

Ministry Panchayati Raj

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is responsible for the work of advocacy, monitoring and implementation of Constitution 73rd Amendment. The role of the MoPR involves strengthening the administrative infrastructure, basic services etc. by leveraging technology and capacity building of the functionaries of Rural Local Body (RLB). Ministry's roadmap to realise the above objective is through three pillars:

- Provision of basic services through the Finance Commission Funding,
- Capacity building of RLBs through Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) and
- Convergent & holistic planning through inclusive & participatory process through Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and advocacy work

Summary on Major achievements, significant developments and important events of MoPR for the month of March, 2020

1. In view of the seriousness of the matter pertaining to outbreak of the COVID-19 related cases in the country, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has taken several initiatives and interventions, in collaboration with State Department of Panchayati Raj and Panchayati Raj Institutions to address the following: (i) sensitizing the inhabitants of all Gram Panchayats about the threat posed by Novel Coronavirus and suggesting them necessary dos and don'ts for prevention, (ii) activating Village Health & Sanitation Committees for dissemination of relevant and useful information among rural masses, (iii) implementing preventive public health measures as well as Social Distancing measures as suggested by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, (iv) Hon'ble Prime Minister's call for "Janta Curfew" on 22/3/2020, and (v) requesting Gram Panchayats to ensure implementation of lockdown rules and practicing social distancing measures in their jurisdiction. (vi) Precautions to be taken regarding the quarantine of the migrant workers. All the States have been regularly sensitized about the Corona preventive measures. In the month of March the following steps have been taken:

- An advisory dated 13/3/2020 was issued to all States / UTs requesting for facilitating Gram Panchayats and Panchayat Samitis to spread awareness on COVID19 and activating Village Health and Sanitation Committees. Awareness materials developed by MoHF&W were also shared with States / UTs for dissemination to Gram Panchayats.
- Three separate SMSes were sent to all Gram Panchayats during 12 – 13 March 2020 to ensure widespread public awareness at Gram Panchayat level regarding prevention and control of nCov, and also to activating Village Health and Sanitation Committee (VHSC) / Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) to chalk out a plan for public awareness campaign about prevention from infection of nCov.
- One more advisory dated 18/3/2020 was issued to all States / UTs to implement social distancing measures, through active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, as suggested by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as a preventive strategy to combat coronavirus in different part of the countries.
- Two separate SMSes on Dos & Don'ts of Social Distancing were sent to all Gram Panchayats across the country on 18/3/2020.

- Four separate SMSes on Hon'ble Prime Minister's address to the nation on combating COVID-19 and appeal for "Janta Curfew" was sent to all Gram Panchayats [Sarpanches and Gram Panchayat Secretaries] across the country on 22/3/2020.
- Audio-visual programmes of different genre on general awareness /social distancing measures / sanitization / dos and don'ts to stop the spread of Coronavirus through proper precaution and prevention – designed and produced by National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) have been uploaded on Ministry's website for its wider dissemination.
- Vide an SMS dated 24/3/2020, all Gram Panchayats of Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh were requested to take the lead and extend all possible help to concerned authorities in identifying quarantine-centres in villages and making proper arrangements for health check-ups and providing precautionary isolation / quarantine facilities for all individuals / migrant workers / labourers of unorganized sector on their return to home / villages in large numbers from abroad / metropolitan cities/ other States in the wake of rising Coronavirus-related cases.

2. During the month, Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) grants to the tune of Rs.5896.08 crore was released to the States of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Goa.

Under Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) for the five year award period from 2015-16 upto 2019-20, grants to the tune of Rs.2,00,292.20 crore was allocated to Gram Panchayats (GPs) constituted under Part IX of the Constitution. Out of which, an amount of Rs.1,80,237.06 crores (90%) has been released to the States during the five years' period.

3. The year wise total allocation and release of Basic Grant and Performance Grant under the FFC award during 2015-16 to 2019-20 (as on 31.03.2020) is detailed below:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Basic Grant		Performance Grant	
		Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release
1.	2015-16	21624.46	21510.46	--	--
2.	2016-17	29942.87	29718.76	3927.65	3499.45
3.	2017-18	34596.26	34352.36	4444.71	1943.55
4.	2018-19	40021.63	39245.08	5047.53	--
5.	2019-20	54077.80	49967.41	6609.33	--
	Total	180263.02	174794.09	20029.22	5443.00

4. Under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), during the month, funds to the tune of Rs.96863/- as second instalment has been released to the State of Maharashtra as against Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2019-20.

5. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is currently developing a scheme 'Drone Survey of Rural habitations to enable property validation'. The scheme aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India. The demarcation of inhabitant (Aabadi) land in rural areas would be done using Drone Surveying technology. The scheme shall be Central Sector scheme.

It is envisaged that the scheme would enable village household owners, to use their homes as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits and provides the record of rights for inhabited rural areas in villages, create geo-tagging of each property and update property and asset register to strengthen the tax collection and demand assessment process of Gram Panchayats.

6. As a measure towards augmenting transparency and accountability in management of finances available to Panchayats from various sources, MoPR has been rigorously pursuing the States for adoption of Public Financial Management System (PFMS). In this regard, the Ministry has been pursuing the States for closure of account on PRIASoft as well as for Gram Panchayat (GP) registration on PFMS.

- (i) For the year 2018-19, 91% of GPs have closed daybooks and month books and around 86% of Gram Panchayats have closed their year books.
- (ii) For the year 2019-20, 76% of the GPs have closed their month books.
- (iii) 99% of the Gram Panchayats have been mapped with LGD codes on PFMS.

7. Furthermore, 1,32,028 Gram Panchayats have on-boarded PRIASoft-PFMS interface; out of which 1,03,121 GPs have carried out online payments through PRIASoft-PFMS Interface (PPI) for the expenditure incurred under 14th Finance Commission.

8. A unified portal is being developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj which is a single Application amalgamating the functionalities available in the existing Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) Applications. This portal is developed with an aim of transitioning to Work Based Accounting, which essentially means tracking every expenditure incurred for each of the activities proposed under the Gram Panchayat Development Plans. In this regard, training workshop for Master Trainers were organized in Bihar on March 03 & 04, 2020.

9. A Video Conference was held on March 20, 2020 on LGD Application (i) to resolve the pending discrepancies in LGD application, (ii) to updated Gram Panchayat (GP) wise ward details in LGD application, (iii) to map entities (District/ Sub-District/ GP/Villages) with their respective constituency, for both Parliament and Assembly constituency.
