

Introduction

The Government of India is committed to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda, to which it is a signatory. With approximately 2.7 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) and 32 lakh elected representatives playing a pivotal role, it is essential for these local bodies to adopt the Ministry of Panchayati Raj's (MoPR) thematic approach to the 'Localization of Sustainable Development Goals' (LSDGs). This approach focuses on planning and implementing the SDGs through the 'Gram Panchayat Development Plan' in a phased and comprehensive manner.

To streamline efforts, MoPR has grouped the 17 SDGs into 9 LSDG themes and revamped the National Panchayat Awards based on these themes:

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



These awards, a key motivator for Panchayats, are conferred annually by MoPR on April 24, celebrated as National Panchayati Raj Day. This day marks the enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which came into effect in 1993, granting Panchayats constitutional status as institutions of local self-governance. This year, the award ceremony was deferred owing to General Elections to the Lok Sabha and held on 11th December, 2024 under the gracious presence of Hon'ble President of India.

This year (2024), approximately 1.94 lakh Gram Panchayats and equivalent bodies participated in the National Panchayat Awards competition. This accomplishment highlights the collaborative efforts of States, Union Territories, and Panchayats, as well as the increased awareness of LSDGs among these stakeholders. It signifies strong progress toward realizing the 2030 Agenda for SDGs through localized, thematic efforts by rural local bodies.

14 other Central Ministries and Departments contributed towards finalization of these awards depicting the integrated, transparent and exhaustive approach adopted by the Ministry towards the awardee selection process.

Under the National Panchayat Awards 2024, awards have been conferred under the following categories:

- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP):** This award is for top-3 ranking GPs/Equivalent bodies for their outstanding performance under each of the **abovementioned** 9 award themes. This year, total 27 awards have been conferred under this category.
- Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar:** This award is for top 3 Gram, Block and District Panchayats each for their aggregate performance under all the 9 award themes of DDUPSVP. This year, total 9 awards have been conferred under this category.
- Special categories of Awards:**
 - Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar** is for top 3 GPs/Equivalent Bodies for their performance in adoption and usage of renewable sources of energy. This year, total 3 awards have been conferred under this category.
 - Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar** is for top 3 GPs/Equivalent Bodies for their performance in adoption and usage of renewable sources of energy. This year, total 3 awards have been conferred under this category.
 - Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar** is for 3 Institutions across the country who have provided institutional support to GPs in achieving LSDGs. This year, total 3 awards have been conferred under this category.

A total of 45 awardees (36 Gram Panchayats, 3 Block Panchayats, 3 District Panchayats and 3 Institutions) are selected for National Panchayat Awards 2024.