instead of a common PowerPoint presentation, a 2–3-minute video documentary presentation on the specific issues of the theme catering to the need of the clientele from each stakeholder has been used. This is followed by a question-and-answer session among the stakeholders and panellists stimulating a chain of a cross-cultural learning environment. This in turn enhances the leadership capacities among PRI stakeholders and motivates them to share their first-hand experience.



The third day of the National Workshop was designated to the Field/Exposure Visits of the Participants – ERs, EWRs Functionaries, and PRI Officials and SHG members from the States/UTs to 42 best-performing GPs under Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihood Theme across the Districts of Kerala.

A total of 50 exhibition stalls were set up by SHG groups under the Kudumbashree initiative in the State of Kerala along with groups from other States during the two days of the National Workshop. The stalls exhibit the products produced by the SHGs including raw materials, food products, home decor, spices, clothing, jewellery, tourism, artefacts, etc.

#### Targeted Stakeholders:

The purpose of the workshop is to disseminate information and knowledge of the LSDGs thematic approach till the last miles at the grassroots. Therefore, the primary stakeholders of the workshop are ERs, GP Secretaries and SHG members. The secondary stakeholders are government officials, domain experts, NGOs, INGOs, Academic Institutions, and Financial Institutions. The tertiary stakeholder is the national and regional media. So, the 'Whole of Ecology' Approach for rural development through PRIs could be achieved.

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#### Observations: Identification and Addressing the Issues

The workshop served as a platform for sharing best practices adopted by different GPs and Traditional Local Bodies (TLBs) across the country in eradicating multi-dimensional poverty in their respective areas. It also enhanced the capacities of the elected representatives through field visits to learn and replicate the initiative adopted by the GPs of Kerala. Hence the key observations from the Workshop are as follows:

#### Addressing Marginalisation:

- Using locally available low-cost materials for affordable housing for marginalised communities.
- Digital literacy ensuring access to various services through online platforms by vulnerable groups.
- Generation OSR for assisting welfare programmes.

#### Access to Basic Health Care and Education:

- Provision of palliative care for marginalised and vulnerable communities, especially the ageing population.
- Undertaking a life cycle approach for health care of pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Adopting a convergent schematic approach in alleviating multidimensional poverty by ensuring health facilities and access to primary education and its regular monitoring.

#### Employment Generation and Augmenting Income:

- Augmenting income through solar energy generation.



- Enhancing income of farmers by building infrastructural facilities, and machinery to improve farm and non-farm productivity and marketing.
- SHGs' involvement in handicraft and handloom and traditional artisan for livelihoods promotion.
- Food processing, storage, and marketing of products by SHG members.

#### Socio-Economic and Environmental Protection:

- Awareness raising, identification of beneficiaries and monitoring the implementation of the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) schemes.
- Generating sustainable livelihood, preventing out-migration, economic protection of vulnerable communities and environmental protection through MGNREGS.
- Active people participation in Disaster Management Plan preparation and its integration into GPDP.
- Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP) preparation and its integration with GPDP.
- PRI linkages with Academic and Financial Institutions of IIT, and NABARD for technical and technical assistance and financial support for tapping potential sources of income generation.
- Convergent action by NGOs, citizens and government in revising dying ecosystems to sustainable livelihood opportunities.

#### Intended Outcomes:

The main objective of the workshop was to ensure greater awareness and dissemination of the themes till the last mile to achieve the UN Agenda 2030. Based on this, the intended outcomes of the workshop are expected:

- Leadership enhancement through decision-making power among ERs especially EWRs and SHG members for preparing thematic GPDP.
- Creating a pool of Change-maker for local area development.
- PRI-SHG convergence for OSR generation, employment generation and entrepreneurship development through schematic convergent approach and community involvement.
- Awareness generation of the masses on a thematic approach through popularising the LSDG logo.

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# eGramSwaraj and Audit Online of Ministry of Panchayati Raj wins GOLD AWARD under the National Awards for e-Governance



e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (eGramSwaraj and AuditOnline) of Ministry of Panchayati Raj has won the GOLD AWARD under the category "Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation" of the National Awards for e-Governance.

The award is a recognition of the excellent and exemplary work done by Team eGovernance and supported by Team NIC-MoPR.

The prestigious National Award was handed over to Shri Alok Prem Nagar, Joint Secretary, MoPR by Union MoS, Dr. Jitendra Singh during the 25th National Conference on e-Governance at Jammu on 26th November 2022. .

Various stakeholders, especially Panchayati Raj Institutions which adopted e-Panchayat applications very fast, have helped in making the e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project successful by strengthening the Panchayati Raj System and making it effective, transparent and efficient.



## Dr. Balan Honored With Mahatma Gandhi International Award



Ela Gandhi, Chairperson of Gandhi Development Trust, Durban, South Africa felicitated to Dr. P.P.Balan with Mahatma Gandhi International Award for peace and reconciliation (2020) at Phoenix settlement in Durban, South Africa.

Dr. P. P. Balan, Consultant, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has won the Mahatma Gandhi International Award for peace and reconciliation (2020). This award is constituted by Gandhi Development Trust, Durban and presented to Dr. P. P. Balan at a function conducted at Phoenix settlement in Durban, South Africa on October 2, 2022 by the chairperson of the Trust, Ela Gandhi. The citation presented to him reads, "In recognition of his outstanding work in the promotion of peace, human rights and justice carried out with the highest degree of integrity, humanity and compassion towards the capacity building and empowerment of village communities to participate in local government structures thereby enabling them to play a constructive role in delivering government services at the local level with integrity and diligence and ensuring inclusivity of all marginalised groupings". Earlier this award was given to National leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Dalai Lama, Kenneth Kaunda etc.

but this time the organisers selected a person working with the Panchayat under the impression that actual peace starts from the local community. The initiatives taken at the community level through development activities can bring good results for a peaceful co-existence, the Committee assessed.

Dr. Balan's contribution in this regard was counted for the award. Dr. Balan served as the Director of KILA for a period of 11 years and also served 5 years full term as Chapparappdavu Gram Panchayat President (1995-2000). As a Panchayat President he introduced innovative programs in the Panchayat – micro hydel project, total housing scheme water conservation programs and litigation free panchayats are a few among them. With people's participation a number of activities were carried out in the Panchayat. The people's bridge, people's bus terminal, pupil's playground are some of them.

### (A) People's Bridge:-

The story of the peoples bridge says much about peoples participation in the development activities of the Panchayat. There flows a river which divides the Panchayat in two. People depend on ferry service for crossing the other side. It was difficult time for the villagers as there was only a small canoe for transportation. The river was of 150 meters breadth and two to three meters depth.

The grievances of the people couldn't be solved for a long time. Because of mounting of pressure, a resolution was passed by the Panchayat asking the State Government for the construction of concrete bridge to solve the issue.



As the expenditure comes around more than five crores, Panchayats could not do anything on this. Because of financial issues the State Government also did not allocate any fund. The issue was discussed in the Gram Sabha where elders attending the meeting put the idea of constructing a wooden bridge using local technology. Beneficiary Committees were constituted and the work began on November 1, 1996, the day Kerala's State was created. The activities began in a campaign mode. People's collected stump of coconut trees from far and wide which served as pillars for bridge. The coconut trunk was stuck beneath the river using local technology. After that a footpath was erected. Hundreds of volunteers joined hand in hand for the construction of the bridge voluntarily not even a single penny was spent by the Panchayat day and night people worked and on November 15, 1996, the bridge was opened for the villagers in a festive atmosphere. This bridge became a centre of attraction. It was highlighted as the product of People's campaign for IX plan, in Kerala. It became the best example of people's participation. People from far and wide visited the bridge to know its technology and community involvement. Visitors from foreign Countries were also impressed to see it. The 'Z' magazine from America published a cover story of the bridge under the caption 'power to the Malayalee People'. The people's bridge sends some important message :

- If there is People's participation expenditure can be minimised to a great extent.
- The bridge is the best example of no cost activity.
- Perfection in the completion of work
- Maximum utilisation of resources
- Ownership of the people
- Use of local technology and knowledge
- A demand from Gram Sabha was materialised with in a short period of one month.

### (B) Litigation free Panchayats :-

Even if the Panchayat has no judicial powers a committee was set up for dispute resolution in which many of the cases pending even with the high court were brought back and settled amicably through conciliation. The Panchayat focussed on environmental protection and Chapparapavedu became the first panchayat which has prepared Bio diversity register.

### (C) Micro Hydel Project :-

The Panchayat generated electricity by establishing a micro hydel project and provided electricity to 25 households. This was against the existing law. But as a Panchayat has done it, it became the duty of the government to give sanction to it as it is a People's project.

Government later amended the act in favour of the Panchayats allowing them to generate electricity with conditions. This event shows that Panchayats, as local governments can place its hand on any of the developmental activities they want to do. The Government of Kerala awarded the Panchayat with Swaraj trophy in recognition for its achievements in various fields in 1997.

Dr. Balan also served as the Director of Kerala Institute of Local Administration (2002-2007 and 2011-2017). During this period massive training programs – beginning from Gram Sabha members upto the level of MPs and MLAs were organised. The training given to political party leaders on Panchayati Raj is worth notable. Different political party leaders sitting shoulder to shoulder and discussing on local development is a rare scene. The message is clear nobody can be left out in the whole spectrum of Panchayati Raj. KILA also started national and international courses on decentralisation where elected representatives and officials from South and East Asia and African countries participated.

As the media has to give a pro active support in favour of decentralisation they were also sensitised. Higher secondary school students of the States were given orientation on Panchayati Raj as they are at the voting age for Panchayat elections. Nearly, 34,00,000 Gram Sabha members were sensitized within a short span of 2 months. Organising Certificate course programs, for elected representatives to make them master trainers has been another initiative.

The capacity building was all inclusive leaving nobody behind. Dr. Balan also served as Adviser to the Government of Nepal and Sri Lanka. The Eastern province pradesiya Sabhas of Sri Lanka have prepared GPDP in the same model of the Plan prepared by the Panchayats in India.

Considering all the above aspects, the award judging committee reached a consensus that 2020 Year's Gandhi Peace Award should go to a person worked at the local level. They constituted a search Committee and the Committee after its 6 months of enquiry and assessment unanimously found the person i.e. Dr. P. P. Balan presently working as Senior Consultant in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, New Delhi. Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj in a reception given to Dr. Balan said that this award is not only an award for an individual but also the one for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.



#### Felicitation at Ministry of Panchayati Raj :

Ministry of Panchayati Raj organised a felicitation function on 21st October 2022 to felicitate Dr. P. P. Balan, on receiving the 'Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Peace and Reconciliation'. Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj & other senior officers of Ministry congratulated Dr. Balan on being conferred this award in recognition of his contribution towards strengthening the Panchayati Raj system in India and thereby promoting the cause of peace and harmony among the community.

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## MoS, Panchayati Raj Shri Patil inaugurates the National Workshop on Project Driven Block Panchayat Development Plan and District Panchayat Development Plan



The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India organized a two-day National Workshop on Project Driven Block Panchayat Development Plan (BPDP) and District Panchayat Development Plan (DPDP) during 5 – 6 January, 2023 in New Delhi.

The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj in the presence of Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Dr. S. M. Vijayanand, Former Secretary, MoPR, Dr. Bala Prasad, Former Special Secretary, MoPR and Shri Alok Prem Nagar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayat Raj. More than 650 delegates including elected representatives and functionaries of District Panchayats and Block Panchayats from across the country and representatives of various line Ministries/ Departments and different organisations/ institutions such as NABARD, IRMA, UNICEF etc. were attended the two-day workshop.

Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil extended best wishes to the participants while addressing the two-day National Workshop and said that the National Workshop is being organized at an appropriate time – at dawn of the New Year – initiate planning process for all-round development of rural areas taking everyone along in

the spirit of Sabka Saath–Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas–Sabka Prayas. It should be our collective resolution to contribute to the nation building and development by working at the District, Block and Gram Panchayat level.

Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil called for concerted efforts by all stakeholders to localize and realize the Sustainable Development Goals in rural areas through Panchayati Raj Institutions in a well-coordinated manner. The three-tier Panchayats should accord highest priority for the development of villages and rural areas by creating all the basic amenities and providing all the facilities / opportunities available in urban cities for bridging the urban–rural divide.

Technical Session on Project-Driven BPDP and DPDP was chaired by Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj. He underlined that the resources being made available to the Panchayati Raj Institutions by the Central Government are continuously improving and the grants for Rural Local Bodies included the Block and District Panchayats as per recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.

Presentation on analysis of BPDP and DPDP was made by Shri Alok Prem Nagar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayat Raj.

## Ministry of Panchayati Raj organizes two days Smart Village Panchayat Conference on 'Empowering Rural Communities; Leaving No One Behind' in Lucknow

Panchayati Raj Institutions have come a long way in adapting to technological advancements leading to greater transparency, responsibility and accountability : **Shri Giriraj Singh**



To support the 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' vision at the third tier of Government i.e., Panchayats, by the means of technology, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has organized the two-day Smart Village Panchayat Conference on '**Empowering Rural Communities; Leaving No One Behind**' in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from 15-16 September 2022.

The inaugural session of the national level conference today was led by Union Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Giriraj Raj Singh, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath and Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil.

In his inaugural address, Shri Giriraj Singh said that Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have come a long way in adapting to technological advancements. While describing '**SMART Villages**', he mentioned that they entail systems and processes which are driven by technology leading to greater transparency, responsibility and accountability. Shri Singh laid emphasis on the role of Central and State Governments and Elected Representative in visualising and implementing existing technologies.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Yogi Adityanath laid emphasis on the contribution of PRIs in Uttar Pradesh in driving India's aspiration of becoming a 5 trillion-dollar economy. Shri Adityanath further mentioned that Smart Village creation is directly linked with self-sufficient infrastructure, responsible citizens and behavioral changes. He stressed on availability of high-speed internet for provisioning of various government and non-government citizen centric services.

Addressing on the occasion, Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil talked about longevity of social, economic and environmental welfare at grass root level by leveraging ICT, Internet, GIS and Remote Sensing. He laid emphasis on the challenges such as demand-supply management that Panchayats shall face while adapting to digital infrastructure, growing population and inevitable rapid urbanization.

A book on 'Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDG), Launch of e-learning module' was released on this occasion.



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