



## Assessment of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

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### Why in News

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- Recently, a study by the Ministry of Rural Development has observed that the **Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)** has not been able to achieve the desired objectives and failed to make a significant impact.
- The study was conducted as part of the **Fifth Common Review Mission (CRM)** for “**independent assessment**” of the progress of various programmes and schemes of the Rural Development Ministry.

### Key Points

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- **Study/Assessment:** The study was conducted by a team comprising retired bureaucrats, academics and research organisations etc. The team visited around 120 villages, in 21 districts across eight states

- **Major Findings:**

- **Low selection of Panchayats:** Since the launch of the scheme only 1,855 gram panchayats have been selected across five phases, with only seven in Phase 5.
- **Lack of Interest and Funds:** Model villages under the scheme are hit by lack of interest and funds. In many of SAGY villages, the MPs did not give any significant fund from **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)**. **Example:**

In Arood village of Khandwa district in Madhya Pradesh, out of 118 activities planned in 2014, only about 60 % have been achieved and the rest are pending for lack of funds.

- **Lack of Political Will:** The concept of SAGY has not percolated down to field officials due to lack of accountability and political will.
- **Issues with Declaration:** Even villages declared as Adarsh Grams in some districts were found yet to be declared **Open Defecation Free**.
- **Limited Impact:** In some cases, where MPs have been proactive, some infrastructure development has taken place, but the scheme has not made any perceptible impact.
- **Low Convergence of MGNREGA with MPLAD:** Lesser convergence of **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** with MPLAD was observed in few villages.
- **Rural Roads:** The study expressed concern over the quality of roads constructed under schemes of state governments and maintenance of rural roads under central **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**.
- **Positive Impact:** Progress of work was better in the Gram Panchayats where the MP has taken keen interest and allocated substantial amounts from MPLAD.

**Example:**

A village in Bhilwara Rajasthan was found to be very urbanised due the various development schemes taken up at the initiative of the Ex-MP.

- **Reccomendations:**

- **Need to Enhance Impact:** The report recommended that the Ministry of Rural Development may review the scheme for enhancing its impact.
- **Uniform Norms:** It has urged the Centre to frame a “**National Rural Road Policy**” to ensure uniform norms of construction and maintenance, irrespective of whether the road belongs to a state scheme or PMGSY.
- **Additional Funds:** The Centre should examine if the **Finance Commission** can provide funds for maintenance of rural roads, as many states have requested that the Centre should share the cost of maintenance.

## **Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana**

- SAGY is a village development project which was launched on **11<sup>th</sup> October, 2014** on the birth anniversary of **Jai Prakash Narayan**.

- **Goal:**  
Under the Yojana, Members of Parliament (MPs) are responsible for developing the socio-economic and physical infrastructure of **three villages each by 2019**, and a total of **eight villages each by 2024**.
- **Objectives:**
  - To substantially **improve the standard of living and quality of life** of all sections of the population through Improved basic amenities, higher productivity and better livelihood opportunities.
  - To generate **models of local level development and effective local governance** which can motivate and inspire neighbouring Gram Panchayats to learn and adapt.
  - To nurture the identified Adarsh Grams as schools of local development to train other Gram Panchayats.
- **Process:**
  - **Gram Panchayat:** The basic unit for development.
  - **Lok Sabha MP:** Chooses a Gram Panchayat from within his/her constituency.
  - **Rajya Sabha MP:** Chooses Gram Panchayat from the rural area of a district of his/her choice in the State from which he/she is elected.
  - **Nominated MPs:** Choose a Gram Panchayat from the rural area of any district in the country.
  - The MPs engage with the community, facilitate the Village Development Plan and mobilise the necessary resources particularly from **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** and philanthropies.
  - MPs also fill up critical gaps in the plan using the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADs) funds.

### Holistic development through SAGY



## Adarsh Gram: Model Village

A Model village is one which has **adequate physical and institutional infrastructure (sustainable environment, sanitation, clean water and livelihood)** in which minimum needs of all sections of the society are fully met so that they live in harmony with each other.

### Way Forward

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- The vision behind the evolution of SAGY villages was to **create model villages** by **ensuring convergence and dovetailing of schemes** and its proper implementation on priority basis. However, the seriousness required to achieve the motto is lacking. There is a need for MPs to be more responsible towards the scheme.
- SAGY gives focus to community participation and social mobilization of the village community can trigger a chain of other development activities in the village.
- At the same time, the Ministry of Rural Development should ensure that the SAGY villages are dealt with the vision envisaged under the scheme and are not left behind.

**Source: IE**