



Divyansh M Bhardwaj: Best Sarpanch in Rajasthan

Why in News?

In a recognition of his **innovative leadership and community initiatives**, Chief Minister **Bhajan Lal Sharma** awarded **Divyansh M Bhardwaj**, Sarpanch of **Awan Panchayat** in Tonk district, the title of **Best Sarpanch in Rajasthan** during the state-level Independence Day celebrations at **Mehrangarh Fort**.

- Divyansh is the **only awardee among 11,341 panchayats** across 41 districts.

Key Points

- **Building Supporting Infrastructure:** Under Divyansh's leadership, **Awan Panchayat** has witnessed transformative projects, including:
 - Separate **air-conditioned libraries with internet access** for boys and girls.
 - Construction of **two cremation grounds** and a **heritage panchayat building**.
 - Development of a **marriage garden with a banquet hall** and a **ghat with a dressing room** at Rajkaleshwar Teerth.
- **Capacity Building:** An **MBA graduate from Switzerland**, Divyansh has implemented several **progressive initiatives**, such as:
 - Sponsoring **air travel for students** for educational purposes.
 - Appointing a **girl student as Sarpanch on Balika Divas**, promoting women's leadership.
- **Role Model:** Divyansh's projects have set **Awan as a model of excellence**, with the **Awan Panchayat model** being considered for replication in Maharashtra.

National Panchayat Awards 2025: The **2025 National Panchayat Awards** were presented by the Prime Minister on **National Panchayati Raj Day (24th April)** in **Madhubani, Bihar** to recognise top-performing Panchayats aligned with the **9 Local Development Goals (LSDGs)** covering all **17 SDGs**.

- **Special Categories of National Panchayat Awards:**
- **Climate Action Special Panchayat Award (CASPA):** For climate-responsive Panchayats.
- **Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA):** For promoting self-reliance via Own Source Revenue (OSR).
- **Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (PKNSSP):** For excellence in capacity building and training of Panchayati Raj representatives.