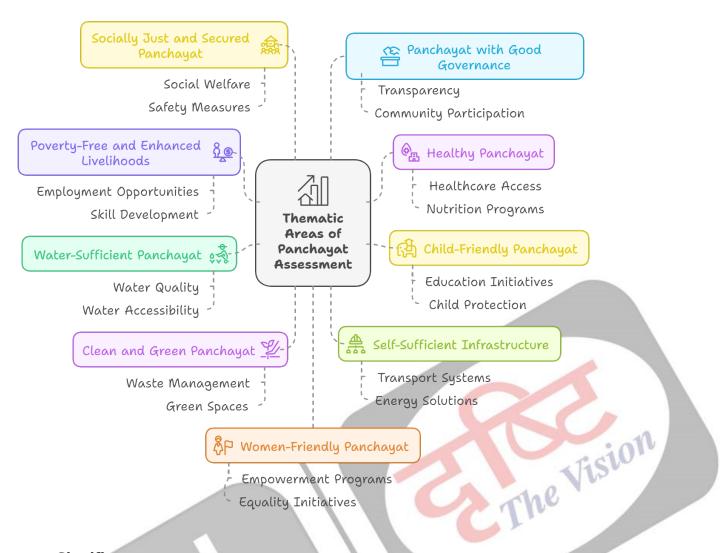# National Panchayat Awards 2024

Why in News?

The **National Panchayat Awards 2024** were awarded to 45 Panchayats across India by the **President of India** for their exceptional contributions to inclusive growth and **sustainable development.**

- The event highlighted the pivotal role of **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** in advancing rural governance and environmental sustainability.

What are the Key Facts Related to National Panchayat Awards 2024?

- **About:**
    - The National Panchayat Awards commemorate the enactment of **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, which granted **constitutional status to Panchayats** as local self-governance institutions.
    - These awards are typically presented on 24th April (**National Panchayati Raj Day**) every year.
- **Objective:**
    - The awards aim to **promote best practices, foster a spirit of competition,** and **motivate Panchayats to excel** in delivering quality governance and services to rural communities.
    - These awards were **revamped in 2022** to align with **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, using a **multi-level evaluation** across **Block, District, State/UT, and National levels**.
    - Panchayats are assessed on **9 thematic areas:**

Thematic Areas of Panchayat Assessment

Socially Just and Secured Panchayat
- Social Welfare
- Safety Measures

Panchayat with Good Governance
- Transparency
- Community Participation

Poverty-Free and Enhanced Livelihoods
- Employment Opportunities
- Skill Development

Healthy Panchayat
- Healthcare Access
- Nutrition Programs

Water-Sufficient Panchayat
- Water Quality
- Water Accessibility

Child-Friendly Panchayat
- Education Initiatives
- Child Protection

Clean and Green Panchayat
- Waste Management
- Green Spaces

Self-Sufficient Infrastructure
- Transport Systems
- Energy Solutions

Women-Friendly Panchayat
- Empowerment Programs
- Equality Initiatives

- **Significance:**
  - The awards highlight **Panchayats' pivotal role** in **socio-economic development, grassroots governance,** and advancing the **SDGs** through **LSDGs.**
- **Categories of Awards**:
  - **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP)**: Top 3 **Gram Panchayats (GPs)** under each of the 9 **Localization of SDGs (LSDGs)** themes.
  - **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar:** Top 3 GPs, Block Panchayats, and District Panchayats for overall excellence across all themes.
  - **Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar:** Recognizes GPs for renewable energy adoption.
  - **Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar:** Awards GPs for achieving **net-zero carbon emissions.**
  - **Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar:** Honoring institutions supporting Panchayats in implementing LSDGs.
- **Awardees for 2024:**

Category	Key Achievements in 2024
Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar	Panchayats from Maharashtra, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh recognized for achieving carbon neutrality.
Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar	Panchayats from Maharashtra, Odisha, and Tripura awarded for adopting sustainable energy practices.
DDUPSVP	27 GPs from states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Tripura, and Ladakh recognized across 9 LSDG themes.
Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan	Institutions from Kerala, Maharashtra, and Odisha honored for supporting PRIs in implementing LSDGs.
Nanaji Deshmukh Award	Nine Panchayats conferred for excellence in all nine thematic areas.

What are the Other Initiatives Related to PRIs?

- **SVAMITVA Scheme**:
    - **SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas)** scheme aims to promote the **economic development of rural India** by providing a **"Record of Rights" for every rural household owner,** thereby facilitating **access to property and financial services.**
        - It was launched on **National Panchayati Raj Day** in **2020**.
- **e-Gram Swaraj e-Financial Management System:**
    - **e-Gram Swaraj** is a simplified application developed for PRIs to manage **work-based accounting**, enhancing **transparency and accountability** in financial management.
- **Geo-Tagging of Assets:**
    - **mActionSoft** is a mobile-based solution designed to **capture photographs with geo-tags (GPS coordinates)** for assets generated by Panchayat works.
- **Citizen Charter:** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has introduced a platform for Panchayats to upload **Citizen Charters**, under the slogan **"Meri Panchayat Mera Adhikaar – Jan Sevaayein Hamaare Dwaar"**, to ensure **efficient and timely service delivery to citizens.**

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q1. Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in (2017)

(a) Federalism

(b) Democratic decentralisation

(c) Administrative delegation

(d) Direct democracy

Ans: (b)

Q. **The fundamental object of Panchayati Raj system is to ensure which among the following? (2015)**

1. People's participation in development
2. Political accountability
3. Democratic decentralisation

4. Financial mobilisation

Select the correct answer using the code given below

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (c)

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/national-panchayat-awards-2024