

1. Department of Rural Development

(i). Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin)

Bottom-up Planning envisaged through the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans

VB-G RAM G: The Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB–G RAM G Act, 2025 marks a significant reform in the rural development framework, aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. Coming into force from 1 July 2026, the Act provides a statutory guarantee of 125 days of wage employment every financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work. It promotes empowerment, growth, convergence and saturation for a prosperous and resilient rural Bharat, with focus on water security, core rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure and mitigation of extreme weather events. GIS-based planning through VGPPs, supported by Yuktdhara and PM Gati Shakti, enables evidence-based and integrated planning based on local needs and existing assets. The framework further strengthens transparency through Face Authentication, e-KYC, geo-tagging, digital measurement, e-MB and DBT-based payments, linking employment with sustainable asset creation and rural development.

Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP): The Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) is a key institutional reform under VB–G RAM G for enabling participatory, evidence-based, saturation-oriented and convergence-driven planning at the grassroots level. Prepared with the active participation of the Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat, with due recommendation and approval of the Gram Sabha, VGPP enables villages to identify their actual development needs, existing assets and development gaps and prioritise works accordingly. The planning process is supported by GIS, Yuktdhara, PM Gati Shakti and other digital tools, enabling spatial planning, better asset mapping and avoidance of duplication. It promotes a Whole-of-Government approach by bringing together resources and interventions of different schemes, departments and stakeholders for integrated village development. VGPP thus seeks to create an integrated, locally responsive and outcome-oriented village development plan, promoting sustainable livelihoods, quality infrastructure and improved delivery of public services.

Successful and Seamless Rollout

- The Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB–G RAM G has been rolled out successfully across all rural areas of the country with effect from 1 July 2026.

- The transition from Mahatma Gandhi NREGA to VB-G RAM G has been smooth, seamless and disruption-free, with all major digital systems becoming operational from Day One.
- Worker attendance is being captured through Face Authentication, significantly enhancing transparency, accountability and authenticity.

Achievements Under VB- G RAM G

- Since implementation of VB- G RAM G, more than 31.69 crore persondays have already been generated.
- Employment has been provided, on demand, to over 2.81 crore workers belonging to about 2.23 crore rural households.
- More than 97.17 lakh works are currently under execution, while 73.24 lakh approved works are readily available to meet future employment demand.
- Around 20.16 lakh active worksites have been operational under VB-G RAM G since 1 July 2026.
- Works are presently being executed in nearly 2.31 lakh Gram Panchayats across the country.

Financial Progress

- A total of ₹93,841 crore has been allocated to States/UTs as interim allocation for FY 2026–27.
- Out of this, a Mother Sanction of ₹25,880 crore has been issued as the first instalment to the States/UTs.

Video Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qGTEo9LoECIt2Uehqgw-xC7WMi3b9Q2p/view?usp=sharing>

2. Department of Consumer Affairs

Reforms for Speedy Consumer Grievance Redress:

a) A critical pillar of the Government's consumer protection framework is resolution of consumer complaint at pre-litigation Stage through National Consumer Helpline 2.0. The National helpline functions as the first point of contact for consumers across a wide range of sectors, including e-commerce, banking, telecommunications,

insurance, airlines, travel services, and digital payments etc. The helpline is designed to cater to consumers across regions and linguistic backgrounds by operating in **17 languages**.

b) The technological transformation of the NCH has significantly boosted its call-handling capacity. The number of calls received by NCH has grown from **78,477 calls in August 2019 to 3,42,371 calls in August 2026**. This growth reflects the rising confidence of consumers in the helpline. Similarly, the **average number of complaints registered per month has surged from 37,062 in 2017 to over 2,03,140 in 2026 (January 2026 to August 2026)**.

c) The National Consumer Helpline 1915 by the Department of Consumer Affairs has facilitated refunds of more than ₹105 Crore to consumers between 25th April 2025 and 31st July 2026 by effectively addressing over 1,66,000 consumer grievances related to refund claims at the pre-litigation stage.

d) For Justice and Grievance Redressal through Information Technology and Innovation, e-Jagriti was launched on 1st January 2025 which is one-stop digital platform that makes consumer complaints easy, quick and fair for all. It brings together old systems into one single, user-friendly portal – no more confusion or multiple websites. Hearings now through video call – no need to travel long distances, saving time and money. E-Jagriti transformed consumer justice delivery - earning it the Silver Award under Category-I at the National Awards for e-Governance 2026 amid 341 nominations.

e) Within a short period, the platform registered over 5.02 lakh users (including 4,051 NRIs), with 2.81 lakh cases filed and 2.55 lakh disposed of at an impressive 90.75% disposal rate. It achieved a 112% increase in Video Conferencing cases, a 260% surge in virtual hearings and a higher overall disposal rate compared to FY 2024-25. Several State and District Commissions recorded disposal rates exceeding 100%. A total of 1096 complaints were filed by NRIs, with the highest numbers from the United States (329), UAE (118), United Kingdom (111), Canada (84), Germany (56) and Australia (48). As on date, more than 2.81 lakh cases had been instituted on e-Jagriti, with over 2.55 lakh disposed of.

3. Department of Food & Public Distribution

(i) One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)

The One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme was launched in 2019 by the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Government of India, as a milestone PDS reform to ensure nationwide food security. Its primary focus is on safeguarding mobile populations like migrant workers and daily wage earners. The scheme is successfully implemented across all 36 states and Union Territories, making subsidized food grains truly portable throughout India. Beneficiaries can access their entitled foodgrains from any ePoS-enabled Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country without needing a new ration card. This fully technology-driven system operates by utilizing digitized ration card databases alongside Aadhaar-based biometric authentication. The initiative has achieved widespread national adoption, facilitating approximately 3.27 crore portability transactions every month. Since its inception, ONORC has recorded more than 228 crore inter-state and intra-state portability transactions, distributing over 595 LMT of foodgrains. ONORC has emerged as one of the most significant reforms in the Public Distribution System, enhancing transparency, efficiency, and ease of access while ensuring that food security benefits remain available to beneficiaries anywhere in the country. The initiative has strengthened social protection for migrant populations and advanced the vision of a more integrated, inclusive, and beneficiary-centric welfare delivery system.

Key Figures:

- Out of 205,122,153 ration cards in Central System, 98.8% (i.e. 202,730,400) ration cards have been Aadhar seeded. The number of total beneficiaries seeded with Aadhar stands 768,842,611.
- Out of total 551,718 Fair Price Shops (FPSs), 99.8% (i.e. 550,418) are operational with e-PoS devices.
- As on 31.07.2026, e-KYC has been done in respect of 713,392,428 beneficiaries out of 785,647,564 i.e. 90.8% of total beneficiaries.

(ii) Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) provides foodgrains entirely free of cost to up to 81.35 crore eligible beneficiaries through the network of over **5.5 lakh** Fair Price Shops (FPSs) across the country. In January 2024, the scheme was extended for a further period of five years, up to 2028, at an estimated cost of **Rs. 11.80 lakh crore** over the five-year period, making PMGKAY the world's largest food-security welfare programme. PMGKAY is a Central Sector Scheme, with the foodgrain subsidy fully borne by the Government of India; States/UTs handle intra-State movement, storage and last-mile distribution. Under the scheme, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households receive **35 kg** of foodgrains per household per month, while Priority Households (PHH) receive **5 kg** per person per month.

Key Figures:

- Total ration card count: 204,992,435
- Beneficiary Count—787,879,563

- Aug 2026 Distribution (MT)—4,071,066
- FY 2025-26 Distribution (MT)—49,258,438

State-wise breakup

S. No	State Name	RationCard Count	Beneficiary Count	Aug 2026 Distribution (MT)	FY 2025-26 Distribution (MT)
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	17,608	59,988	333.33	4,164
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	8,917,425	26,823,209	145700.38	1,749,337
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	183,325	832,372	3109.83	49,222
4	ASSAM	7,015,900	24,749,580	132931.53	1,599,422
5	BIHAR	20,258,934	81,461,696	414316.61	5,089,652
6	CHANDIGARH	57,389	241,307	0	0
7	CHHATTISGARH	5,717,647	19,817,329	107662.84	1,316,784
8	DADAR & NAGAR HAVELI & DAMAN & DIU	55,020	252,287	1179.04	16,712
9	DELHI	1,546,105	6,487,261	42505.45	534,724
10	GOA	117,570	423,242	2200.94	27,792
11	GUJARAT	7,651,816	33,990,181	169291	2,008,438
12	HARYANA	3,941,690	15,337,047	81153.35	1,012,759
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH	732,830	2,839,139	14478.16	169,078
14	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	1,659,271	6,858,535	34514.19	432,781
15	JHARKHAND	6,054,222	26,300,092	137533.57	1,637,578
16	KARNATAKA	10,759,345	39,815,887	209134.91	2,494,954
17	KERALA	4,425,003	15,486,409	83426.88	965,717
18	LADAKH	28,007	111,331	488.91	7,505
19	LAKSHADWEEP	4,452	19,572	113.38	1,363
20	MADHYA PRADESH	13,335,322	51,908,827	274618.19	3,240,648
21	MAHARASHTRA	16,439,779	65,511,739	360498.97	4,288,004

22	MANIPUR	583,093	2,114,671	0	0
23	MEGHALAYA	414,997	2,101,302	2039.29	112,475
24	MIZORAM	177,032	696,377	3880.51	45,567
25	NAGALAND	288,881	1,027,712	4716.49	67,459
26	ODISHA	9,747,524	32,109,191	154718.59	2,217,329
27	PUDUCHERRY	200,402	655,178	0	0
28	PUNJAB	3,973,895	13,594,650	66691.86	795,397
29	RAJASTHAN	10,767,382	44,726,798	220968.95	2,510,420
30	SIKKIM	96,267	372,701	1447.1	16,796
31	TAMIL NADU	11,815,893	36,327,416	196318.8	2,349,182
32	TELANGANA	5,689,597	19,158,086	106708.81	1,259,020
33	TRIPURA	602,551	2,333,509	13089.98	157,802
34	UTTARAKHAND	1,373,011	5,990,075	30704.58	359,259
35	UTTAR PRADESH	36,758,508	147,299,721	731213.28	8,811,997
36	WEST BENGAL	13,584,742	60,045,146	323376.64	3,909,103
	Total	204,992,435	787,879,563	4,071,066	49,258,438

4. Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

(i) Catch The Rain: A Transformational Reform

Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: Catch the Rain (JSJB: CTR) marks a significant reform in the country's water-conservation framework under the guiding principle, "Catch the Rain, where it falls, when it falls". The initiative adopts a Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society approach to promote rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, water conservation, and the creation of water assets.

JSJB: CTR places Jan Bhagidari at the centre of water conservation and gives local communities a direct role in creating and maintaining water-harvesting and recharge

structures. Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, women's groups, youth, educational institutions, civil society organisations and citizens are brought together to transform water conservation into a shared public responsibility. Through the convergence of schemes, resources, and departmental interventions, districts are enabled to plan and construct locally appropriate and low-cost structures.

The initiative promotes saturation-oriented action at the local level, while the JSJB: CTR portal and mobile application strengthen transparency, monitoring and public feedback. By linking community ownership with convergence, digital oversight, and asset creation, JSJB: CTR is laying the foundation for water-secure Bharat.

Impact & Achievement

Under the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative, over 1.55 crore Artificial Recharge and Storage Structures have been constructed. Further, an Impact Evaluation Study of JSJB 1.0 (23 lakh structures) using rainfall data between 1 June 2025 and 31 December 2025, estimated that these interventions resulted in 2.43 billion cubic metres of groundwater recharge.

5. Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

(i) Jal Jeevan Mission

Since its launch in August 2019, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has significantly transformed rural drinking water service delivery by expanding Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage from about 3.23 crore rural households (17%) to more than 16 crore households (over 80%), ensuring improved access to safe drinking water across rural India. With the transition to JJM 2.0, the focus is increasingly on service delivery, source sustainability, community ownership, and long-term operation and maintenance of water supply infrastructure.

To strengthen community participation and institutional ownership, Jal Arpan has been institutionalised as a community-led event marking the successful commissioning and handing over of completed rural water supply schemes to Gram Panchayats and local communities. The initiative promotes collective responsibility for sustaining rural drinking water services and encourages community validation of service delivery.

As part of the **Reform Utsav**, States/UTs have been requested vide D.O. letter dated 9th September 2026 to organise **Jal Arpan activities on 2nd October 2026** in the maximum possible number of Gram Panchayats. As confirmed, Assam and Nagaland will organise the event in all districts; Maharashtra in one GP per division; Madhya Pradesh in 40 villages; Chhattisgarh in 20 GPs; Himachal Pradesh in 9 GPs; Karnataka in 25 GPs; Tripura in 2 GPs; and Tamil Nadu in 8 GPs. The celebrations may include activities such as Jal Walk, Jal Bandhan, Jal Vandana, Jal Sankalp, Jal

Shringar, Har Ghar Jal Declaration, and recognition of community members contributing to the sustainability of rural water supply schemes.

i. Jal Walk (Prabhat Pheri): Morning community walk/rally involving VWSCs, SHGs, children and youth, with messages on water conservation, cleanliness and responsible use of water.

ii. Jal Bandhan: A symbolic community pledge to protect and maintain the water supply infrastructure by tying a thread/ribbon around the water tank, tap or pump house.

iii. Jal Vandana: Folk songs, bhajans, street plays and other local cultural activities highlighting safe drinking water, hygiene and water conservation.

iv. Jal Sankalp: Collective pledge by villagers to use water responsibly and participate in the management and protection of rural drinking water assets.

v. Jal Shringar: Local decoration of the venue through rangoli, alpana/jhoti etc., along with demonstrations of water-quality testing through Field Test Kits (FTKs) by youth/SHGs.

vi. Har Ghar Jal Declaration: In eligible villages, the Sarpanch/Chief Guest may make the Har Ghar Jal declaration following due validation/certification, along with installation of a display board.

vii. Recognition and Felicitation: Recognition of VWSC members, SHGs, pump operators, masons, volunteers and other community members for their contribution towards implementation and sustainability of rural water supply schemes.

The celebrations are envisaged to be held at or near village water infrastructure, such as the Overhead Tank, Pump House or Panchayat Bhawan, where community members can participate collectively. The events would involve villagers, VWSCs, SHGs, school children, youth, officials and elected/public representatives. Gram Panchayats and District Administrations are also being encouraged to facilitate the participation of public representatives.

It may be noted that the Jal Arpan event is done after a 15-day trial period of the scheme to facilitate testing and resolution of implementation-related issues. Accordingly, the proposed date of 2nd October 2026 is tentative at this stage and may undergo changes based on the outcome of the trial period and readiness of the participating Gram Panchayat. The final date for the Jal Arpan celebration will be communicated after completion of the trial period and finalization of the arrangements

(ii) Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)

Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) (SBM G) Phase I was launched on 2nd October 2014, with the aim to make the country Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2nd October 2019, by providing access to toilets to all the rural households. As a result, by October 2019, all villages across the country, and consequently all States/UTs, had declared themselves ODF.

Having achieved the ODF status, SBM(G) Phase-II was launched with effect from 1st April 2020 with focus on ODF sustainability and to cover all the villages with Solid & Liquid Waste Management arrangements and with visual cleanliness.

Besides infrastructure creation, SBM(G) has brought about transformational behavior change across the country towards ODF sustainability, safe sanitation. and effective solid and liquid waste management through widespread Jan Bhagidari.

Outcomes of SBM(G) Phase II:

Under SBM(G) Phase II, the outcomes are as follows (as on 23.09.2026):

- 2.07 crore IHHLs and 2.14 lakh CSCs have been constructed during SBM(G) Phase II as on 23.09.2026. Cumulatively, under SBM(G) Phase I and Phase II, 12.22 crore IHHLs and more than 2.82 lakh CSCs have been constructed in rural areas.
- Over 5.25 lakh (89.6%) villages have declared themselves ODF Plus (Model).
- Over 5.38 lakh villages (91.8%) are reported to have been covered with Solid Waste Management (SWM) arrangements and more than 5.65 lakh villages (96.4%) are reported to have been covered with Greywater Management (GWM) arrangements
- 5,610 Blocks (78%) have been covered with Plastic Waste Management Unit (PWMU)/urban Material Recovery Facility (MRF)
- Under SBM(G) Phase I and II, a total of 1,194 community/cluster level GOBARdhan plants have also been constructed

Impact Assessment of SBM(G):

- A WHO study (2018) estimated that nearly 3 lakh diarrhoeal deaths were averted in 2019 compared with 2014.
- A BMGF study (2017) found that cases of wasting among children were 58 per cent higher in non-ODF areas.
- A UNICEF study (2017) found that 93 per cent of women felt safer after gaining access to a toilet at home.
- A UNICEF study (2017) estimated average annual savings of approximately ₹50,000 per household in an ODF village due to avoided healthcare costs.
- A UNICEF study (2019) found that groundwater in ODF villages was 12.7 times less likely to be contaminated by human faecal matter.
- According to NITI Aayog (2025), SBM sustains sanitation gains at scale - 98% of households reported toilet access; 92% primarily use toilets. Over 90% villages reported ODF Plus progress with expanding solid and liquid waste management systems.
- Research published in Nature (2024) estimated that the SBM contributed to averting 60,000–70,000 infant deaths annually.

Activities: Under **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)**, States /UTs have been informed to convey Special Gram Sabhas in Gram Panchayats on Swachh Bharat Diwas on 2nd October 2026 which are to be anchored by elected Panchayat representatives with the active participation of women, youth, community leaders and

other village level stakeholders. As part of SHS-2026, the Gram Sabhas should focus on the following:

- i. Awareness generation and sensitization on the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 and 4-way source segregation
- ii. Awareness generation on Swachh Seva Aankalan (SSA)
- iii. Discussion on SSA: Presenting self-assessment findings of SSA followed by modifications, if any, validation, formal resolution and approval by those GPs that are ready.
- iv. Discussion on Swachhata Hi Seva activities conducted during the campaign period
- v. Discussion on functionality of various sanitation and SLWM assets and ODF sustainability and ODF Plus (Model) parameters
- vi. Plantation drives under Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam and
- vii. Swachhata Pledge to be done on MyGov portal by all participants

It is to be ensured that appropriate documentation and timely reporting of the Special Gram Sabhas and related activities are done on the prescribed SHS-2026 portal (<https://swachhatahiseva.gov.in>). Special Gram Sabha details must also be uploaded on the eGramSwaraj portal – (<https://egramswaraj.gov.in>).

6. Department of Land Resources

(i) Accessibility of Digital Land Records

The **accessibility of digital land records marked a monumental milestone** in India's land governance framework under the **Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)**. This pioneering initiative executed a sweeping overhaul of an antiquated system, converting it into a transparent, secure, and highly efficient digital ecosystem that served as a foundational pillar for both Ease of Living (EoL) and Ease of Doing Business (EoDB).

By **digitising a staggering 99.90% of Records of Rights (RoRs) and 97.4% of cadastral maps**, this massive undertaking stood out as one of the most successful administrative reforms in recent history, driving impact across two key areas:

- **A Triumph for Ease of Living (EoL):** The digital migration restored dignity and transparency to millions of citizens. Enabling online access across 31 States/UTs effectively **bypassed rent-seeking intermediaries**, fiercely protecting rural citizens, women, and senior citizens from exploitation. Furthermore, providing legally valid, digitally signed RoRs for download in 24 States/UTs **eliminated corrosive bureaucracy**, saving citizens from exhausting travel, long wait times, and endless physical visits to Tehsil offices.

It also empowered remote landowners to protect their properties from fraudulent mutations.

- **A Catalyst for Ease of Doing Business (EoDB):** The state engineered a predictable, low-risk environment that sparked economic enterprise. Institutional investors gained the ability to run **instant title verifications**, dissolving months of costly procedural delays that previously stalled land development. Clean digital titles allowed financial institutions to clear credit rapidly, enabling farmers and entrepreneurs to leverage land as transparent collateral. Finally, integrating textual and spatial records **systematically reduced litigation**, choking off property fraud and relieving pressure on revenue courts.

This historic reform did not merely update records; it laid a permanent digital foundation that permanently altered India's socioeconomic landscape.

(ii) Watershed Development Projects - More Provisions, Faster Work — Better & Faster Results

More Funds per Hectare and Faster Completion — Better and Faster Benefits to the Farmers

Now, under watershed development projects, more funds are available per hectare, and projects are being completed in a shorter period.

- In plain areas, the amount has been increased from ₹12,000 per hectare to ₹22,000.
- In hilly and difficult areas, the amount has been increased from ₹15,000 per hectare to ₹28,000.
- The project period has been reduced from 7 years to 5 years.

Benefits for Farmers and Villages:

- More and better soil and water conservation works could be undertaken.
- Water availability for agriculture has improved.
- Soil erosion has reduced and land productivity has increased.
- Farmers are able to take second or third crop.
- Farmers' and rural families' incomes have increased, bringing greater prosperity and well-being to their lives.

More Investment + Faster Work → Better Soil & Water Conservation → Improved Agriculture → Rising Farmers' Income → Prosperous Farmers & Villages

7. Ministry of Panchayati Raj

(i) *Sashakt Panchayat* through increased devolution of Finance commission funds

The Sixteenth Finance Commission (XVI FC) has recommended a historic allocation of **Rs. 4,35,236 crore** for Rural Local Bodies during 2026-31. This represents an increase of nearly **Rs. 1.98 lakh crore**, or about **84%**, over the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) allocation, reflecting the Government's continued commitment to empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions as engines of rural development and self-governance.

The per capita annual allocation of Central Finance Commission grants to Rural Local Bodies has increased from about **Rs. 400** under the 14th Finance Commission to nearly **Rs 950** under the 16th Finance Commission—an increase of over **2.3** times. This reflects the Government's sustained commitment to strengthening the financial capacity of Panchayats and deepening democratic decentralization.

GPDP: Institutionalising People-Led Planning and Accountability

The increased resource envelope under the Sixteenth Finance Commission strengthens the financial capacity of Panchayats. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has complemented fiscal decentralisation with reforms in local planning so that available resources are allocated through a structured process reflecting the needs and priorities of the Gram Sabha. The Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) provides the institutional framework for this connection between funds, public participation and development outcomes.

(ii) Self-sufficient Panchayat through enhancement of Own Source Revenue (OSR):

India's rural economy forms the backbone of national development, with Gram Panchayats serving as the closest tier of governance to the citizen under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. Over time, they have moved from passive implementers of schemes to active partners in rural progress, yet financial dependency on State and Central grants remains a major constraint.

The Sixteenth Finance Commission (FC-16), in its report for the award period 2026–31, has underscored the importance of enhancing Own Source Revenue of Rural Local Bodies. The Commission has recommended a huge amount of **Rs. 87,048 crore** as performance-linked grants in order to bolster the financial self sufficiency of the local bodies and ensure that States discharge their Constitutional duties.

With the objective to bolster the financial autonomy and self-sufficiency of Panchayati Raj Institutions, the Ministry has taken some significant steps as under:

(a) SAMARTH Panchayat Portal: the Ministry has developed SAMARTH Panchayat Portal as a unified digital platform to strengthen Panchayat-level financial management and to improve their Own Source Revenue (OSR) mobilization. This helps Panchayats properly track and increase their OSR, makes the system faster and more transparent, and ensures that local funds are used better for village development like roads, cleanliness, and public facilities.

As per the Operational Guidelines for implementation of the recommendations of the FC-16 for Rural Local Body (RLB) grants issued by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance vide letter dated 21.05.2026, States are required to initiate and complete end-to-end onboarding on the SAMARTH Panchayat Portal, including system integration, user provisioning, and capacity building, to ensure accurate, consistent, and real-time OSR reporting across all RLBs by the financial year 2026-27

At present, SAMARTH portal is being successfully implemented in many States across the country like Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. As on date (24th Sept 2026), more than **57 lakh** Tax-payers have been registered, more than **15 lakh** properties have been registered and over **Rs. 107 Crores** in Demand notices have been generated on the Portal.

(b) Model OSR Rules: The Ministry undertook the work to develop a model OSR Rules to provide States with a standardized framework for strengthening the legal, institutional and administrative mechanisms for mobilisation of OSR by Rural Local Bodies.

The model OSR Rules provides a common framework for States to strengthen Panchayat revenue mobilisation and reduce dependence on inter-governmental transfers. It supports systematic improvement in OSR assessment and collection and provides the policy foundation for financially stronger and more self-reliant Panchayats.

(c) Capacity Building: The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with IIM Ahmedabad, has developed a training module on Own Source Revenue (OSR) to strengthen the financial self-reliance of Gram Panchayats. The module helps elected representatives and Panchayat functionaries understand how OSR is generated through tax and non-tax sources.

(d) Incentivization of Panchayats: In 2025, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has launched the Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA) to promote

Atmanirbharta through the augmentation of Own Source Revenue (OSR) by Panchayats. Each awardee Panchayat receives a specially designed trophy, a certificate, and a financial incentive of ₹1 crore for first place, ₹75 lakh for second place, and ₹50 lakh for third place, in recognition of their outstanding efforts in strengthening Own Source Revenue mobilisation and advancing Panchayat self-reliance.

(iii) Standardization of Panchayat Accounts across the country:

Panchayat accounts lacked a clear distinction between revenue (routine) and capital (asset-creating) expenditure. The four-tier framework that was in existence previously and the limited standardization led to frequent misclassification, weakening data reliability, transparency, and effective monitoring of Finance Commission grants. This was also highlighted by the RBI in its report on Finances of Panchayati Raj Institutions in 2024.

As an accounting reform, since 2025-26 financial year, MoPR has introduced Panchayat accounting with the six-tier structure used by the Union and State Governments.

The revised Panchayat accounting framework significantly enhances financial management and governance. By ensuring clear mapping of activities to Heads of Accounts, it improves the accuracy of financial reporting and reduces misclassification of expenditure. It also provides a sharper distinction between revenue and capital expenditure, addressing concerns raised in the RBI assessment. Automated identification of accounting heads minimizes manual errors and reduces reliance on users' technical knowledge, thereby simplifying voucher creation. The six tier structure aligns Panchayat accounting with the systems used by Union and State Governments, enabling greater interoperability, aggregation, and comparative analysis of financial data. Moreover, the standardized structure strengthens financial governance by creating a transparent audit trail from planning to expenditure and reporting, thereby reinforcing accountability in the use of public funds. Finally, the system makes accounting easier for Panchayat functionaries by automatically providing the relevant classification based on the activity selected during planning and payment processing, eliminating the need for manual determination of detailed accounting heads.

This reform initiative has been implemented across all Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country.

(iv) AuditOnline – Online Audit Management System for Panchayati Raj Institutions:

The AuditOnline application was launched in April 2020 to enable online auditing of Panchayat accounts and their financial management. This tool facilitates the transparent utilisation of Central Finance Commission grants and enhances Panchayat-level financial oversight. More than **2.5 lakh** PRIs have onboarded into the digital audit ecosystem as on date. A total of **2,63,072** Audit Plans were prepared in FY 2022–23, **2,62,554** in FY 2023–24, and **2,50,464** in FY 2024–25. A total of **2,59,341** Audit Reports were generated in FY 2022–23, **2,58,324** in FY 2023–24, and **2,46,914** in FY 2024–25.

(v) Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) Scheme

SVAMITVA Scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on National Panchayati Raj Day, 24th April 2020. The Scheme provides legal ownership records to rural household owners of inhabited area, with the use of modern drone and geospatial technologies.

Before SVAMITVA, rural abadi land in most States existed largely outside the formal land records system. This often made it difficult for people to prove ownership and could lead to property and boundary disputes. Also, the traditional land measurement methods prone to human error, time consuming and outdated records, resulted in disputes.

SVAMITVA has addressed these longstanding challenges using drone surveys and accurate digital maps, along with the participation of villagers and Gram Panchayats. This helps in clearly identifying the boundaries and ownership of rural properties.

SVAMITVA Scheme gives rural families a clear and legal record of their house/property ownership through accurate drone surveys. With a Property Card, people can use their property to get loans from banks, start or expand businesses, and improve their livelihoods. Clear property records also help reduce disputes and contributed to women's empowerment by encouraging inclusion of women as recognised property owners in rural abadi areas.

As on 24th September 2026, Drone survey is completed in **3.30 lakh** villages. **3.31 crore** property cards have been generated for **2.04 lakh** villages. Drone survey is saturated in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, J&K, Mizoram and Ladakh. The scheme has been saturated in Haryana, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Odisha, Puducherry, Goa, Tripura, Dadra Nagar Haveli Daman, Lakshadweep and A&N Island. SVAMITVA has improved

access to formal financial services by enabling property cards to be used as collateral for loans, approximately **11,417** loans amounting to **₹1,713** crore have been sanctioned using SVAMITVA property cards as collateral

SVAMITVA is helping rural families make better use of their property, become economically stronger and create new opportunities for growth, contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat.
