

MoPR Highlights

On the Occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day – 24 April 2026

1. Significance of this year's National Panchayati Raj Day

National Panchayati Raj Day is observed every year on 24 April to commemorate the landmark 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, which gave constitutional status and legal recognition to Panchayati Raj Institutions. This year marks 33 years of that defining journey. Moreover, this year is especially significant for several reasons.

Under the visionary and people-centric leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Panchayati Raj Institutions have been transformed into smart, digital, future-ready and self-reliant units of local governance. Panchayats are no longer merely implementing agencies – they are today active architects of Viksit Bharat.

Today, the Panchayati Raj ecosystem stands stronger than ever – in scale, in resources, in technology, and in its capacity to deliver. This year's National Panchayati Raj Day is a celebration of that journey, and a rededication to the vision of Gram Swaraj.

2. Scale of Panchayati Raj in India today

The numbers are truly extraordinary. India has over 2.7 lakh Gram Panchayats (including PESA panchayats) serving nearly 65 percent of our population. There are over 25 lakh elected representatives across the three tiers of Panchayati Raj – Gram, Block and Zila Panchayat. This makes India's Panchayati Raj system one of the largest examples of participatory democracy in the world.

What is equally remarkable is that nearly half – 49.75 percent – of all the existing elected representatives are women. Over 12 lakh+ women are today governing their Panchayats, chairing Gram Sabhas, managing public funds, and driving development. 21 States and 2 Union Territories have implemented 50 percent reservation for women in Panchayats. This is not merely a statistic – it is a democratic revolution.

3. Financial empowerment of Panchayats

Financial empowerment as well as self-reliance of Panchayats has been a foundation of this Government's approach. The 16th Finance Commission has made a historic allocation of Rs. 4.35 lakh crore for Rural Local Bodies for the period 2026 to 2031 – an increase of 84 percent over the 15th Finance Commission. In the financial year 2026-27 alone, Rs. 1.40 lakh crore has been granted.

Critically, this money flows directly to Panchayat accounts – without any intermediary. The Own Source Revenue (OSR) policy and performance-based grants have further strengthened accountability and financial self-reliance. A financially empowered Panchayat is the foundation of an Aatmanirbhar Gram – and that is exactly what we are building.

4. Digital tools developed by the Ministry for Panchayats

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has built a comprehensive digital ecosystem for grassroots governance. The key tools are :

- eGramSwaraj – the end-to-end planning, accounting and payment platform through which over 2.5 lakh Panchayats have processed digital payments of over Rs. 3 lakh crore by March 2026.
- Meri Panchayat App – a citizen-facing mobile application for access to Panchayat services and information.
- AuditOnline – for transparent, online audit of Panchayat accounts.
- Panchayat NIRNAY – a repository of Panchayat resolutions, enhancing transparency in decision-making.
- SAMARTH Panchayat – to support and strengthen Own Source Revenue (OSR) for Gram Panchayats
- Training Management Portal – for capacity building and training management.
- Local Government Directory – a comprehensive national database of all local government bodies.
- Gram Manchitra – a GIS-based platform enabling geographic planning at the Panchayat level.
- SabhaSaar – most recent and innovative initiative, launched on 14 August 2025. It is an AI-enabled, voice-to-text tool developed entirely by the Ministry that records and transcribes Gram Sabha proceedings in 23 Indian languages. Over 1,18,000 Gram Panchayats are already using it. When technology speaks the language of the village – it is not just digital governance; it is a celebration of India’s diversity.

On 24th October 2024, the Ministry achieved another milestone through a tripartite collaboration between the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Earth Sciences, and the India Meteorological Department – Gram Panchayat-level weather forecast services were launched and made accessible through eGramSwaraj, the Meri Panchayat App and Gram Manchitra. This directly benefits farmers and strengthens disaster preparedness at the grassroots. It is a living example of how inter-Ministerial cooperation can serve India’s most vulnerable communities.

Additionally, under the ‘Meri Panchayat, Mera Adhikar’ initiative, over 2.15 lakh Panchayats have prepared Citizen Charters for 954 services – a new standard of accountability.

5. Empowerment of women elected representatives

The Ministry has launched the ‘Sashakt Panchayat Netri Abhiyan’ – a nationwide initiative to equip elected women representatives with knowledge of their constitutional rights and to strengthen their leadership capabilities. Over 33.50 lakh women representatives have received specialised training in the last four years.

The ‘Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat’ initiative and the ‘Nirbhay Raho’ campaign are creating safe and enabling environments for women’s participation. The ministry is also actively working with States to address the proxy Sarpanch issue – the intention is clear: the elected woman must lead herself, not be a figurehead.

The Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam has ensured 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures. The Panchayat is where this leadership is being forged and tested every day.

6. SVAMITVA and its impact.

PM SVAMITVA Yojana is one of the most transformative rural initiatives of recent times. Launched on National Panchayati Raj Day on 24 April 2020 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the scheme uses drone technology to survey village habitation land and provide legal property cards to rural households.

As of now, drone surveys have been completed in 3.30 lakh villages. Over 3.13 crore property cards have been prepared in 1.89 lakh villages. When a family in a village receives a legal document for the home they have lived in for generations – it opens access to bank credit, formal finance, and economic opportunities. That is the deeper meaning of SVAMITVA.

7. Ministry's Whole-of-Government approach

The Ministry has adopted a conscious and deliberate Whole-of-Government approach – collaborating with various Ministries / Departments like Rural Development, Jal Shakti, DDWS, Health & Family Welfare, Education, WCD, Agriculture & FW, Culture, Tribal Affairs, MoEFCC, Earth Sciences, and many others to amplify the transformative impact of Panchayati Raj across all spheres of development.

The localisation of Sustainable Development Goals – where 17 global SDGs are mapped to nine themes for Gram Panchayat Development Plans – is powerful example of Whole-of-Government approach. On this National Panchayati Raj Day, the Ministry has requested all Central Ministries and Departments to advise their field-level officers to attend Gram Sabha meetings. A Gram Sabha with Government officers of the concerned line Departments present alongside elected representatives is a powerful symbol of convergence.

8. Vision for Panchayats in the context of Viksit Bharat 2047

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 – a developed India by the centenary of our Independence – rests fundamentally on Viksit Panchayats. A village that is water-sufficient, clean and green, free from poverty, child-friendly, and governed with accountability – that is the Viksit Gram that is being strived for. The Panchayat Advancement Index tracks progress across all nine themes of LSDGs. National Panchayat Awards recognise and celebrate excellence, inspiring replication across the country. The Gram Panchayat Development Plans – prepared by over 2.55 lakh Panchayats under the People's Plan Campaign – are the grassroots roadmaps of that vision.
