

HIGH-PERFORMING PANCHAYATS

Posted On: 10 MAR 2026 3:53PM by PIB Delhi

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has anchored the process of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) by aggregating the 17 SDGs into 9 themes. To measure the process of implementation of LSDGs at the grassroots level, the Ministry has developed the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) as a composite assessment framework to measure the incremental performance of Gram Panchayats/Equivalent to Gram Panchayats across the nine themes. The PAI provides theme-wise and overall scores through scorecards and dashboards, enabling identification of performance gaps, relative strengths, and areas requiring focused attention at the Panchayat level. The PAI provides an evidence-based framework for evaluating performance across measurable indicators under the nine themes within the State, and grades GPs under five categories i.e. Achiever (A+), Front Runner (A: 75 to below 90), Performer (B: 60 to below 75), Aspirant (C: 40 to below 60) and Beginner (D: 0 to below 40), based on the PAI score.

In so far as the identification of 1,000 high-performing Gram Panchayats for accelerating progress towards a malnutrition-free Bharat is concerned, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) launched the Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyaan on 26 December 2024, which identifies and incentivizes high-performing Gram Panchayats based on data from the Poshan Tracker Application. States/UTs nominated up to 10% of their GPs meeting specified eligibility criteria relating to functional Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), beneficiary coverage, basic infrastructure and growth measurement efficiency, for selection of top 1,000 qualified GPs.

Incentives, recognition and support: PAI scores support the States/UTs to identify high-performing Gram Panchayats for incentivizing and felicitation for exemplary practices across the nine themes of LSDGs.

Under the Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyaan, an incentive grant is awarded to the top 1,000 qualified Gram Panchayats, and is distributed as 25% to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, 25% for community mobilization and beneficiary enrolment, and 50% for nutrition-focused AWC activities such as Poshan Vatikas and strengthening supplementary nutrition.

Measurable improvements in nutrition and infrastructure outcomes: Within the LSDG framework, Theme 2: Healthy Panchayat covers health and nutrition aspects for improving quality health services of rural citizens, and Theme 6: Panchayat with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure focuses on rural infrastructure, including rural connectivity, social institutions, GP Bhawan, and utility centres, etc. PAI, through its thematic and composite scores, provides an evidence-based assessment framework across measurable indicators under the nine themes, including themes relating to health/nutrition and infrastructure, thereby enabling identification of performance gaps and areas requiring focused attention at Panchayat level.

Under the Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyaan, the assessment framework is outcome-oriented and data-driven and measures improvements in malnutrition indicators (SAM, MAM, stunting, underweight), maternal nutrition, supplementary nutrition coverage, AWC infrastructure, and growth monitoring efficiency.

Scaling up best practices: PAI provides a framework for promoting best practices of Gram Panchayats to foster peer learning and exchange of learning among Gram Panchayats across the nine themes of LSDGs.

Further, under the Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyaan, beyond recognition, the initiative fosters positive competition, promotes sustainable nutrition practices, and encourages documentation and dissemination of best practices for wider replication.

This information was given by Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh in a written reply in Lok Sabha on 10th March 2026.

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(Release ID: 2237511) Visitor Counter : 121

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