

## **Backgrounder : Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**

### **1. Background:**

1.1 The Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has been one of the major activities of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR). The Ministry has been providing programmatic, technical and institutional support for strengthening of PRIs including advocacy support for inter-ministerial and multi-sectoral coordination. Earlier support for CB&T were provided under different schemes of the Ministry such as Backward Region Grant Funds (BRGF), Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA), Capacity Building - Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (CB-PSA), etc.

1.2 Subsequent to the announcement in the **budget speech of 2016-17**, Centrally Sponsored Scheme of RGSA was prepared based on the consultation of NITI Aayog, Central Ministries/ Departments and State Governments. The scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet on 21.04.2018 for implementation from Financial Year 2018-19 to 2021-22. The financial outlay of the scheme was Rs.7255.50 crore with Central Share of Rs.4500 crore and State Share of Rs.2755.50 crore. The primary aim of RGSA was to strengthen PRIs for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with main thrust on convergence with Mission Antyodaya and emphasis on strengthening PRIs in 117 Aspirational districts.

1.3 An amount of Rs.2149.10 crore was released to the States/UTs and implementing Agencies during implementation period from 2018-19 to 2021-22 for Capacity Building & Training and other admissible activities as approved under RGSA.

### **2. Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) - 2022-23 to 2025-26:**

2.1 Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) of PRIs is a continuous process, as a large number of elected members joined the PRIs after every five years. Hence, based on the recommendations of the evaluation study carried out for RGSA, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of RGSA was revamped, which was approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 13.04.2022 for implementation from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2026 (co-terminus with XV Finance Commission period) at a total cost of Rs.5911 crore including Central Share of Rs.3700 crore and State share of Rs.2211 crore.

2.2 The Revamped RGSA, like its predecessor, extends coverage to all States and Union Territories (UTs), including institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas. The scheme comprises both Central and State Components, with the Central Component being fully funded by the Government of India. The funding pattern for the State Component follows a ratio of 60:40 between the Centre and States, except for North Eastern and Hilly States and the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, where the ratio is 90:10. For other UTs, the Central share is 100%.

2.3 The focus of the scheme of Revamped RGSA is to re-imagining Panchayati Raj Institutions as vibrant centres of local self-governance and economic growth with special focus

on localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at grassroot level adopting thematic approach through concerted and collaborative efforts of Central Ministries and State line departments with 'whole of Government' approach at all levels.

2.4 The objectives of the scheme is to strengthen the governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to effectively deliver on the SDGs by enhancing the leadership and functional capacity of elected representatives, promoting inclusive and participatory local governance, and enabling resource convergence. Emphasis is placed on improving Panchayats' own revenue generation, strengthening Gram Sabhas, and promoting devolution in line with Constitutional and PESA provisions. The approach includes leveraging technology for e-governance, collaborating with academic institutions for capacity building, incentivizing PRI performance, undertaking action research and outreach, and encouraging knowledge exchange through international engagements.

3. The scheme comprises both Central and State Components, **the State Components** are:

- (i) Capacity Building & Training
- (ii) Institutional support for Capacity Building & Training
- (iii) Distance learning Facility through SATCOM/IP based virtual Class room/ similar technology
- (iv) Support for Panchayat Infrastructure (Construction of GP Bhawan & Co-location of CSC)
- (v) Programme Management Units (PMU)
- (vi) E-enablement of Panchayats
- (vii) Special Support for strengthening Gram Sabhas in PESA Areas
- (viii) Support for Innovation (Innovative activities)
- (ix) Project based support for Economic development & income enhancement
- (x) IEC Activities
- (xi) Programme Management/ Administrative cost

4. **The Central Components** are:

- (i) National Plan for Technical Assistance
- (ii) Mission Mode Project on e-Panchayat
- (iii) Incentivization of Panchayats
- (iv) Action Research & Publicity
- (v) International Cooperation
- (vi) Support to NIRD&PR and other Institutes of Excellence

## 5. Broad achievements under revamped RGSA:

### (i) Funds released to the States/UTs under Revamped RGSA

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Funds released to the States/UTs and others
1.	2022-23	682.98
2.	2023-24	814.86
3.	2024-25	694.17
4.	2025-26	304.19 (as on 31.07.2025)
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2496.20</b>

### (ii) Capacity Building & Training under revamped RGSA:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of participants provided training under RGSA
1.	2022-23	42,02,293
2.	2023-24	39,92,382
3.	2024-25	35,54,942
4.	2025-26	5,94,352 (as on 31.07.2025)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,23,37,506</b>

- (iii) 12940 Gram Panchayat Bhawans have been approved under revamped RGSA for different States/UTs. 52562 Computers have also been approved under the scheme for different States/UTs.

## 6. New initiatives under revamped RGSA: Various new initiatives have been taken during the period of revamped RGSA. Major initiatives are as under:

- (i) Initiative for Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) adopting 9 thematic approach.
- (ii) Revamping of the process of preparation of Panchayat Development Plan to prepare thematic Plan.
- (iii) Preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) based on Sankalp taken by Gram Panchayat.
- (iv) Initiative for preparation of Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI).
- (v) Development of Meri Panchayat application to bringing transparency in Panchayat governance by providing easy access of the information on Panchayat schemes, activities and progress of works to the common people.
- (vi) Development of "Panchayat Nirnay" application has been developed with the aim to make the operations of Gram Sabhas transparent and better managed.
- (vii) Management Development Plan for PRI with the institute of excellence.
- (viii) Faculty Development programme to improve quality of training.
- (ix) Setting up of School of Excellence for Panchayati Raj
- (x) Setting up of School of Excellence for PESA
- (xi) Development of specialized training module and roll out of the training of Women Elected Representatives
- (xii) Development of specialized module on generation of Own Source Revenue (OSR) in collaboration of Indian Institute of Management – Ahmadabad and roll of trainings.

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