



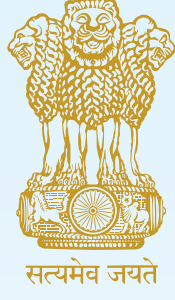
भारत सरकार
पंचायती राज मंत्रालय
Government of India
Ministry of Panchayati Raj



EMPOWERING PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS

Know your Roles
Rights Responsibilities & Duties

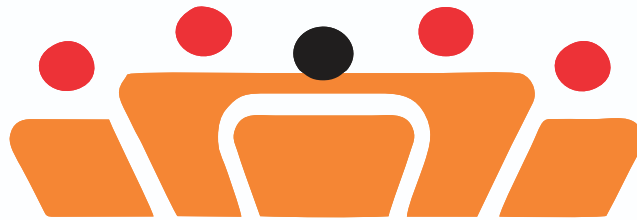




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PANCHAYATI RAJ

PART -1

Role & Responsibilities and Powers & Duties of Panchayat

The Government of India took a revolutionary step by making Panchayati Raj Institutions as part of the Constitution through the 73rd amendment. The 73rd constitutional amendment to the Constitution conferring constitutional status to various Tiers of Panchayats has delineated powers and functions to them. The amendment contains the provision for devolution of powers and responsibilities to the panchayats with respect to preparation of plans and implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice in relation to the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. In the three-tier structure of the Panchayati Raj system, Gram Panchayat is the lowest unit. There is a Gram Panchayat for each village or a group of villages. The next tier of the Panchayati Raj system is the Intermediate Panchayat set up at the block level.

In this informative booklet, an attempt has been made to compile the roles, rights, responsibilities and duties of the Panchayats and their elected representatives and the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj to empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions.



1. Duties of the Gram Panchayats

As per the constitutional provisions Gram Panchayat shall function as a unit of self-government for achieving the goal of human development including social and economic development and securing social justice for all, and shall, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed or such directions as may be given by the State Government.

Subject to the State Specific Panchayati Raj Acts, the Village Panchayats led by the Sarpanch/President/Chairperson (Panchayat Head) perform 4 categories of duties viz; Obligatory, Transferred, Regulatory and Complementary.

1.1 Obligatory Duties of a Gram Panchayat

(i) Preparation of Plans :

- Prepare a development plan for the five-year term of office. Revise and update it as and when necessary based on available resources.
- Prepare a development plan for each year for the works proposed to be done during the following year in furtherance of its objectives.
- Implementation of schemes.

(ii) Gram Panchayat may implement schemes as drawn up in the annual plan or as may be entrusted upon or transferred to or devolved upon for :

- Promotive and preventive health care, reproductive and child health care, improvement of nutritional standards, community health management including maintenance and upgradation of sub-centres and dispensaries.
- Pre-school education and primary education including enrolment of children in schools, containment of drop-outs, spread of literacy campaigns, continuing education for adults and those out of schools and similar other schemes.
- Development of women and children, empowerment of women, formation and facilitation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), schemes for micro-finance and other activities for flow of credit for taking up income generating and other developmental activities.
- Social welfare including welfare of backward classes, weaker sections & persons with disabilities.
- Development of livestock including vaccination of animals against epidemic and implementation of artificial insemination programme.
- Promotion of agriculture including irrigation facilities and motivation of farmers for augmenting crop yield, introduction of new crop including selection of beneficiaries for distribution of seeds, bio-fertilizers, pesticides, farm machinery, plant protection equipment and other agricultural implements.
- Development of fisheries involving improvement of tank, harvesting, netting, excavation of tanks, testing soil and water, supply of mini-kits and introduction of various improved practices.
- Promotion of small-scale and cottage industries and welfare of artisans.

- Identification and selection of beneficiaries for distribution of ration cards, monitoring distribution of food grains through public distribution system.
- Construction of percolation tanks, field channels, maintaining minor irrigation schemes, collection of water charges through user committees for new projects handed over to Gram Panchayat.
- Water management, soil conservation and watershed development.
- Construction and maintenance of tube-wells, wells, tanks and cleansing and disinfecting the sources of storage and supply of water.
- Construction, maintenance and repair of public streets and protection thereof.
- Extension of social forestry and farm forestry including plantation of trees and distribution of saplings and promotion of fuel and fodder cultivation.
- Maintenance of environmental sanitation including promotion and management of solid and liquid waste and prevention of public nuisance.

(iii) A Gram Panchayat shall not omit or refuse to act upon any recommendations of Gram Sabha relating to prioritization of any list of beneficiaries or schemes or programmes so far as it relates to the area of the Gram Sabha unless it decides in a meeting, for reasons to be recorded in writing, that such recommendations are not acceptable or implementable under the provisions of the Act or any rule, order or direction there under :

Provided that if the Gram Panchayat decides that any recommendations are not acceptable or implementable under the provisions of the Act or any rule, order or direction there under, its decision shall be immediately communicated for placing it in the next meeting of the Gram Sabha.

1.2 Transferred Duties of a Gram Panchayat

(i) A Gram Panchayat shall :

- Undertake execution of any scheme including schemes relating to employment generation, performance of any act or management of any institution or organization entrusted to it or devolved on it by the State Government or by any other authority with the approval of the State Government.
- Manage or maintain any work of public utility or any institution vested in it or transferred to it for management and control.
- Perform such other functions as the State Government may, by order, transfer to it or entrust upon it or devolve on it from time to time.

(ii) If the State Government is of the opinion that a Gram Panchayat has persistently made default in the performance of any of the functions assigned to it or entrusted or devolved upon it, the State Government may, after recording its reasons, withdraw such function from such Gram Panchayat and assign or entrust or

devolve such function upon Intermediate Panchayat having jurisdiction till a reconstituted Gram Panchayat is elected and starts functioning.

1.3 Regulatory Duties of a Gram Panchayat

(i) Subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, a Gram Panchayat shall, within its jurisdiction :

- Accord permission for erection of new structure or new building or addition to any structure or building to prevent unplanned growth and to protect ambience.
- Assess, impose and collect taxes, rates or fees leviable under this Act.
- Make registration of running trade unless such trade or registration of such trade is prohibited under any other law for the time being in force.
- Make registration of the vehicle other than the vehicle required to be registered under the Motor Vehicles Act.
- Make registration of shallow or deep tube-wells fitted with motor driven pump sets, installed for irrigation and used for commercial purposes.
- Make registration of births and deaths occurring in the area.
- Undertake control, management and administration of the Gram Panchayat Fund established under this Act.
- Exercise control over employees of the Gram Panchayat.
- Adopt measures for relief of the distressed, destitute and infirm.
- Provide for prevention of water logging and drainage of rain water.
- Undertake preventive measures to control spread of epidemics.
- Undertake protection and repair any building or other property vested in it.
- Establish ferry ghat and manage and control ferries.
- Establish and maintain crematorium and cremation ground.
- Control eating places and enforce hygienic practices.
- Maintain street lighting.
- Perform such other functions as may be transferred to it or devolved upon it by the State Government.



1.4 Complementary Duties of a Gram Panchayat

A Gram Panchayat shall have powers to take measures for improvement of quality of life and without prejudice to the generality of the aforesaid provision, shall undertake schemes and adopt measures relating to

- Participation of people in preparing development plan and awareness generation among people on their role in development.
- Participation of people in all stages of implementation of development works.
- Enhancement of livelihood opportunities for people.
- Organizing voluntary workers for collective activities.
- Organizing campaigns against social evils like drinking, consumption of narcotics, dowry, child marriage, gender discrimination, and abuse of women and children.
- Creating legal awareness among disadvantaged sections.
- Maintenance of community assets.
- Awareness building on civic responsibilities.
- Promotion of co-operative movement and support to co-operative institutions.
- Prevention of food adulteration.
- Encouragement for consumption of bio-gas.
- Providing bathing and washing ghats.
- Construction of waiting sheds for travellers.

2. Roles and Responsibilities of a Member of Gram Panchayat

An elected member of a Gram Panchayat (popularly known as Ward Member in most States) has to play a critical role for overall development of the area of the Gram Panchayat. Therefore, she/heshould have a clear idea about her/his duties and responsibilities as a member of the Gram Panchayat. As an attempt to give an idea in this regard, a statement of roles and responsibilities is mentionedbelow. Apart from these, there might be some other duties and responsibilities and from time to time might be added to the list.

- **As an elected member of the Gram Panchayat Constituency :**
As an elected representative of the people of the Ward/Ward Sabha area, she/he should thoroughly inform herself/himself of the overall situation of the area, should listen to the problems and grievances, try to solve the problems as far as possible and also take up the issues with the Gram Panchayat for redress. The decisions of the Gram Panchayat should be discussed with the people on regular basis. It should also be kept in mind that, she/he is also the representative of the persons who have not yet been eligible for voter or who have not participated in the election.

- **As an elected member of the Gram Panchayat, the local self-government :**
 To form the Gram Panchayat as a local government along with other members, to participate in the deliberations of the general meeting of the Gram Panchayat, to encourage the villagers to participate in the Ward Sabha meetings, to bear the responsibilities entrusted to her/him by the Gram Panchayat, to convince the people for resource mobilisation etc.
- **As a member of a Standing Committee :**
 To attend the meetings of the Standing Committee and participate in the deliberations; to review the situation of her/his area in respect of the schemes taken up in the Standing Committee with reference to the Gram Panchayat; to play an appropriate role in identification and providing solution to the problems and selection of appropriate schemes; and to extend necessary support at the time of execution of works/schemes.
- **As a member of GP Planning Facilitation Team (GPPFT) for preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan(GPDP) :**
 To provide leadership in creating appropriate environment for preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) in the Ward/Ward Sabha area; to organise neighbourhood meetings, To arrange for collection and compilation of primary data in participatory process; to participate in the deliberations for situation review, analysis of problems and prospects in the workshop of the Gram Panchayat and extend necessary support in preparation of GPDP.
- **As President of Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee :**
 To take necessary action for creation of awareness about public health, sanitation, nutrition etc. and monitoring of its progress.
- **As member of School Management Committee :**
 To prevent school drop-outs, strengthen parent-teacher associations, take necessary initiatives for development of necessary infrastructure for education; monitor quality of the Mid- Day Meal programme and to take initiative for improvement of the standard of education in the area.
- **As member of the local Disaster Management Committee :**
 Preparation of plan for combating disasters; in case of any disaster, taking initiative for rescue and rehabilitation, to take initiative for arrangement of relief for the affected families, to take up awareness programmes in case of apprehension of any disaster.
- **As the President of Monitoring Committee for Anganwadi Centre :**
 -To supervise the works of the AWC regularly, to ensure that all the beneficiaries get all the benefits as per norms; to monitor the infrastructure of the AWC and in case of any deficiency, to take necessary action.
- **As a member of Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) :**
 To take initiative for management of piped water supply projects handed over to a Gram Panchayat; to take initiative for prevention of wastage of water, to properly utilise the services of the laboratories for testing drinking water, to take initiative for keeping the sources of drinking water pollution free.

- **As the President of the Child Protection Committee at the village level :**
To create awareness about children's rights in the Ward area; to take initiative against child labour, child marriage, exploitation etc. She/he should also take initiative for making the Gram Panchayat child-friendly
- **As a member of the Block Council :**
To attend the meetings of the Block Council and participate in the deliberation; to initiate proposal for inclusion of schemes in the plan of the Intermediate Panchayat which cannot be taken up by the Gram Panchayat
- **As a member of the Managing Committee of the Village Education Committee :**
To prevent school drop-outs; to take initiative for improvement of infrastructure for education; to monitor the quality of the Mid-Day Meal scheme and take initiative for improvement of the standard of education.

3. Rights of individual Elected Members in Gram Panchayats

The rights of the elected Panchayat members are as follows :

- The main responsibility of the Panchayat elected members is to represent the constituents.
- They have to involve and actively participate in planning and implementation of programmes for providing public goods and services in the Panchayat area.
- Every member of a Panchayat has the right to move a resolution in the meeting of the Gram Panchayat and Standing Committee on matters falling within the administrative jurisdiction of the Panchayat.
- He/She will have access to the records of the Panchayat in which He/She is a member after giving notice.
- Call the attention of the Panchayat regarding the needs of the people or about any issues and problems related to the work or on the matters of public importance.
- Preside over the Ward Sabha of the respective ward as & when asked for.
- The members are entitled to be granted copies of proceedings of Panchayat meetings.
- The members are expected to instill spirit of self-help and mobilize public contribution or voluntary labour in the works taken up in his/her constituency.
- They can bring to the notice of Panchayat any defect in the execution of works and also any negligence on the part of any officer in the discharge of duties.

4. Duties and Responsibilities of Sarpanch / President of Gram Panchayat Head

The following are the duties and responsibilities of the Gram Panchayat Sarpanch :

- Exercise such powers and perform duties conferred upon him/ her under the State Panchayat Acts & Rules.
- All the executive powers of the GP are vested with him /her.

- Convening the meetings of the Gram Panchayat and preside over its meetings.
- Exercise administrative control over the Panchayat Secretary / Executive officer for the purpose of implementation of the resolutions of the Gram Panchayat or of any standing committee.
- Exercise administrative supervision and control over the work of the staff of the Gram Panchayat.
- Strive to ensure that Gram Panchayat services are provided to the local community in a financially and environmentally sustainable manner.
- Have the general responsibility for the financial and executive administration of the Gram Panchayat including maintenance of records of the Gram Panchayat.
- Make arrangements for the elections of the Upa-Sarpanch within time from the date of occurrence of the vacancy.
- Have full access to the records of the Gram Panchayat.
- On behalf of the Gram Panchayat, the Sarpanch executes the documents relating to contracts.
- She/he controls and monitors the performance of the employees of the Gram Panchayat.
- In absence of the Chairperson, the Vice- Chairperson has to perform such duties.

5. Specific Roles Assigned to the Gram Panchayats

Gram panchayats have been entrusted with specific roles in execution of a large number of Flagship Programmes/ Schemes such as (1) Samagara Shikha Abhiyan, (2) Mid-Day Meal, (3) POSHAN Abhiyan/ ICDS, (4) Beti Bachao Beti Padoo / State Specific Scheme, (5) Jal Jeevan Mission, (6) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayee yojana, (7) Swachh Bharat Mission – Grameen (SBM-G), (8) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, (9) National Rural Livelihood Mission, (10) Antyodaya Anna Yojana, (11) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, (12) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, (13) Pashudhan scheme, (14) Matsaya Yojana, (15) National Health Mission, (16) Janani Surakha Yojana, (17) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, (18) Ayushman Bharat/ State Specific Scheme, (19) National Biogas and Manure Management Programme, (20) Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana, (21) Deen Dayal Upadhyays Gram Jyoti Yojana and (22) National Social Assistance Programme.

6. Chairperson of Standing Committees of the Gram Panchaya

Among the members of the Standing Committees, except the Finance

and Planning Standing Committee, there are four more Standing Committees in which four members may function as Chairpersons. The Chairpersons of the Standing Committees will have to call the meetings of the Standing Committees on regular basis and prepare sector wise plan and budget. Besides, she/he has to place the report of the Standing Committee before the general meeting of the Gram Panchayat.

7. Leader of Opposition in Gram Panchayats

Among the opposition members of the Gram Panchayat, one will function as the leader of opposition. She/he will also be a member of the Finance and Planning Standing Committee.

The main responsibility of the leader of opposition is to attend the meetings of the Finance and Planning Standing Committee and to take part in the deliberations. She/He should also extend necessary support to the Gram Panchayat in execution of the schemes with promptness, transparency, accountability and equity. It may be mentioned here in this connection that, as leader of opposition she/he should extend support to the office bearers and the employees of the Gram Panchayat in discharging their duties properly through constructive criticism.

8. Powers & Functions of Intermediate Panchayat (Block Panchayat)

8.1 Block Panchayat is the second or intermediate tier of local self-government in rural India. The Intermediate Panchayats are co-terminus with blocks of the district. These intermediate Panchayats are also called as Block Panchayat, Panchayat Samitis and Mandal Parishads etc. Usually, a Block Panchayat consists of Gram Panchayats depending on area and population. The average population of a Block Panchayat varies between 35,000 to 1, 00,000. - Each Block Panchayat is divided into Territorial Constituencies. Each Gram Panchayat under a Block Panchayat elects one members directly to the Block Panchayat.

The Gram Panchayat Sarpanch or Pradhan are ex-officio members of the Block Panchayats. The body of these members is called Block Panchayat.

8.2 General Functions of Block Panchayat

The principal function of the Block Panchayat is to co-ordinate the activities of the various Gram Panchayats within its jurisdiction. It has to instil among people within its jurisdiction, a spirit of self-help and initiative and work for raising the standard of living. The Block Panchayat also supervises the work of the Gram Panchayats and suggests measures for improving its functioning. It extends support for the implementation of development programmes. The general functions of block panchayat are as follows.

- Preparation of the annual plans in respect of the schemes entrusted to it under the relevant Act or by the government or the Zilla Panchayat and submission thereof to the Zilla Panchayat for integration with the district plan.
- Consideration and consolidation of the annual plans of all Gram Panchayats and submission of the consolidated plan to the Zilla Panchayat.
- Preparation of annual budget of the Block and its submission within the prescribed time to the Zilla Panchayat.
- Performing such functions and executing such works as may be entrusted to it by the government or the Zilla Panchayat.
- Providing relief to victims of the natural calamities.
- Pool technical expertise, both government and non-government at the Block level and provide technical services to the Gram Panchayats.
- Administer the institutions and schemes transferred to it in accordance with the State and National Policies

8.3 Sectoral Functions of Block Panchayat

The Block Panchayat is charged with the responsibility of preparing and implementing plans for the development of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, primary education and rural health etc.

8.4 Duties and Responsibilities of President of Block Panchayat

The following are the duties and responsibilities of the President of Block Panchayat :

- The executive authority of the Block Panchayat is vested with the President.
- The President convenes and preside over all meetings of the Block Panchayat and also of the standing Committees of which he is the chairman.
- Exercise administrative control over the Block Development Officer for the purposes of implementation of the resolutions of the Block Panchayat.
- Have full access to all office records.

- In case of emergency the President may in consultation with the Block development Officer can direct the execution of any work, if it is necessary for the service or safety of the general public but he has to report such action taken to the Block Panchayat at its next meeting.
- The works executed by the Block Panchayat, are inspected & checked by the President.

9. Powers & Functions of District Panchayat/ Zilla Parishad

9.1 A District Panchayat constitutes the apex body of the three-tier structure of the Panchayati Raj system. The Panchayat at the district level is called Zilla Parishad in most of the States. A District Panchayat is co terminus with the district. Each District Panchayat is divided into several territorial Constituencies. The number of Zilla Parishads territorial Constituencies are equal to the number of blocks in the district. Presidents of all the Block Panchayats are also ex-officio members of the ZP. In some states the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and Member of Parliament (MP) of the constituency are also ex-officio members. The body of these members is called Zilla Parishad.

9.2 General Functions of ZP

It co-ordinates the activities of other Panchayats falling within its jurisdiction. In certain states the Zilla Parishad also approves the budgets of the Block Panchayats. The general functions of District Panchayat are as follows:

- Overall supervision of and co-ordination with the Block Panchayats and Gram Panchayats and integration of the development plans at the district level.
- To finalise Annual Action Plans in respect of the MNREGA, and other schemes.
- Controlling authority of district level officers of the different departments notified by the State Government.
- Maintenance of community assets vested in it or transferred to it by then Government or any local authorities or organisation.
- Review the results achieved under various items in all the blocks.
- Secure the execution of the plans, projects, schemes or other works either solely relating to the individual Blocks or common to two or more in the district.
- Exercise and perform such of the powers and functions in relating to any development programme as the Government may by notification conferred on or entrusted to it.
- Advise Government on all Matters relating the developmental activities and maintenance of services in the district, whether undertaken by PRIs or Government.

9.3 General Functions of ZP

The Zilla Parishad, for the most part, performs co-ordinating and

supervisory functions. The Zilla Parishad renders necessary advice to the Government with regard to the implementation of the various development schemes.

9.4 Duties and Responsibilities of President of Chairperson Zilla Panchayat

The following are the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson Zilla Panchayat:

- The Chairperson Zilla Panchayat convenes and preside over all meetings of the Zilla Panchayat and of the standing Committees of which he is the chairman.
- Have access to all records of the Zilla Panchayat.
- Can call for any record, statement, document from the Chief Executive Officer or Other officers of Zilla Panchayat for examination and perusal.
- Issue directions to the Chief Executive Officer regarding implementation Resolutions of the Zilla Panchayat or its Standing Committees.
- Take up with Government the major issues relating to the district where immediate intervention by Government is essential.

Reforms/ Initiative by Ministry of Panchayati Raj to Empower the Panchayati Raj Institutions

1. Provision for Continuous Capacity Building & Training of the Elected Representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions



Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) is one of the major mandates of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Hence, Ministry has been supporting the efforts of State Governments towards capacitating and empowering PRIs through adequate CB&T under various schemes since inception of the Ministry. To this end, the Ministry is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)

The RGSA is under implementation since 2018-19 with the primary aim of strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with main thrust on convergence.

There is provision to provide basis orientation training to Elected Representatives (ERs) within six months of their election and refresher training within 2 years of their election. Since the governance mechanism has been changing, Ministry apart from traditional areas of PRIs, has been providing training in various emerging areas also. The broad other training areas include local self-governance, Panchayat Finance including Public Finance Management System (PFMS), Own Source Revenue (OSR) generation, e-GramSwaraj, Audit online, Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs), especially on 9 themes, preparation of convergent Panchayat Development Plans at respective level of Panchayat, based on identified gaps and felt needs towards attainment of SDGs.

2. People's Plan Campaign (PPC)



To accelerate active people's participation in the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GDPD) preparation process, People's Plan Campaign (PPC) has been launched from 2018 onwards. The PPC is an effective strategy for ensuring the preparation of participatory Panchayat Development Plans in a campaign mode with voluntary involvement of community, elected representatives, frontline workers of respective line Ministries/ Departments, Self-help Groups (SHGs), Community Building Organisations (CBOs) and other related stakeholders.

3. Digitalisation of Panchayat-an initiative towards good governance at Local level

- Computerisation and information technology has been harnessed to ensure transparency, efficiency and accountability in the local administration in line with main moto of minimum government, but maximum governance even at local level.
- eGramSwaraj work based accounting software is in place since April 2020.
- eGramSwaraj is providing a single platform for all planning and accounting needs including various other aspects of Panchayat functioning like monitoring, asset management receipt & expenditure etc. single platform for all planning and accounting needs including various other aspects of Panchayat functioning like monitoring, asset management receipt & expenditure etc.



- Ministry has included the beneficiary verification as one of the prime agendas of the People's Plan campaign and provided an online system to show the list of the beneficiaries of various Central Government Schemes on eGramSwaraj. The beneficiary details of sixteen schemes of six Union Ministries/ Departments are integrated with e-GramSwaraj Application.

- eGramSwaraj-PFMS Interface (eGSPI)** has been carried out to provide an interface for the Panchayats to make online payments viz. expenditure incurred under Central Finance Commission. eGSPI is one of its kind interface for GPs to make real time payments to vendors/service providers.



- AuditOnline** application has been in use for transparent auditing of Central Finance Commission funds utilisation for strengthen financial management of Panchayats



- Local Government Directory (LGD)** was introduced in April 2018. It is a standard location directory of all administrative units, developed by Ministry of Panchayati Raj with the help of National Informatics Centre (NIC), that also provides an online mechanism for updation as and when there is any change in the boundary of the administrative units due to creation, delimitation or merger of the units. LGD aims to keep all information about the structure of Local Governments and revenue entities online.

- Service Delivery by the Panchayats :** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj as part of its mandated responsibility towards transforming the Panchayats into symbols of modernity, transparency and efficiency, and in order to encourage integrated electronic service delivery at Panchayat level, has made available ServicePlus (<http://ServiceOnline.gov.in>) under e-Panchayat Mission Mode Programme.



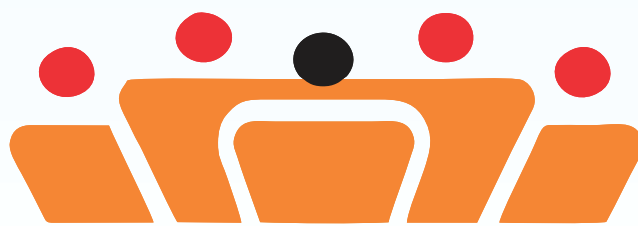
- eGramSwaraj- Government e-Market Place (GeM) Interface:** In order to bring transparency in Panchayat procurement, eGramSwaraj has been integrated with Government e-Market Place (GeM). As on date, the pilot has been successfully conducted in 12 States and other States are in the process of completing the pilot process.

- Gram Sabha NIRNAY :** A mobile application called "GS NIRNAY," which stands for National Initiative for Rural India to Navigate, Innovate and Resolve Panchayat decisions has been launched. The app aims to empower rural communities by providing easy access to critical information discussed during a Gram Sabha, verifying facts, and increasing transparency and efficiency in the functioning of Panchayats. The app is expected to enhance the reach, scope, and outcome of government actions in the course of development and is a significant step towards realizing the vision of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' at the grassroots level.



4. Increased Flow of Central Finance Commissions Funds to Local Rural Bodies

- The per capita per annum allocation of central finance Commission grants increased from Rs.54 in 12th Finance Commission to Rs.674 in 15th Finance Commission.
- The current 15th Finance Commission Grants are being provided to all the three tiers of the Panchayats and Traditional Rural Local Bodies in all States thus improvising over 14th Finance Commission Grants which were provided for delivery of basic services at Gram Panchayats level.
- 14th Finance Commission and 15th Finance Commission grants released directly in the accounts of Rural Local Bodies whereas earlier CFC Grants were routed through State/ District treasuries causing undue delays.



PANCHAYATI RAJ