

SAMARTH Panchayat Portal

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) play a pivotal role in rural transformation and grassroots governance. To effectively discharge their responsibilities, including those listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, PRIs require adequate financial resources. However, Panchayats often face significant financial constraints in meeting the growing aspirations of rural communities. To address these challenges and enhance the financial autonomy of Panchayats, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is actively working to strengthen their Own Sources of Revenue (OSR). As part of this effort, the Ministry has developed a dedicated digital platform named SAMARTH, aimed at empowering Panchayats to become more self-reliant and less dependent on State and Central Government grants.

This initiative enables Gram Panchayats to capture various types of tax and non-tax revenues through an online payment gateway on the SAMARTH portal, which provides flexibility to citizens to pay taxes online, including Property Tax, Professional Tax, Sanitation Tax, Market Tax, and Entertainment Tax, among others. The portal also facilitates the issuance of demand notices online to taxpayers and supports online payments. This portal will also facilitate the Gram Panchayats in better revenue planning. The SAMARTH Panchayat Portal is a digital platform designed to monitor the efforts of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across States/UTs in enhancing their OSR. This portal supports the MoPR, State Departments, and Panchayats in promoting financial independence and reducing reliance on Central and State funding.

Currently, the States of Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh have been successfully onboarded on the SAMARTH portal. At present, more than 51 lakh taxpayers have registered themselves on the portal, and a total of demand notices amounting to Rs. 95 crores have been generated, out of which more than Rs. 27 crores have been collected. Additionally, the adoption of SAMARTH portal is in progress in the States of Maharashtra, Mizoram, Assam, Haryana, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

The Key features of SAMARTH Panchayat Portal:

- **Unified Platform:** Developed as a common national platform by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, it offers flexibility for customization based on state-specific rules and workflows.
- **Financial Management:** The Portal provides provisions for revenue planning, and management by panchayats to promote financial independence.
- **Transparent and Accountable Governance:** All transactions, demand generation, and collections are digitally recorded. The portal also provides multiple online payment options, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability.
- **Mobile Friendly Interface:** Optimized for mobile devices to enable usage by panchayat officials and citizens in rural areas, supporting field-level data entry and mobile notifications.
- **Data-Driven Decision Making:** The portal provides dashboards and analytics for monitoring revenue trends and improving policy decisions.
- **Citizen-Centric Services:** The portal enhances ease of doing business for citizens by enabling digital payments and transparent access to dues.
