

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

Annex VI: A Report on Maharashtra

*Sponsored by*



**NITI Aayog**

Government of India

*Conducted by*



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Indian Institute of Public Administration

New Delhi

November 2019

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## List of Abbreviations

SCs	:	Schedule Castes
STs	:	Schedule Tribes
PRIs	:	<i>Panchayati Raj</i> Institutions
GP	:	<i>GramPanchayat</i>
TP	:	<i>TalukaPanchayat</i>
ZP	:	<i>ZillaPanchayat</i>
DPC	:	District Planning Committee
BPL	:	Below Poverty Line
MLALAD	:	Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development
MLA	:	Member of the Legislative Assembly
NGO	:	Non- Governmental Organization
DDP	:	Draft Development Plan
GAD	:	General Administration Development
DRDA	:	District Rural Development Agencies
ITDA	:	Integrated Tribal Development Agency
DC	:	Deputy Commissioner
DDO	:	District Development Officers
PMGSY	:	<i>Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana</i>
PMAY-G	:	<i>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin</i>
NRDWM	:	National Rural Drinking Water Mission
NRHM	:	National Rural Health Mission
SBM-G	:	<i>Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin</i>
SIRD	:	State Institute of Rural Development
TNA	:	Tamil National Agency
ICDS	:	Integrated Child Development Services
DAY-NRLM	:	<i>Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission</i>

NEM	:	National Education Mission
NRuM	:	National Rurban Mission
RGSA	:	<i>Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan</i>
PM-SAUBHAGYA	:	<i>Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Rural)</i>
PM-AASHA	:	<i>Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan</i>
NMSA	:	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
NeGP	:	National e-Governance Programme
FFC	:	Fourteenth Finance Commission
MANREGA	:	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
LED	:	Light Emitting Diode
SFC	:	State Finance Commission
TCS	:	Tax Collected at Source
GST	:	Goods and Service Tax
GPDP	:	<i>Gram Panchayat</i> Development Plan
PIA	:	Project Implementation Agencies
PRA	:	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PDS	:	Public Distribution System
YASHADA	:	Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration

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## Measures to Augment the Resources of Panchayats Maharashtra

### Facts File (Basic)

Capital	: Mumbai
Area	: 307,713 sq. km
Population	: 120,837,347 (2018)
Rural Population	: 63317990 (2018)
GSDP	: ₹27,96,086 crore (2018-19)
Number of districts	: 36
Number of districts <i>Panchayats</i>	: 34
Number of Intermediate <i>Panchayats</i>	: 351
Number of village <i>Panchayats</i>	: 28031

### 1. Basic Details of Panchayats in Maharashtra

Local government in Maharashtra began with the enactment of Bombay Village *Panchayat* Act in 1958 which provided for the creation of *Panchayats* in the state. This was an Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to the constitution and administration of village *Panchayats* in the State of Bombay, and for certain other related matters.

*Panchayats* in Maharashtra is a three tier system, with the *Zilla Parishad* or *Panchayat* at the district level, Block or *Taluka Panchayat* at the middle level and Village Council or *Gram Panchayat* at the lowest level. The presiding officer at District *Panchayat* is Chief Executive Officer (CEO), at Block *Panchayat* is Development Officer (BDO) and in Village *Panchayat* is *Gram Sevak*/Secretary who report functionally to the respective elected bodies and administratively to their next superior authority in the hierarchy of State Government.

#### 1.1 Maharashtra *Panchayats* governing Acts with key amendments

In compliance with the provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, the Maharashtra Village *Panchayats* Act, (Act of No.III of 1959) and the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads* and *Panchayat Samitis* Act, 1961 were amended in 1994. And a three tier system of *Panchayati Raj* Institutions (PRIs) was established in the State.

In order to provide for the provisioning of part IX of the Constitution relating to the *Panchayats* in Scheduled Areas, *Panchayat* (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1996 was enacted. In Maharashtra 12 districts are covered under PESA. The details regarding all the *Panchayat* governing Acts, Rules & Regulations and Notifications are mentioned in the table given below:



**Table 1: Various Acts and Regulations in the State**

<b>Documents</b>	<b>Whether such Act/ document made</b>	<b>Year of Publication/ Enactment/ Order</b>
State <i>Panchayat</i> Act and Acts governing DPC along with Amendments	1. Maharashtra Village <i>Panchayat</i> Act, 1958/59	1958/59
	2. Maharashtra ZP&PS Act, 1961	1961
	3. Maharashtra DPC (Constitutions & functions) ACT, 1998	1998
	4. Maharashtra DPC (conduct of meeting) Rules 1999	1999
	5. Maharashtra DPC (Election) Rules 1999	1999
	6. Maharashtra DPC (constitution and function) Amendment Act, 2012	2012
Notification/GOs/Executive Orders/Circulars/ Rules/ Guidelines related to PR, SFC, DPC, Gram Sabha and Other related documents	1. Maharashtra Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provision ) Act, 1994	1994
	2. Guidelines issued by planning department	2012
Report of SFC, ATR and Annual Report	1. ATR I SFC	1997
	2. ATR II SRC	2002

## **1.2 Reservation Provisions in *Panchayats* of Maharashtra**

### **1.2.1 Percentage of reservation for Women**

As per the provisions of the Maharashtra *Panchayat* Act 1961, 50 per cent (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and General) of the total number of seats shall be reserved for women to be filled in by direct election.

### **1.2.2 Percentage of reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)**

The seats are reserved for SCs/STs in proportion to their population in the direct election of *Panchayat* Raj Institutions. The election of *Sarpanch* of Village *Panchayat* and Chairpersons of *Panchayat Samiti* and President of District *Panchayats* are also held on the same line.

### 1.2.3 Percentage of Reservation for OBCs

The seats to be reserved for Other Backward Classes shall be 27 percent, of the total number of seats to be filled in by election in a *Zilla Parishad*, *PanchayatSamiti* and sub-section *Panchayat*. Such seats are allotted by rotation to different:

- Electoral divisions in a *Zilla Parishad*,
- Electoralcolleges in a *PanchayatSamiti*, and
- Wards in a *Panchayat*.

(i) Provided that, in a *Zilla Parishad*, *PanchayatSamiti* and Village *Panchayat* comprising entirely the Scheduled Areas, the seats to be reserved for the persons belonging to the Other Backward Class shall be 27 percent, of the seats remaining (if any), after reservation of the seats for the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes;

(ii) Provided further that, the reservation for the persons belonging to the Other Backward Class in a *Zilla Parishad*, *Panchayat Samiti* and Village *Panchayat* falling only partially in the Scheduled areas shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Maharashtra Village *Panchayat Act*, 1961;

(iii) Provided also that, one-half of the total number of seats so reserved shall be reserved for women belonging to the category of Other Backward Class.

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

District decentralized planning is being implemented in the State since 1974. The District Planning Committees (DPCs) replaced the District Planning and Development Councils (DPDCs) for fulfilling the constitutional requirements. The State has a separate Act for DPC. In proportion to the assumed size of the State annual plan, the Department of Planning estimates the district plan size. The DPCs are assigned with district level programmes which need to be planned at the local level for optimum utilization of natural and other resource envelops of the district. Planning Department issues the guidelines to DPCs on tentative district wise outlay, time table to be followed (planning calendar) and separate planning format for the decentralized planning. There is 'District Sector Outlay' in the State Plan Budget which provides information on district wise breakup of allocation, known as the White Book.

The District Planning Committee in Maharashtra is constituted at district level to consolidate the plans prepared by the *Panchayats* and the Municipalities in the district and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole.

The State legislature may by Law make provision with respect to:

1. The composition of the district planning committee
2. The manner in which the seats in such committees shall be filled, provided that, not less than four-fifths of the total numbers of members of such committee shall be elected by and from amongst the elected members of *Panchayat* at the district level and of the municipalities in the district in proportion to the ratio between the population of the rural areas and of the urban areas in the district.
3. Functions relating to the district planning which may be assigned to such committees.
4. Manner in which the Chairperson of such committees shall be chosen.

Every district planning committee shall prepare the draft development plan on the matters of common interest between the *Panchayats* and municipalities including spatial planning, sharing of power and other physical and natural resources and the extent and type of available resources, whether financial or otherwise. DPC can consult such institutions and organisations as the Governor may by order specify.

**Table2:Composition of District Planning Committee**

<b>Nominated members of the DPC</b>	<b>Other ex-officio members of DPC</b>	<b>Permanent invitees of the DPC</b>
a. One member from the members of statutory Development Board by the Governor. b. Two members from the members of Legislature and the members of Parliament of the area by State Government. c. Two expert members for DPCs having forty members and four members for DPCs having fifty members, having knowledge in district planning, by State Government.	a. Minister- in -charge of the district, b. President of the <i>Zilla Parishad</i> , and c. District Collector	a. Other members of the Parliament and other members of the State Legislature, residing in or elected from the district and who are not nominated to the DPC by the State Government, b. Divisional Commissioner for the district, c. CEO of the <i>Zilla Parishad</i> , d. In the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Officer on special duty, e. District Planning Officer, f. 10, 12 and 15 ordinarily

		residents of the district to DPCs having total membership of 30, 40 and 50 respectively, by State Government.
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### 3. Role of Panchayats in Parallel Bodies

In order to implement the rural development activities effectively and efficiently, there are provisions of parallel bodies at all the three tiers of *Panchayats* in Maharashtra.

Further, the role of *Panchayats* of Maharashtra in Parallel bodies has been detailed in the table given below:

**Table 3: Role of Panchayats in Parallel Bodies**

Sl. No	Status/Parallel Bodies	DRD A	Educational	Water	Health and Sanitation	Agriculture Corporation	Tribal Development (ITDA)	Any other
1.	Parallel body merged with the <i>Panchayat</i> Institution	-	-	Yes	Yes	-	-	
2.	Parallel body made a unit of the <i>Panchayat</i> Institution	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	
3.	Parallel body is Presided/ Chaired by Elected Representatives of the <i>Panchayat</i>	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	-	-	
4.	Elected Representatives of <i>Panchayats</i> are represented in Board of the parallel body	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	

5.	Please mention recent initiative(s) that has/have been undertaken since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017 regarding role of <i>Panchayats</i> in parallel bodies.	
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#### 4. Autonomy to Panchayats

“As per section 39(1) of the Maharashtra Village *Panchayat* Act, 1959, the Commissioner may-

(i) remove from office any member or any *Sarpanch* or *Upa-Sarpanch* who has been guilty of misconduct in the discharge of his duties, or of any disgraceful conduct, or of neglect or of incapacity to perform his duty, or is persistently remiss in the discharge thereof. A *Sarpanch* or an *Upa-Sarpanch* so removed may at the discretion of the Commissioner also be removed from the *Panchayat*; or

(ii) remove from office the member, *Sarpanch* or, as the case may be, *Upa-Sarpanch*, if not less than twenty per cent of the total number of voters in the village who have paid all dues of the *Panchayat* regarding taxes on buildings and lands and water charges, make a complaint that the annual accounts and the report of the expenditure incurred by the *Panchayat* on the development activities are not placed before the *Gram Sabha*; and the information thereof is not displayed on the notice board as required by sub-section (1) or (1A) of section 8 :

Provided that, no such person shall be removed from office unless, in case of clause (i), the Chief Executive Officer or in case of clause (ii), the Deputy Chief Executive Officer as directed by the Chief Executive Officer; under the orders of the Commissioner, holds an inquiry after giving due notice to the *Panchayat* and the person concerned has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard and thereafter the Chief Executive Officer or, as the

case may be, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer concerned, though the Chief Executive Officer, submits his report to the Commissioner.”<sup>1</sup>

**Table4: Autonomy to Panchayats in Maharashtra**

Level of Panchayats	Suspend representatives (by Representatives)	Dismiss/Supersede/ Dissolve/Quash	Resend for reconsideration of resolutions
District Panchayat	State Government after resolution passed by G.B of Z.P. by 2/3 majority and after State Government giving opportunity being heard to the representative (M.Z.P. Act section 39 )	State Government w.r.t. Section 260 of M.Z.P. P.S. Act, 1961, by giving the Zilla Parishad the opportunity to explain. (Govt is required to place before legislature within 30 days)	District Magistrate w.r.t. Section 267 of M.Z.P. P.S. Act, 1961 Other resolutions offending legal provisions can be suspended by Divisional Commissioner (Section 267A)
Block Panchayat	State Government after resolution passed by G.B. of P.S. by 2/3 majority and after State Government giving opportunity of being heard to the representative (M.Z.P. Act section 61)	State Government w.r.t. Section 269 of M.Z.P. P.S Act., 1961 after giving the P.S. opportunity to explain. (Govt is required to place before legislature within 30 days)	- do -
Gram Panchayat	Divisional Commissioner under section 39 (negligence of duties) of Maharashtra Village Panchayat Act, 1958 Collector under Section 14 & 16 (disqualification) of the said Act.	State Government w.r.t. Section 145 of the Maharashtra Village Act, 1958 after consultation with Zilla Parishad and after giving the GramPanchayat the opportunity to explain.	Section 142 of the Maharashtra Village Panchayat Act, 1958 after recommendation of Standing Committee by Zilla Parishad.
Is there any provision of charge sheet by State Government?	<b>Gram Panchayat</b>	<b>Block Panchayat</b>	<b>District Panchayat</b>
	<b>Div commissioner under Section 39 District Collector</b>	<b>State Government under Section 88</b>	<b>State Government under Section 50</b>

<sup>1</sup>The Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act, 1959

(Yes/No)	<b>under Section 14, 16</b>		
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##### 5. Assignment of functions to Panchayat

In Maharashtra Village *Panchayats* Act, there is a separate chapter on 'Administrative Powers and Duties' and Schedule I (Village List). In schedule I (village list) total 12 major subjects are listed and they are:

(i) animal husbandry, (ii) agriculture, (iii) buildings & communications, (iv) co- operation, (v) education, (vi) forests, (vii) general administration, (viii) irrigation, (ix) industries and cottage industries, (x) medical & public health, (xi) social welfare, and (xii) self defence and village defence.

As per section 45 of the Act, it shall be the duty of the *Panchayat* to make reasonable provision within the village with respect to all or any of the subjects enumerated in schedule I, as referred 'the village list'. However, it is subjected to two conditions;

- (i) to the general control of *Zilla Parishad* and *PanchayatSamiti*, and
- (ii) availability of village fund.

It's also been mentioned that it is the duty of the *Panchayat* to take over and maintain any piped water supply scheme including works by the *Zilla Parishad* or State Government.

The Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads* and *PanchayatSamitis* Act, 1961 has two separate sections on 'administrative powers and duties of *Zilla Parishad*' and '*PanchayatSamiti* to be primarily responsible in respect of certain subjects'. As per section 100 of the Act, it is the duty of a *Zilla Parishad* to make reasonable provision within the district with respect to all or any of the subjects enumerated in the first schedule referred as 'District List'. As per the first schedule, in district list 16 major subjects are listed and they are:

(i) agriculture, (ii) animal husbandry & dairy development, (iii) education, (iv) forests, (v) Ayurveda, (vi) Medical, (vii) public health, (viii) social welfare, (ix) publicity, (x) buildings & communications, (xi) public health engineering, (xii) irrigation, (xiii) community development, (xiv) social education, (xv) rural housing, and (xvi) miscellaneous.

These subjects are different from that of the 29 subjects enumerated in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. Subjects like forest, irrigation and rural housing have single activity each whereas 'miscellaneous' is having maximum number of activities (27) and it is followed by agriculture with 13 activities.

### A. Details of Activities

According to the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act 1961* there are 22 functions of *Zilla Parishads* and 19 functions of *Panchayat Samitis*

#### A.1 Zilla Parishads

As per Schedule I of Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act 1961*, there are 16 main activities and 105 sub activities for *Zilla Parishads*.

#### A.2 Panchayat Samitis

In Schedule II of Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act 1961*, there are 15 activities and 71 sub activities for the *Panchayat Samitis*.

#### A.3 Village Panchayats

As per schedule I of the Maharashtra *Village Panchayats Act*, there are 12 activities and 79 sub activities of the *Village Panchayats*.

Functions assigned to *Panchayats* in Maharashtra and status of its actual involvement is given in the table below:

**Table 5: Functions Assigned to Panchayats and Actual Involvement of Panchayats**

Sl. No.	Functions	Delegated by Legislature	Level of Panchayats Actually Undertaking (Please tick the appropriate box)		
			Gram Panchayat	Block Panchayat	District
<b>Core Functions</b>					
1.	Drinking Water, Water Supply for Domestic Purpose	√	√	√	√
2.	Roads	√	√	√	√
3.	Culverts	√	√	√	√
4.	Bridges	√			√
5.	Ferries	√	√		√



6.	Waterways	√		√	√
7.	Other means of Communication	√			
8.	Building Control	√	√		
9.	Land Use and Building Regulation	√	√		√
10.	Maintenance of Community Assets	√	√		
11.	Street Lighting, Parking Lots, Bus Stops	√	√		√
12.	Public Conveniences	√	√	√	√
13.	Parks, Gardens, Playgrounds (Civic Amenities)	√	√	√	√
14.	Primary Health Centre/Community Health Centre	√	√	√	√
15.	Sanitation & Solid Waste Management	√	√	√	√
16.	Cremation & Burial	√	√	√	√
17.	Public Safety (Noxious Vegetation, Pests & Vermin's)		√		
<b>Welfare Functions</b>					
18.	Poverty Alleviation Programmes	√	√	√	√
19.	Family Welfare	√	√	√	√
20.	Women & Child Development	√	√	√	√
21.	Social Welfare, Welfare of Handicapped & mentally retarded	√	√	√	√
22.	Welfare of the weaker sections, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes & the Scheduled Tribes	√	√	√	√
23.	Public Distribution System		√		
24.	Vital Statistics	√	√	√	√

	Including Registration of Births & Deaths				
25.	Elementary Education	√	√	√	√
26.	Adult & Non-Formal Education	√	√	√	√
27.	Secondary Education	√	-	-	√
28.	Technical Training & Vocational Education	With State Govt.			
29.	Libraries	√	√	√	√
30.	Promotion of Cultural , Educational and Aesthetic Aspects	√	√	√	√
31.	Slum Improvement & Up gradation	√	√	√	√
32.	Fire Services	With State Govt.	√		
33.	Rural Housing	√	√	√	√
34.	Non-conventional Energy	√	√	√	√
<b>Agriculture and Allied Functions</b>					
35.	Watershed Development	√	√	√	
36.	Water supply for Agriculture Purpose, Minor Irrigation, Water Management	√	√		
37.	Agriculture & Agricultural Extension	√	√	√	√
38.	Land Improvement	√	√	√	√
39.	Implementation of Land Reforms	- With State Govt.			
40.	Land Consolidation	- do -			
41.	Soil Conservation	With State Govt.	√	-	-
42.	Animal Husbandry	√	√	√	√
43.	Dairying	√	√	√	√
44.	Poultry	√	√	√	√

45.	Fisheries	√	√	√	√
46.	Social Forestry	With State Govt.	√		√
47.	Farm Forestry	- do -			
48.	Minor Forest Produce	√	√		
49.	Market & Fairs	√	√	√	√
50.	Regulation of Slaughterhouses	√	√	√	√
51.	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	With State Govt.	√		
<b>Industries</b>					
52.	Water supply for Commercial and Industrial Purpose	√	√	√	√
53.	Small Scale Industries	√	√		
54.	Food Processing Industry	With State Govt.			√
55.	Khadi, Gram & Cottage Industry	=do=	√		
56.	Rural Electrification & Distribution	With State Govt.			
57.	Any other - Registration of death, birth & marriage	√	√	√	
58.	Any other - Conservation and protection of public source	√	√		

#### 6. Involvement of Panchayats in Important Schemes

There are several important Schemes of Government in which, all the levels of *Panchayats* in Maharashtra are involved and the same is detailed in the table given below:

**Table 6: Involvement of Panchayats in Important Schemes & Scheme Based Performance Measures**

Sl. No	Important Union Government Schemes	Levels of Panchayats Actually undertaking in each scheme		
		Gram Panchayats	Block Panchayats	District Panchayats
1.	National Social Assistance Program (NSAP)	-	-	-
2.	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MNREGP)	√	√	√
3.	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	√	-	√
4.	National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)	√	√	√
5.	Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin(SBM-G)	√	√	√
6.	National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools			
7.	Integrated Child Development Services(ICDS)	√	√	√
8.	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission(DAY-NRLM)	√	√	√
9.	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture(NMSA)	√		
<b>Mission Antyodaya</b>			2016-17	2017-18
2	Number of Panchayats covered under Mission Antyodaya in the following financial years?		5227	5227
3	Number of Antyodaya Panchayats marked on NREGA soft portal in the following financial years?		5367	5367

### 6.1 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) enables 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 grassroot level. This would be accomplished by convergence of frontline worker teams, cluster resource persons (CRPs) and

professionals at the *GramPanchayats*/ Cluster level. Cluster facilitation team would also be provided at the block level.

Number of *Panchayats* covered under Mission *Antyodaya* in the year 2017-18 was 5367.

#### 7. Fourteenth Finance Commission (14<sup>th</sup> FC) Grants to the *Panchayats*

The 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission recommended the share of basic grants and performance grants to be transferred to the local government through 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 on the rates as may be prescribed.

#### I. Basic Grants

From among the grant received under the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) the share of basic grant is 90%. The said grant is allotted directly to the *GramPanchayats*. As specified in the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC), the census for the year 2011 considered as the base. 90% grant among the grant received under the FFC is allotted on the basis of the population of the *GramPanchayat*. The detailed status and amount of release of basic grant to *Panchayats* is mentioned in the table given below:

**Table 7: Basic Grants awarded to *Panchayats* in Maharashtra**

Installments of FFC Grants	FFC Grants Released by Govt. of India		Released by State	
	Amount (in crore)	Received by State on <u>DD/MM/YYYY</u>	Amount (in crore)	Released to <i>Panchayats</i> on <u>DD/MM/YYYY</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> for the year 2015-16	811.66	01-07-2015	811.66	16-07-2015
2 <sup>nd</sup> for the year 2015-16	811.66	20-11-2015	811.66	03-12-2015
1 <sup>st</sup> for the year 2016-17	1123.89	26-08-2016	1123.89	31-08-2016
2 <sup>nd</sup> for the year 2016-17	1123.89	02-01-2017	1123.89	02-01-2017
1 <sup>st</sup> for the year 2017-18	1298.55	21-07-2017	1298.55	28-07-2017

## II. Performance Grants

The state has released Performance Grants to *GramPanchayats* for the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19. From among the grant received under the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) the share of performance grant is 10%. The said grant is allotted directly to the *GramPanchayats*. This grant is allotted on the basis of the area of the *GramPanchayat*. Year-wise allocation of Performance Grant to *Panchayats* in Maharashtra is detailed in the table given below:

**Table 8: Year-wise allocation of Grants under 14<sup>th</sup>FC (2015-16 to 2019-20) to *Panchayats* of Maharashtra**

Financial Year(s)	Basic Grant (Rs. in crore)	Performance Grant (Rs. in crore)	Total Grant (Rs. in crore)
2015-16	1623.32	-	1623.32
2016-17	2247.77	294.84	2542.61
2017-18	2597.10	333.66	2930.76
2018-19	3004.37	378.91	3383.28
2019-20	4059.55	496.15	4555.70
2015-20 (Entire Award Period)	13532.11	1503.57	15035.68
% Share of Maharashtra (Among all States)	7.51	7.51	7.51

### 8. State Finance Commission (SFC)

In accordance with the provision for setting up State Finance Commission (SFC) in the Conformity Act of 1994, four SFCs have been constituted in the State of Maharashtra. The recommendations of the first and second SFCs regarding devolution were either partially or fully accepted. The recommendations of the third SFC were under consideration of the State Government and the fourth SFC has submitted the report. Details of formation, reporting and period covered by all the SFCs in Maharashtra is given below in the tabular form.

**Table 9: State Finance Commissions**

SFC Chronology	Period Covered	MM/YY of Formation	MM/YY of Submission of Report	MM/YY of ATR laid before the Legislature
1 <sup>st</sup> SFC	96-97 to 2000-2001	23.04.1994	31.01.1997	05.03.1999
2 <sup>nd</sup> SFC	2001-02 to 2005-06	22.06.1999	27.03.2002	23.3.2006
3 <sup>rd</sup> SFC	2006-07 to 2010-11	15.01.2005	03.06.2006	Under consideration
4 <sup>th</sup> SFC	2011-12 to 2015-16	10.2.2011	12.2016	-----

### 9. Money Transferred on Account of State Finance Commission (SFC)

State Finance Commissions are constituted in the State every five years since 1994 to recommend the ways and means to increase the tax base of *Panchayats* and allocations of State net tax receipts to and among the *Panchayats*. The Last State Finance Commission viz., 4th SFC constituted in 2011 under the chairmanship of J.P. Dange.

Following table represents the recommendations made by the SFCs of Maharashtra:

**Table 10: Types of Grants Recommended by SFCs of Maharashtra**

SFC of Maharashtra:	Types of Grants
First	<p>General Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The irrigation cess grant equal to 66.67% of the demand should be given to the Zila Parishads as advance grant.</li> </ul> <p>Block Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The primary education grant</li> </ul>
Second	<p>Special Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For VPs to eliminate backlog in the districts of Marathwada, Vidarbha, Konkan and the rest of Maharashtra where backlog regarding development exists</li> </ul> <p>Incentive (Tax Recovery)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All VPs shall be given Tax Recovery Incentive Grant on the basis of recovery of all the previous financial year</li> </ul>
Third	Total additional transfer to Local Government is 7.8% of the revenues, without breaching Fiscal Responsibility rules.

	Purpose for which devolution / grants / Transfers can be utilized: <u>Matching (Scheme Specific, Cost Sharing)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintaining water supply schemes</li> <li>▪ To initiate a programme of low cost sewage disposal scheme in large size villages.</li> </ul> <u>Maintenance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For repair and maintenance of School rooms</li> <li>▪ Repair and maintenance of health service to ZPs.</li> </ul> <u>Fund Equalization (One Time Grant)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To meet 50% of the remaining outstanding amount of arrears of Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran by GPs.</li> </ul>
Fourth	The Panchayati Raj Institutions of Maharashtra in the period 2011-15 received around 16% to 17% of State's Revenue Receipts.

#### 10. Empowerment of Panchayats to Impose and Collect revenue

The *Panchayats* at all the three levels of Maharashtra are empowered via provisions of *Panchayat Acts* to impose and collect revenues generated from several activities and the same are detailed in the table given below:

**Table 11: Revenue Handles of Panchayats in Maharashtra**

S. No	Maharashtra (Village Panchayat- V; Panchayat Samiti/Taluka Panchayat-I; Zilla Parishad-D) Bombay Village Panchayat Act, 1968 Maharashtra Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti Act, 1961					Revenue Handles Assigned to Panchayats				
	Tax Revenue Receipts					Non- Tax Revenue Receipts				
	Taxes	Levi ed/ Coll ecte d	Appro priated	Depo sited	Provis ions	Non- Taxes	Levi ed Coll ecte d	Appro priated	Depo sited	Provis ions
1	Cess on land	V	-	GF	S/127	fee on market s and weekly bazars	V	-	GF	S/124(1)(x)
	Tax on	V	-	GF	S/124(	Fee on	V	-	GF	S/124(1



	land and buildings				1)(i)	cartstand and tongastands				(x)
	Betterment Tax	V	-	GF	S/124(1)(i-a)	Fee for the supply of water from wells and tanks				S/124(1)(xii)
	Local Panchayat Tax	V	-	GF	S/124(1)(i-b)	Equalization Grant	-	-	GF	S/132A
	Pilgrim Tax	V	-	GF	S/124(iii)	Village water supply fund	-	-	GF	S/132B
	Tax on fairs, festivals and other entertainments	V	-	GF	S/124(1)(iv)	District Development Fund	-	-	GF	S/133
	Tax on bicycles and on other vehicle drawn by animals	V	-	GF	S/124(1)(v)	fee for temporary erection, on putting up projections over, or temporary occupation of, any public street or place	V		GF	S/124(1)(xiv)
	Lightning Tax	V	-	GF	S/124(1)(vii-	Fee for cleaning	V	-	GF	S/124(1)(vi)

					a)	g a cess pool constr ucted on land				
Sanitar y Cess	V	-	GF	S/124( 1)(vii)	Loans from Zilla Parish ad	-	-	GF	S/132	
Water rate	V	-	GF	S/124( 1)(vii)	fee for grazin g cattle or grazin g lands	V	-	GF	S/124(1 (xvii)	
Tax under S/2 of Bomba y Motor Vehicle s Tax Act, 1958	V	-	GF	S/124( 1)(ix)	fee on the registr ation of animal sold	V	-	GF	S/124(1 (xviii)	
Tax on trade, calling or employ ment	V	-	GF	S/124( 1)(vi)						

\*Note: GF=Gram Fund

#### 11. GST Implications on Panchayats in Maharashtra

Due to implementation of GST, following taxes have been withdrawn from *Panchayats*:

- Tax on fairs,
- Festivals and other entertainments,
- Tax under S/2 of Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1958,
- Advertisement Tax,
- Tax on trade,
- Tax on Professions, callings.

Also there's compensatory mechanism for *Panchayats* which is prescribed in GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 which states, Exemption of functions performed by M.P/MLA/*Panchayat* members from both Goods & Services Category (**Schedule III S/3 (a)**).

**Tax Deduction at Source:** As per **S/51C/1 (b)** 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 exceeds INR 2,50,000/-

**Tax Collection at Source:** **S/52** empowers *Panchayats* to collect tax at source (TCS) under State GST Act.

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

SI 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	
	Maharashtra Maharashtra Village <i>Panchayat</i> Act, 1959 Maharashtra <i>ZillaParishad</i> and <i>PanchayatSami ti</i> Act, 1961	Tax on fairs, festivals and other entertainments	✓	Repealed	<b>Schedule III S/3 (a)</b> - Exemption of functions performed by M.P/MLA/ <i>Panchayat</i> members from both Goods & Services Category. <b>S/51 C/1 (b)</b> – Tax deduction at source/TDS- The Government may mandate local authority to deduct tax at source or <b>TDS</b> at the rate of <b>1 per cent</b> from the payment made to the supplier /deductee of taxable goods & services ,where the total value of such supply > <b>INR 2,50,000/-</b>
	Maharashtra state GST act, 2017	Tax under S/2 of <b>Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax Act, 1958</b>	✓	Repealed The Maharashtra Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into LocalAreas Act, 1987	

		Advertisement tax	-	Repealed The Maharashtra Advertisement Tax Act, 1967	<u>S/52</u> -Collection of tax at source  <u>S/173 – Repealed</u> Acts namely – (a)The Maharashtra Betting Tax Act, 1925, (b) The Maharashtra Purchase Tax on Sugarcane Act, 1962, (c)The Maharashtra Advertisements Tax Act, 1967. (d) The Maharashtra Forest Development (Tax on sale of Forest Produce by Government or Forest Development Corporation) Act, 1983. (e) The Maharashtra Tax on Luxuries Act, 1987. (f) The Maharashtra Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas Act, 1987. (g) The Maharashtra Tax on the Entry of Goods into Local Areas Act, 2002. (h) The Maharashtra Tax on Lotteries Act, 2006
		Tax on trade, professions, callings	-	Rates revised for Dealer registered or not registered under Maharashtra Vat Act, 2002 or Maharashtra GST Act, 2017. -Does not exceed rupees 20 lacs(Nil) -Exceed rupees 20 lacs(2500)	

## 12. Expenditure of Panchayats in Maharashtra

The average estimation of expenditure (for the period of 2012-13 to 2017-18) in the state of Maharashtra at the level of District *Panchayat* were INR 32550.0 crores, at Block *Panchayat* were INR 272.7 crores and at Village *Panchayat* were INR 3773.1 crores which are aggregating to INR 36595.8 crores. Whereas, the per capita expenditure was INR 5779.7

Above details are given below in the tabular form also:

**Table 13: Expenditure by Panchayats (Average of 2012-13 to 2017-18)**

S.No.	Level of Panchayats	Expenditure (INR)
1	DP	32550.0 Cr.
2	BP	272.7 Cr.
3	VP	3773.1 Cr.
<b>Total</b>		<b>36595.8 Cr.</b>
Per Capita Expenditure		5779.7

### 13. Gram Sabha in Maharashtra

The Village Panchayat Act, 1959 was amended in 2003 to provide buoyancy to the Gram Sabha and the required number of meetings was fixed as six in every financial year. As per the provisions of the Act, it is joint responsibility of the Sarpanch and Secretary to convene the meetings of the Gram Sabha. The government, semi-government and Panchayat functionaries working in the locality are assigned to attend the meetings of the Gram Sabha. They are subjected to the disciplinary control by the Gram Sabha. The Gram Sabha has the power to report to the concerned BDO, if there is any irregularity found against any functionaries. The respective Block Development Officer ensures that the required meetings of Gram Sabha are being held.

Powers and functions of Gram Sabha includes:

- Provision of Mahila Sabha before every Gramsabha.
- To approve the social and economic development plans, programmes and projects to be implemented by the Panchayat before such plans, programmes, and projects are taken up for implementation by such Panchayat.
- To grant permission for incurring any expenditure by Panchayat on the development schemes.
- To convey its view to the Panchayat before taking any decision by the Panchayat in respect of any proposal for acquisition of any land falling within the jurisdiction of such Panchayat, for the Government purpose, by the Land Acquisition concerned.
- Ban on liquor.
- Selection of beneficiaries.
- Sand excavation permission, Building permission.
- Supervision of Govt, semi-Govt employees at GP level.

- Formation of all development committees.

The prescribed quorum of GS in the State is 15% of the population of the Village *Panchayat* jurisdiction or 100 persons. And the guidelines for convening the *Gram Sabha* meetings are the *Gram Sabha* meetings Rule 1959 and are made under Maharashtra Village *Panchayat* Act 1958.

As per Section 7 of Maharashtra Village *Panchayat* Act 1958, in case of non-convening of *Gram Sabha*, *Sarpanch* or *Up-Sarpanch* shall be disqualified for continuing his/her post. As well as the Secretary of the *GramPanchayat* will be liable to be suspended and disciplinary action will be taken.

Further, Government has amended Maharashtra Village *Panchayat* Act 1958 to give weightage to *Ward Sabha* and *Mahila Sabha*.

The roles and responsibilities of *Gram Sabha* that the State has identified are listed in Maharashtra Village *Panchayat* Act 1958 under powers and duties of *GramSabha*, which includes:

- Planning
- Budget Preparation
- Passing of Accounts
- Social Audit
- Preparation of BPL List
- Preparation of Beneficiary list

**Table 14:Provisions of *Gram Sabha***

1.	Is there any minimum number of <i>Gram Sabha</i> meetings mandated? (Yes/No)	Yes
2.	Is there a system in the State to monitor and ensure the mandated quorum of GS meetings in each <i>Panchayat</i> ? (Yes/No)	Yes
	If so, please elaborate:	The respective Block Development Officer is ensuring the required meetings of <i>Gram Sabha</i> being held.
3.	As per the State <i>Panchayat</i> Act, enumerate the powers and functions of <i>Gram Sabha</i> :	
	4. Provision of Women Sabha before every <i>Gram Sabha</i>	

	5. To approve the social and economic development plans, programmes and projects to be implemented by the <i>Panchayat</i> before such plans, programmes, and projects are taken up for implementation by such <i>Panchayat</i> .	
	a) To grant permission for incurring any expenditure by <i>Panchayat</i> on the development schemes.	
	b) To convey its view to the <i>Panchayat</i> before taking any decision by the <i>Panchayat</i> in respect of any proposal for acquisition of any land falling within the jurisdiction of such <i>Panchayat</i> , for the Government purpose, by the Land Acquisition concerned.	
	c) Ban on liquor.	
	d) Beneficiaries selection.	
	e) Sand excavation permission, Building permission	
	f) Supervision of Govt, semi-Govt employees at GP level.	
	g) Formation of all development committees.	
4.	Is there a mandated Quorum for <i>Gram Sabha</i> meetings? (Yes/No)	Yes
	If yes, what is the prescribed quorum of GS in the State?	15% of the population of the Village <i>Panchayat</i> jurisdiction (255 in PESA GP) or 100 persons is the quorum of <i>Gram Sabha</i>
5.	Has the State issued guidelines as to how the <i>Gram Sabha</i> Meetings can be convened? Please elaborate: Yes. Rules namely <i>Gram Sabha</i> meetings Rule 1959 are made under Maharashtra Village <i>Panchayat</i> Act 1958.	
6.	In case of insufficiency of funds, do the State provide fund to <i>Gram Panchayats</i> for convening <i>Gram Sabha</i> meetings?(Yes/No)	N.A.
7.	In case of non-convening of <i>Gram Sabha</i> , what are the actions taken by the State, if any?	As per Section 7 of Maharashtra Village <i>Panchayat</i> Act 1958 <i>Sarpanch</i> or <i>Up-Sarpanch</i> shall be disqualified for continuing his/her post. As well as the Secretary of the <i>Gram Panchayat</i> will be liable to be suspended and disciplinary action will be taken.
8.	Elaborate the measures taken by the State to promote people's assemblies below <i>Gram Sabha</i> , including the following in <i>Gram Panchayats</i> ?	
	a. Ward <i>Sabha</i> :	Government has amended Maharashtra Village <i>Panchayat</i> Act 1958 to give weightage to Ward <i>Sabha</i> and <i>Mahila Sabha</i>
	b. <i>Mahila Sabha</i> :	
	c. Any other	
9.	What is the role of <i>Gram Sabha</i> that the State has identified in the following?	
	a. Planning	All these roles and responsibilities are listed in Maharashtra Village <i>Panchayat</i> Act 1958 under powers and duties of <i>Gram Sabha</i>
	b. Budget Preparation	
	c. Passing of Accounts	
	d. Social Audit	
	e. Preparation of BPL List	
	f. Preparation of Beneficiary	

	list(Under the following schemes)	
	MGNREGA	Yes
	Others (Specify)	
	g. Preparation of Labour Budget under MGNREGA	Yes
Recent initiative(s) undertaken since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017 to strengthen "Gram Sabha":		

#### 14. Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)

In Maharashtra, 27920 Gram Panchayats have formulated GPDP in the State till 31st December 2018 and the same is being integrated on Plan Plus Software. Although, no Gram Panchayat in Maharashtra has received 'Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award-2018'.

The year-wise status of number of Plans prepared in GPDP program in Maharashtra is detailed in the table given below:

**Table 15: GPDP Status in Maharashtra (2015-20)**

S.No.	Year(s)	Number of Plans Prepared
1.	2015-16	1002
2.	2016-17	27824
3.	2017-18	27813
4.	2018-19	26669
5.	2019-20	26497

#### **People's Plan Campaign (PPC) for Gram Panchayat Development plan (GPDP) – Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas:**

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" was an intensive and structured exercise for planning at Gram Sabha through convergence between Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and concerned Line Departments of the State. The consolidated status of Peoples Plan Campaign in Maharashtra is detailed in the table given below:



**Table 16: Consolidated Status of Peoples Plan Campaign as on 07/01/2019 in Maharashtra**

<b>Important Credentials</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per Cent</b>
<i>GramSabha</i> Scheduled	27851	99.9
<i>GramSabha</i> Held	27851	99.9
GPDP Approved as per Facilitator's Feedback	25094	90.0
GPDP uploaded on PlanPlus	2020	7.2
GPDP under process on PlanPlus	2450	8.8
Total GPDP (Uploaded & Under process)	4470	16.0

### 15. Transparency and Anti-corruption

Some of the provisions for transparency and anti-corruption in *Panchayats* of Maharashtra includes the following:

- All the levels of *Panchayats* of the state i.e. *GramPanchayat*, block *Panchayat* and district *Panchayat* provide information to the public under RTI Act.
- Under RTI Act, at the level of *GramPanchayat* *Gramsevak* and at the block and district *Panchayat* Section Officer is the information officer.
- Under RTI Act, the first Appellate Authority at the level of *GramPanchayat* is Extension Officer (*Panchayat*), Block *Panchayat* is B.D.O. and at District *Panchayat* is Head of the Department. And, the second Appellate Authority at all the levels of *Panchayats* is State Information Commission (STC).

Policy for Disclosure of Information by the *Panchayats*:

1. Income and Expenditure Statement of GPs is distributed to every household every year.
2. Statement of Accounts of Block *Panchayat* is distributed in every monthly meeting.
3. Statement of Accounts of *ZillaPanchayat* is distributed in General Body Meeting.
4. Annual Administrative Report:-

GP submits report to Block *Panchayat*, which are consolidated at block level and submitted to district level. District *Panchayat* consolidates block reports at District level and submit to State Government. These reports of all ZPs are submitted to Legislature.

They display it on Notice boards and on their websites. Integrated Village Database (Gram MahitiKosh) is also made available to public on demand.

Institution which undertakes the complaints of *Panchayat* includes:

- a) Ombudsman,
- b) *Lokayukta*,
- c) Govt. Agency,
- d) *GramSabha* at *GramPanchayat*, and
- e) *Lokshahi Din* at Block, District and Divisional Level

So far 65 complaints have been received against Elected Representatives and 1 against *Panchayat* Officials.

#### 16. Infrastructure of Panchayats

For the development of infrastructure at all the three levels of *Panchayats* following activities are undertaken:

At District *Panchayat*:

- Developed inter-links amongst institutions and organisations.
- Installation of small industrial estates at suitable locations and evolve other related infrastructure activities.
- Identification of locations and development of food processing complexes.
- In regard of SSIs in rural areas, transfer of respective functionaries of DIC to PRIs.

At Block *Panchayat*:

- Established small rural industrial estates and complexes.

At Village *Panchayat*:

- Identification of suitable locations for rural industries.

Status of availability of infrastructure at all the levels of *Panchayats* in Maharashtra is given in the table below:

**Table 17: Availability of Infrastructure at all the Levels of Panchayats**

Sl. No.	Equipments & Applications	Gram Panchayat	Block Panchayat	District Panchayat				
1.	Number of Panchayats which have Panchayat 'Ghar' (Pucca building)	23160	351	33				
2.	Number of Panchayats which have Computers, Printers, Scanners & other peripherals	27892	351	33				
3.	Number of Panchayats which have Telephone	22000	351	33				
4.	Number of Panchayats which have Internet	26528	351	33				
5.	<p>Has the State Government taken any measure for construction of new GP buildings, repair of existing buildings, construction of barrier free access, construction of toilets (including separate toilets for women) and electricity and water connections?                      -State Government provides funds for the construction which is given to PRI as Grant-in-aid.</p>							
6.	Staff Structure of Gram Panchayats	Secretary	Community Resource Person	Junior Engineers	Technical Assistants	Data Entry Operators	Accountant	Others (Please specify)
	Please tick, if applicable	√		√		√	√	
	How many Gram Panchayats have the following staff?(in Numbers)					23146		
	Who pays the salary of the above	Government				Gram Panchayat		

staff?								
What percentage of <i>Panchayat</i> staff salaries are met by the State?								
20% - 40%								
41% - 60%			√	√	√	√		
61% - 80%								
81% - 100%	√							
Any other (Please specify)								

#### 17. Training Institutions and Training Activities

State has its own capacity building framework to train the elected representatives and *Panchayat* officials. Since the inception of PRI, State has created own structure of *Gramsevak* Training Centre (GTCs) which envisages training designs of *GramPanchayat* level functionaries and representatives.

SIRD at YASHADA Pune, based on TNA has developed Capacity Building framework for all cadres.

The year-wise status of capacity building & training of Elected Representatives, *Panchayat* Functionaries and other stakeholders of *Panchayats* in Maharashtra is detailed in the table given below:

**Table18: Number of Trained Elected Representatives, *Panchayat* Functionaries and other Stakeholders**

S. No.	Year(s)	<i>Panchayat</i> Trainees
1	2014-15	69152
2	2015-16	1089
3	2016-17	652145
4	2017-18	1204606
5	2018-19	104004

## 18. e-Connectivity & ICT Measures

The State Government has taken several initiatives few years back and *Panchayats* at all the three levels have been provided with e-connectivity facility. All *Zilla Parishads*, *Panchayat Samitis*, and *Village Panchayats* are computerized. Application of PRIASOFT and Plan Plus has already been started. Bio metric System of Attendance is introduced in all *Panchayats* and other *Panchayat* related institutions. E-tendering has been adopted up to the *Village Panchayat* level.

The status of e-Connectivity & ICT at all the three levels of *Panchayats* in Maharashtra is given in the tables below:

**Table19: E-Connectivity & ICT Measures Taken by *Panchayats* in Maharashtra**

Applications	District <i>Panchayats</i>		Intermediate <i>Panchayats</i>		Village <i>Panchayats</i>	
	Total	Adopted	Total	Adopted	Total	Adopted
Local Government Directory (LGD)	34	34	351	351	27867	27867
Area Profiler	34	34	351	347	27867	27646
PRIA Soft	34	1	351	18	27867	27723
ActionSoft	34	11	351	54	27867	19147
National Asset Directory	34	36	351	350	27867	27139
Social Audit and Meeting Management	34	8	351	24	27867	3575
Training and Management	34	28	351	92	27867	197

**Table: 20 *Panchayat* Enterprise Suit (PES) in Maharashtra**

E-connectivity & ICT Measures Taken by <i>Panchayat</i>	Functionality	URL
<i>SangramSoft</i>	Service Delivery	<a href="http://www.sangram.co.in">http://www.sangram.co.in</a>

## Sources for Data and Further Reading

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