

About PESA Rankings & PESA Indicators

Why PESA Ranking?

The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 was enacted to ensure that Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas are empowered to manage their land, water and forest resources (community resources) and safeguard their traditions and customs.

While the PESA Act provides a strong legal framework, its implementation varies across States due to different provisions in State Panchayat and subject laws, PESA rules and implementation strategy. The PESA Rankings seek to bring objectivity, transparency, and accountability by measuring performance of States on mutually agreed indicators.

These 100-point indicators are expected to help the States to objectively assess their areas for improvement so that resolute actions may be taken by them to fill the gaps in implementation of PESA. The PESA Indicators were formally released during PESA Mahotsav on 24th December, 2025, the day when PESA Act came into force in 1996.

Process of development of PESA Indicators for PESA Ranking

The PESA Indicators were developed through a consultative and participatory process in which:

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj prepared an initial framework aligned with the provisions of the PESA Act, 1996.
- These draft indicators were shared with all PESA States for comments, validation and data inputs, keeping in view State-specific legal and administrative contexts.
- The information and feedback received from States formed the basis for further refinement.
- The Ministry reviewed and finalised the indicators to ensure that they are comprehensive, measurable and reflective of ground realities.

The final indicator framework, therefore, represents a shared national assessment tool, evolved in partnership with the States.

10-points PESA Indicators

The PESA Indicators assess implementation across key domains envisaged under the Act, which captures both policy intent and implementation outcomes, enabling a comprehensive assessment of PESA compliance and are explained as under: -

- i. **Alignment of State Panchayat Raj Acts with PESA provisions (12 Marks):** This indicator confirms whether specific provisions of PESA Act have been incorporated in State Panchayati Raj Acts.
- ii. **State PESA Rules notified (10 Marks):** Marking is given to States that have notified their State PESA Rules.

- iii. **Provisions in State PESA Rules in conformity with PESA Act (16 Marks):** This indicator checks whether the State PESA Rules have provisions related to all the themes of PESA Act and whether they are in conformity with the intent of the Act.
- iv. **Amendments in State Acts/Rules/Regulations/Policies/Executive Directions of other line departments to comply with PESA Act(10 Marks):** This indicator assess the amendments in the provisions of each of the subject laws such as State Revenue/Mining/Forest Acts etc. for compliance with the PESA Act.
- v. **GPDP plan upload of PESA Gram Sabhas (6 Marks):** Evaluation is done on the basis of number of PESA Gram Panchayats which have uploaded Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) on e-Gram Swaraj portal.
- vi. **Mapping of PESA villages/Panchayats in Local Governance directory (4 Marks):** PESA Gram Panchayats on ground are mapped with the number of Gram Panchayats reflecting in Local Governance Directory to find out the status of their mapping for plan process.
- vii. **Deployment of PESA workforce at State Level (16 Marks):** Number of PESA Coordinators engaged at State, District, Block level along with Gram Sabha mobilisers posted at Gram Panchayat level are assessed vis-à-vis the Annual Action Plan of the States sanctioned by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj.
- viii. **PESA Trainings (16 Marks):** Number of State Level Master Trainers trained in the State along with the batches of trainings conducted and the number of participants trained are assessed to find out the status of capacity building of the stakeholders on PESA.
- ix. **Orientation of PESA Gram Sabha under RGSA (5 Marks):** Number of Gram Panchayats actually oriented in the State vis-à-vis number of Gram Panchayats approved in Annual Action Plan is checked whether the the PESA provisions are reaching till the last mile.
- x. **Uploading of photos/videos and minutes of Gram Sabha on Panchayat Nirnay Portal (5 Marks):** Photos / videos of Gram Sabha meetings uploaded on the Panchayat Nirnay portal is taken as the benchmark for a minimum of four compulsory Gram Sabhas to be held each year.

PESA Ranking on the basis of PESA Indicators

On the basis of above-mentioned indicators, tentative marks were assigned by each of the 10 PESA States by Ministry of Panchayati Raj and these marks were shared with the States for their observations. On the basis of the feedback received from the States, marks against each of the indicators were finalized and rankings were arrived at. Detailed framework against each of the indicators can be seen at the PESA Portal developed by the Ministry dedicatedly for PESA related information. PESA Ranking is therefore a tool that reinforces accountability, highlights progress, and provides a clear roadmap for strengthening Gram Sabha empowerment. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj remains committed to working with States and stakeholders to ensure that PESA is implemented in both letter and spirit, in line with constitutional values and tribal aspirations.