



Mahila Sabhas on the International Women's Day

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Why in News

Special Gram Sabhas and Mahila Sabhas (Women's Assemblies)Gram Panchayatsth 8 March, 2020International Women's Day. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has directed all the States and Union Territories to organise in all on to mark the

- **theme "Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights".** The theme of the International Women's Day 2020 is
- The Gram Sabhas will hold discussions on "Poshan Panchayat", land rights, education, safety, reproductive health and equal opportunity.
- **importance of breastfeeding during the first 1,000 days of the new-borns Child Helpline – 1098.** It will also highlight issues like the for their ideal physical and mental growth; and raising awareness about

Role of Women in Panchayati Raj Institution

- **PRIrd 73 Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**

Gram Sabha The act provides for a as the foundation of the panchayati raj system.

was constitutionalized through the to build democracy at the grass roots level and was entrusted with the task of rural development in the country.

- **act provides for the reservation of not less than one-third of the total number of seats for women** The (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the SCs and STs).
- **20 Stateswomen's reservation to 50% in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).** So far have enacted legislation to raise
- **30.41 lakh elected representatives of PRIs, 13.74 lakh (45.2%) are elected women,** As a result, out of the some of them from socially disadvantaged groups.

Gram Sabha

- **Article 243(b).** The term Gram Sabha is defined in the Constitution under
- It is the primary and permanent body of the Panchayati Raj system.
- The power to annul a decision of the Gram Sabha rests with the Gram Sabha only.
- **Composition:**

Persons, those who are above 18 years, living in the village whose names are included in the electoral rolls for the Panchayat at the village level.

Powers and functions:

The constitution empowered the State Legislatures to define the powers and functions of the Gram Sabhas through laws passed by them.

Women Empowerment and Gram Panchayat Development Plan

- **The Ministry of Panchayati Rajintegrated development planning at the Gram Panchayatcommunity's needs and priorities.** has framed the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) for level to focus on the
- **part of the Vision Document-2024Ministry of Panchayati Raj**The GPDP is of the that focuses on capacitating the Elected Representatives in sectoral areas to make them the Agents of Change
- **key aspects of GPDP guidelines that are relevant to Women Empowerment include**Some of the proactive participation of women in budgeting, planning, implementation and monitoring of GPDP and convening Mahila Sabhas prior to the general Gram Sabhas and their inclusion in Gram Sabhas and GPDP.

Source: PIB