

## **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI)**

Developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, PAI serves as a robust tool for evidence-based planning, performance monitoring and incentivisation of Panchayati Raj Institutions, while promoting transparency and technology-driven governance at the grassroots level. PAI scores form the objective basis for the National Panchayat Awards. Based on their composite scores, Gram Panchayats are classified into five performance categories - Achiever (90 and above), Front Runner (75 to below 90), Performer (60 to below 75), Aspirant (40 to below 60), and Beginner (below 40) - enabling transparent benchmarking, healthy competition, and targeted developmental interventions at the grassroots level. PAI 2.0, the latest and substantially enhanced version of the Index, evaluates over 2.6 lakh Gram Panchayats across 150 indicators and 230 data points. It witnessed participation from 2,59,867 Gram Panchayats across 33 States and Union Territories, accounting for 97.3 per cent of all Gram Panchayats that submitted data. This marks a significant improvement over PAI 1.0, which recorded a participation rate of 80.79 per cent. Through the publicly accessible PAI portal ([pai.gov.in](http://pai.gov.in)), citizens can view the performance of their Gram Panchayat without any login requirement, enabling them to track local development outcomes and participate more meaningfully in the development journey of their Panchayat. The Index also serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, government departments, research institutions, development partners and civil society organisations. It supports States and Union Territories in prioritising developmental interventions, preparing Gram Panchayat Development Plans, and identifying high-performing Panchayats as models of best practices and learning hubs.