English



XV FC Funds and its implications for Covid-19 Management

GRAMODAY SANKALP





Giriraj Singh
Minister of Panchayati Raj
& Rural Development



"The mantra of Panchayats should be 'Medicine as well as strictness', and I am confident that the first winner in the battle of Corona is going to be the village."





Kapil Moreshwar Patil Minister of State for Panchayati Raj



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Inecntivization of Panchayats

National Panchayati Raj Day event/National Panchayat Awards-2021



Since awards have always been a strong source of inspiration and an effective stimulant, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has been conferring awards including financial incentives (ranging from Rs.5-50 Lakhs under various categories), under the Incentivization of Panchayats scheme to the best performing Panchayats/States/UTs in recognition of their good work for improving delivery of services and public goods. These awards are given annually on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) celebrated on 24th April to commemorate 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 which came into force with effect from 24th April, 1993.

As a result of vigorous efforts for creating greater awareness and motivation among Panchayats across the country for National Panchayat Awards, the level of competition has increased over the years as the total number of participation for the Award Year 2021 reached around approximately 74,000 which is an increase of 28% over the previous year. This portrays an extensive outreach of National Panchayat Awards across the country. For National Panchayat Awards 2021 (Appraisal Year 2019-20), a total of 325 number of awards were conferred/declared under following 5 categories:

- Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award to 30 Gram Panchayats (GPs)/ Village Councils (VCs) in 30 States/Union Territories (UTs)
- Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award to 29 GPs/ VCs in 29 States/UTs
- Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar to 30 GPs/ VCs in 30 States/UTs
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat
 Sashaktikaran Puraskar to 224 Panchayats
 [(District Panchayats: 27); (Block Panchayats: 49); (GPs/VCs: 148)]
- e-Panchayat Puraskar to 12 States

Owing to prevalent situation of Covid-19 pandemic, National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) was celebrated virtually/online on 24th April 2021. The event was widely publicized through Social Media platforms (including live streaming on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) because of which a total number of 5,70,25,070 citizens registered



on PM Events web-portal, in this iconic virtual event. This event was graced by Hon'ble Prime Minister who addressed the States Ministers/Panchayat Representatives/Officials across the country through live telecast/webcast.

During the course of his address, Hon'ble Prime Minister congratulated the winners under various categories of National Panchayat Awards 2021 with the anticipation that Panchayats will play a significant role in management of the situation arisen through Covid-19 pandemic. This address of the Hon'ble Prime Minister saw a vast audience across the country and served as a motivational force for all States/UTs/Panchayats.

As an initiative w.e.f. current award year i.e. 2021, award money would be directly transferred electronically to awardee Panchayats with the intent of eliminating any delays hitherto. This initiative was graced and effected by Hon'ble Prime Minister with the click of a button for winners of National Panchayat Awards 2021 on the occasion of NPRD 2021.

Further on this occasion, Hon'ble Prime Minister launched SVAMITVA, a Central Sector Scheme, across the country after successful conclusion of its Pilot Phase and with it, the distribution of e-property cards to 4.09 lakh property owners was effected through video conferencing.

Further, video message of Hon'ble Minister of Panchayati Raj on NPRD 2021, SVAMITVA and COVID-19 was released in Hindi and 12 other regional languages.

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The translation of Gramoday Sankalp has been carried out by experienced translators and duly vetted and corrected by State Institues of Rural Development (SIRDs) under Ministry of Panchayati Raj, with an attempt to convey the meaning in easy and commonly spoken words. Any inadvertent error or omissions, if any, found in the translation is unintentional and not meant to hurt any feelings and therefore may be excused.

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Success Story

ServicePlus : An Innovation of Ministry of Panchayati Raj under e-Panchayat Project





GIRIRAJ SINGH MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MESSAGE



It is a matter of great pleasure that the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is publishing 10th issue of the 'Gramoday Sankalp' magazine. The theme of this issue is 'Action Plan for Utilising XV FC Funds and Its Implication for Covid-19 Management'.

Under XV Central Finance Commission, an amount of Rs 2,36,805 crore will reach the Panchayats of the country in the next five years for the development of basic facilities in the villages. Along with this, the Finance Commission has made a provision of Rs 43,928 crore for the expansion of health facilities in the local rural bodies. I am sure that along with the basic facilities in the villages, the foundation of proper health facilities will also be strengthened with this fund.

For the last one and half year, the whole world is facing the adversity of Covid-19 pandemic. Our Panchayats have played an active role in implementing the Corona Protocol to contain the spread of Covid-19. To strengthen their hands in this mission they have been authorized to utilize Central Finance Commission fund. Specifically, advance funds of Rs. 8923.8 crore were released under XV Finance Commission for taking effective measures to control pandemic in consonance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This issue of Gramoday Sankalp mainly contain articles and information relating to XV Finance Commission and its utilisation for fighting against Covid-19 pandemic at end of the Panchayats. These are very relevant during this time.

I hope that this issue of Gramoday Sankalp will be very useful and informative for the elected representatives and Panchayat functionaries and general public.

(Giriraj Singh)





MESSAGE



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

I am happy to know that the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is going to publish the $10^{\rm th}$ issue of its **'Gramoday Sankalp' magazine** that reaches to more than 2.5 lakh panchayats in the country with more than 31.65 lakh elected representatives besides other functionaries through which they get valuable information.

The theme of the 10th issue of Gramoday Sankalp is based on 'Action Plan for Utilising XV FC Funds and Its Implication for Covid-19 Management'. In the last 7 years, under the leadership of our honorable Prime Minister, Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi ji, sufficient funds have been provided through various schemes for the empowerment of villages, their development and welfare of the villagers. Through the XV Finance Commission (grant period 2021-2026), more than Rs 2 lakh 36 thousand crore is going to reach the panchayats directly. With this amount the basic facilities like drinking water, sanitation will be provided in the villages which are very critical to overall development of the Panchayts. Also, the Panchayats have been authorized to use this fund to control Covid-19 pandemic.

We are all well aware of the unprecedented crisis that has arisen all over the world due to Covid-19. It is possible to face this crisis only through the mantra 'Dawai Bhi-Kadai Bhi'. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Gram panchayats of our country have played a remarkable role in preventing the spread of corona in the villages and prevention of this epidemic in the last one and a half years. Panchayats are also playing a leading role in the vaccination campaign.

I am hopeful that this issue of 'Gramoday Sankalp' will prove to be very useful for the planned use of the XV Finance Commission funds to the Panchayats and Corona control in the villages. In this issue also contains success stories of villages doing better work in the field of corona control, which will be inspiring for other panchayats. Also, you can help in making the activities of the Ministry more effective by sharing your suggestions/experiences directly to me on e-mail mos-mopr@gov.in .

With best wishes for the coming festivals.

(Kapil Moreshwar Patil)





SUNIL KUMAR, IAS
SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MESSAGE



The theme of the 10th issue of Gramoday Sankalp is on 'Action Plan for Utilising XV FC Funds and Its Implication for Covid-19 Management'. Our Gram Panchayats have shown understanding, ethos and hard work in the first and second wave of the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic. Entire administrative machinery of the Central and State Governments has made extraordinary efforts to reduce the ill-effects of the pandemic as both the Central Government and State Governments leveraged their respective supports to them, specifically financial support under XV FC Funds.

Based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, the process of releasing financial grants to Panchayati Raj Institutions has started. In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the government authorized Panchayats to use the amount they have received from the XV Finance Commission in the management of Covid-19 pandemic including creation of awareness through IEC activities.

This issue of Gramoday Sankalp highlights the efforts of Panchayat to control Covid-19 using XV Finance Commission funds. Besides, other informative articles on efforts made by the Government to ensure food security in the adversity of Covod-19 and other initiatives of social organization's at the local level find place in this issue.

I am sure this issue will prove to be useful to the readers.



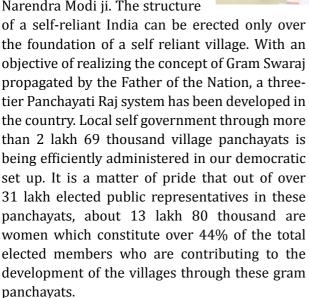
(Sunil Kumar)



15th Finance Commission : A target to reach basic facilities in every Village

- Narendra Singh Tomar *

Ather of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi's idea of empowering villages through "Gram Swaraj" and the vision of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhayay about the upliftment of villages are being reflected in the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan launched by our dynamic Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. The structure



We have all along been believing that the villages can only be developed by empowering our panchayats and allocating adequate financial resources to them.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has developed an efficient and transparent system to provide sufficient funds to these panchayats in the last seven years. There would not be any exaggeration in saying that out of a sum of Rs. 100 sent by the centre, a full amount of Rs. 100 reaches Panchayats on time.

Under clause 280 (3) (68) of our



Constitution, the Central Finance Commission has been given powers and rights recommendations make to enhance the resources of panchavats in the states. Under the Constitution, it will be the responsibility of the Commissionto send its recommendations to the President based on the Finance Commissions of the

states for supplying resources to panchayats in the states by taking necessary appropriate measures to promote the pooled resources in any state.

It is quite clear that the main objective of the grants provided by the Union Finance Commission is to enhance the resources of panchayats to enable them to fulfill their responsibilities efficiently and establish good administration in villages by providing all basic facilities and amenities there.

Recommendations of the Central Finance Commission for strengthening and development of the local rural bodies had first been made by the 10th Finance Commission (for the grant period of 1995-2000). Recommendations for a very meagre amounts had been made for about 15 years or till the 12th Finance Commission (grant period 2005-2010) and that too was made for a one time grant. The 11th Finance Commission had recommended a grant of Rs. 8000 crores and the 12th Finance Commission made a recommendation of 20000 crore rupees.

The earlier process of making recommendations in the context of local bodies was changed during the 13th Finance Commission and a provision was made to grant 2.5 percent of the divisible pool instead of giving one time grant

^{*} Minister, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India





GP Ransih Kalan (Punjab) contributed and installed a sewage treatment plant of cost Rs. 5 Crore in order to treat wastewater and make it reusable for irrigation purposes.

to all three tiers. During this period an amount of Rs. 58,256.63 crore (89.40%) was released out of a total allocation of Rs. 65,160.76 crore.

When under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the NDA government took charge, the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission (grant period 2015 - 2020) were under consideration. Villages, poor and farmers have always been a priority for our Prime Minister. He has a strong belief that we can visualize a strong, prosperous and happy nation only by making our villages strong and prosperous. The NDA government under the Hon'ble Prime Minister adopted the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission in toto. These recommendations contained a provision to transfer the amount directly to the gram panchayats without involving other tiers of these panchayats. The 14th Finance Commission had made a recommendation to grant a sum of Rs. 2,00,292.20 crore to Gram Panchayat which was three-times more than the grants provided by the 13th Finance Commission. An amount of Rs. 1,83,248.54 crore has been released during the period of 2015 -2020 (which is 91.49% of total allocation). With the aid of this grant a remarkably clear expansion of basic facilities during the last five years can be noticed. These funds have been utilized in carrying out works related to drinking water supply, maintaining cleanliness and hygiene,

sewage management, solid waste management, rain water drainage and other basic facilities in rural areas.

The 15th Finance Commission presented its interim report for the year 2020 – 21 and its complete report for the grant period 2021 – 26 has also been received. The Union Government has fully accepted all the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission. A grant of Rs. 60,750 crore was recommended in the interim report for 2020-21 out of which an amount of Rs. 60,559 crore (99.68 percent of total allocation) has been released already. This is the highest annual allocation so far despite the adverse circumstances created by COVID – 19.

The Commission has recommended a grant of Rs. 2,36,805 crores for all three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions for the period 2021 – 2026 which is 18 percent more than the grant recommended by the 14th Commission. An amount of Rs. 8923.8 crore has already been released in the month of May as a first installment of the original grant for 2021-22.

The 15th Commission has on one had recommended to release grant to all three tiers of Panchayati Raj – Zila Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Gram Panchayat along with traditional non-IX areas and on the other hand has suggested a new arrangement to make clear cut allocations in two parts – attached and non-attached. Original or unattached grant is 50% for 2020-21 and 40% for the period between 2021-22 to 2025-26 whereas the attached grant for 2020-21 is 50% and is 60% for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Unattached or original grant can be utilized for 29 subjects mentioned in the 11th schedule of the Constitution except the place-specific requirements, salaries and establishment works. But the attached grant must only be utilized for the specific infrastructural facilities. This includes maintenance of ODF and providing supply of drinking water in rural areas, rain water harvesting and recycling of water. It is, therefore, clear that sufficient amount from the grants received under 15th Finance Commission has to be used in significant works like drinking





water and cleanliness in villages in the next five years. This is a positive step to fulfill our Prime Minister's resolve of providing clean environment and basic facilities in all our villages.

The 15th Finance Commission has definitely made an effort to provide grant amount to all three tiers of panchayati raj but this also has been clearly defined that an effort to provide maximum utilization of grant through the grass root level "panchayats". About 70% to 85% of grant will be sent to gram panchayats, 10% to 25% will be made available to block panchayats and 5% to 15% will be provided to district panchayats.

Recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission have come at a time when the whole world is battling against COVID -19. We all know that our first priority is to strengthen our health services, especially in rural areas these facilities need to be enhanced to effectively face the challenge of COVID - 19. Keeping these requirements in view, the 15th Finance Commission has suggested to provide Rs. 70,051 crores as a "Health Grant" for improving the health facilities through local bodies. Out of this, an allocation of Rs. 43,928 crores has been made for local bodies. Sub-Health Centres and Primary Health Centres in rural areas need to be upgraded into Aarogya Kendras under Prime Minister's Aayushman Bharat Abhiyan. The Commission has recommended setting up of one and a half lakh Aarogya Kendras. This will surely help in developing a strong health infrastructure for the rural people.

The adverse situation caused by the spread of Corona pandemic has resulted in a big challenge in the form of a crisis in health and employment sectors of the rural India, yet this is a matter of satisfaction for all of us that the panchayats in the country have been performing a remarkable role, ever since the beginning of COVID-19 last year, in containing its spread and to face the situation created thereby. Gram panchayats have made a significant contribution in creating Corona awareness among the rural population, creating and maintaining quarantine centres for the migrant labourers returning from cities and towns, observing lockdown and in ensuring supply of essential items to the needy. The selfhelp groups of women took up manufacturing of masks, sanitizers and liquid hand-wash and helped these families in coping up the crisis by creating source of income for them. The grants of the Finance Commission were utilized in all these activities. We can see that only because of these efforts made by panchayats, the spread of Corona was much too less in villages as compared to the cities and towns. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana was implemented in 116 districts of 6 states where those rendered jobless had returned last year. To provide them employment for 125 days and also a record employment of 389 crore mandays was created last year.

This will also not be out of place to mention here that the first installment of Rs. 8923.8 crore of the unattached grant recommended by the 15th Finance Commission for the current year has already been sent. This grant can be utilized by gram panchayats in containing and managing the COVID-19 .This would enable us to stand more firmly against the crisis. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has clarified that this grant can be used in buying masks, sanitizers, oxymeters, thermometers, oxygen cylinders /concentrators and other essential equipments.

The attached grant to be provided under the 15th Finance Commission can be utilized in





Solid waste management at Kedarwala GP (Uttarakhand)

maintaining ODF conditions and cleanliness in the villages and in solid waste management and other similar works there. In a way, only clean villages will form the basis of healthy villages and this amount will come handy in our fight against COVID–19. Panchayats, in their fight against Corona, can be provided funds from NDRF / SDRF besides the grants provided under 14th and 15th Finance Commission. The concern shown by our dynamic Prime Minister during the crisis created

by Corona pandemic spread is so very clearly visible in all these efforts made during the last one year.

We can see our resolve to provide basic facilities in our villages through the 15th Finance Commission getting fulfilled. Health infrastructure in villages would also get adequate financial resources. Healthy, capable and well equipped villages will help lay the foundation of a prosperous India.



Containing Covid-19 at Gram Panchayats – An Actionable Agenda

-Dr. R Ramesh

The Oddity of the Virus

The oddity behind the Covid-19 virus is that it is a typical Catch 22 Situation it has put us in. It affects 'life' and 'livelihoods'. We cannot choose one over the other. Viewing from the perspective of a Gram Panchayat Pradhan, our primary focus often is to protect and diversify livelihoods so as to make ways for providing sustained means of income to the rural households. At the same time, we cannot lose sight of the fact that livelihood question comes only after making sure someone stays 'alive' in the first place. There is nothing to debate if life is important or livelihoods are important. Obviously, saving lives is immediate. But, it does not mean the livelihood question can wait. We must recognise that if one is immediate, the other is about short to medium-term.

Additional Resource to combat the virus

The first wave of Covid-19 pandemic in India locked down life (and business) in urban India. When things started resuming back on track, the second wave penetrated the rural areas as well. The Gram Panchayats (GPs) have had a significant role to play in containing the virus. Many GPs already have reported admirable work they carried out during the lockdown period and in handling the migrant workers who returned home etc. Many GP functionaries have taken pro-active steps in containing the virus, and in managing employment and food security for the migrant families in villages. Programmes such as Atma Nirbar Abhiyan could accommodate the migrants, who returned home from various parts of India. The additional fund made available under MGNREGS has been put to meaningful use in many GPs to create employment for migrant workers, as well as the local poor who depended only on wage employment due to lock down restrictions.



The release of the XV Finance Commission funds during 2020-21, is additional resources to the PRIs in order to combat the pandemic. Every Gram Panchayat in India gets additional financial resources under XV FC Funds, which will continue for the next four years. The fund so received by GPs can be used in the ratio of 60:40 as tied and untied. This means 60% is tied for water and sanitation related expenses; and 40% is untied, which the GP can spend on any item in the development agenda that the Gram Sabha considers urgent / important. Another feature of XV-FC funds is that Block Panchayats and District Panchayats also get financial resources. This implies incurring expenses such as setting up of Plastic Waste Management Unit at Block level; or setting up a Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant at the District level can be taken up by respective tiers of the PRI.

Extended Responsibility of PRIs

The PRIs, and particularly Gram Panchayats are responsible for several spheres of rural development such as creating opportunities for rural employment, small-scale industries, diversifying livelihood options; agriculture and natural resource management; monitoring the functioning of local school, public distribution

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system, primary health care and works on sanitation related activities and so on. The Covid-19 pandemic has intensified some of the existing responsibilities and has extended the list of responsibilities as well. They include: vaccination drives against the pandemic; regular sanitizing and disinfection of all areas within the Gram Panchayats; special care of the agedpersons; and implementation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for Rural Areas.

Actionable Agenda for the Gram Panchayats

As mentioned earlier, this paper aims at listing out an actionable agenda for Gram Panchayats - besides the regular development agenda of GP - to consider discussing for implementation. It is possible some Gram Panchayats are already implementing some of the suggestions given here. This paper comes in response to questions some of the Gram Panchayat functionaries ask during online training programmes and interactions as to what activities a Gram Panchayat can take up in combating the virus, and to get life back to normalcy in the opinion of a development professional. Here is the list to choose from. This is not a prescriptive list. It is only suggestive. I offer this list with the risk of making the Panchayat functionaries take it for an exhaustive list. By no means is this exhaustive. Please give your ideas, and suggestions here, especially because XV FC has a untied portion as well; and secondly because our intention is confronting this pandemic or saving people from the damage it could cause to the poor and the vulnerable people in the villages.

Before I begin giving my list, let me remind the readers once again that the resources I refer in order to implement these ideas will be from XV FC funds, and the focus will be on combating the pandemic. Some are immediate; some have medium-term focus; and others have long-term necessity.

1. **Vaccination Campaign:** You will not feel safe until you think you are assured that you have absolutely no chance of being

infected. In other words, no one will feel safe until everyone is safe. All of us can feel safe, only if every one of us is vaccinated. Vaccination for every citizen must be completed at the earliest possible time. Vaccinating everyone is the only solution at sight now, if at all we strongly desire not to confront a third wave in this country. Every GP must take it up on a campaign mode, and complete vaccination as quickly as possible – and following the principle 'leave no one behind'. Expenditure involved in arranging for such vaccination campaigns can be met out of XV FC Funds.

- Implement SOP for Rural Areas: The 2. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has come up with Standard Operating Procedures for Rural Areas. It is known as 'SOP on Covid-19 Containment and Management in Rural Areas'. The Gram Panchayats and Health Centres in rural areas should take all possible steps to implement this SOP. The SOP includes aspects such as instructions on prevention measures; a checklist of community action against the pandemic; cleaning and disinfection - which areas/spots; how intense; and how often; human resources at the service of Gram Panchayats; and possible Social & Behaviour Change Communication strategies etc. Regular sanitization and disinfection may involve expenditure. The XV FC Funds can be used for such purposes.
- 3. Local Health Committee: Let each and every Gram Panchayat form a Local Health Committee, if one does not exist as of now. It will have members from local Self-Help Groups, Youth Club, Anganwadi worker, and representatives from GP side. They shall Plan activities for every month, and monitor progress in terms of various activities planned for preventing and combating covid-19. If this committee has to be orientated on a range of possible activities, and if it involved expenditure, such expenses can be met out of XV FC Funds.



- 4. Livelihoods Diversification: The covid-19 has crippled many livelihoods and small businesses that existed. There are many departments of the government and schemes that can help diversify livelihoods in rural areas. There are missions such as Livelihoods Mission, Skilling Mission, SBM-G, IJM that are well-positioned to engage in a combat that can provide the resilience for recovering / diversifying rural livelihoods damaged by this pandemic. We can draw an analogy to illustrate / clarify the point. It is said that the strength and strategy of corona virus is in its ability to 'mutate'. It is this characteristic of this virus that render doctors perplexed being unable neither to deduct it nor to prescribe a treatment procedure. Mutation essentially means structural alteration. Tackling corona virus also requires such structural alteration and rearrangement amongst various departments of the government. This is the critical antidote we need to formulate. Converge.
- 5. Sanitary Waste Management: Solid waste disposal has become a serious problem in rural areas also. The disposal of used masks and sanitary wastes such as menstrual pads, diapers etc. must be incinerated along with medical waste in the local Sub Health Centre /PHC. If the PHC does not have an eco-friendly (nonsmoking) incinerator, it's time the GP can assist the PHC to procure one, which can be used for safe disposal of medical waste as well as sanitary waste. If the GP decided to buy incinerator, it can be done using XV FC Funds. While purchasing an incinerator, the GP should follow the specifications provided by the Central Pollution Control Board. The National Green Tribunal has banned some models of incinerators that are polluting.
- 6. **Drainage Cleaning & Proper Disposal:** People have a tendency to sweep off wastes and dust into open drainages, if there is one close to their houses. Wherever possible, open drainages must be closed



with appropriate slabs, with provisions for opening and cleaning up. Scheduled cleaning of such drainages is essential. The final disposal of wastewater can be recycled and reused for non-potable purposes like gardening, greening of public places, or in the toilets at schools/ anganwadis. If the final disposal is unscientific XV FC funds can be used for setting up scientific recycle and reuse arrangement. There are professional service providers who can create such facilities if the GP can get into a service contract agreement with such agencies. Similarly, if some houses are scattered, and household level leach-pits have to be constructed for wastewater to get leached into the ground. It can be done using XV FC Funds with financial contribution of the household. For such works, there is a scope for deploying labourers from MGNREGS also.

7. **Retrofitting School/Anganwadi WASH Infrastructure:** Given the pace of acceleration of vaccination going on in several states, there is hope that India would be able to tide over this pandemic once and for all in a few months time. It's very much likely the schools and anganwadis will come back to the normal teaching-learning mode, leaving behind the online mode. It's time the GPs pay visit to the condition of the toilets and water supply system in local



- schools and anganwadis. If they are not in usable condition, the GP can make use of XV FC funds to set right the repairs in such a way that WASH facilities are functional by the time the schools and anganwadis reopen.
- 8. Tree Plantation for Green, Clean and Healthy Life: One of the lessons the covid-19 has taught humans is, that oxygen could become an expensive product to buy from medical stores, if we do not nurture nature. Therefore, it's time every Gram Panchayat, school, anganwadi, and other institutions in villages go on a tree plantation campaign. The GP should take the initiative for massive local mobilization in this regard. We are at the beginning of a rainy season. It's time to grow nurseries, which can be planted in all common lands. Extending green cover by a minimum of one square kilometre (on average) by every Gram Panchayat shall be a great contribution to enhance the green cover, and healthy living. This must be taken on a mission mode. The nurseries - even fruit bearing tree saplings can be raised using funds from XV FC funds. The MGNREGS workers can be regularly employed for a period of 3 - 4 years to water them, and to ensure they grow up as blankets of trees. The Gram Panchayats in Telengana have already demonstrated it successfully throughout the state.
- 9. **Free Distribution of Immunity Boosting Aurvedic Preparations:** As of now, some local donors and CSRs occasionally donate immunity boosting ayurvedic preparations in mass campaigns. In the absence of such visitors, the GP can make use of XV FC funds to distribute such immunity boosting ayurvedic preparations free of cost to the vulnerable sections of the people in the respective GPs.

- 10. Assistance to the Physically Challenged and aged people: Every village has aged people and probably physically challenged people also. Possibly, the only earning member in such families might have returned home as a return-migrant, remaining unemployed. The GP can arrange to supply all essential food items to such families / destitute widows, aged people etc. The funds from XV FC funds can be used for ensuring such people remain hunger-free.
- 11. Appreciate the Frontline Works: Appreciate and appropriately reward the frontline workers such as medical, para-medical and local sanitary workers in the fight against Covid-19. The sanitation workers at the bottom of the pyramid may be given prizes from the hands of District Medical Officer, local Medical Officer or BDO etc. which will go a long way in motivating them to continue to do a good job.
- 12. Recognise Voluntary Action: Motivate amongst the youth voluntarism and competitive spirit to take up activities towards village cleanliness, or organising health campaigns, vaccination campaigns etc. This can also include writing essays on good works carried out by the GP, or organising collaged-poster competition on activities that took place against covid-19 in Gram Panchayats. It can also include making short-films using mobile-based video editor software.

The XV FC fund is additional resource with a lot of freedom for the GPs to decide on the activities. The need of the hour is containing the pandemic, protecting the poor from confronting severe damages, and getting livelihoods back on track. The GPs are expected to raise up to the occasion, realize the urgency of the issue and act accordingly. The nation will be free only when the pandemic gets washed out of every GP.



Ensuring Food Security during the COVID-19 Crisis

 Department of Food & Public Distribution (Computerisation Cell, PD Division)*

'ndia's experience in ensuring food security of masses during COVID-19 crisis at an unparalleled speed & scale with utmost transparency is emerging as a shining example, globally. At a time when transportation and regular foodgrain supply chain/ markets were severely disrupted, the PDS supply chain showed resilience by quickly adapting to the crisis situation and operated seamlessly to transport the food rations to its vast network of Fair Price Shops and distributed them to genuine beneficiaries thereby cushioning them from the devastating impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the crisis period is also utilised as an opportunity for wide-spread adoption of national portability to ensure access of migrant NFSA beneficiaries to Public Distribution System (PDS) that serves as a backbone for benefit transfer of subsidized food grains to around 80 Crore people covered under NFSA in the country. The present article shares the details of food security

interventions of government during COVID- 19 crisis and discusses the possible role of Panchayat Raj Institutions in further strengthening these initiatives.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)

At the time of the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, the technology based PDS readily served as a choice vehicle for scaling up of foodgrain assistance for relief operations in India. Through PM-GKAY the Government almost doubled the quantity of monthly foodgrains being distributed normally to around 80 Crore NFSA beneficiaries by providing an additional quantity of 5 Kg foodgrains per person per month, free-of-cost, over and above the normal NFSA entitlement of their Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)/ Priority Householders (PHH) cards (35 Kg per AAY family and 5 Kg per PHH



Foodgrains distributed through Fair Price Shops after following due precautions in Goa

^{*} Inputs from Department of Food & Public Distribution





Foodgrains distributed through Fair Price Shops after following due precautions in Nagaland

person per month). Initially, this additional free benefit under PMGKAY was provided for a period of three months (i.e., April to June 2020). However, with the crisis continuing, the program was extended for another five months (i.e., July to November 2020). After the onset of the second wave of the pandemic, PM-GKAY was once again rolled-out for a period of two months (i.e., May and June 2021). The total subsidy outlay for PM-GKAY from April to November 2020 was Rs. 1.06 Lakh Crore and from May to June 2021 it is over Rs 26,000 Crore.

During the eight months period i.e., from April to November 2020, an average of 93% to 94% of foodgrains were successfully distributed under both NFSA and PM-GKAY every month with all COVID-19 protocols and COVID appropriate behavior, despite lockdowns, containment zones and many other challenges. The implementation of PM-GKAY for May & June 2021 is currently ongoing and as on 4th June 2021, more than 70% of monthly PM-GKAY Foodgrain allocation and 90.2% of regular NFSA Foodgrain allocation have been distributed by States/UTs for May 2021 and around 4% PMGKAY Foodgrains &12.8% of NFSA Foodgrainshave been distributed for June 2021.

Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Scheme (ANBS)

To ensure food security of the migrant workers across the country during the Pandemic,

especially those who were stranded in lockdown period, in May 2020, Government launched the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Scheme (ANBS) for supply of free foodgrains at a scale of 5 Kg per person per month to migrant labourers/stranded migrant persons and others in need but without a ration card under NFSA or any other State PDS scheme.

Under ANBS, the Central Government liberally allocated foodgrains to States/UTs for two months i.e., May and June 2020 to proactively reach out to maximum number of eligible person by developing suitable state-specific mechanisms and guidelines for identification of beneficiaries and distribution of the free foodgrains. Special drives were undertaken by many States/UTs with support of Industry Associations, NGOs, Civil Societies, etc. at the labour camps, quarantine centres, shelter homes, major highways/transit routes, etc. to target and distribute the foodgrains to migrants from May 2020 till August 2020. As a result, against an estimated number of 2.8 Crore migrants/stranded migrants by States/UTs, about 2.74 Crore persons (98%) were provided free ration under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat scheme.

One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan

The Public distribution system in India has not only delivered well during the Pandemic through successful implementation of PM-GKAY and ANBS, it has also emerged as a technologically robust platform facilitating access of PDS to millions of migrant NFSA beneficiaries/ families



Foodgrains distributed through Fair Price Shops after following due precautions in Gujarat



in the country by implementing national portability in most states. During the COVID- 19 crisis period, as a part of the Prime Minister's Technology Driven System Reforms under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the government swiftly rolled-out One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) plan to many states/UTs. As a result, at present, the facility is available in 32 States/UTs covering nearly 69 Crore beneficiaries (i.e., almost 86% NFSA population) in the country with an average of about 1.35 Crore portability transactions (including intra-state transactions) per month.

Under ONORC, the migrant beneficiary is not required to undergo any paper-work or carry original documents (ration card or Aadhaar card). They can merely walk into any nearby ePoS enabled FPS in the destination state and simply quote existing ration card or Aadhaar number for availing the benefit after Aadhaar based biometric authentication. The Government has also launched an android mobile application "Mera Ration", in ten different languages viz. English, Hindi, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Gujarati & Marathi that can be used by migrant people to locate and navigate to the closest Fair Price Shop at any part across the country. They can also use the application to



Foodgrains distributed through Fair Price Shops after following due precautions in Sikkim



Foodgrains distributed through Fair Price Shops after following due precautions in Haryana

check available monthly entitlement, Aadhaar seeding status, details of past transactions and their IMPDS eligibility status etc. Feedback and complaints can also be registered by beneficiaries and FPS dealers through the mobile application.

ONORC plan has served as a game changer by allowing the NFSA beneficiaries, particularly migrant beneficiaries, to access the NFSA entitlements from any Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country and has proved to be a tremendous value-added service to NFSA beneficiaries during the COVID-19 Pandemic from April 2020 to May 2021, when about 19.8 crore portability transactions were registered across States/UTs under ONORC.

Beneficiary Awareness & inclusion of vulnerable population: role of Panchayats

Wide publicity and mass awareness campaigns is an important pre-requisite for successful utilisation of NFSA/PM-GKAY and technology based interventions such as ONORC. Realising this, the Central Government and State Governments have been taking number of steps for their promotion and outreach through print & electronic media and display of out-door publicity materials at Fair Price shops and other prominent locations. These publicity materials can be also prominently displayed at Panchayat offices in rural and urban areas. Further Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) can also play a proactive role in popularising these schemes





Distribution of Foodgrains to Migrants under Atma Nirbhar Bharat at worksite in Tripura

among local people and also making them aware about the dedicated toll-free number 14445 for



Migrant beneficiary from other State receiving their PDS Foodgrains in Uttar Pradesh through "One Nation One Ration Card" plan.

ONORC operations and 1967 for PDS operations.

As the access to important initiatives such as PM-GKAY and ONORC is only for NFSA ration card holders, it is a priority of the Government to ensure issuance of NFSA ration cards to all eligible persons from vulnerable & weaker sections of population. In this regard, instructions have been issued all States/UTs to launch a special drive to reach out & issue NFSA ration cards to the vulnerable and weakest sections of the population in urban and rural areas, by utilizing the available coverage under their overall NFSA limits. This is another area where panchayats in both rural & urban locations and gram/ward sabhas can make a difference by providing concrete support for inclusion of the left-out persons from vulnerable & weaker sections of population under NFSA.



Fifteenth Finance Commission Grants to Rural Local Bodies and its Contribution towards Covid-19 Management

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj*

ocal governments – Gram panchayats in rural areas and municipalities in urban areas are the closest to the people at the grassroots level. They provide critical civic amenities such as roads, water and sanitation, and primary education and health.

The Finance Commission is a constitutional body for centre-state financial relations. Local governments like the village panchayat and urban municipality are the third-tier in the Indian governance system, the first being the central government and the second the state. Thus, the commission recommends on how much such governments should receive from the central divisive tax pool.

Under Article 280(3) (bb) of the Constitution of India, Union Finance Commission is empowered to make recommendations to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the respective Panchayats. The recommendations of the Commission for devolution to the Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) have begun from the Tenth Finance Commission onwards (period 1995-2000). Upto the Twelfth Finance Commission (period 2005-10), amounts of devolution were made to the RLBs on lump-sum basis as given in Table 1.

Thirteenth Finance Commission (XIII FC), in a radical departure from awarding a lump sum amount to all the three tiers of PRIs, awarded a percentage of the divisible pool i.e. (a) Basic Grant amounting to 1.5% of the divisible pool

(b). Performance Grant.

Fourteenth Finance Commission (XIV FC) recommended an amount of Rs. 2,00,292.20 Crore for the Gram Panchayats (GPs), an assistance of Rs. 488 per capita per annum at an aggregate level. During XIV FC Period 2015-16 to 2019-20, Rs 183248.54 Crore (91.49% of allocation) was released to the States, which had been more than three times the corresponding release for the XIII FC period.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) submitted its interim report for the financial year 2020-21 and the final report for the period 2021-26. The Government of India accepted the recommendations of the XV FC in respect of the Local Bodies. The XV FC recommended grants for RLBs as Basic (Untied) and Tied Grants. The XV FC Grant-in-aid is allocated to all tiers of the Panchayati Raj including the Traditional Bodies of Non Part IX States and Fifth and Sixth Schedule areas in two parts, namely, (i) Basic (Untied) Grant (50% for 2020-21 and 40% for 2021-22 to 2025-26) and (ii) Tied Grant. (50% for 2020-21 and 60% for 2021-22 to 2025-26). The basic grants, which are untied, can be used by RLBs for location-specific felt needs, under the twenty nine subjects enshrined in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, except for salaries and other establishment costs. The expenditure required for auditing of accounts by external agencies approved by the State Government, however, can also be borne from this grant. The tied grants can be used for the basic services of (a)

Table 1: Devolution to Rural Local Bodies from Central Government on Recommendable from X to XII Finance Commission

Finance Commission	Period	Allocation Rs. Crore	Release Rs. Crore		
Tenth	1995-2000	4,380.93	3,576.35		
Eleventh	2000-2005	8000.00	6601.85		
Twelfth	2005-2010	20,000.00	18,926.79		

^{*}Based on Inputs received from Ministry of Panchayati Raj







Covid prevention measures in Panchayats of Andhra Pradesh







sanitation and maintenance of ODF status, and this should include management and treatment of household waste, and human excreta and faecal sludge management in particular and (b) supply of drinking water, rainwater harvesting and water recycling. The RLBs shall, as far as possible, earmark one half of these tied grants each to these two critical services. However, if any RLB has fully saturated the needs of one category and does not require funds for that purpose, it can utilize the funds for the other category. The respective village assembly / Gram Sabha shall certify this and it will be duly confirmed by the supervising authority of the Panchayat/ Traditional body or the State Government.

The total size of the XV FC Grant to the Rural Local Bodies is Rs.60,750 Crore for the period FY 2020-21 and Rs.2,36,805 crores for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. The XV FC Untied and Tied Grants released by the Centre should be distributed to all the tiers of the Panchayats by the States. on the basis of the accepted recommendations of the latest State Finance



Covid awareness generation measures in Panchayats of Karnataka





Commission (SFC) and in conformity with the following bands recommended by the FFC:

- 70-85 % for Village / Gram Panchayats
- 10-25 % for Block /Intermediate Panchayats
- 5-15 % for District / Zilla Panchayats
- In states with two-tier system with only Gram and District Panchayats, the distribution will be in the bands of 70-85 % for village/Gram Panchayats and 15-30% for District / Zilla Panchayats.

In view of the challenges of the current pandemic, XV FC has also recommended Rs. 70,051 Crore earmarked for the improvement of health services as 'Health Grants', activities for which are to be implemented through the local bodies, out of which Rs. 43,928 Crores will be devolved to the Rural Local Bodies. These grants have been provided for the activities of support





for diagnostic infrastructure to the primary health care facilities of sub-centers & primary health centers, establishing block level public health units, grants for building less sub-centers, primary health centers & community health centers and conversion of rural primary health centers & sub-centers into Health and Wellness Centers.

1. Rural Local Bodies in the fight against Covid-19 Pandemic

Awareness Generation and preventive/ mitigation measures be carried out by Rural Local Bodies

Right from times of early onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, the Panchayats have been on the forefront taking various preventive and protective measures. The various initiatives undertaken by the Panchayats



Covid related fumigation measures in Uttarakhand







Covid prevention, awareness and relief measures for affected people in Nagaland

include IEC activities towards awareness creation, sanitization/disinfection measures, enforcement of social distancing, organization of medical camps, door to door campaigns for awareness generation, production of masks through involvement of SHGs, provision of gainful employment to returning migrant workers through involving them in Finance Commission Grants and MGNREGS works etc

Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has contributed to the fight against the pandemic



by suitably advising the RLBs through regular advisories on various issues related to the management of Covid-19 pandemic. To provide impetus to the campaign, MoPR has been constantly following the States to activate the RLBs in implementing wider publicity measures for Covid-19 appropriate behavior through publicity activities like display of wall paintings, banners, boards etc in the Gram Panchayat Bhawans / prominent places in the GPs, sending bulk SMS messages to the Panchayat functionaries on regular basis and various other innovative initiatives. As a result of this campaign, it has been reported that in 26 States/ UTs, Display of Wall paintings, Sign boards, LED displays, hoardings, posters banners etc for COVID appropriate behavior in Gram Panchayat Buildings/ Prominent places have been widely adopted with their numbers running into more than 15,000-30,000 on an average in large states. MoPR has also been sending out around 2.50 Lakh bulk SMS messages every week to Panchayati functionaries for reinforcing COVID appropriate behavior in the rural population. In the States, it has also been reported that the States / RLBs have sent over 76 lakh SMS/Whatsapp messages to rural population for reinforcing COVID appropriate behaviour during the festival season. The Peoples' Plan Campaign Period beginning



2nd October, 2020 were also utilized to spread the message on adoption of COVID appropriate behaviour / need for vaccination etc. in more than 1.70 lakh Gram Sabhas.

MoPR also further advised the States that the elected representatives of Panchayats may take the lead with cooperation of various other service volunteers in their areas. Village / Ward level committees / Nigrani Samithis in this regard are to be created /activated, if not already done, to spearhead the movement by undertaking extensive mitigation activities.

2. Major Covid Management Measures in States

Based on the various guidelines issued by MoPR, States have taken several actions to control the transmission of the COVID-19 in rural areas. A brief summary of the interventions of all the States against the 2nd wave of the COVID 19 pandemic is given in the following table.

Table 2. State-wise major COVID Management measures

Sl No.	State	Major Interventions		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Formulation of Corona Kattadi (monitoring) Committee		
		Resolutions on NO MASK NO ENTRY at the GP level		
		Proactive sanitation and door to door surveillance		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	 Advisories issued to all District Commissioners with key directions including wide spread sanitization of public places, formulation of Village monitoring committees, initiation of community involvement and awareness programmes 		
3.	Assam	Formulation of Village Defence Party and Migrant Database for vigilant monitoring of mobility of people		
		Funds from the 15th FC untied grants earmarked for sanitation		
4.	Bihar	Masks distribution amongst all the families of villages		
		Local procurement of masks to promote employment		
		Utilization of 15th FC untied grants for widespread sanitation.		
5.	Gujarat	Self-proclaimed lockdown is done by PRIs		
		Door to Door surveillance through Pulse oximeter, temperature guns and antigen test kits		
		Gram Yoddha samiti in villages for supporting families of patients		
6.	Haryana	Periodic awareness programmes		
		Formulation of Village Monitoring Committee		
		Specific Quartile / Isolation Centers for migrant labourers		
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Door-to-door surveillance to ensure proper quarantine and isolation		
		Sanitation of all inhabitations and sewing of masks by SHGs		
		Ration and medical kits Corona infected families		
8.	Jharkhand	Panchayat Bhawans, Government Schools, Community Halls have been developed as Quarantine Centres		
		Online platforms like Google meet, used for spreading the awareness		
		Messaging Groups have been created for all the Blocks		

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9.	Karnataka	GPTF and VTF have been revived at the GP level and capacity building with ANS State Institute of Rural Development, Mysuru		
		GPTFs providing essentials to the vulnerable population		
10.	Kerala	Structural response mechanisms established for contact tracing, support to families under home isolation or quarantine information flow		
		Formulation of Kudumbashree Community Network with community counsellors, gender resource persons		
		• Inventorisation, preparation, management of quarantines and COVID care centres (based on triage)		
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Establishment of Containment zones (as per the COVID guidelines) in villages with high infections		
		Formation of Red, Orange and Green zones in Villages/GPs, based on the number of active COVID patients		
		• Control rooms have been established at the Block level, District level and State level		
12.	Maharashtra	Initiation of My Family My Responsibility awareness campaign		
		Formulation of Corona Prevention Committee		
		Door to door surveillance checking vitals and any medical emergencies		
13.	Nagaland	Village Councils as strong link between the panchayats and the people		
		Proper training for the members under Village Councils		
14.	Punjab	Strict mobility restrictions from other states		
		Formation of Village Monitoring Committees (VMC) in each village		
		Villages organizing Thikri Pehras to ensure that 'Night Curfew' and 'Weekend Curfew' orders are complied with		
15.	Rajasthan	Active association with Medical & health department, Medical kits are being distributed		







		CEO, ZP office is nodal officer to carry out all COVID related instructions		
		Daily assessment of survey reports & medical kit distribution status reports		
16.	Sikkim	Periodical interactions with PRIs		
		Training sessions through web-based tools such as Youtube live		
		Vaccinations as a tool to restrict transmission of COVID		
17.	Tripura	Committees at the Gram Panchayat		
		Extensive awareness drive on observing COVID-19 protocols behavior		
		PRI utilising the funds available under Finance Commission Grants		
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Village Nirgani Samiti in all the GPs with focus on promoting cleanliness.		
		Safai Karmacharis in every village for regular cleaning, fogging, mopping		
		Financial assistance for cremation of COVID related deaths		
19.	Uttarakhand	Village Monitoring Committees (VMC) are formed in every Gram Panchayat		
		Block Response Teamformulated at the Block Level to ensure and monitor proper deliverables		
		• 24x7 Help Desk System - Directorate of Panchayati Raj		
20.	West Bengal	• Panchayats, along with CBOs, NGOs & SHGs are undertaking awareness generation drives		
		Enabling safe operations of local markets/haats, smooth distribution of food grains to the poor under the Public Distribution System		

3. Utilisation of Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) Grants by the RLBs for Covid Management

Out of the allocation of Rs. 60,750 Crore for 2020-21, grants amounting to Rs. 60,559 Crore (99.68%) have already been released

to the States. The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has on the recommendation of MoPR, released an amount of Rs.8,923.8 crore to 25 states as Grants to RLBs as the first instalment of the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) Basic (Untied) Grants in May, 2021, as a



 ${\it Covid prevention, awareness and relief measures for affected people in {\it Mizoram}}$





special case, which could be utilized among other things for various prevention and mitigation measures needed to combat the Covid pandemic. While the XV FC grants would have helped the RLBs towards the various Covid management activities, MoPR also advised that apart from utilizing the available Fourteenth / Fifteenth Finance Commission (XIV / XV FC) grants as per guidelines, the possibility of provision of additional funds to them from the NDRF/SDRF by the States may also be considered.

MoPR has also clarified to the States that the XV FC Basic (Untied) grants that are meant for felt needs under the 29 functions enshrined in Schedule 11, can be utilized for specific purposes like purchase of masks, sanitizers, oximeters, infrared thermometers, oxygen cylinders/concentrators, adding beds to Covid Care Centres



and hospitals etc. The grants available with the Block and District Panchayats can be used for expenditure of larger outlay like group insurance premiums, vaccination costs for the village population, etc.

The XV FC Tied Grants can be also utilized towards water supply and sanitation which would be important focus areas to provide clean and healthy surroundings towards reducing the infection effects of Covid pandemic.

The availability of the Central Finance Commission grants, especially XV FC Grants have greatly helped the Rural Local Bodies to take up various preventive and mitigation measures against Covid pandemic and these various measure would serve as a protective firewall against future incidents like the foreseen third wave, for the rural institutions.







COVID Testing in Gram Panchayats under Block Khansahib, District Budgam, J&K



Role of Community Seed Network during COVID 19 for Seed Availability and Food Security

- BAIF Development Research Foundation *

Safeguarding our valuable biodiversity for posterity is a priority that cannot be neglected any longer. This is particularly so in the case of cultivated plant species where human interference with naturally existing germplasm diversity is very high. Genetic diversity is the natural mechanism by which a species is able to survive through biotic and abiotic stresses that are becoming more and more important in crop production because of the emerging climate change related threats and risks.

Realizing the importance of maintaining the biodiversity for future research, food security, livelihood and risk mitigation ability of small farmers and future generations, policy makers have initiated few steps like ex situ gene bank at the national level. However, these gene banks in reality have served very limited purpose and are acting as repositories. There is no mechanism to conserve and revive this amazing diversity with the help of seed savers and seed keepers and use this valuable genetic diversity as very important resource in adverse situations and emergency situations for Food security and Livelihood.

About Programme:

BAIF had initiated Community led Conservation & Management of Indigenous Crop Cultivars & Forest Food resources in Maharashtra with an objectives to conserve and revive crop diversity and associated Knowledge, Scientific studies for Morphological and nutritional aspects Community seed banks and community level seed production and upscaling of worthy indigenous crop diversity in 2008 from Jawahar, Tribal Block of Palghar District and then from 2014 Programme supported by Rajiv Gandhi science and Technology Commission(RGSTC), Govt of Maharashtra in Five blocks in (Palghar, Ahmednagar. Nandurbar. Gadchiroli Pune.



Nutrition garden seed diversity

district. Maharashtra Gene Bank project conceptualized and being implemented in various Agro climatic zones of Maharashtra focusing Conservation and management of Bio resources with community participation. Under This Project BAIF Programme Focuses on participatory in situ and ex situ conservation, management of local bio resources i.e. Crop cultivars, livestock breeds and forestry species and habitat eco restoration in 8 clusters with diverse Argo climatic zones covering 94 villages of Maharashtra

Under Maharashtra Gene Bank Project efforts were made to establish 6 community seed banks in different Agro-climatic zones of Maharashtra to make available quality seeds of local land-races and scale up the cultivation of climate resilient and nutritionally rich crop cultivars.

^{*} Inputs from BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune Maharashtra



Geographical Coverage:

Sr	District	Block	Community	Focus crops
1	Palghar	Jawhar	Warli, Kokana, Thakur	Rice, FingerMillet, LittleMillet, Black gram, Niger, Local vegetables
2	Ahmednagar	Akole	Mahadeo koli	Rice, Finger Millet, Little Millet, Black gram, Hycinthbean, Gram, Pea, Local vegetables
3	Nandurbar	Dhadgaon	Pawara, bhill	Maize, Sorghum, Pigeonpea, Gram, Black gram, Local vegetables
4	Gadchiroli	Etapalli	Madiya and Gond	Rice, Gram, Black gram, Hycinth bean
5	Pune	Junner	Mahadeo Koli	Rice, Beans, Local vegetables
6	Kudal	Sindhudurg		Rice, Finger Millet, Gram, Cowpea, Horse gram, Local vegetables

- Documentation and Promotion of Wild edible plants undertaken in all above mentioned clusters.
- Kudal is Non-tribal Block having amazing diversity of Crops and Wild edible plants
- **COVID 19 and Tribal Agriculture -Difficulties** faced
- These tribal blocks are remotely located hence during lock down period transportation completely stopped.

- No access to Agriculture Inputs (Seeds, fertilizers) and food items.
- Marketing of surplus produce stopped because of unavailability of transportation facilities.

BAIF Agrobiodiversity Programme contributed in access to seeds for Kharif season crops through community seed networks and production of vegetables through Kitchen gardens for daily use.

Sr	Particulars	Unit	No of units	Remarks
1	Clusters	No	05	(Jawhar, Akole, Ddhgaon, Kudal, Etapalli)
2	Crops & cultivars (seed supplied)	No	9 crops and 60 crop cultivars	Rice, Finger Millet, Little Millet, Maize, Sorghum, Hycinth bean, Tubers, Foxtail millet, Barnyard Millet
3	Quality seed supplied through seed banks/Seed savers	Quintals	96	
4	Families benefited	No	2552	Marginal farmers from Warli, Kokana, Mahadeokoli, Madiya, Gond, Pawara communities
5	Area Under cultivation	Acres	1372	
6	Estimated Grain Yield	Tons	1645	
6	No of Kitchen garden kits supplied	No	4730	Average 15 Species –Leafy vegetables, Fruit veteables, Beans etc.

• Income generated to tribal Families (Seed saver groups, Individual seed producers) through sale of Seed material - 7.60 lakhs.



Entrepreneurship Opportunities and Nutritional Security through Organic Seed production of Indigenous Vegetables

- BAIF Development Research Foundation *

Under-nutrition is not only a rural areas

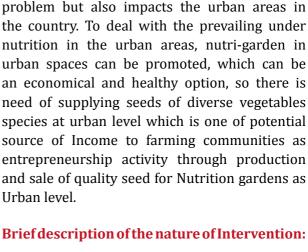
Story of "BAIF supported SHG "Kalsubai Parisar Biyane sanvardhan va vikas sanstha" a Tribal community organisation from Akole Tribal Block of Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra

Torld Health Organization suggested that one of the main strategies to improve nutrition is increased dietary diversity at the household level. Nutrition awareness programmes stress the need for inclusion of locally available fruits and vegetables in their daily diet. Hence every woman in tribal community has a vital role in converting her surrounding vacant land into alive kitchen garden, where location specific seasonal vegetables and fruits are grown. The main purpose of a nutrition garden is to provide the family with fresh vegetables rich in nutrients and energy everyday.

In order to ensure a healthy diet, fruits and vegetables are to be grown systematically on land available in a home which is known as nutrition garden. This is important in tribal areas where people have limited income and poor access to markets. Location specific programmes like promotion of nutrition gardens kit will play a major role in solving malnutrition problem.

Brief description of the nature of Intervention:

BAIF development research Foundation (www.baif.org.in) working with tribal communities for developing livelihood opportunities and Nutritional security in Maharashtra and continued through seed savers groups and community level seed saver organizations. Kalsubai Parisar Biyane sanavrdhan vikas sanstha from Akola block of





Vegetable diversity documentation



Organic Vegetable diversity exhibition and sale

^{*} Inputs from BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune Maharashtra





Awareness on Seed diversity through seed exhibitions

Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra working on community led conservation and management of Indigenous crop landraces with organic cultivation methods for nutritional security and livelihood through sale of indigenous vegetable seeds of various vegetable crops.

Indigenous vegetable diversity documented and collected seeds of them and established seed bank at Komblne village in Akola block in the year 2016 and initiated conservation, purification and seed production by organic methods. Initially established Nutri Gardens for nutritional security of Tribal communities and then promotion of vegetables seeds through urban gardens/terrace gardens by supply of seed packets as indirect support for nutritional



Household level seed packing



security along with income generation to tribal women farmers under technical support of BAIF.

Description of initiative:

In this programme, initially location specific indigenous vegetables, tubers were documented followed by collection of germplasm and deposition in village/cluster level seed bank. The crop selection is based on their year round availability and nutrition content. The selected worthy crop species seed production is carried out at the community level.

Field level trainings are also imparted on organic input production along with usage of mulching, seed selection and proper storage. The germination testing and physical purity is carried out at seed bank level. The packaging and marketing of the seeds is performed through the Kalsubai Parisar Biyane sanvardhan sanstha.

Impact of Initiative:

- 8538 Nuri garden kits prepared and distributed through Women groups (Each nutria garden kit having 12-15 crops)
- Families started saving of seeds for next season along with income generation from seed sale,





Tuber diversity

- Availability of 10 Months produce for consumption.
- Increase in Nutri garden crop diversity by 40 %
- During Covid 19 lockdown period, groups supplied 4730Nutri garden seeds to needy families.
- Women-led enterprise prepared and sold seeds for nutrition gardens. (10000 packets prepared of 12 vegetable crops

- each) and income generated through sale of Nutrition garden seeds of Rs 5.5 lakhs
- About 520 students from 5 schools planted about 5 vegetable species in their backyards.

Scale-up plan and convergence

- Capacity building of women resource persons Cadre(POSHAN SAKHI)for village level training and implementation.
- Quality seed production of nutri vegetables through women seed saver groups.
- Increasing the region specific crop diversity of Nutri gardens
- Solar Drying of surplus produce for consumption during scarcity period.
- Also the initiative will explore convergence with Tribal Development Department, Krishi Vidgyankendras, Department of Agriculture, Maharashtra for promotion of Nutri garden kits in Tribal and rural areas for nutritional security and Livelihood to tribal women groups under Kalsubai Parisar biyane sanvardhan Sanstha.





School level exhibition and Awareness programme



Initiatives by Gram Panchayats in Preventing Covid-19 – Best Practices

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj*

2.5 lakh gram panchayats, their elected public representatives, panchayat employees, village workers and villagers throughout the nation extended their unprecedented contribution. Some of these Gram Panchayats have set excellent examples through their efforts. We are sharing here some of the best practices of Gram Panchayats.

PERINGOTTUKURUSSI GRAM PANCHAYAT

(ALATHUR BLOCK, PALAKKAD DISTRICT, KERALA)

In view of the past, present and future covid-19 pandemic challenges, Peringottukurussi Gram Panchayat is (District- Palakkad, Kerala) taking every possible measure to protect public and prevent the spread of virus. Due to concerted efforts and all preventive steps taken, a total of 210 active positive cases were reported as on 17/06/2021 out of which only 25 covid-19 deaths were accounted till date. The panchayat is coordinating with stake holders and Health team, Police personals, Asha Workers, Anganwadi Teachers, Volunteers, Ward Members, Panchayat Staff, etc. Following steps have been taken by the GP:





- Puring the first wave of Covid-19 Pandemic, Panchayat took immediate protective steps and awareness programme among the people as per the directions of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), through mike announcement, notice distribution and through social media as the first line of defense measures.
- Mask, sanitizer, gloves etc. were distributed by the Panchayat to the public & frontline workers as per the requirements at all stages. Ward level team was created and contact tracing and home quarantine were monitored by this team.
 - Panchayat facilitated Covid Care Centre (CCC) for those coming from out of State / District and those who had no facility for home quarantine was set up at Government Model Residential School, Naduvathapara. Food for the inmates of CCC were supplied by the panchayat and took extra protective precautions all the time. Panchayat made enquiry and report to District administration for the issue of pass for inter-state travelers through

^{*}Based on inputs received from Ministry of Panchayati Raj







- Action plan initiated by Gram Panchayat was the Community Kitcken for providing the food for almost 300 people, 3 times a day to Covid 19 patients and people under quarantine and also to the most needy peoples in the Panchayat.
- Sanitization was done at public places, roads and main junctions
- Essential Kits were distributed by Ward members
- Sanitization was carried out by the Voluntary Organizations
- Antigen kit was distributed by GP to Family Health Centres. Around 1413 antigen test and 743 RTPCR tests have been





conducted till date. Panchayat is in regular consultation with Family Health Centre, increased the number of testing so as to reduce the TPR on day to day basis. Daily Core Committee meetings are scheduled to evaluate and analyze the magnitude of spreading and preventing measures.

- Mass Effort For Vaccination: Since the second wave was harder than the first wave, massive efforts were made for completion of vaccination for all above 50 years of age. For this, panchayat provided separate vehicle, two nurses and data entry operators for setting up ward basic camps for vaccination. Panchayat also helped public, front line workers, volunteers and connected staff to get registered in Cowin site for vaccination. Panchayat distributed Ayurvedic and Homeo immunity boosting medicines to every member of Panchayat and their families.
- Out of approximately more than 12000 population of the GP (Open Source: https://villageinfo.in/kerala/), around 8000 people have been vaccinated (As per GP information received).
 - A 24x7 standby ambulance and five other vehicles were arranged for emergencies like transportation or cremation of bodies etc. A dedicated place has been set-up for cremation of covid patients bodies.



MELARCODE GRAM PANCHAYAT

(NENMARA BLOCK, PALAKKAD DISTRICT, KERALA)

Awareness Programmes: Having a wide spread out break of Noval Corona Virus (Covid - 19) as 2nd wave, Grama Panchayat has taken the steps and measures as directed by the State LSG Department & Health Department. Mike Announcements were done several times in the entire Panchayat Area regarding the importance of Control and Prevention of COVID -19, Personal and Social Hygiene, Social Distancing etc. Awareness programmes are being conducted by the Panchayat because of fears of disease spreading, defensive mechanism, importance of controlling the spreading etc. The Panchayat Ward Level Sanitation Committees (16 Wards) has done Door to Door awareness programmes throughout the Covid period.



Delivery of essentials: With the help of Sannadham Volunteers, Food for 23 beneficiaries were given though door delivery. The Volunteers also provided medicines to the needy people in time and essential items to the quarantine people.

DCC (Domiciliary Covid Care Centre): The concept of DCC or micro first-line treatment centres has evolved to deal with positive cases that are not symptomatic and need only isolation. A very effective DCC has been working since 19.05.2021 under Melarcode Gram Panchayat. DCC provides isolation facilities for asymptomatic Covid-19 patients who do not have adequate isolation facilities at home. Food and medical



assistance also provided in the DCC by the Grama Panchayat. At present, there are 50 beds in the DCC. 1 Doctor, 4 Nurses, 6 Cleaning staffs and 15 RRT Volunteers are appointed on daily wages as per the Kerala Government order.



Kushumjore Gram Panchayat

(Sinapali block, Nuapada district, Odisha) Vaccination- Removing hesitancy and achieving targets

Kushumjore Gram Panchayat (Sinapali block, Nuapada district, Odisha) is situated at the border of Chhatisgarh State around 15 Kilometers away from Block headquarters and 115 Kilometers away from District Headquarters. This GP comprises of 05 villages namely,



Headquarters. Sarpanch, Kushumjore Gram comprises of Panchayat (Sinapali block, Nuapada district, Odisha





Udit Pratap Singh Jyoti, Sarpanch, motivating village locals for vaccination - Image credit: The Hindu Newspaper

Kusumjore, Bramaniguda, Kaseipani, Nuaguda and Haldikhol having a total population of 4,424 (majority belonging to SC/ST category) out of which 708 are of 45 years of age and above. The remoteness and prevailing vaccine hesitancy had made it difficult for the local administration to conduct vaccination among the population. Heavy resistance was noticed during the early part of the vaccination campaign. Earlier, people were running away from the mere mention of vaccination, saying they would die in three months if they took the vaccines. Even the local Ayush doctors were not able to convince people for vaccination. However, the young Sarpanch, under his leadership, united a team comprising of Anganwadi Workers, Ashakarmi, Odisha Livelihoods Mission staff, ANM, Health Workers, some active village volunteers, Panchayat Executive Officer Sri Satya Kumar Majhi and Gram Rozgar Sevak Sri Ashis Kumar Mund who went from door-to-door appealing/convincing people above 44 years of age vaccinate themselves. These efforts were supplemented by way of regular miking and in some cases arranging vehicle by the young Sarpanch to carry the unwilling people to the Vaccination centres. The additional support was provided by District Panchayat Officer, Nuapada (Sri Bibekananda Mahananda) and Block Development Officer, Sinapali (Sri Sadashiba Nayak) alongwith Dr. Bairab Charan Panigrahi and Dr. Tarakanta Dash who also visited the village locals frequently.

Udit Pratap Singh Jyoti, Sarpanch even assured locals to shoulder the responsibility for their family members if anything happened to them after vaccination. This assurance also instilled confidence among people.

After a lot of efforts which went into convincing people, the vaccination drive picked up pace and consequently, all 708 persons aged above 45 years, agreed and voluntarily took their 1st dose and some even took their 2nd dose also, thus making Kusumjore GP 100% vaccinated so far as population of 45+ years of age are concerned.[Source: G/o Odisha (PR Deptt.) and The Hindu article dated 27th June, 2021].

EAST CHANDIGARH GRAM PANCHAYAT

(MOHANBHOG RD BLOCK, SEPAHIJALA DISTRICT, TRIPURA)

Covid Preventive Measures applied:

- Door to door awareness by Angwanwadi workers and ASHA workers for vaccination.
- Special awareness camp (led by PRI members) organized at rural markets, MGNREGS work site and nearby temple.





- Vaccination session organized at day time and special session at evening time for benefit of daily wage earners.
- Engagement of local volunteers and NGO for mobilization.
- House to house visit for Identification of left out person for vaccination.
- Monitoring of vaccination status by DM and BDO on daily basis.
- Massive awareness (through loud speaker/ Mike etc.) for vaccination.
- Special drive on the occasion of Tika Utsav.
- Visit of DM, BDO and SDMO at East Chandigarh and plan prepared for vaccination of all eligible people.
- Vaccination at doorstep of disabled and bedridden person.
- 2nd round House to house visit by team of ASHA, PRI, Panchayat and Block officials to find out eligible beneficiaries.

Identified Left out beneficiaries are taken to vaccination centre through vehicle and thus vaccination for all eligible beneficiaries was completed.

Gram Panchayat - Dharnai

(Block - Makhdumpur District - Jahanabad , Bihar)

Mukhiya of Gram Panchayat Dharnai, Shri Ajay Yadav, who has been felicitated with many national awards, has done a lot of work like creating awareness among the people,



sanitization of Gram Panchayat, monitoring the infection in the society with the help of Gram Raksha Dal.

Door to door awareness was organized by Angwanwadi workers and ASHA workers for vaccination. Special awareness camp (led by PRI members) was organized at rural markets, MGNREGS work site and nearby temple.

Ajay Yadav has once again presented an ideal by inspiring the other villagers by doing many activities himself e.g. cleaning the drainage and first to get vaccinated. The Gram Panchayat heading towards the target of 100% vaccination.







Decentralisation of Skill Development will make Villages Efficient

- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship*

There is adequate evidence shining light on the need for decentralisation and participatory planning as an approach to sustainable development, bearing in mind the local needs and aspirations. In the heart of decentralised planning is a complex structure of multi-level planning, which links the micro to the macro. Often referred to as the "Silent Revolution", decentralisation affects all aspects of the society, from the quality of local governance, to larger economic growth. It is also through democratic, decentralized planning, that the voices of the marginalized, and often referred to as the "last mile", can be heard and taken into account.

There are many ways that decentralised planning works and the first and foremost is to recognize that local elected bodies play a significant role in local development, and their capacity to do localized planning is key to its effectiveness. It is them who truly understand the local needs and aspirations, therefore, are the most appropriate stakeholders from whom development plans must emanate. This lays the foundation for a sustainable and self-sufficient local economy and growth.

Here, it is pertinent to ask the role that skill training can play in making Gram Panchayats (GPs) an institution who are strong and well-equipped to take decisions and plan for local development. Skilling can prove to be a significant enabler in this process. One of the foremost objectives of Skill Acquisition and **Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion** (SANKALP), an initiative by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), is institutional strengthening. Through SANKALP, MSDE has been working at strengthening State and District skill machineries but it was soon realized that for these efforts to be truly effective, it had to connect to the last mile, that is, the GPs. For the overall economic development at the

grassroots, it is essential that the local bodies are able to identify the requirements at the local level, and how to address these using local resources and infrastructure. The "bottom-up" approach of planning for skill development, starting at the GPs, will ensure that individuals living in the remotest corners have access to essential services such as roads, health, sanitation, etc. It also ensures that the local needs are met through local pool of manpower, through requisite training and certification. This further, empowers the GPs by equipping them with a pool of skilled resources, and the agency to plan and implement programmes which cater to the local demands and aspirations.

To take skill training to the GPs and make it relevant to the needs of the bottom of the pyramid, an MoU was signed between MSDE and MoPR in July, 2020. Under the aegis of this partnership, a pilot called "Participation of Skill Certified Workers in Panchayat's developmental activities" was conducted in 2 blocks each of Varanasi and Chandauli Districts of Uttar Pradesh. This pilot aimed at supporting the GPs in quality delivery of public services to the rural population by engaging only skill certified workers, and thereby, helping the workers formalize the skills they have learnt through practice and tradition. This further aimed at recognizing local people with skills which were acquired through informal training, are important resources who are available locally to further the developmental work of the GPs, and are given equal access to local opportunities that emanate from the Panchayat's development plans. In this pilot project, skill assessment and certification was done through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and the skilled and certified candidates were further linked to the GPs for employment.

In this pilot, job roles for skill certification of safaikarmachari, plumber, mason, carpenter,

^{*} Inputs from Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship



electrician and decorative painter by the respective Sector Skill Councils were considered. A total of 6635 skilled workers, who were either engaged with GPs or were likely to be engaged with GPs in near future, were successfully assessed and certified. The job roles along with the identification of the candidates to be trained and certified, were identified by the GP themselves. This was a first in itself, impelling different stakeholders to come together.

Through this pilot, there have been a lot of learnings that are critical to acknowledge:

- Quality data: For this project, the GPs were responsible for identifying candidates who were directly or indirectly linked with the GP, for RPL under this program along with identification of job roles that were required to carry out their respective development plans. Therefore, the quality of the data from GPs becomes an essential and central component for the project. From the method of data collection to the timely compilation of it, the process was not smooth and required standardization. This further hindered mobilization of the target group for this project.
- Advocacy and Awareness- In its pilot phase, the project did not include any component on awareness creation and advocacy. This created a challenge in reaching out to the primary project stakeholders, especially the beneficiaries and the GP functionaries, to inform and influence them on (a) benefits of participating in the project; (b) the processes adopted and (c) the intended outcome. As a result, the mobilization of the beneficiaries and on-boarding of GPs were not as effective.
- Monitoring of employment linkages-Linking the trained and certified candidates to employment opportunities at the GP remains a challenge. There is an adequate and robust tracking mechanism that is required
- Technology as an enabler- A dedicated IT

- portal is a requisite for this project where candidate identification, training lifecycle, and employment can be well managed at various levels, on a single IT platform.
- Capacity building of District and GP functionaries- The success of this project primarily is pivoted on the level of orientation, understanding and the capacity of the district and GP official. Therefore, it is critical that the district and GP functionaries, are thoroughly oriented and are made an integral part of the process.

Some of the macro level outcomes that decentralisation planning of such programs aims at- such as- enhanced governance, sustainable regional development, accountability and efficiency in the system, greatly depend on the way decentralisation is designed and implemented. SANKALP through its efforts, such as the pilot in Varanasi and Chandauli, aims at creating such a framework, taking into account the learnings.

While decentralisation is viewed as an effective approach to bring systemic reform, it is not an easy one. Since this approach requires a significant transfer of power and decision-making to the local administration, it is critical to identify the various levels at focused interventions required to ensure that this kind of decentralised planning, leveraging skill training, is successful and leads to stronger governance, and sustainable development at the rural level. At an individual level, skill certification would lead to upward mobility and higher remuneration. At the GP level, it would equip and eventually empower them to provide essential services to the local communities through skilled resources, with higher quality standards and timely manner. Deploying skilled certified resources would also imply that there is an adherence to the service standards, which would further drastically improve the level of engagement of the rural population with the GP, and lead to more participatory planning.



ServicePlus: An Innovation of Ministry of Panchayati Raj under e-Panchayat Project

Ms. Manie Khaneja*

hen Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India decided to build a software solution for Panchayats to e-enable Panchayat level (250,000, Rural local Governments across India) services, it was decided by MoPR and NIC to build a configurable, metadata-based software solution framework for e-enabling services.

ServicePlus was conceptualized to address the above technical challenges so that any level of Government could rapidly e-enable their services.

ServicePlus is a meta-data-based e-Service delivery framework which is built on LowCode-NoCode (LCNC) architecture.

- ✓ It offers a wizard like interface for defining the meta-data of the service and finally the spick-and-span rendering engine correlates the metadata to generate an e-Service on the fly.
- ✓ It offers Multi-Tenancy, that enables each tenant to configure and manage their e-Governance services as per their requirement.
- ✓ As on date, around2000 services are being offered through ServicePlus by various states.

As the rapid rollout potential of the framework,

✓ 18+ State Governments have adopted ServicePlus as the solution for e-Pass amid Covid-19 Pandemic.



"A versatile application that has allowed State Government Officials, Panchayats, Urban/Rural Local Bodies and Line Departments to quickly configure and launch movement e-pass services, enabling citizens to move within state or interstate as per the emergency cases."



Figure 1 Implementation Status of ServicePlus

- ✓ More than 25 lakhs e-Pass applications were applied and processed on these services.
- ✓ Later on, issued e-Pass were pushed to AarogyaSetu Mobile App to facilitate the citizens.

Versatile features provided in ServicePlus significantly used in Covid-19 services :

Over the years, ServicePlus has adopted many functionalities/features that are essential for e-service delivery. Some of the major features of ServicePlus application are:

- ✓ Powerful Form Generation Tool
- ✓ Configurable Workflow for decision making
- ✓ Strong Notification system through SMS/ Email
- ✓ Handled changes in government rules/ polices through Versioning
- ✓ API based integration with other applications

Facilities offered by national e-Pass system:

In e-Pass service, every government was interested to collect a minimal or essential dataset. Across states, one of the main requirements was to have an easy and intuitive interface for the applicants. The configurable interfaces of ServicePlus allowed each state to have its design for their respective services.

^{*} DDG & HOD, Panchayat Informatics Division, National Informatics Centre



The base structure of e-pass system was adhering to the following points:

- ✓ User Identification through mobile OTP verification
- ✓ Applicant's Name, Present and Destination Address, Date of Travel, Details of members of the team, if any, Vehicle Details, Operational Email ID
- ✓ Captured COVID -19 Zone details of Source and Destination Address
- ✓ Instant notification on Mobile and Email
- ✓ Automatic routing of the applications to the respective approving authorities
- ✓ Applicant(s) health status as available in AarogyaSetu for the approving authorities
- ✓ Multi-Location Approving Authorities for Source and Destination Address
- ✓ Issued e-Pass pushed to the respective AarogyaSetu App
- ✓ Facility to revoke the issued e-pass at any point of time with proper notifications to the applicant
- ✓ Server signed QR code to ensure no tampering of e-pass.

Services offered by Panchayati Raj Department at various levels:

As an initiative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the objective of ServicePlus is to enable the rural areas to access e-services and to get benefitted with all government services without any hassle of travel or language.

In view of this, many states have configured services through ServicePlus framework under various State Panchayati Raj Departments and Panchayats of all levels. The nature of the services is as following:

- ✓ Age Certificate
- ✓ Alias Certificate
- ✓ Caste Certificate
- ✓ Income Certificate
- ✓ Residential Certificate
- ✓ Janani Suraksha Yojana Certificate
- ✓ Legal-Heir Certificate

Some of states offering services at Panchayat Levels are West Bengal, Maharashtra,



Haryana, Bihar etc. In these states, any individual residing at a Panchayat, Zilla Parishad level can directly apply for a service either online or through in-person/kiosk. Major features of ServicePlus that enable a rural level applicant to apply for a service through ServicePlus are;

- ✓ Local Language Application Forms
- ✓ Instant Notifications on Mobile Number provided
- ✓ Online/Offline Payment
- ✓ Uninterrupted Tracking of Application via mobile or computer
- ✓ ServicePlus Mobile Application
- ✓ Online Delivery of Certificates and so on.

APPRECIATIONS

ServicePlus, A MoPR initiative under e-Panchayat Project has been recognized for its contribution during COVID-19 Pandemic by the Indian government as well as internationally by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Geneva, Switzerland for its idiosyncratic features.

Following are some snapshots of the appreciations received recently:

- 1. Champions award form WSIS forum (WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY), organized by ITU (https://www.itu.int/), Geneva, Switzerland on 18 May 2021.
- 2. Digital India Award GOLD Exemplary Product to ServicePlus, A MoPR initiative under ePanchayat Project. The award was received by Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj along with the Team in the gracious presence of Hon'ble President of India.
- 3. Platinum award to "Antyodaya Saral", Haryana, powered by ServicePlus. The award was under the category 'Excellence in Digital





Digital India Awards 2020

Award of Excellence in Digital Governance Initiatives
30th December 2020









Exemplary Product



ServicePlus, Ministry of Panchayati Raj







Governance – State/UT' by Digital India Award 2020.

- 4. "Antyodaya Saral Haryana" Project bagged the GOLD Award in the category of 'Excellence in providing Citizen Centric Delivery' at the 23rd National Conference on e-Governance organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India (DAR&PG) in 2020.
- 5. "Good Governance Award 2020" to "Antyodaya Saral" Powered by ServicePlus,

WSIS Prizes 2021 Winner in WSIS Action Line Category 7
ICT Applications: Benefits in All Aspects of Life
E-business

WSIS
FRIZES
2021
UNINE
ServicePlus - A metadata-based eService Delivery Framework
National Informatics Centre
India

initiated by Haryana Government. The award was given by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana.

- 6. Certificate of Appreciation, by Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Minister of Health & FW, Finance, Govt of Assam, for Online e-Pass Software in Covid-19 Pandemic to Assam, Powered by ServicePlus.
- Letter of appreciation to Meghalayaby Shri Cyril V D Diengdoh, Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, CM Office, Personnel, Finance, Home for EoDB Project Powered by ServicePlus.
- 8. Award of Appreciation in 18th CSI SIG e-Governance 2020to Assam for EoDB project, Powered by ServicePlus.
- 9. Informatics –An e-governance publication from National Informatics Centre has recognized ServicePlus as a major contributor during COVID-19 Pandemic for issuing movement e-pass. It has published a story named as COVID-19 e-Pass A ServicePlus Success Story in July 2020.



Sarpanch Didi's Words

Participative Planning : Key to making each Village Corona-free

- MoPR*

Sarpanch Didi:

Today, I am going to tell you about planning at panchayat level in accordance with the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission so that we can be able to keep our villages free from Corona pandemic.

Villagers: Didi, our gram panchayat prepares a development plan every year. How shall we then benefit from the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission? Please tell us in detail.

Sarpanch Didi:

The government has issued new directions that the grant provided under the 15th Finance Commission need not necessarily be spent on developmental works only and these can also be utilized for relief works during Corona pandemic spread as also during any other calamity.

Villagers: Well, these are very useful directions but tell us as to what all can we do under these directions?

Sarpanch Didi:

The grant allocated by the 15th Finance Commission can be used in making arrangements for regular check-ups for all our people. Essential relief material for the Corona affected persons and their families can also be procured with this amount. Similarly, the expenses of sanitizing the public places on regular intervals can be met from this grant. Also, this money can be spent



on making efforts to create awareness among all villagers about the need to get vaccination done.

Villagers: Okay Didi. First of all, we shall review the position of Corona in each ward and then we shall intimate you about the requirement of sanitizers, masks, Oxygen cylinders, medicines and other relief material for our village.

Sarpanch Didi:

But, I will need suggestions from all of you also so that we can make our village Coronafree by putting in united efforts at the village level itself. And finally, one more point: every one above the age of 18 years must take vaccination.

ILL effects of Corona will now be gone As vaccination will help provide total protection.

^{*}Based on inputs received from Ministry of Panchayati Raj



Success Story

Meaningful example of change from digital revolution - Dawan Gram Panchayat

- MoPR*

Name of the Gram Panchayat	Dawan		
State/UTs	Bihar		
Theme	E_Governance		

awan Gram Panchayat of Bihar state has received Deendayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar 2020 for doing excellent work in the category of e-governance. E-Governance is one of the focus areas that need to be strengthened for bringing in responsible, transparent and accountable governance. Dawan Panchayat has been able to provide e-governance facilities like high speed internet facility, Common Service Center, RTPS counter, Digital Literacy Room, video conferencing facilities to the villagers in the panchayat.

Gram Panchayat Dawan was earlier known as Dawaa due to being rich in medicinal plants. With an area of 5063.45 acres, the panchayat is located in Jagdishpur block of Bhojpur district of Bihar. It is situated at a distance of 26 km from district headquarter and 12 km from block headquarter. With 15 yards and a population of 14,523 peoples, the GP is also a revenue village where people from all multiple caste, culture and religion live with peace and harmony. The panchayat has been able to develop, acquire and accumulate the basic resources that are required for a comfortable living standard of its large and heterogeneous population. GP Dawan has all basic institutions i.e. 13 primary schools, 1 high school, I college and 13 anganwadi centers, 1 bank branch, 1 playground, 1 MGNREGA bhawan, 1 PACS bhawan etc.

Like other gram panchayat, the journey of development of GP Dawan also included number of barriers but it is because of the leadership of a visionary Mukhiya like Shrimati Shushumlata



and the tireless efforts of the stakeholders that the GP was able to cross the barriers and achieve this status of development. GP Dawan adopted effective strategies to resolve all the issues.

Soon after the Sarkar Panchayat Bhawan constructed under Bihar Panchayat Strengthening Project (BPSP) and handed over to the gram panchayat, it was made functional as Gram Panchayat Office with the basic resources like furniture, computer, Internet facility. But still ensuring the availability of staff, safety of the equipment, monitoring of the office was a challenge for the panchayat. To fulfill these requirements, GP Mukhiya issued a roster to get the roster issued for all the GP staff for the monitoring of the office and safety of the building and equipments. CCTV cameras were installed within the premises of Panchayat Sarkar Bhawan so that Mukhiya could monitor all the activities from her chamber. GP Dawan is located at a distance of 12 km from block headquarters with minimal public transport facilities. The residents of Dawan had to travel a lot for getting these basic services. To resolve this issue, gram panchayat ensured the availability of a Common Service Centre within the GP Office for the convenience of the villagers.

^{*}Based on inputs received from Ministry of Panchayati Raj



Understanding the need of its people, the Gram Panchayat grasped the opportunity provided by the State Government and got a Right to Public Service (RTPS) counter functional from the GP office itself. Now, the residents need not to travel long to avail the facilities under RTPS Act. The citizens are getting benefits of online services like issuance of certificates like caste, residence, income, birth, death etc.at the RTPS counters.

The villagers of Dawan are often deprived of the current news around the world and latest information because of being located in a remote areas and lack of linkages with the technology. The flow of information in these areas is slow leading to lack of information among people. Understanding the need and for bridging the gap, GP Mukhiya got an LED screen connected with DTH Services installed in the reception hall of the GP Office. Today, farmers, students, youth and women use the facility to connect themselves with the latest news, events and information as per the requirement.

The latest trends of technology are increasing manifold with every passing day. It is very important to equip our human resources with the latest tools. It will not just ensure their comfortable present but also their bright future. Hence the Mukhiya of GP Dawan envisioned for a Digital Literacy Centre where children and youth of panchayat could be provided with effective computer education. One of the rooms of the Panchayat Sarkar Bhawan was selected for the purpose. Now arranging for the Computer system and manpower for running classes were the next level challenges. Mukhiya approached the nearby RAMCO Factory with a proposal of asking them for some donations for the noble cause. Finally with her strong determination, she was able to convince them and RAMCO donated 10 computer systems to the Gram Panchayat for establishing a digital literacy room. She also mobilized local volunteers to run the classes and today children and youth of the panchayat receive free of cost computer education within their Gram Panchayat.



It was imperative to digitalize the accounting system in Gram Panchayats in order to bring in transparency and accountability in Panchayat Accounting. Conforming to it with limited skill and knowledge was also a challenge. But with the support of training programs conducted by Bihar gram Swaraj Yojna Society (BGSYS), the Panchayat is now able to maintain its accounting informations on Gram Panchayat Management System (GPMS).

In this patriarchal society, it is very challenging for a woman to cross the boundaries of their family and keep up with her social roles and responsibilities. Mukhiya Shrimati Shushumlata herself faced the challenges, overcame them and hence has a very special interest in working for women empowerment. With the support of the women elected representatives and Jeevika Self-help groups, the community women were trained and today women of the Panchayat are supporting the Gram Panchayat in organizing various events. Moreover their participation in Gram Sabhas has also increased. In short, women are making contributions in decision making and governance of the Panchayat.

For educating community about health, personal hygiene, education or social justice, GP Dawan has focused on awareness generation through community leaders & SHGs to create greater impact. The Panchayat has its own website (www.dawa.bgsys.co.in) to ensure the





outward flow of information about the Gram Panchayat and its important events and activities. With increasing interest of State and Central Government towards Information technology, the monitoring of schemes that are being implemented by Gram Panchayats are also being monitored using Information Technology. The Gram Panchayat Dawan has been able to provide full support in the process by regularly updating the required data on various PES applications.

GP Dawan has always made efforts towards ensuring involvement and participation of various stakeholders in decision making and planning for the development of panchayat. Efforts are made to strengthen the social audit mechanisms through participation of gram sabha. GP Mukhiya always tries to hear the voice of unheard. Meetings of various committees of GP Dawan have been regularized for effective planning and implementation processes. Continuous efforts of GP Dawan towards ensuring e- services in the panchayat result into many outcomes

The panchayat is now able to provide citizen centric digital services. The residents are able to avail the facilities related to CSC and RTPS from the gram panchayat office itself. Gram Panchayat succeeded in mobilizing CSR fund from RAMCO for fulfilling its special needs. The panchayat has been able to draw the linkages between the villager's specially youths and children with Information technology. Gram Panchayat has been able to connect its residents with the outside world, thereby filling the information

gap. Dawan panchayat has its own website and its accounts are also digitalized. Along with this, GP Dawan is an Open Defecation Free (ODF) panchayat and able to ensure participation of women at panchayat level planning and decision making processes. Every household of panchayat is connected with tap water facility.

A lot of resistance was faced in breaking up the stereotypes of patriarchal society that limited the role of women within the boundaries of the house. GP Dawan has very limited amount of untied fund which it can use for the specific needs. In the leadership of Shrimati Shushumlata mobilized and converged the funds from unconventional sources to meet the needs. The GP realized that efficient leadership; proper fund management, active coordination and use of information technology can help in ensuring better facilities and living standards to people even with limited resources. An effective development is an essential need of the panchayat. The efficiency of the development plan can be increased by making it participatory.

It cannot be inferred that this journey of development of GP Dawan was an easy one. But it confirms the leadership of a visionary Sarpanch/ Mukhiya and the tireless efforts of all the stakeholders. The GP has strategized the things for sustainable future by keeping the GP committees functional, linking women/SHGs with latest technology for increasing their value in job market and creation of more employment opportunities within the gram panchayat.



On the path of self-reliance from revenue generation : Keinou Gram Panchayat

Name of the Gram Panchayat	Keinou
State/UTs	Manipur
Theme	Innovation in revenue generation

einou Gram Panchayat has been awarded under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar -2020 as best performing panchayat for their remarkable efforts made in Own Source Revenue Generation. It comes under Nambol CD Block in Bishnupur District of Manipur State. It is located 7 KM towards North from District headquarters Bishnupur and 22 KM from State capital Imphal. As per MA survey (Mission Antyodaya) 2019 Keinou GP has total population of 8788 with literacy rate of 78% and sex ratio of 1000 boys to 990 Girls. It consist of 3 villages and Most of the villagers are employed as agricultural labourers in the surrounding paddy fields. The Meetei community is the dominant population in the GP as well as in the district.

In order to strengthen the Gram Panchayat (GPs) financially through Own Source Revenue Generation and with a purpose of providing a measure of unconditional support to the GPs for delivering basic services through the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC), A(RO+UV) treated Drinking water plant Kiosk (Water ATM) has been made available at the Panchayat Ghar where citizens can avail 20 litres of Drinking water for 10 Rupees anytime.

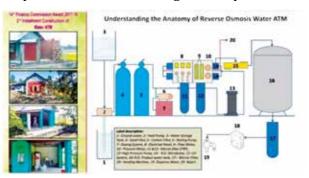
The demand-responsive approach for Drinking water supply services in a GP required joint efforts by community and local government (PRIs) in service design, construction and operation and maintenance (O&M) of water supply services –making community participation through PRIs an integral part of rural water supply schemes.

The major problem faced by Keinou GP is

that 90% of the households lacked potable tap water facility and depended entirely on pond water which was highly toxic due to the presence of radioactive elements and high fluoride content or other water purchased it from water delivery Tankers services. Even the average annual rainfall is more than 1881mm; during winter season almost all the water bodies in the GP run dry. The GP was not able to construct a water supply system even for a single village in the GP and faced the lowest Devolution Index in the country from departments with respect to PHED in this regard. This is becoming a serious constraint in managing the water supply. Around 50 per cent of the total households of GP Keinouare are paying money and buying water at present. Rest of them are not able to buy drinking water in which it leads to give birth to various Water borne diseases in the society.

In November 2017, the newly elected Pradhan (Ngangom Sovana Devi) and the elected body took it as a prestige issue and decided to resolve this problem at the earliest. In the coming Gram Sabha in which all the woman SHG, CBO's senior citizens and the members of important business units were invited. The idea was to understand the intensity of financial crisis and support of different agencies essential to tide over the crisis.

The major strategy adopted by Panchayat was to ensure recoveries, in each of the wards, through the ward members and mobilization of resources from other sources. For identification of problems and resolving Panchayat started





to organize ward level meetings every month. These meetings helped Panchayat in creating awareness on RO+UV treated Drinking water as well as resolving emerging problems. This interaction with voters created confidence among the community that elected representatives are responsive towards their problems and needs. Such interaction also resulted in making Panchayat accountable to the needs of the community. GP Pradhan took advantage of her educational background as a teacher and started mobilizing resources from block and district levels. In this series, GP communicated their problems to higher officials and leaders.

The GP Pradhan took an initiative and installed the RO plant in the Panchayat Ghar. The funds for installing the RO water plant were managed by the Panchayat grant from 14thFinance Commission. The water supply is done on a vending machine with two five rupee coins needs to be inserted in the Kiosk and 20 litres of RO treated water will be delivered. A card is issued for 20 litres of drinking water per day for every ST household in the GP. This plant is in the name as "Kanglei Eshing". The water supply starts from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm and the GP people store water in tanks at home. In the event of requiring more water it can be further taken. The plant is managed by the Gram Sabha nominee Woman SHG who is paid 1500 rupees per month. The most significant part of these SHG group women provides free delivery of bulk orders of RO water on religious occasions and functions in and around the GP and promotes the ban of use of individual plastic bottles and promotes the health benefits of drinking water in Copper vessels.

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RO+UV Treated Potable Drinking Water

Benefits of Best Practice

- The implementation of the scheme brought satisfaction to the people of the village as there is no drinking water shortage now and there is proper usage of the RO+UV treated water which has brought a lot of health benefits to the people.
- Reduction of water-borne diseases has been possible and children are now healthy and safe. The health problems related to water has reduced by 50 per cent.
- Incidences of cancer have reduced heavily.
- There are no incidents of children getting sick due to water born diseases.
- The women are empowered and participating in Gram Sabha meetings putting forth their demands to resolve the problem of Drinking water Shortage. They have become more active in their social and cultural life.
- The economic status has improved as the men and women are able to perform their duties and jobs regularly.
- The RO plant gives clean drinking water 7 days a week with no dispute.
- ➤ GP provides 50% discounts to defence, active services & Police personals.

As an outcome of this effort, GP Keinou has both direct as well as indirect benefits. The efforts immediately paid in form of OSR. Major source of income generated rose by 65%. Different services like water distribution, sanitation and streetlights and other services are provided by



Citizens waiting in queue for availing the RO Water at the Panchayat Ghar





Defence personal collecting water from the RO Plant

GP on regular basis. The GP considers generation of resources as an integral part of development. It has identified a number of sources like drinking water, periodical markets, permanent shops etc., from where revenue can be generated and it also mobilised people to pay tax. As GP follows a transparent functioning process, it informs in Gram Sabha meeting about the amount of revenue generated, and expenditure incurred. The outcome of this initiative is the rise in the

amount of revenue income of the GP. Now, the villagers pay taxes and fees willingly. Even they themselves come to GP office to take information on the pending amount.

Despite the unrest and law & order situation of the State and the poor management systems Keinou GP has put in its best efforts in order to provide basic amenities to the poor. The greatest learning from the example of this GP is the team work of the elected representatives for achievement of common good. This clearly shows their commitment and accountability to the people. Having understood that they cannot fight the system as individuals, the members united themselves for a common goal, even if this required them to travel that extra mile in order to achieve the goal of providing RO drinking water to all the remaining villages of the Keinou GP and generate adequate amount of revenues in return. The enlightened approach of effectively leveraging the political influence of the local MLA – not for some personal gain – but for the larger welfare of people has been the hallmark of GP's functioning.



From left BDO Nambol CD block, EE from PHED, Local MLA, DC Bishnupur District, Pradhan Keinou GP, ward member inspecting the site and its equipments at RO plant in Keinou GP



Your feedback is Valuable to Us! आपकी प्रतिक्रिया हमारे लिए बहुमूल्य है।

गोंद के साथ चिपकाइये PASTE WITH GLUE

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MGNREGA: largest plan to provide employment opportunities: Mr. Tomar

Union Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Panchayati Raj and Food Processing Industries, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar chairs the 22nd Meeting of Central Employment Guarantee Council

he 22nd Meeting of the Central Employment Guarantee Council, constituted under Section 10 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005 was held on 23.02.2021 under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Panchayati Raj and Food Processing Industries Shri Narendra Singh Tomar through Video-Conferencing.

Shri Tomar stated that MGNREGA is one of the largest employment generating schemes which provides alternative employment to the people in rural areas. In this current financial year 2020-21 under the shadow of COVID-19 pandemic, MGNREGA has played a critical role in providing wage employment to the wage seekers. A total of 344 crore mandays employment has been generated so far, which is the highest ever generated so far and around 44% higher than that of last year during the same period. 1.69 crore new job cards were issued this year as compared to about 69 lakhs in previous years reflecting the help it provided to the migrant workers in going back to their villages. This has also resulted in creation of around 72 lakhs durable and useful assets. A total of 4.29 crore assets have been tagged with the coordinated efforts of State Governments and Central Government. Out of total persondays generated, about 52% women persondays have been generated in the current financial year which reflects significant participation of women in the programme. The Government has accorded priority on creation of individual assets and assets on water conservation/irrigation which would help agriculture sector.

The minister also informed that with a view to achieving transparency and accountability, the government has been taking all steps to achieve 100% payment of wages in the bank account of MGNREGA workers and accordingly emphasizes on social audit of



works. For the financial year 2020-21 a sum of Rs. 1,11,500 crore has been allocated which is an all-time high. A sum of about Rs.93,000 crore has already been released to the States/UTs. The determination of government to arrange for additional funds for the programme in case of need was also reiterated.

The minister further highlighted that under the leadership of Prime Minister, Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) of providing employment for 125 days has been launched on 20thJune, 2020 to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers and similarly affected citizens in rural area, in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The objectives of the abhiyaan were to provide immediate employment & livelihood opportunities to the distressed, to provide adequate infrastructure and create livelihood assets to boost the income generation activities and enhance long term livelihood opportunities by keeping focus on 25 works in 116 selected districts across 6 States of Bihar, Iharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh with a resource cover of Rs. 50,000 crore. 12 Ministries/Departments of Government of India have participated in the Abhiyaan. A total of 50.78 Crore persondays employment has been generated during the Abhiyaan with an expenditure of Rs.39,293 crore.

Minister of State for Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti and the Secretary, Rural development Mr. Nagendra Nath Sinha also expressed their views. Volume 1 No. 10 RNI No.:DELENG/2017/79639

Madhya Pradesh at number one in implementation of Central Projects: Mr. Tomar

built under "Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana -Rural." The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Shri Narendra Singh Tomar made commendable progress. and the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shiv Raj Chauhan were present on the occasion. More than 10,500 community works completed by the Department of Rural Development were dedicated to the people on this occasion. These works include 2000 sports complexes, 2000 shanti dhams (cremation grounds) and 634 panchayat bhawans. An amount of Rs. 2000 crore was also transferred in the accounts of 5 lakh beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana (Rural).

In his address on this occasion, the Union Minister for Rural Development Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that our dynamic Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has tried to ensure own house for all homeless people by 2022 and for this purpose, a target of building 2.95 crore houses by 2022 has been fixed. So far, 1 crore 32 lakh houses have been built out of which Madhya Pradesh has been allocated 26 lakh 28 thousand houses by the Centre.

Shri Tomar told that Madhya Pradesh has made a commendable progress in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana. The state was at the top place in constructing rural roads when I was the Rural Development Minister in the state and even now it ranks at the top place

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n Madhya Pradesh, one lakh twenty five in this sector. He informed that earlier Haryana thousand rural families observed "grih and Punjab were the foremost states in food ▲ pravesh" ceremony and entered their houses grain production but Madhya Pradesh has now overtaken them to rank number one. Even in organic farming, the state of Madhya Pradesh has

> Shri Tomar told that an Infrastructural Fund of Rs. 1 lakh crore has been set up for agricultural sector under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. This fund is being utilized to build farming infrastructures in villages. Besides, an allocation of Rs. 10 thousand crore has been provided for food processing sector. This outlay would be utilized for cottage industries and for processing & marketing of produces grown under "one district – one product" scheme. Referring to Ownership Scheme on this occasion, Shri Tomar said that the Hon'ble Prime Minister had launched the pilot phase of giving Ownership Rights to the rural people in six states on April 24, 2020 and now this scheme is going to be extended in the whole country.

> The Chief Minsiter of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shiv Raj Singh Chauhan said that pucca houses have now been built for those brethren who had been living in the Kuchcha houses so far and they are entering their own houses. Today, one lakh twenty five thousand families have observed grih pravesh and got possession of their own houses. Earlier also, 1 lakh 75 thousand families had been given the ownership of their houses by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of the Rural Development Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar. During Corona crisis, 3 lakh houses have been built in Madhya Pradesh within one year.



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