

Measures to Augment the Resources of Panchayats Empirical Assessment 2018-19

Annex VIII: A Report on Tamil Nadu

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NITI Aayog

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Indian Institute of Public Administration
New Delhi

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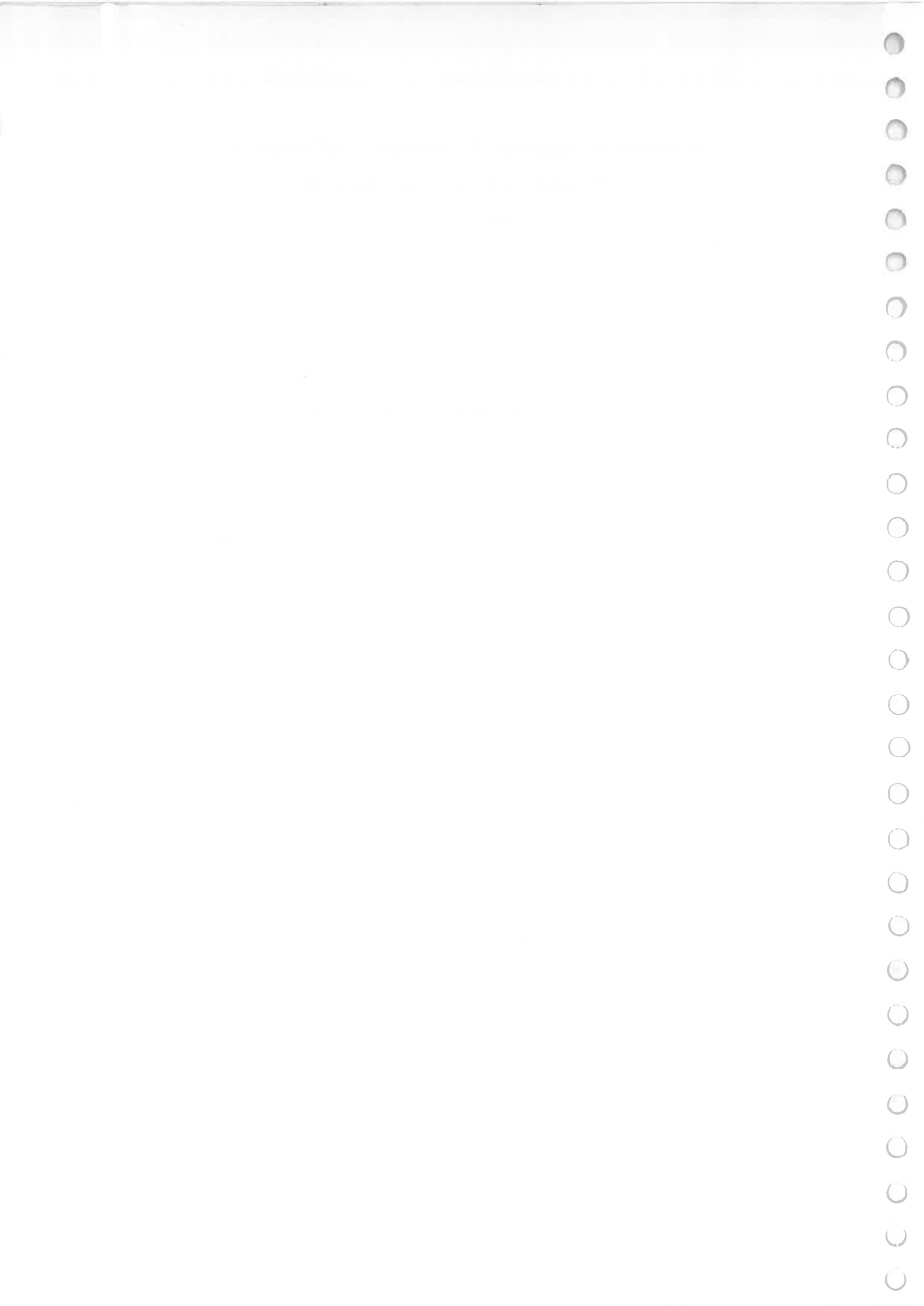
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List of Abbreviations

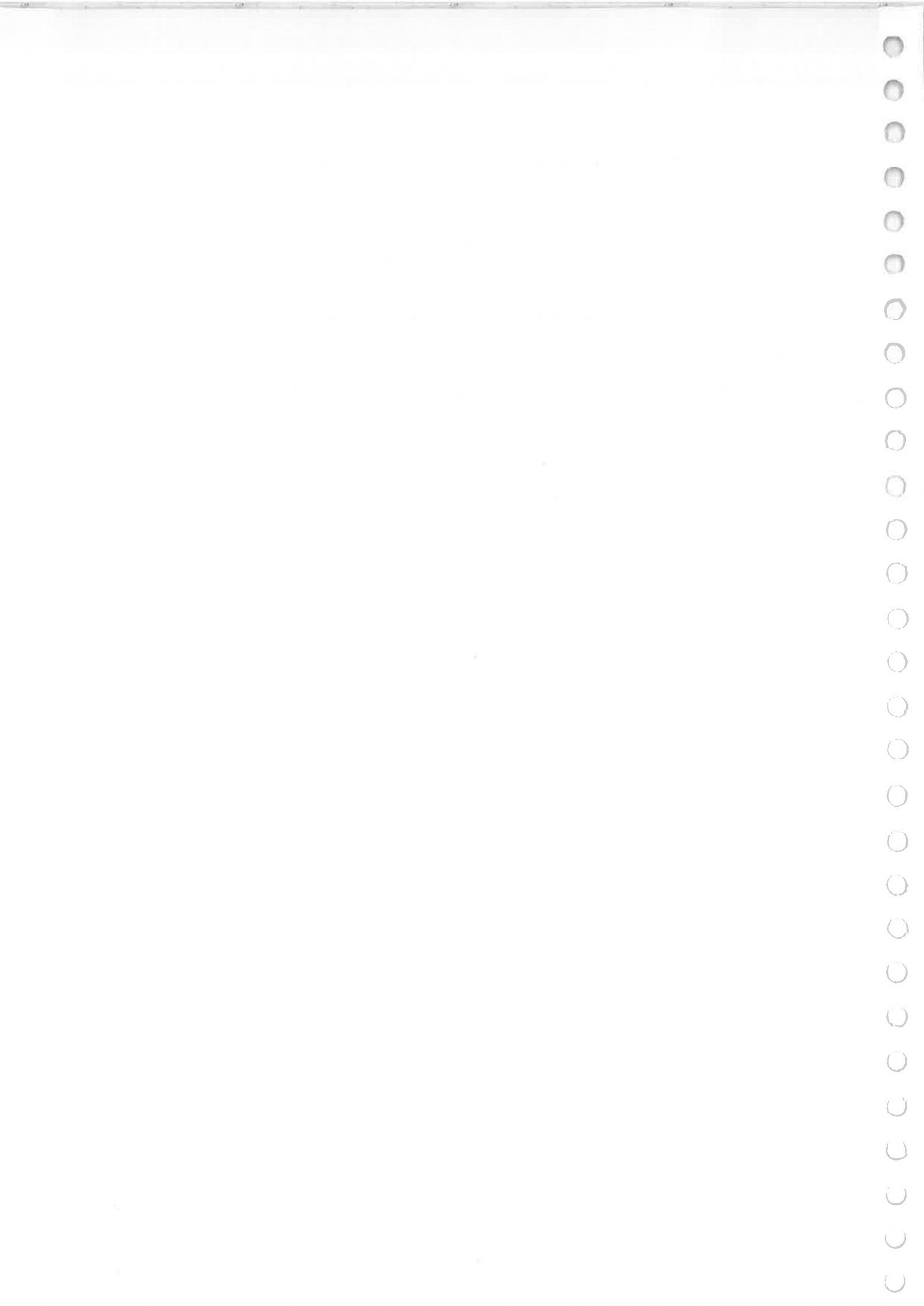
BDO	Block Development Officer
CRP	Cluster Resource Persons
CFC	Central Finance Commission
CSS	Centrally Sponsored Schemes
DPC	District Planning Committee
DRDA	District Rural Development Agency
FDA	Forest Development Agencies
DDO	District Development Officers
GSDP	Gross State Domestic Product
GST	Goods and Services Tax
GPDP	Gram <i>Panchayat</i> Development Plan
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
RTI	Right to Information
SIRD	State Institute for Rural Development
NGO	Non-government Organization
TANGEDCO	Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited
TWAD	Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage
SHG	Self-Help Group
NSAP	National Social Assistance Program
MGNREGP	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme
SC	Scheduled Caste
ST	Scheduled Tribe
SFC	State Finance Commission
OBC	Other Backward Class
PMGSY	<i>Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana</i>
PMAYG	<i>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin</i>
SFC	State Finance Commission
SOTR	State's own Tax Revenue
PPC	People's Plan Campaign
TNPA	Tamil Nadu <i>Panchayat</i> Act

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Measures to Augment the Resources of Panchayats in Tamil Nadu-2018-19

Facts File (Basic)

Capital	: Chennai
Area	: 130,060 km ²
Population	: 8, 37, 00000
Rural Population	: 3, 95, 55747
GSDP (2019-20)	: 17, 25,639 crores
Number of districts	: 32
Number of district <i>Panchayats</i>	: 31
Number of Intermediate <i>Panchayats</i>	: 385
Number of village <i>Panchayats</i>	: 12620

1. Basic Details of Panchayats including Constitutional Provisions

The history of the local self-government in Tamil Nadu can be traced back to the Uthiramerur stone inscriptions in Kancheepuram district, which bears evidence to the well-established local self-government which flourished during the period of the Chola Empire. There was system of village council which looked after the core services in the villages. The members of the Village Council were elected through a process of secret ballot called 'Kuda Olai Murai' and these Councils functioned as self-contained economic and administrative entities.

In Tamil Nadu, there are 12620 Village *Panchayats*, 385 *Panchayat* Unions, and 31 District *Panchayats*.

1.1. Constitutional Provisions Dealing With *Panchayats* in Tamil Nadu

Though the *Panchayai Raj* Institutions were in existence in various forms in various states, these institutions did not acquire the status and dignity of feasible and responsive people's bodies due to a number of reasons including absence of regular elections, prolonged supersession, insufficient representation of weaker sections like Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women, inadequate devolution of powers and lack of financial resources.

In the light of the experience gained and the short-comings that had been observed, the 73rd amendment of the Constitution was enacted in 1992, to enshrine in the Constitution certain basic

and essential features of *Panchayati Raj* Institutions to impart certainty, continuity and strength to them. A number of fundamental changes were brought about in the *Panchayat Raj* System by virtue of this Act. Pursuant to this, the Tamil Nadu *Panchayats* Act 1994 was enacted.

1.2. Tamil Nadu *Panchayat Raj* Act, 1994:

The 73rd amendment added a new dimension to the existence of rural local self-government. Accordingly, the Government of Tamil Nadu enacted the Tamil Nadu *Panchayats* Act, which came into force on 22nd April, 1994. The 1994 Act brought a number of changes in the Tamil Nadu *Panchayat Raj* structure:

- A three tier *Panchayat* system came into existence in the state. Village *Panchayats* at the village level, *Panchayat* Unions or Block *Panchayats* at the intermediary level and District *Panchayats* at the district level. All the three tiers of *Panchayats* are independent of each other.
- If we talk about the respective heads of the three tiers of *Panchayat* System, President of Village *Panchayat* are directly elected whereas the Chairpersons of *Panchayat* Union Councils and District *Panchayats* are elected from among the elected ward members.
- All the three tiers of *Panchayats* are independent of each other and the President of village *Panchayats* are not members in the *Panchayat* Union Council.
- Tamil Nadu State Election Commission has been constituted.
- Reservation of seats and offices for SCs/STs in proportion to their population has been made and one-half of the total number of seats and offices is reserved for women.
- The rotation of offices in all three tiers has to be once in 10 years.
- Elections are conducted within 6 months from the date of occurrence of any vacancy and the tenure is fixed as 5 years for all the members and Chairpersons.
- State Finance Commission is being constituted quinquennially.
- District Planning Committee has been constituted to consolidate the Development Plans of *Panchayats* and urban local bodies in the districts.

Table 1: Acts of Panchayat Raj System in Tamil Nadu

<i>Panchayat Acts</i>	Year
Tamil Nadu <i>Panchayat Raj Act</i>	1994
Tamil Nadu <i>Panchayat Amendment Act</i>	2017

Reservation for Women, SC, ST, OBCs

- As per Article 243D of the Constitution of India, seats shall be reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in every *Panchayat* and the number of seats reserved shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that *Panchayat* as the population of Scheduled Castes in that *Panchayat* area or of the Scheduled Tribes in that *Panchayat* area bears to the total population of that area and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different wards in a *Panchayat*.
- Article 243 D of the Constitution relates to reservation and rotation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women in rural Local Bodies. The relevant provisions of Tamil Nadu *Panchayats Act*, 1994 are Sections 11, 20, 32 & 57. These are supplemented by the Tamil Nadu *Panchayats (Reservation of Seats and Rotation of Reserved Seats) Rules*, 1995.
- The Tamil Nadu *Panchayats Act*, 1994 (Tamil Nadu Act 21 of 1994) provided for reservation of one third of total number of the seats and offices for women in Village *Panchayats*, *Panchayat Union Councils* and District *Panchayats*. It was considered necessary to increase the percentage of reservation for women from one third of the total number of seats and offices to one half (i.e. 50 Percent) so as to empower the women and facilitate the political participation of women in local governance. Accordingly, Government has enhanced reservation for women in Local Bodies from one-third to one-half by amending relevant sections of the Tamil Nadu *Panchayats Act*, 1994.
- In Tamil Nadu, reservation of seats has been made in the *Panchayat* elections for SCs and STs only and in respect of Other Backward Classes, no reservation has been made.
- As per Sections 11, 20, 32 & 57 of Tamil Nadu *Panchayats Act*, 1994, and supplemented by the Tamil Nadu *Panchayats (Reservation of seats and rotation of Reserved Seats) Rules*, 1995, the seats are reserved for SCs/STs in proportion to their population in the direct election of *Panchayat Raj* Institutions. The election of Presidents of Village *Panchayat* and

Chairpersons of *Panchayat* Union Councils and District *Panchayats* are also held on the same line. Accordingly, 23 percent reservation is provided to SCs in the *Panchayats* and 1 percent reservation is given to STs in the *Panchayats'* elections.

2. Constitution and functioning of District Planning Committee (DPC)

Formation of District Planning Committee (DPC) in Tamil Nadu:

- The Tamil Nadu *Panchayats* Act 1994 Section 241 provides for the Constitution of a District Planning Committee in each District. The main function of the District Planning Committee is to consolidate the plans prepared by the District *Panchayat*, *Panchayat* Unions, Village *Panchayats*, Town *Panchayats*, Municipal councils and Municipal Corporations in the District and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.
- The District Planning Committee comprises of (a) The Chairman of the District *Panchayat* who is the Chairman of the Committee; (b) The District Collector - Vice-Chairman of the Committee; (c) The Mayor of the City / Municipal Corporation in the District; (d) Such number of persons, not less than four fifth of the total number of members of the Committee as may be specified by the Government elected from among the members of the District *Panchayats*, Town *Panchayats* and Councilors of the Municipal Corporations and the Municipal councils in the District in proportion to the ratio between the population of the rural areas and of the urban areas in the District.
- In addition, the following are permanent special invitees of the Committee,
 - (a) Members of Parliament (both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha)
 - (b) Members of Legislative Assembly
 - (c) Chairman of all *Panchayat* Union Councils in the District
 - (d) Chairman of all Municipal Councils; and
 - (e) Chairman of all Town *Panchayats* in the District.
- District Planning Committee meetings are conducted once in three months to discuss various developmental issues relating to the district such as water supply, rural

electrification, Education, Irrigation, etc. In order to assist the District Planning Committee, the Government has created a District Planning Cell in each district with District *Panchayat* Secretary as the District Planning Officer with support staff.

3. Role of Panchayats in Parallel Bodies/Institutions

The existence and operation of parastatals has a significant impact on the functional ambit of rural local bodies, particularly when they function in parallel, operating in areas which are in the functional domain of the latter, using funds provided by the State or Central Governments or donor funds. Parallel bodies are organizations created by communities and government departments to discharge certain responsibilities in parallel, while the constitutionally created *Panchayati* Raj institutions are in position, in the same geographical area, to discharge the same set of responsibilities.

- They are considered 'parallel bodies' because they have a separate system of decision making, resource allocation and execution of projects, which is independent and removed from the *Panchayat* Raj set up.
- Examples of parallel bodies are: DRDAs, Forest Development Agencies (FDAs), District Watershed Development Societies, the District Health Mission, District Education Mission, District Horticultural Missions and District Project Management Units of Externally-assisted Projects.
- The Village *Panchayats* in Tamil Nadu have several parallel bodies mainly to select the beneficiaries under various Government sponsored schemes.

The functioning of parallel bodies in Tamil Nadu can be seen from the following table:

Table 2: Role of Panchayats in Parallel Bodies

Sl. No.	Status/Parallel Bodies	DRDA	Education	Water	Health and Sanitation	Agriculture Corporation	Tribal Development (ITDA)	Any other
I.	Parallel body merged with the <i>Panchayat</i> Institution	No	No	No	No			
	Parallel body made an unit of the <i>Panchayat</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			

Institution								
Function of parallel body limited to Fund/accounts Management	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Parallel body is Presided/ Chaired by Elected Representatives of the <i>Panchayat</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Elected Representatives of <i>Panchayats</i> are represented in Board of the parallel body	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Parallel Body remains separate, but under the control of the <i>Panchayat</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Parallel Body remains separate and not under the control of the <i>Panchayat</i> Institution	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			

4. Autonomy to Panchayats

State government has the power to dismiss and dissolve the representatives of District *Panchayat* and Block *Panchayat*, whereas the District Collector can do the same with the representatives of Gram *Panchayat*.

Dissolution of Village *Panchayat*- "If, in the opinion of the Government, a Village *Panchayat* is not competent to perform or persistently makes default in performing the duties imposed on it by law, or exceeds or abuses its powers, it may direct that the Village *Panchayat* be dissolved with

effect from a specified date and reconstituted with effect from a specified date which shall be within a period of six months from the date of such dissolution.”

Dissolution of Panchayat Union Council- “If, in the opinion of the Government a *Panchayat* Union Council is not competent to perform or persistently makes default in performing the duties imposed on it by law or exceeds or abuses its powers, they may, by notification- (a) dissolve the *Panchayat* Union Council from a specified date.”

Dissolution of District Panchayat- “If, in the opinion of the Government, a District *Panchayat* is not competent to perform or persistently makes default in performing the duties imposed on it by law or exceeds or abuses its powers, it may dissolve the District *Panchayat* from a specified date.”

Following table talks about the autonomy available to the three rungs of *Panchayats* in Tamil Nadu.

Table 3: Autonomy to Panchayats in Tamil Nadu

Category	Rungs of <i>Panchayats</i>	Suspend representatives/ <i>Panchayats</i>	Resend for reconsideration of resolutions	Dismiss/Supersede/ Dissolve/Quash
Representatives of	District <i>Panchayat</i>	State Government	*****	State Government
	Block <i>Panchayat</i>	State Government	*****	State Government
	Gram <i>Panchayat</i>	District Collector	*****	District Collector
<i>Panchayat</i> Bodies of	District <i>Panchayat</i>	State Government	*****	State Government
	Block <i>Panchayat</i>	State Government	*****	State Government
	Gram <i>Panchayat</i>	State Government		State Government
Provision of charge sheet by State Government? (Yes/No)		Gram <i>Panchayat</i>	Block <i>Panchayat</i>	District <i>Panchayat</i>
		No	No	No

5. Functions Assigned to Panchayats and Actual Involvement of Panchayats

Panchayats have been assigned certain functions as per the Tamil Nadu *Panchayats* Act of 1994. Among the three tiers, *Gram Panchayats* assume a pre-eminent role in view of the wide variety of civic duties and other functions entrusted to them under Sections 110 and 111 of the Tamil Nadu *Panchayats* Act, 1994.

Functions of Village *Panchayats*: Under section 110 of the Tamil Nadu *Panchayats* Act 1994, the obligatory functions of the *Gram Panchayat* have been indicated as shown below:

- Construction, repair and maintenance of all Village *Panchayat* roads;
- Lighting of Public roads and Public places in built up area;
- Cleaning the streets, removal of rubbish heaps; provision and maintenance of Public latrines;
- Opening and maintenance of burial and burning grounds;
- Provision and maintenance of water supply sources for washing and bathing purposes and
- Such other duties as the Government may by notification impose.

Functions of *Panchayat* Unions: The obligatory functions of the *Panchayat* Unions are given in Section 112 of the Act, which are narrated below:

Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made there under, it is the duty of a *Panchayat* Union Council, within the limits of its funds, to make reasonable provision for carrying out the requirements of the *Panchayat* Union in respect of the following matters, namely:

- Construction, repair and maintenance of all *Panchayat* Union roads;
- Establishment and maintenance of dispensaries and the payment of subsidies to rural medical practitioners;
- Establishment and maintenance of maternity and child welfare centres;
- Construction and maintenance of poor houses, orphanages, shops, stalls, plinths, training and employment of vaccinators, removal of congestion of population and the provision of house sites;
- Opening and maintenance and expansion of elementary schools including payment of grants to private managements in respect of elementary schools;
- Preventive and remedial measures connected with epidemic or with malaria;

- Control of *Panchayat* Union fairs and festivals;
- Veterinary relief;
- Extension of village sites and the regulation of buildings;
- Opening and maintenance of public markets which are classified as *Panchayat* Union Markets;
- Maintenance of Statistics relating to births and deaths;
- Establishment and maintenance countries;
- Improvement of agriculture, agricultural stock and holding of agricultural shows;
- Promotion and encouragement of cottage industries;
- Such other duties as imposed by the Government.

Functions of District *Panchayats*: The functions envisaged under the Act for the District *Panchayat* have been given in Section 163 of the Act. The District *Panchayat* at the district level is the main body for the purpose of planning, implementation, monitoring and reviewing all rural development programmes.

The functions assigned to *Panchayats* and actual involvement of Tamil Nadu is mentioned in the following table:

Table 4: Functions Assigned to *Panchayats* and Actual Involvement of *Panchayats*

Sl. No.	Functions	Delegated by Legislature	Level of <i>Panchayats</i> Actually Undertaking		
			<i>Gram Panchayat</i>	<i>Block Panchayat</i>	<i>District Panchayat</i>
Core Functions					
1.	Drinking Water, Water Supply for Domestic Purpose				
2.	Roads	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Culverts				
4.	Bridges				
5.	Ferries				
6.	Waterways	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Other means of Communication	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Building Control				
9.	Land Use and Building Regulation				
10.	Maintenance of Community Assets				
11.	Street Lighting, Parking Lots, Bus Stops	Yes	Yes		

12.	Public Conveniences				
13.	Parks, Gardens, Playgrounds (Civic Amenities)				
14.	Primary Health Centre/Community Health Centre	Yes	Yes		
15.	Sanitation & Solid Waste Management	Yes	Yes		
16.	Cremation & Burial	Yes	Yes		
17.	Public Safety (Noxious Vegetation, Pests & Vermin's)				
Welfare Functions					
18.	Poverty Alleviation Programmes				
19.	Family Welfare	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	Women & Child Development	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	Social Welfare, Welfare of Handicapped & mentally retarded	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Welfare of the weaker sections, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes & the Scheduled Tribes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Public Distribution System	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Vital Statistics Including Registration of Births & Deaths				
25.	Elementary Education	Yes		Yes	
26.	Adult & Non-Formal Education	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Secondary Education				
28.	Technical Training & Vocational Education				
29.	Libraries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	Promotion of Cultural , Educational and Aesthetic Aspects				
31.	Slum Improvement & Up gradation				
32.	Fire Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Rural Housing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
34.	Non-conventional Energy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agriculture and Allied Functions					
35.	Watershed Development				
36.	Water supply for Agriculture Purpose, Minor Irrigation, Water Management				
37.	Agriculture & Agricultural Extension	Yes	Yes	Yes	
38.	Land Improvement	Yes			Yes
39.	Implementation of Land Reforms				

40.	Land Consolidation	Yes			Yes
41.	Soil Conservation				
42.	Animal Husbandry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
43.	Dairying	Yes			Yes
44.	Poultry	Yes			Yes
45.	Fisheries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
46.	Social Forestry				
47.	Farm Forestry				
48.	Minor Forest Produce				
49.	Market & Fairs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
50.	Regulation of Slaughterhouses				
51.	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals				
Industries					
52.	Water supply for Commercial and Industrial Purpose				
53.	Small Scale Industries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
54.	Food Processing Industry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes+
55.	Khadi, Gram & Cottage Industry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
56.	Rural Electrification & Distribution	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

6. Involvement of Panchayats in Important Schemes

Panchayats have been involved in various schemes of centre as well as of state. The focus of these schemes in Tamil Nadu is economic growth with social justice and improvement in the living standards of the rural population, by providing adequate and quality services efficiently.

The role of *Panchayats* varies across different Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs), which are administered by different Union Ministries. Among the major CSSs, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, *Indira Awas Yojana*, Total Sanitation Campaign, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meals), National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management of Agriculture, Micro Irrigation etc. are the schemes, which provide for roles and responsibilities for *Panchayats*.

Table 5: Involvement of Panchayats in Important Schemes

Sl. No	Important Union Government Schemes	Levels of Panchayats Actually undertaking in each scheme		
		Gram Panchayats	Block Panchayats	District Panchayats
A.	Centrally Sponsored Schemes			
1.	National Social Assistance Program (NSAP)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MNRGP)	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Scheme(s) for Development of Scheduled Castes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Scheme(s) for Development of Scheduled Tribes			
5.	<i>Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana</i> (PMKSY)			
6.	Green Revolution-Krishonnatti Yojana	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	White Revolution- Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Blue Revolution(Integrated Development of Fisheries)	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	<i>Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana</i> (PMGSY)	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	<i>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin</i> (PMAY-G)	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	National Rural Drinking Water Mission(NRDWM)	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)			
13.	<i>Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin</i> (SBM-G)	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Integrated Child Development Services(ICDS)	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	<i>Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana</i> -National Rural Livelihood Mission(DAY-NRLM)	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	National Education Mission(NEM)	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	<i>Shyama Prasad Mukherji</i> Rurban Mission(SPMRM)/National Rurban Mission(NRuM)	--	Yes	Yes
20.	<i>Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan</i> (RGSA)	--	--	--

21.	<i>Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Rural)-PM-SAUBHAGYA</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	<i>Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan(PM-AASHA)</i>	--	--	--
23.	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture(NMSA)	--	--	--
B. Central Sector Schemes				
1.	Crop Insurance Scheme(Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana)	--	--	--
2.	Interest Subvention Scheme (for Short Term Credit to Farmers)	--	--	--
C. Other Schemes				
1.	<i>Deen Dayal Panchayati Raj Infrastructure Scheme</i>	--	--	--
2.	<i>Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana</i>			
3.	National e-Governance Programme(NeGP)	Yes	Yes	Yes
D. State Government Schemes				
1.	Pension Schemes	--	--	--
2.	Health and Sanitation	--	--	--
3.	Agriculture and Employment	--	--	--
4.	Any other (specify)	--	--	--
Scheme Based Performance Measures		Gram Panchayat	Block Panchayat	District Panchayat
1.	Number of <i>Panchayats</i> availing Action Soft (a scheme implementation & monitoring software) or any such equivalent application in place			
Mission Antyodaya		2016-17	2017-18	
2.	Number of <i>Panchayats</i> covered under Mission <i>Antyodaya</i> in the following financial years	12543	12543	
3.	Number of <i>Antyodaya Panchayats</i> marked on NREGAssoft portal in the following financial years	--	--	

Mission Antyodaya: Mission *Antyodaya* encourages partnerships with network of professionals, institutions and enterprises to further accelerate the transformation of rural livelihoods. Self Help Groups (SHG) plays a crucial role in this mission due to their social capital and their proven capacity for social mobilisation. The thrust is not only on physical infrastructure but also on social infrastructure with strengthening of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry activities with utmost priority given to SHG expansion in Mission *Antyodaya* clusters. Capacity for financial and social audit would also be built at grass root level. This would be accomplished by convergence of frontline worker teams, cluster resource persons (CRPs) and professionals at the *Gram Panchayats* level. Total number of *Panchayats* covered under Mission *Antyodaya* in the year 2017-18 was 12543.

7. Fourteenth Finance Commission (14th FC) Grants to the *Panchayats*

The 14th Finance Commission recommended the share of basic grants and performance grants to be transferred to the local government via state government. For the basic grants, states are liable to transfer the funds to *Panchayats* within 15 days of it being sent by the Union government. If they fail to do so, states have to pay back *Panchayats* with interest rates as may be prescribed.

7.1. Basic Grants

The grants should go to *Gram Panchayats*, which are directly responsible for the delivery of basic services, without any share for other levels. The earmarked basic grants for *gram Panchayats* will be distributed among them, using the formula prescribed by the respective SFCs for the distribution of resources. The State Governments would apply the distribution formula of the most recent SFC, whose recommendations have been accepted. The state has released to *Gram Panchayats* the following installments of basic grants:

Table 6: Basic Grants awarded to *Gram Panchayats*

(Rs. in Crores)

Installments of 14 th FC Grants	FFC Grants Released by Govt. of India		Released by State	
	Amount	Received by State on <u>DD/MM/YYYY</u>	Amount	Released to Panchayats on <u>DD/MM/YYYY</u>
1 st for the year 2015-16	473.83	28-06-2016	473.83	24-07-2015
2 nd for the year 2015-16	473.82	30-12-2016	473.82	25-02-2016
1 st for the year 2016-17	656.09	30-12-2016	656.1	28-06-2016
2 nd for the year 2016-17	656.09	31-12-2016	656.1	30-12-2016
1 st for the year 2017-18	758.06	29-10-2017	758.06	22-09-2017

For the year 2018-19 an amount of Rs.876.94 crores has been released to *Gram Panchayats* as first installment. All the amount of basic grant has been distributed to the *Gram Panchayats* on the basis of population to perform their basic functions such as operation and maintenance of water supply, street lights and sanitation, payment of current consumption charges to TANGEDCO and water charges to TWAD Board.

7.2. Performance Grants

Performance grants are provided to address the following issues: (i) making available reliable data on local bodies' receipt and expenditure through audited accounts; and (ii) improvement in own revenues. In addition, the urban local bodies will have to measure and publish service level benchmarks for basic services. These performance grants have to be disbursed to give sufficient time to state governments and the local bodies to put in place a scheme and mechanism for implementation.

The state has released Performance Grants to *Gram Panchayats* for the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

The 14th Finance Commission has recommended Grants-in-aid to the Village *Panchayats* as Basic Grant and Performance Grant. Out of the total grants-in-aid to village *Panchayats*, 90% of the Grant will be the Basic Grant and 10% will be the Performance Grant. The 14th Central Finance Commission has recommended a detailed procedure and operational criteria, including

quantum of incentives to be given for the distribution of performance grant to the Village *Panchayats*. The incentives are to be decided by the State Governments concerned, subject to the following eligibility conditions: the village *Panchayats* shall fulfill the mandatory conditions to avail the Performance Grant for the year 2017-18. i.e., village *Panchayats* have to submit audited accounts and report an increase in Own Source Revenue (OSR) as prescribed by FFC, with the maximum cap of 5 times the basic grant allocation for the respective year to village *Panchayats*.

The share of Tamil Nadu under the above components to *Panchayats* for the period from 2015-16 to 2019-20 is given below:

Table 7: Year-wise allocation of Grants under 14th FC to GP (Rs in Crores)

Financial Year(s)	Basic Grant	Performance Grant	Total Grant
2015-16	947.65	-----	947.65
2016-17	1312.19	172.12	1484.31
2017-18	1516.12	194.78	1710.90
2018-19	1753.87	221.20	1975.07
2019-20	2369.86	289.64	2659.50
2015-20 (Entire Award Period)	7899.69	877.74	8777.43
% Share of Tamil Nadu (Among all States)	4.38	4.38	4.38

8. State Finance Commission (SFC)

Financial devolution to the *Panchayats* is made on the basis of recommendations of the State Finance Commission (SFC). State Finance Commission recommended a higher share of State's own tax revenues for the *Panchayats*.

- In Tamil Nadu, the State Finance Commissions are constituted once in 5 years without any break. The First Finance Commission was constituted in April 1994 submitted its report in November 1996 for the period 1997-98 to 2001-02. The important recommendations of the first SFC are increasing the devolution of funds to local bodies from 8% to 12% of the States Own Tax Revenue, Sharing of Funds in Ratio of 60:40 to rural local bodies to and urban local bodies respectively, 90% share of entertainment tax to local bodies. The Government however has ordered the sharing of SFC Grant to Rural and Urban Local Bodies in the ratio of 55:45 and the rural share of 55% was apportioned among the Village *Panchayats*, *Panchayat* Unions and District *Panchayats* in the ratio 45:45:10 respectively.

- The Second SFC was formed on 1-12-1999 for the period from 2002-03 to 2006-07 submitted its report during May 2001. The important recommendations are; vertical sharing of devolution funds between Rural Local Bodies and Urban Local Bodies in the ratio of 58:42 respectively. The Government Ordered that the Rural Local Bodies share should be distributed in the ratio of 8:45:47 to District *Panchayats*, *Panchayat* Unions, and Village *Panchayats*.
- The Third SFC was formed on 02-12-2004 for the period from 2007-08 to 2011-12, it submitted its report on 30-09-2006. Important recommendations are; devolution of funds for Local Bodies shall be 10% of the States Own Tax Revenue, vertical sharing of devolution between rural Local Bodies and urban Local Bodies should be in ratio of 58:42 respectively and horizontal sharing of devolution among *Panchayat* Raj Institutions in the ratio of 8:32:60 for District *Panchayat*, *Panchayat* Unions and Village *Panchayats* respectively.
- The Fourth SFC was formed on 01-12-2009 for the period from 2012-13 to 2016-17. It submitted its report during September 2011. Important recommendations are: 10% of States Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) to be devolved to rural and urban local bodies and shall be shared in the ratio of 58:42 respectively.
- The Fifth SFC was formed on 01-12-2014 for the period 2017-18 to 2021-22. It submitted its report in December, 2016.

Table 8: Constitution of State Finance Commissions: A Status

Chronology	Period Covered	MM/YY of Formation	MM/YY of Submission of Report	MM/YY of ATR laid before the Legislature
1 st SFC	1997-98 to 2001-02	04/ 1994	11/1996	04/97
2 nd SFC	2002-03 to 2003-04	12/ 1999	05/2001	05/02
3 th SFC	2007-08 to 2011-12	12/2004	09/2006	05/09
4 th SFC	2012-2013 to 2016-17	12/2009	09/2011	05/13
5 th SFC	2017-18 to 2021-22	12/2014	12/2016	-----

9. Money Transfers to Panchayats on account of the SFC recommendations

The Fifth State Finance Commission constituted by the State Government has given its report with the recommendations in the month of December 2016 for the award period between 2017 and 2022. The Government has accepted the recommendations of 5th State Finance Commission and accordingly, action taken report on the recommendations of the Fifth State Finance

Commission was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 24th March, 2017. The following are the major recommendations regarding devolution for which orders are issued by the Government.

- 10% of State's own Tax Revenue (SOTR) will be devolved to Rural and Urban Local Bodies. The existing overall vertical devolution proportion of 10 per cent of the net State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) may be retained for the award period of the Commission (2017-2022). It is also recommended that 56:44 sharing ratio between rural local bodies and urban local bodies may be adopted while the vertical sharing between the rural local bodies may be determined at 8:37:55 among District *Panchayats*, *Panchayat Unions* and *Gram Panchayats*.
- Devolution grant will be shared in the ratio of 56:44 between Rural and Urban Local Bodies.
- The vertical sharing ratio among three tiers of *Panchayats* shall be 8:37:55 for District *Panchayats*, *Panchayat Unions* and *Gram Panchayats*.
- Minimum lumpsum grant to the village *Panchayats* increased from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.7 lakh per year from the year 2017-18.
- Minimum lumpsum grant to *Panchayat Unions* increased to Rs.40 lakhs per annum per *Panchayat Union*.
- Horizontal Distribution of SFC devolution to rural local bodies to be done on the basis of the following formula:

a) Population as per 2011 census	: 60%
b) Area	: 15%
c) SC/ST population	: 15%
d) Per capita consumption Expenditure Distance	: 10%
- Capital Grant Fund has been established to replace the infrastructure Gap Filling Fund, which aggregates 20% of the devolution, intended for *Panchayats*.
- The proportion of revenue from minor minerals to be shared with local bodies should be fixed at 60 per cent to leave the government with an incentive to levy and collect this revenue more effectively at higher rates. Sixty per cent of revenue from sand quarrying should also be transferred to local bodies on the same basis as other minor mineral-based revenue.

The Government has provided (Budget estimate) Rs. 6573 crore as grant to rural local bodies for the year 2019-20.

Table 9: Type of grants as per the SFCs of Tamil Nadu

State Finance Commission	Recommended Grants by the SFCs
First SFC	Specific Purpose lighting grants, water-supply grant, drainage grants, Maintenance Road maintenance grant, Maintenance of maternity centers and dispensaries General Purpose (Revenue) Matching grants(House tax)
Second SFC	Specific Purpose Reserve fund Equalization Fund Incentive Fund
Third SFC	Special Purpose General Purpose
Fourth SFC	General Purpose (Lump Sum)
Fifth SFC	Capital Grant Fund Minimum Lumpsum Grant

Table 10: Financial credentials provided to Panchayats through SFCs (Rs. in Crore)

Financial Year	Amount Recommended	Amount Budgeted	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
2014-15	4249.35	-	-	4273.84
2015-16	4359.34	-	-	4332.96
2016-17	4984.60	-	-	4711.68
2017-18	5432.78	-	-	5159.39
2018-19				

10. Empowerment of Panchayats to Impose/Collect revenue

In Tamil Nadu, all the three tier *Panchayats* depend on Assigned Revenues and grants in aid from the State Government right from the beginning of the *Panchayat* Raj System. The financial position of local bodies are highly depend on the State Government since almost all the functions and functionaries related to development and revenue are controlled in State Government.

The Village *Panchayat* is the only body, empowered to levy and collect taxes including fees and charges among the three tiers of *Panchayati Raj* Institutions and the *Panchayat* Unions and District *Panchayats* are completely depend on the State for Revenue.

The major resource base of *Panchayati Raj* Institutions in the State of Tamil Nadu is Own Revenue, Assigned Revenue, State Finance Commission (SFC) grants, Central Finance Commission (CFC) grants, State and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) grants.

Table 11: Taxes collected by the *Panchayats*

Tamil Nadu	Taxes	Levied Collected	Appropriated	Deposited	Provisions	Non-Taxes	Levied Collected	Appropriated	Deposited	Provisions
(Village Panchayat- V; Panchayat Union Councils-I; District Panchayats-D)	Local cess	V,I ,D	I(10%proceeds) ,D	GF,I F,DF	S/167	Local cess	V,I ,D	I(10%proceeds) ,D	GF,I F,DF	S/167
	Duty on transfer of property	V	-	GF	S/171 S/175	Local Roads grant	-	-	IF	S/182
	House tax	V	-	GF	S/171 S/172	Local Cess Surcharge Matching Grant	-	-	IF	S/180
	Vehicle tax	V	-	GF	S/171 S/173	Fees on licenc	I	-	IF	S/186 (e)

					es and permis sions by <i>Panch ayat Union</i>				
Enterta inment tax	I	-	IF	S/13, Tamil Nadu Enterta inment tax act, 1939	Fee levied in public market s	I	I,V	IF,G F	S/186 (f)
Profess ional tax	V	V	GF	S/188; [Tamil Nadu Tax on Professi ons, Trades, Callings and Employ ments Act, 1992]	Fee for use of choult ries	I	-	IF	S/186 (i)
					Incom e from ferries and fisheri es	-	-	IF,G F	S/186 (o) S/188 (n) S/188 (o)

	Taxes and tolls levied in the village	V	V	GF	S/188; S/ 117 and 118, Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939	Incom e from endow ments and trusts	I	-	IF,G F	S/186 (k) S/188 (k)
						Sale procee ds of tools, plants, stores, avenu e produc e	-	-	IF	S/186 (n)
						Incom e derive d from poram boke	-	-	GF	S/188 (r)

		Incom e from leases of Gover nment proper ty	-	-	GF	S/188 (t)
		Fee for tempo rary occup ation of roads	I	-	IF,G F	S/186 (h) S/188 (i)

Note: GF=*Gram Panchayat* Fund, IF=*Intermediate Panchayat* Fund, DF=*District Panchayat* Fund

11. GST Implications on Panchayats

The Government of Tamil Nadu has passed the Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 to make a provision for levy and collection of tax on intra-State supply of goods or services or both by the State of Tamil Nadu and the matters connected therewith. The legislation has also affected the

tax-handles of *Panchayats* in the State. A brief picture of taxes affected by the State GST Act is presented in the Table 12.

After coming into force of the GST Act, following taxes have been withdrawn from *Panchayats* in Tamil Nadu:

- House Tax,
- Entertainment Tax,
- Advertisement Tax, and
- Fee on entry of motor-vehicle into local areas.

Table 12: Major Alterations in Tax-handles of *Panchayats* of Tamil Nadu post-GST

Sl No.	Selected Sample States	Important/major changes in tax handles of <i>Panchayats</i> in State			(As per the State GST Act)
		Pre-GST	Post- GST		
		Taxes	Subsumed	Status	
1.	Tamil Nadu Tamil Nadu <i>Panchayat</i> Act, 1994 [TNPA, 1994] Tamil Nadu State GST Act, 2017 Tamil Nadu Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas Act, 1990 Tamil Nadu Entertainments Tax Act, 1939;	House tax [S/172(c), TNPA, 1994]	✓	Considered as supply of service under Schedule II (5), Section-7, Tamil Nadu SGST Act, 2017	<u>S/51 (1) (b)</u> – Tax deduction at source/TDS- The Government may mandate local authority to deduct tax at source or TDS at the rate of 1 per cent from the payment made to the supplier /deductee of taxable goods & services ,where the total value of such supply > INR 2,50,000/- <u>S/52-</u> Collection of tax at source <u>S/173</u> Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994,— (a) section 172-A shall be omitted; (b) in section 172-B, the expression “after the levy of the tax under section 172-A as determined by the collector” shall be

				<p>omitted;</p> <p>(c) in section 174, for the expression "sections 171, 172 and 172-A", the expression "sections 171 and 172" shall be substituted;</p> <p>(d) Section 175-A shall be omitted. 174.(1)</p> <p>Repeals</p> <p>(i) the Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax Act, 2006 except in respect of goods included in Entry 54 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution;</p> <p>(ii) The Tamil Nadu Betting Tax Act, 1935;</p> <p>(iii) The Tamil Nadu Entertainments Tax Act, 1939;</p> <p>(iv) The Tamil Nadu Tax on Luxuries Act, 1981; (v) The Tamil Nadu Advertisement Tax Act, 1983;</p> <p>(vi) The Tamil Nadu Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas Act, 1990;</p> <p>(vii) The Tamil Nadu Tax on Entry of Goods into Local Areas Act, 2001; (hereafter referred to as the repealed Acts) are hereby repealed.</p> <p><u>Schedule III S/3 (a)</u> Exemption of functions performed by</p>
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					M.P/MLA/ <i>Panchayat</i> members from both Goods & Services Category.
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12. Expenditure Details of Panchayats

All the three tiers spent the grants broadly on two items i.e., developmental works & administration expenditure. Salaries, TADA, transportation and office maintenance constitute Administrative Expenditure. Roads, sanitation, Street Lights, water supply, building maintenance and other infrastructure needs constitute the developmental expenditure.

Table 13: Expenditure by Panchayats in Tamil Nadu

Expenditure of Panchayats (Average of 2012-13 to 2017-18 Rs. in crore)				Per-capita Expenditure (Rs. in thousands)
District Panchayat	Panchayat Union	Village Panchayat	Total	
3499.6	1384.2	232.8	5116.6	1293.5

13. Gram Sabha

The *Gram Sabha* is the basis of the *Panchayati Raj* and village development. People use the forum of the *Gram Sabha* to discuss local governance and development, and make need- based plans for the village.

As per the Tamil Nadu *Panchayats Act*, 1994, Section 3:

- There shall be a *Grama Sabha* for every village *Panchayat*.
- The *Grama Sabha* shall meet at least twice in a year but six months shall not intervene between any two meetings.
- Every, meeting of the *Grama Sabha* shall be convened by the president of the Village *Panchayat*.
- If the president fails to convene the meeting of the *Grama Sabha*, the Inspector shall convene the meeting.
- The *Grama Sabha* shall approve the village plan; approve the village budget for the year; approve the audit report on the village *Panchayat* accounts of the previous year; and review the progress of the implementation of all schemes entrusted to the Village *Panchayat*.

- The Government may by notification, entrust to the Gram Sabha such other functions as may be specified.
- The Village *Panchayat* shall give due consideration to the recommendations and suggestions of the *Grama Sabha*.
- The *Gram Sabha* shall meet at a public place within the jurisdiction of the Village *Panchayat* in each of the ward by rotation on the date appointed by the President of the Village *Panchayat*.

14. Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act and the Tamil Nadu *Panchayat* Act lays emphasis on planning for local economic development and social justice by the *Panchayats*. In Tamil Nadu, 12513 *Gram Panchayats* have formulated GPDP in the State till 31st December 2018. *Gram Panchayats* have been mandated for the preparation of *Gram Panchayat* Development Plan (GPDP) covering all the resources over which the *Panchayats* have command including the 14thFC funds, MGNREGS funds, Swachh Bharat funds, etc.

As per Section 420 of Tamil Nadu *Panchayats* Act, 1994 every *Gram Panchayat* is supposed to prepare a development plan for the village every year. Accordingly, a draft plan would be prepared by the *Gram Panchayat* after the prioritization.

Table 14: Number of Plans Prepared under GPDP

Financial Year	Number of Plans Prepared
2015-16	12524
2016-17	12524
2017-18	12513
2018-19	10240
2019-20	1747
Total GPDP (2015-20)	49548

People's Plan Campaign (PPC) for *Gram Panchayat* Development plan (GPDP) – *Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas*: *Gram Panchayats* have been mandated for the preparation of *Gram Panchayat* Development Plan (GPDP) for economic development and social justice utilizing the resources available to them. The GPDP planning process has to be comprehensive and based on

participatory process which involves the full convergence with Schemes of all related Central Ministries related to 29 subjects enlisted in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. *Panchayats* have a significant role to play in the effective and efficient implementation of flagship schemes on subjects of National Importance for transformation of rural India. The People's Plan Campaign was commenced from 2nd October to 31st December, 2018 for preparing GPDP for 2019-20. The campaign initiated under "*Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas*" is an intensive and structured exercise for planning at *Gram Sabha* through convergence between *Panchayati Raj* Institutions (PRIs) and concerned line departments of the State.

Table 15: Consolidated Status of Peoples Plan Campaign as on 07/01/2019 in Tamil Nadu

Important Credentials	Number	Per Cent
<i>Gram Sabha</i> Scheduled	12524	100
<i>Gram Sabha</i> Held	12504	99.8
GPDP Approved as per Facilitator's Feedback	10934	87.3
GPDP uploaded on PlanPlus	15	0.1
GPDP under process on PlanPlus	509	4.1
Total GPDP (Uploaded & Under process)	524	4.2

15. Transparency and Anti-corruption

Transparency, accountability and integrity of public administration are pre-requisite to, and underpin, public trust as a keystone of good governance. Right to Information is the key to strengthening participatory democracy. The Right to Information Act, 2005 came into effect on October 12th, 2005. The aim of this Act is to promote transparency, accountability, predictability, and participation and to secure the citizens' access to information from public authorities.

Director of Local Fund Audit (DLFA) is the statutory Auditor for Block *Panchayats* and District *Panchayats*. The DLFA conducts only test audit of VPs' accounts. The DLFA takes up audit of 20 per cent of VPs in addition to 2 per cent of the VPs selected by DRDPR (Director of Rural Development and *Panchayat Raj*) every year. Deputy Block Development Officer audits the accounts of the VPs and certifies them.

The Tamil Nadu Local Bodies Ombudsman Act, 2014, enacted by the State Legislature in December 2014, does not cover Block *Panchayats* and Village *Panchayats*.

As per Section 15(5) (d) of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, Social Audit of all works in the jurisdiction of VP is to be carried out by the *Gram Sabha* and prompt action has to be taken on the objections raised during social audit.

Table 16: Transparency and Anti-corruption Parameters

Sl. No.	Parameters	Gram Panchayat	Block Panchayat	District Panchayat
1	Whether the following <i>Panchayats</i> provide information to the public under RTI Act (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Designated Information Officer under RTI Act at each Panchayat	Deputy BDO (Pts)	Deputy BDO (Admn.)	Superintendent, Dist. Pt. Office.
3	Designated 1st Appellate Authority under RTI Act	Block Development Officer (VP)	Block Development Officer (BP)	Secretary, District Panchayat
4	Designated 2 nd Appellate Authority under RTI Act	State Information Commission	State Information Commission	State Information Commission
5	Any policy for disclosure of information by the <i>Panchayat</i> to the public (Yes/No)	Yes		
	If yes, what are the modes used for disclosure of information?			
	Display on Notice Boards	Yes		
	Website	Yes		
	Others (Specify)	Reading out in the Meeting, printing in bills etc.		
6	Provision of Citizens' Charter at each level of Panchayats (Yes/No)	Yes		
	If yes, does the charter have the following? Please tick			
	List of services	√		
	Procedure for obtaining the service	√		
	Time required for providing service	√		
	Grievance redress Mechanism (GRM)	√		
	Others (Specify)			
7	Authorized Institution undertakes the complaints of <i>Panchayat</i> : Please tick			
	Ombudsman	√		
	Lokayukta	√		
	Govt. Agency	√		

16. Infrastructure of Panchayats

In the state of Tamil Nadu there are 12620 Gram *Panchayats*, 385 Block *Panchayats*, and 31 District *Panchayats* have *Pucca* building. Computers have been installed in 12524 Gram *Panchayats*, 385 Block *Panchayats*, and 31 District *Panchayats*. Telephones are operational in 12524 Gram *Panchayats*, 385 Block *Panchayats*, and 31 District *Panchayats*. Internet works in 9345 Gram *Panchayats*, 385 Block *Panchayats*, and 31 District *Panchayats*.

Availability of infrastructure in Tamil Nadu for *Panchayats* can be inferred from the following table:

Table 17: Availability of infrastructure for *Panchayats* in Tamil Nadu (TN)

Sl. No.	Equipments & Applications	Gram <i>Panchayat</i>	Block <i>Panchayat</i>	District <i>Panchayat</i>
1.	Number of <i>Panchayats</i> having <i>Panchayat</i> 'Ghar' (<i>Pucca</i> building)	12620	385	31
2.	Number of <i>Panchayats</i> having Computers, Printers, Scanners & other peripherals	12524	385	31
3.	Number of <i>Panchayats</i> having Telephone	12524	385	31
4.	Number of <i>Panchayats</i> having Internet	9345	385	31

Source: Government of Tamil Nadu

17. Training Institutions and Training Activities

In Tamil Nadu SIRD i.e. State Institute for Rural Development is responsible for imparting training to elected representatives of the PRIs. SIRD comes under Department of Rural Development and Department of *Panchayati Raj*. Its mandate is to impart trainings for elected representatives of PRI, functionaries of rural development and line departments, NGOs, bankers and rural micro credit institutions.

Table 18: Training Institutions and Training Activities

Whether the State have its own capacity building framework to train the elected representatives and <i>Panchayat</i> officials (Yes/No)	Yes
If yes, please specify State Institute of Rural Development at the State level and five Regional Institutes of Rural Development at the regional level to impart. SIRD – State Institute for Rural Development is responsible for imparting training to elected representatives of the PRIs. SIRD comes under Department of Rural Development and Department of <i>Panchayati Raj</i> .	

18. E-Connectivity & ICT Measures

Use of ICTs in Tamil Nadu is important, not for the mere ability to transact by electronic means, or to improve the delivery of government and business services to isolated rural and disadvantaged communities, but it is central to the core objective of empowering people through literacy, education, knowledge, employable skills, and poverty reduction.

National e- Governance Plan (NeGP) was introduced in 2006 with the objective of transforming the governance landscape by ensuring participation of citizens in policy making and providing easy access to information to the citizens. The purpose with which NeGP was launched includes accessibility of government services to people, it is through common service delivery outlets that efficiency, transparency and reliability of such services at affordable costs can be ensured. The e-Governance project aims to transform the *Panchayati Raj* Institutions (PRIs) into symbols of modernity, transparency and efficiency making it one of a kind nationwide IT initiative introduced by the Ministry of *Panchayati Raj* (MoPR) that strives to ensure people's participation in programme decision making, implementation and delivery.

BharatNet is a project of the Government of India to provide broadband connectivity to all village *Panchayats* in the country. Under phase II of this project all the 12,524 Village *Panchayats* in Tamil Nadu are planned to be covered for internet connectivity.

Table 19: E-Connectivity & ICT Measures Taken by *Panchayats* in Tamil Nadu

Applications	District <i>Panchayats</i>		Intermediate <i>Panchayats</i>		Village <i>Panchayats</i>	
	Total	Adopted	Total	Adopted	Total	Adopted
Local Government Directory (LGD) ¹	31	31	385	385	12524	12524
Area Profiler ²	31	9	385	18	12524	183

¹ Captures all details of local governments and assigns unique code. Also maps *Panchayats* with Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies.

² Captures geographic, demographic, infrastructural, socio-economic and natural resources profile of a village/*panchayat*. Universal database for planning of all sectoral programmes and provides details of Elected Representatives & *Panchayat* Functionaries, Election details etc. AreaProfiler is a centralized database also providing various details of the *Panchayats* such as neighbouring local bodies, tourist places and lodging facilities etc. AreaProfiler.

PRIA Soft ³	31	31	385	385	12524	12524
ActionSoft ⁴	31	2	385	8	12524	1
National Asset Directory ⁵	31	17	385	198	12524	7488
Social Audit and Meeting Management ⁶	-	-	-	-	-	-
Training and Management ⁷	31	0	385	0	12524	0

³ It is a web based Application that captures receipt & expenditure details through voucher entries and automatically generates cash book, registers, utilization certificates, etc.

⁴ It aims at monitoring and keeping record of the progress of the works being undertaken as part of the finally approved plans (Action Plan) of various ULB, RLB and Line departments as available in PlanPlus. It facilitates proper recording of the Financial and Physical progress of the works.

⁵ Captures details of assets created/maintained; helps avoid duplication of works and provides for maintenance.

⁶ Social Audit application aim to understand, measure and verify work under different schemes done by the *Panchayat* and further to improve social performance of respective *Panchayats*. Social Audit process involves Auditing of various schemes by Social Auditor and Social Audit Facilitator and submission of audit report.

⁷ Portal to address training needs of stakeholders including citizens, their feedback, training materials etc. It is a single platform for government officials and elected representatives in a State to log in their training needs and training organizations including Government to address and manage these requirements.

Sources for Data & Further Reading

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