

# DOWNLOAD PDF GAP BETWEEN NEEDS AND RESOURCES OF PANCHAYATS IN INDIA

## Chapter 1 : SELF-CORPORATIZED PANCHAYAT - CFM

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Gram panchayats hit by shortage of funds Syed Akbar Hyderabad: Thousands of gram panchayats in the State suffer from acute shortage of funds primarily because they fail to collect taxes or generate money from sale of natural resources. About 95 per cent of the gram panchayats in the State completely depend on State and Central funds even for small development works and 70 per cent of them borrow money from the State to pay salaries to their staff. The major task ahead for the 21, and odd village sarpanches who took charge last week is to find ways and means of generating resources if they want to concentrate on development works. Though village panchayats have been empowered to collect property, water and entertainment cable TV taxes and cess on fish tanks and marketing, rarely do sarpanches achieve per cent target. Hardly a couple of hundred villages could be classified as " per cent tax collectors". According to officials in the panchayat raj department, the tax collection percentage range between 40 and 60 on an average, leaving the villages financially starved. Local political equations also come in the way of tax realisation. Buckling under political pressure, sarpanches in Prakasam district often fail to focus on new revenue resources. They fear that local voters will oppose any increase in the tax structure and reject their candidature in the next elections. Gram panchayat needs funds for construction of roads and drains, supply of drinking water, providing street lamps and maintenance of sanitation and other local developmental activities. The funds given by the Central and the State governments under these heads are not sufficient to meet the local requirements. Prakasam district panchayat officer Vijay Kumar said the State government had given a free hand to local bodies to collect taxes and cess from villagers for developmental activities. Unlike their counterparts in other places, sarpanches in Guntur district are known for their strong tax collection methods. Most of the village panchayats in Guntur district have been doing well in collection of property taxes, water taxes, marketing cess and fish tank cess. The panchayats are also mobilising funds through sale of grass, growing trees like subabul, teak and guava. However, panchayats fail to collect entertainment tax from cable TV operators. In places where the sarpanches are assertive, the tax collection has been always high. Last year some panchayats recorded a record 70 per cent tax collection, according to Guntur District Panchayat Officer Radha Krishna. Tax evasion has been a problem in villages falling under the faction-hit Palnadu area. Of the gram panchayats in Krishna district more than do not have permanent buildings for offices and an equal number of gram panchayats has no executive officers. Though the district administration provided money to mandal offices for construction of buildings, panchayats were left to fend for themselves. Only a few gram panchayats could manage to get own buildings during the last five years. In the absence of steady flow of funds from the State and the Central governments, most of the villages look forward to the respective MPs and MLAs for financial support to meet basic facilities. In several cases, gram panchayats depend on the State government for payment of salaries to their staff. However, village panchayats like Vuyyuru and Gurazala have been improving their financial resources by concentrating on the local tax collection. These two gram panchayats recorded per cent tax collection in the last three years. In Khammam district there is a wide gap between the facilities being provided to citizens in municipalities and panchayats. The newly elected sarpanches of panchayats in the district demand that the State government delegate more powers to them to take up development works without looking forward to funds from the State. Khammam district panchayat officer John Wesley said there is no bar on sarpanches from collecting taxes and spending them on laying roads, supplying drinking water and providing sanitation. Many villages in the district have huge resources of granite. They could collect cess effectively on quarries to improve their financial status. Only one gram panchayat in the Naxal-hit Warangal district is self-sufficient in revenue generation. The district has 1, gram panchayats. Gangadevipally village panchayat in Geesukonda mandal has

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become financially independent thanks to a rigorous tax drive launched by the sarpanch. Only three gram panchayats - Parkal, Mahabubabad, and Narsampet -- collect advertisement tax on hoardings and entertainment tax on cable TV. Shockingly more than 1, villages failed to realise their full property tax from the residents.

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## Chapter 2 : How technology is helping India's rural poor | World Economic Forum

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However, the absence of women in the public domain remains as a paradox of the Kerala model of development. The economic marginalisation of women in the development process has drawn considerable attention during recent years. While the female work participation rate in India increased from The incidence of unemployment among females in the State is higher than that among males by 5 times in rural areas and 3 times in urban areas. Unemployment in Kerala is severe and is estimated to be 3 times larger than of India. The gender-oriented division of labour has resulted in the concentration of women in low paying unorganized sectors such as agricultural labour, cottage and traditional industries and selected service sectors. Despite the powerful trade union movements, equal wages for equal work still remains a mirage and gender discrimination at the work place is widely prevalent. The marginalisation of women in the economic process and lack of control over resources have been major impediments in improving the status of women. The violence against women and incidence of sexual harassment continue to increase number of registered crimes increased from in to in Despite the general progressive political environment in the state, active involvement of women in various leadership levels is low. Identification of poor families through risk indices-based surveys, with the active participation of the poor and the communities to which they belong. Empowering the poor women to improve the productivity and managerial capabilities of the community by organizing them into community-based organizations CBOs. Encouraging thrift and investment through credit by developing CDSs to work as informal bank of the poor. Improving incomes of the poor through improved skills and investment for self -employment. Ensuring better health and nutrition for all. Ensuring BASIC amenities like safe drinking water , sanitary latrines improved shelter and healthy environment. Ensuring a minimum of 5 years of primary education for all children, belonging to risk families. Enabling the poor to participate in the decentralization process through the Community Development Society CDS , as it is a subsystem of the local government, under which it works. To achieve the specific objectives of the mission, several auxiliary objectives are pursued methodically. History[ edit ] Kudumbashree, a female-oriented, community-based, poverty reduction project of Government of Kerala. Kerala is an Indian state lying in the south-west part of Indian subcontinent, where many development experiments are being tested, refined and implemented. The mission aims at the empowerment of women, through forming self-help groups and encouraging their entrepreneurial or other wide range of activities. The purpose of the mission is to ensure that the women should no longer remain as passive recipients of public assistance, but active leaders in women-involved development initiatives. Kudumbashree movement was launched by former Prime Minister A. The program has derived from the works of Fr. The following are the community structures suggested for the rural side: Since this aspect gives an opening for the above poverty line APL families to enter into the community structures envisaged by Kudumbashree, it is further ensured that majority of the office bearers should belong to BPL families. These structures give added importance to women empowerment both social and economic. Strategies[ edit ] The action plan charted out for Kudumbashree is: Formation of women collectives: The poor women from families identified will be organised into Neighbourhood Groups NHG representing 15 to 40 families. A five-member team elected from the NHGs will be the cutting edge of the programme. Their organizational structures will provide opportunities for collective public action. More information and training: Weekly meetings of NHGs, sharing of experiences, discussions, organised trainings etc. To facilitate economic development, suitable skill upgrades training will be given to women. Thrift - credit operations and hour banking system: Enabling women to realize their latent potential, strengthening them through self-help are the main objectives of Kudumbashree. Small savings generated at the families are pooled at various levels as thrift and used to attract credit from banks, which will operate as hour bank for the poor, acting as a

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sub-system of the formal banks. Better living conditions - Infrastructural facilities: This will be the anti-poverty sub plan of the local body and this will facilitate convergent delivery of Government programmes meant for the poor. Rather than the traditional system of heavily subsidized approach, Kudumbashree promote self-help approach for building houses, latrines, access to drinking water, sanitary facilities etc. Common infrastructural facilities in the community strengthens them further. Micro-enterprises for sustainable economic development: Providing skill upgrade trainings, self-employment opportunities and infrastructural development through wage employment schemes are the preparing grounds for further development of successful micro enterprises. Power to the people especially the poor women: The skill for identification of needs, fixing priorities, availing resources , bridging gap between needs and resources in a cost effective manner etc. In the decentralization of power to the local bodies and common man, Kudumbashree can act as a healthy sub-system facilitating participation of poor women in the planning , implementation and monitoring of the programme. Leadership - decision making power: Interaction in women collectives will help them to have a better understanding, which will lead to the emergence of leadership. This will help to ensure efficient women leadership to elected governments in future. Reaching out family through women, and community through family, is the ultimate target of Kudumbashree. Informal banking system[ edit ] The three-tier CDS system, envisaged for poverty alleviation in Kudumbashree approach, will take up the informal banking responsibility also. The poor women should be able to approach the informal banks whenever necessity occurs. The doors of the banks should be open for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and days a year. The informal banks are formed with the active involvement of every member belonging to the Self Help Group. The strength of an informal bank is the intimate relationship between the members of the Self Help Group. The members can deposit even trifle amount in the thrift scheme of the banks. Informal bank always tried to encourage saving habit among poor women. An informal bank can provide collateral free loans with the terms and conditions decided by the group. The Self Help Group behind the informal bank is free to fix market driven rates of interest for advances. Every operation of an informal bank takes place in the group level, including depositing of thrift amounts and sanctioning of thrift loans. The groups itself decides the eligibility of a member to get assistance from the bank after discussions and assessment of the need and repayment capacity. The very existence of an Informal Bank brings about the homogeneity and affinity among members of the poor. Thrift savings of the members serve as the main bondage among members. The bank promote regularity in savings and assures sufficient frequency for group meetings. The informal banks will instill collective decision-making capability among the poor women. This sublime quality will be of great assistance to them for their fight against poverty and their participation in planning process and economic development activities. Informal banks will slowly do away with the subsidy syndrome prevailing in the lowest stratum of the society. The poor women will begin to enjoy the unique pleasure of doing things with their own money. The financial empowerment of women achieved through thrift and bank accessibility will improve their status in their own families and society. Naturally, their confidence will increase. Above all Informal Banks provide loans to the poor women at their own doorsteps without any hassle. Poor need financial assistance for several purposes, falling under four major categories. Micro-Enterprise development[ edit ] Supporting and sustaining micro enterprises has always been a challenge for development administration. Problems of scale, capability, market and vulnerability do not offer easy solutions. In the recent past Kudumbashree has been attempting to analyze and resolve these problems specifically and jointly, both by increasing the interface with the LSG and the entrepreneur regarding existing programmes, and by bringing new strategies and new programmes that help converge resources and address arising issues proactively and creatively. Milestones at a glance[ edit ] In contrast with the previous poverty eradication programmes there are no specific financial and physical targets set for Kudumbashree. Kudumbashree practices a process approach and not a project approach. Milestones of the Mission, at a glance, are as follows: The largest women movement in Asia with a membership of 41 lakhs representing equal number of families. Mobilised a sum of Rs. Ashraya-Destitute identification and Rehabilitation Project implemented in Local Self Governments and 58, destitutes identified. At the panchayat

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level a charge officer is given the responsibility of the administration along with the CDS governing committee. The officials are government employees working on deputation with the mission. Besides, part-time consultants and experts are also engaged for specific tasks. The executive directors of Kudumbashree: Jose IAS, the main person behind the growth of Kudumbashree. He developed a team of passionate employees to work in the mission and started innovative programs like Ashraya destitute rehabilitation project , Bhavanashree microhousing , Vidyashree IT School units , Balasabha forum for children , Clean Kerala Campaign collection and disposal of solid waste , Clean Destination campaign maintenance of tourist destinations by Kudumbashree workers and numerous micro enterprises, ranging from computer to coconut oil production and food items to mini-bus service. One major development was the tie up with the state Department of Social Welfare to supply special nutritional supplements to the children in Anganwadis - under the name -Nutrimix- which has enabled thousands of rural women to manufacture and supply the nutritional supplement to their children all across the state. He was given the India vision Man of the Year award in Kudumbashree received most of the national and international recognition during his tenure. Valsalakumari is the fourth Executive Director.

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## Chapter 3 : Panchayats | Kractivism

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April 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today made a strong pitch for strengthening democracy at the grassroots level as he asked the gram panchayats to play active role in developmental activities, taking advantage of the immense resources and schemes of his government. While laying thrust on progress of rural areas, with particular focus on farmers, women-folk and child care, PM Modi said he wants to leave a legacy after his five-year tenure which would be talked about in terms of exceptional achievement in the years to come. Pitching for progress of villages, he asked the village heads to take a lead in undertaking developmental activities, including infrastructure development, construction of toilets to ensure end to open defecation, ensuring proper healthcare to prevent child birth mortality and provision of better education to ensure there is no school dropouts. Now there are lots of finances available. There is no dearth of funds. There is no dearth of schemes. But there is a need for dedication by those who work at the grassroots level," PM Modi said. Lead from the front. Then officers will also do their work," he told the village heads. In this context, he particularly emphasised the role of women panchayat representatives, who constitute 40 per cent of the 30 lakh representatives. Ensure construction of toilets. Take a pledge in this regard. There is nothing more shameful than our mothers and sisters defecating in the open," PM Modi told the women representatives of panchayats. Asking the women representatives to take a lead in bringing about changes in social lives, he said they should see to it that there is proper utilisation of funds. The women representatives also look into the aspects like child nutrition and pregnancy-related issues, he said. He suggested that each village should take up one task each year like ensuring all farmers get crop insurance, ensuring preservation of water, ensuring digitalisation, and ensuring adequate attention to children. Noting a huge mismatch in facilities available in cities and villages, PM Modi said, "We have to bridge this gulf. If electricity is available in cities, should it not be available in villages? If cities have good roads, should the villages also not have good roads? After so many years of Independence, the gap between cities and villages is only increasing. I want to leave a legacy.. People should talk later that I did this for the villages. I will do something which will in reality be a foundation for progress ," the prime minister said. Talking about the programmes launched by his government for development of rural areas, he mentioned the scheme for electrification of all the remaining 18, villages in 1, days from August 15 last year when he announced it. Regarding this, he asked the gram panchayats to be alert to see whether work on this project is being done properly. But then media reports that only the pole has reached the village. I want to tell the villagers to be alert so that no wrong information is given to me. This is happening in the 21st century. Will we let our mothers die like this while cooking food for us? We have to rid her of this," PM Modi said. He said the government plans to give LPG connections to five crore households in three years and asked village heads to see whether the benefits reach the intended people. Describing his government as one which "lives and dies for the farmers", he noted that recently a programme had been launched under which agriculturists can directly sell their produce through an E-portal to get the best price. He asked the village heads to see if there are any "shortcomings" in it since it is in the initial stages. He also asked the village bodies to show awareness towards digitalisation of rural areas, a task undertaken by his government. PM Modi said he had decided to hold the Panchayat Day function in Jamshedpur rather than Delhi because he believes that "the country is big and Delhi is not the country". Earlier, he noted that such functions used to be held in Delhi "but we decided to take the government out of Delhi, in the midst of the people. NDTV Beeps - your daily newsletter.

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## Chapter 4 : The ed-tech revolution is seeing software innovation bogged down by hardware limitation - The

*well as in winter, the demand of water and the gap between supply and demand. 3) In the situation of big gap between supply and demand, plan for additional sources, rain water harvesting and increasing existing sources of water.*

History[ edit ] As a federal nation, India suffers from both vertical and horizontal fiscal imbalances. Vertical imbalances between the central and state governments result from states incurring expenditures disproportionate to their sources of revenue , in the process of fulfilling their responsibilities. However, states are better able to gauge the needs and concerns of their inhabitants and therefore more efficient at addressing them. Horizontal imbalances among state governments result from differing historical backgrounds or resource endowments, and can widen over time. The Finance Commission was established in by Dr. Ambedkar , the then-incumbent law minister , to address these imbalances. Several provisions to bridge the fiscal gap between the Centre and the States were already enshrined in the Constitution of India , including Article , which facilitates levy of duties by the Centre but equips the States to collect and retain the same. Similarly, Articles , , , and , among others, specify ways and means of sharing resources between the Union and States. In addition to the above provisions, the finance commission serves as an institutional framework to facilitate Centre-State Transfers. Parliament may by law determine the requisite qualifications for appointment as members of the commission and the procedure of selection. The commission is constituted to make recommendations to the president about the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the Union and States and also the allocation of the same among the States themselves. It is also under the ambit of the finance commission to define the financial relations between the Union and the States. They also deal with the devolution of unplanned revenue resources. Functions[ edit ] Distribution of net proceeds of taxes between Center and the States, to be divided as per their respective contributions to the taxes. Determine factors governing Grants-in-Aid to the states and the magnitude of the same. To make recommendations to the president as to the measures needed to augment the Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the panchayats and municipalities in the state on the basis of the recommendations made by the finance commission of the state. Any other matter related to it by the president in the interest of sound finance. A finance commission is an autonomous body which is governed by the government of India. The Finance Commission Miscellaneous Provisions Act, [ edit ] The Finance Commission Miscellaneous Provisions Act, was passed to give a structured format to the finance commission and to bring it to par with world standards, by laying down rules for the qualification and disqualification of members of the commission, and for their appointment, term, eligibility and powers. The other four members are selected from people who: Are, or have been, or are qualified, as judges of a high court , Have knowledge of government finances or accounts, or Have had experience in administration and financial expertise; or Have special knowledge of economics Procedure and powers of the commission[ edit ] The commission has the power to determine their own procedure and: Has all powers of a civil court as per the Civil Procedure Code, Can summon and enforce the attendance of any witness or ask any person to deliver information or produce a document, which it deems relevant. Can ask for the production of any public record or document from any court or office. Shall be deemed to be a civil court for purposes of Sections and of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Disqualification from being a member of the commission[ edit ] A member may be disqualified if: He is mentally unsound; and as follows- He is an undischarged insolvent ; He has been convicted of an immoral offence; His financial and other interests are such that it hinders the smooth functioning of the commission. Terms of office of members and eligibility for reappointment[ edit ] Every member will be in office for the time period as specified in the order of the President, but is eligible for reappointment provided he has, by means of a letter addressed to the president, resigned his office. Salaries and allowances of the members[ edit ] The members of the commission shall provide full-time or part-time service to the commission, as the President specifies in his order. The members shall be paid salaries and allowances as per the provisions made by the Central

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Government. List of Finance Commissions[ edit ] So far 14 Finance Commissions have been appointed which are as follows:

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## Chapter 5 : Kudumbashree - Wikipedia

*Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat. Introduction: The Constitution (Seventy-Third Amendment) Act, was enacted to reform the Panchayat System in www.nxgvision.com Legislature of Indian States were given powers to decide the powers and composition of Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayats.*

Their models stress on behavioural change and disapprove of government subsidy to install toilets. Alok Gupta Candid talk is what odd residents of Motuka-nangala panchayat in Faridabad district on the outskirts of Delhi understand best. Engaging these former sapers snake charmers in an informal chat, Upendra Singh, a Haryana government sanitation consultant, is blunt: Sensing their discomfort, Upendra rolls out a chart paper and scribbles an equation. It has a telling impact. Your village of 3, people piles up 1. Clearly edgy, the gathering next hears out Vimal Kumar, a village elderly who recently built a toilet in his house. In Haryana, which has shown success in total sanitation campaign, daily wage labourer Vimal Kumar explains why toilets in homes are essential Photo: Jitendra Everyone mumbles a timeframe. Some raise the issue of money. It focuses on persuasion and reward. Motivators like Upendra have been pursuing its residents for almost a year now. Their hard work is showing. Some 50 families have started building toilets. The panchayat has set an ambitious target for itself. By end, it must achieve the open defecation-free ODF status, a rarity for thousands of villages in the country. Lilabati Gautam, 70, of Sikkim does not remember when she last had to go out for defecation. The state is the first to become free from the scourge of open defecation Photo: Sayantan Bera Sanitation cover in Faridabad has increased from 23 per cent in to 84 per cent in In , as many as 10 villages in the district won the Nirmal Gram Puraskar NGP , national award for an ODF village which also meets other specified norms of safe and sustainable sanitation. In , the local administration nominated 39 panchayats for the award. The state reported a sanitation cover of only 29 per cent in the Census. It went up to an impressive 66 per cent in the Census. The state has not set a universal sanitation deadline for itself but the speed at which it is going Haryana could be ODF by What did it do to achieve this? The model, which is being implemented in 52 countries, shifts focus of sanitation from subsidy-driven toilet construction to bringing about behavioural change in people so that they do not defecate in the open. The next step was to create village-level water sanitation committees, with volunteers who generate awareness about the health hazards of open defecation. This group comprised accredited social health activists, anganwadi workers, school students and village leaders. The volunteers kept an eye on people going out for defecation. In , Himachal Pradesh stopped all subsidies linked to toilet construction. Deepak Sanan, then secretary for rural development and panchayati raj department of Himachal Pradesh, was the man behind the strategy. According to him, the state saw an unusual surge in toilet construction after the subsidy regime was done away with. In a few years, most village panchayats attained universal coverage without any subsidy. Rural households with toilets in Himachal Pradesh increased from 31 per cent to 68 per cent between Census and Census This is the highest increase in any state. When residents are convinced of the need for toilets, they request the panchayat head for the construction. This takes away a major financial burden of the poor resident. Once the toilet is ready, the local sanitation motivator checks and sends a photograph of the toilet to the district administration. Assurance of reward money helps the poor. Economically disadvantaged residents of Mirzapur panchayat in Hisar district, for instance, were the first to build toilets. Sixty-year-old Rukmini Devi recently built a toilet with loan. Her son, a daily wage labourer, fell sick for a month, impacting her financial condition. It was difficult to take her son to field for defecation and this motivated Rukmini. The motivators are clearly happy with the success. Pinky Yadav is popularly called latrinewali in the villages of Hisar. Some 50 families in Motuka-nangala panchayat in Haryana are building toilets Photo: It is also the biggest manufacturer of cars, two-wheelers and tractors. In the mids, it was also among the states with the lowest sanitation cover and rampant open defecation. By , however, it had erased that inglorious past. During the third South Asian Conference on Sanitation held in Delhi the same year, delegates made a beeline to Haryana to see the turnaround. Jharkhand

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and Odisha are the worst performers with The rude shock came in when the Census put the national toilet coverage at only 31 per cent. From to , the number of people with access to some kind of toilet rose from 26 per cent to 50 per cent, states the ministry data. But during this period, there was a similar increase in the population as well, neutralising the gains. Gitu Bala, 27, is among the first in Basara panchayat in Panipat, Haryana, to have constructed a toilet in her home Photos: Chinky Shukla This triggered a political debate. The difference between the ministry and Census data translates into A desperate Ramesh came up with a face-saver. During the winter session of Parliament, this amount was increased to Rs 10, In effect, with the NBA contribution added, the total subsidy for toilet construction has increased to Rs 14, But implementation of the rural employment scheme has been faulty since the start. Clearly, its convergence with NBA has not shown results. Before convergence, 10 million toilets were built every year. India has been struggling to achieve universal sanitation coverage since when it launched the Central Rural Sanitation Programme, a supply-driven scheme with subsidy. But handing out subsidies has never really worked. In , it was rechristened NBA with focus on community-led, demand-driven approach, but with even more subsidies. In , the Indian Institute of Mass Communication in Delhi conducted a comprehensive survey on knowledge, attitude and practices in rural areas. The survey showed that only two per cent respondents acknowledged subsidy as the major motivating factor, while 54 per cent claimed to have moved to sanitary latrines due to convenience and privacy. In fact, 51 per cent respondents were ready to spend up to Rs 1, to acquire sanitary toilets. The Central government, however, ignored the message. Its sanitation programme was a no-gain toilet construction scheme. India built millions of toilets but people could not use them. In a study for MDWS, non-profit Centre for Media Studies found that poor construction quality and unfinished toilets were the reasons for the gap between access and use. Low incentive provided under TSC was also responsible for this. According to the 12th Five Year Plan, 50 per cent of the village panchayats must attain ODF status by and per cent by But the progress is tardy. A calculation by Down To Earth based on the current rate of progress shows that the country can meet the first deadline by , and attain universal coverage by Jharkhand changing The state that comes at the bottom of the sanitation coverage list is understood to be constructing toilets by the thousands since mids. Obviously, it has to start afresh with first generation toilet users. Under TSC, a beneficiary received Rs to build a toilet. The meager amount was sufficient only for digging the pit and installing the toilet pan. So people used polythene sheets strung on four bamboo sticks as cover. The toilets did not even have roofs. Very few used the toilets, but the state government kept patting its back for having constructed several toilets. However, the state is now witnessing a major change in its sanitation initiative. The government has started giving loan to beneficiaries, instead of giving them subsidy. Each village has a water and sanitation committee, which motivates people to use toilets. The committee, comprising panchayat members, mukhiyas, residents of villages and a water ambassador, has the responsibility to make its village ODF. But the ODF tag comes only when all residents of the village have stopped open defecation. The state government also announced that the sanitation initiative must end with ODF. If that does not happen within a year, the water and sanitation committee must be reconstituted. Panchayat members and the committee members hold regular meetings to find ways to stop open defecation, which may include monetary fine or holding hearing. Their hard work is now showing results. Bakshi village in Lohardaga district had reported per cent slipback under TSC. After the state gave people loans to build new toilets, each household has two toiletsâ€”one that is covered with polythene sheets and another made of brick mortar. Awareness campaign between and led to behavioural change among people. Now, Bakshi village is completely ODF. For the first time, people are paying EMIs for loans taken to build toilets, says Chari Oraon, water ambassador of the village. The baseline survey of MDWS shows sanitation cover in the state has increased from 8 per cent in to 26 per cent in December,

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## Chapter 6 : Panchayats to play key role in Jharkhand CM | Ranchi News - Times of India

*In Khammam district there is a wide gap between the facilities being provided to citizens in municipalities and panchayats. The newly elected sarpanches of panchayats in the district demand that the State government delegate more powers to them to take up development works without looking forward to funds from the State.*

In its 70 years of independence, India undoubtedly has large scale development achievements to its credit. It has built a modern economy, remained a democracy, and lifted millions out of poverty. Today around 70 per cent of India still lives in villages, so it is appropriate to look at our villages in the context of providing a technology based infrastructure to create channels of opportunities for the rural communities both to grow and more importantly access their Government. An ecosystem that will help people nurture our natural resources and enable them to access marketplaces is of utmost importance. To accelerate this development processes towards inclusive growth economic liberation of Panchayat to develop Village infrastructure is a must. The rural development programs implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions PRIs focus on generating more employment opportunities for village youth, landless people, and artisans, small and marginal farmers. PRIs need additional resources and financial autonomy to fulfil their new functional obligations. In order to become financially more independent, PRI must be encouraged to raise local resources for development other than receiving grants from Government. In India, Panchayats awards have proved that progressive Panchayats have developed due to orientation, ambition and skill of Sarpanch. Panchayat is considered to be the lock, while the elected representative is the key which enables them to unlock the value they need to develop Panchayat as the skilling and resource centre for the village for knowledge, skill, tools and team. CFM therefore seeks to design and implement a unique model through which the rural communities could engage youth and provide them livelihood opportunities in their own local eco-systems. This would enable them to meet its requirements, generate economic freedom to pursue quality of life improvements goals in life with the support of their own Panchayats. SwaNigamit self- corporatized Panchayat is a model in which a Panchayat can generate income through its internal resources as provisioned in the Constitution of India and work towards becoming self-reliant. Through the scientifically selected process of finding Cluster Executive CE of SwaNigamit Panchayat, the model seeks to provide ease of doing business at community level to truly uplift the spirit of Make in India- to Make in Villages of India. When the village input requirement is streamlined the village, output is streamlined leading to greater efficiency and values created at micro-level. Panchayat may arrange these input services more effectively and efficiently utilizing its human resources thus creating employment and revenue through Panchayat established Rural Business Hub RBH and use technology for trade. The SwaNigamit Panchayat then enables its habitants to access and support their livelihood opportunities and access the larger product and service basket available to the city dwellers through its trained and aware staff. By engaging youth, harnessing technology and leveraging the support of Government schemes to improve efficiencies, create village based infrastructure and reduce wastages in agriculture and allied sectors. The project will be implemented with the strategy to use PRI capability within constitutional framework, create a network for Public Private-Panchayat Partnership for symbiotic relationship, available human resource at community level and take a lead in livelihood promotion. Elements of implementation process: The following elements will be considered for implementation of the project: To enhance Panchayat capability for economic growth. To engage professionals who are acquainted with the project concept and ideas around project objectives. The sequence of activities under this strategy is as follows: These activities will generate a permanent source of revenue for GP to sustain itself and its beneficiaries. To systematically monitor the impact of the intervention a self-assessment framework is proposed to be developed. The objective of the self-assessment framework is to provide timely and accurate feedback on the progress of the activities and feedback from community. This would also help in ensuring transparency and accountability of various participating stakeholders. Online tracking system of input and output supply would be developed. Some of

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the common parameters deployed for assessing the performance include the following: CFM seeks to contribute towards the Governments thrust on Developing New India by engaging community free from demarcations of caste, creed, colour and sex. It seeks to overcome poverty and provide decent livelihoods to youth in their own local community and check distress migration, creation of slums in stressed city infrastructure. Access to information is a powerful engine of economic growth and at the same time it can also fuel massive inequalities. Hence, we aim to help rural communities to strengthen their business and production skills, learning to access local, regional and world markets for their products, helping them to make their livelihoods sustainable into the future. For further information or clarification, please Call our helpline no:

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## Chapter 7 : Play Active Role For Village Development: PM Modi To Panchayats

Pal, Mahi, (), 'Gap between needs and resources of Panchayats in India: A Study of Saharanpur District (UP)', Mittal publications, New Delhi. Palanithurai et al., (), 'Major Issues in Panchayati Raj System', Kanishka.

May 14, May 15, Until we bridge that gap, the tech-led education revolution seems a long way off. A couple of days ago, I reached out to Vinod Karate, who is the Founder-CEO of a start-up called the Teacher app. Through our minute conversation, he warned me a couple of times that the call could get cut, because he was in Chhattisgarh. The Teacher app is an android application, directed at teacher training, much needed, given that there are 9 million teachers in India, a large number of whom lack clarity on concepts they teach. Most of these teachers also work in what are low-resource settings: The app delivers content through online videos and podcasts, which can be downloaded for use offline. It works in 3G, but the company has no plans to tweak it to 2G. How will this content reach teachers? Karate says he is relying on Reliance Jio to up the infrastructure and bring down the cost, examples of which he claims are already visible in Chhattisgarh. And herein lies the gap: The Google drive Google. This year, the Teacher app and its incubator, Central Square Foundation, both Delhi-based companies, were recipients. So why is Google investing in ed-tech? Reality check There are over 2, ed-tech start-ups in India with over new ones coming into being every year since , according to Tracxn that tracks innovative companies and emerging sectors worldwide. While all this is exciting from a tech, start-up perspective, how do these match up with the realities of low-resource settings, where most of the intended users live? For instance, a teacher may clog her phone with photographs and then not know how to free up space on the device, which could make the app slow or even unusable. Intermittent internet connectivity could also lead to data corruption during syncing. Some though, like Pratham Books, have got around it in another way: Their digital library, StoryWeaver, is accessible for free and each electronic publications are between MB. While in Kishanganj, Bihar, the Azad India Foundation has been translating stories to the dialect Surjapuri and then downloading and printing the stories to share with children in after school centres. The RailTel projects seem to have made significant progress. The India Exclusion Report, , tells us that out of the planned broadband connectivity to 2,50, gram panchayats by September , only 48, panchayats were covered by April , and only 6, panchayats had Internet access. Some states, such as Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are taking matters into their own hands. The Telangana Fiber Grid T-Fiber is piggybacking on its own drinking water project, Mission Bhagiratha that will take drinking water to the interiors. This will save digging and trenching costs and aims to provide 31 districts with broadband connectivity. The technology uses light beams in free space to transmit data between two FSOC points, where otherwise a physical connection would have been difficult across forests and rivers, for instance. So while things are happening, a lot more needs to be done. In our country, close to 1 billion continue to be offline, hardware devices are either not present or barely there, electricity comes and goes, and the internet is still an expensive commodity. So software solutions must be designed and extensively tested to work in low-resource settings or be matched by the pace of innovation in digital infrastructure, to fulfil the promise of change. The writer is a development professional working at the intersection of social entrepreneurship and large-scale implementation.

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## Chapter 8 : Doable mandate for gram panchayats

*India, particularly rural India, has been home to entrenched poverty for long. It is, therefore, imperative to understand people's vulnerability to poverty.*

Perhaps, if only a practicable, doable and socially responsible Panchayat Raj Act aiming at a Good Village Concept, as the requirement of the state is brought in, then, there is a possibility to change the system. He firmly believed that democracy cannot be practised by government servants and stressed that the fruits of democracy ought to reach every village. Gone are the days when there were community radio sets in every village and sarpanches were involved in educating people on various developmental activities that the State and the Centre could take up. A performing and functional panchayat raj system where it will be a self-driven and village-driven is what he wants to bring in. The system should be totally revamped and restructured for better results including an accountability clause for village-level officers and local body representatives. It requires a surgical treatment as it is totally an ailing structure now. The whole thing should be viewed as a process-driven approach rather a programme-driven approach. Against this backdrop, we need to think of an Act in the context of Telangana State and the prevailing situation in Telangana and that is how the duties and responsibilities are to be included in the Act. Whatever any government does at the macrolevel or at the state or central government level, will not be effective, until and unless it is done at the microlevel or at the local or grassroots level. Sarpanches the real epitomes of grassroot level Panchayat Raj system over a period in Indian local self-government have turned out to be through great anarchy, the best example of which is that none of them ever bothers to even conduct a gram panchayat meet or Gram Sabha meet which is a constitutional obligation. It is a rare phenomenon for any village to go for a local audit also. All villages look like dumping yards with all sorts of garbage and debris scattering all over and the sarpanch never-ever bothering about it. The sarpanches instead of attending to their constitutional and societal obligations concentrate more on contracts and petty contracts which is the money earning mechanism. Of late, sarpanches started shifting their total responsibilities on to MLAs and hold them to ransom. They question them as to what they have done to his or her village as if it is their job. They are seldom aware that the programme aims at planting 40, saplings in every village for which there are adequate nurseries. Villagers never pay house tax. The weakness of government in getting these done is that they are political. As a result, the whole panchayat raj system has met with a serious accident requiring a fresh beginning to it from scrap. Against this background, the state government wants to conduct elections to panchayat raj institutions before the present term of sarpanches expires on 31st July. Prior to that the government thinking is to increase the number of Grama Panchayats by 4, to 5, so that the total would be anywhere 13, to 14, Thandas, koyagudems and chenchugudems will be converted as Gram panchayats. Depending upon its size, the government would be providing funds ranging from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh to each panchayat. In addition, through different sources, the Gram Panchayats will be encouraged to mobilise its own resources. Since any Finance Commission will be sympathetic to local bodies the next Commission may allocate and keep sufficient funds at the disposal of local bodies and Panchayat Raj institutions. For all this, it is absolutely necessary to totally revamp the Panchayat Raj Act. The Act shall empower the government to remove the sarpanch whenever it finds that he or she is not performing as required. Ultimate idea is to bring in a performing and functional Panchayat Raj System. The sarpanch either has to perform or perish. The Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao is keen to present a performing panchayat raj system to the people, experiment with that and get excellent results at the grassroot level before the general elections are held in. This also envisages a comprehensive training program to all the elected sarpanches and their deputies in the gap period between their election and their assumption of office. This would equip them with the concepts and what should be the real performing panchayat raj system well before they take over the reins. The whole Panchayat Raj system will be accountable, transparent and citizen friendly. In all, probabilities the legislation to this effect will come in the present Assembly sessions itself. The Act

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should envisage quality monitors and performance indicators. It should enlist all that a gram panchayat requires to do in the existing situation. The proposed Panchayat Raj Act should reflect this for the all-round development of the village. The proposed Act should also make the local bodies function efficiently and the government should have the powers to take action against erring local body representatives.

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## Chapter 9 : Syed Akbar Journalist: Gram panchayats hit by shortage of funds

*In its 70 years of independence, India undoubtedly has large scale development achievements to its credit. It has built a modern economy, remained a democracy, and lifted millions out of poverty.*

Explore the latest strategic trends, research and analysis The Fourth Industrial Revolution 4IR heralds an exponential pace of technological change, building on the digital revolution to combine technologies, spawn new ones, and transform systems, industries, countries - even society itself. For developing countries, advances in computing power, connectivity, artificial intelligence, biotechnology and GIS, and newer, more capable technologies hold tremendous promise. To realise the positive outcomes of this new industrial revolution, public policymaking must bridge the already widening gap between skilled and unskilled labour. The case of India is salient because, unlike its East and Southeast Asian neighbours, rapid economic growth has not been inclusive enough to reduce the numbers of Indians living in poverty. India contains the largest number of poor people in the world: Employment growth is critical in low-productivity agriculture, which accounts for nearly three-quarters of the poor population. But automation threatens to create more unemployment. Public policy must be directed toward increasing the productivity of poor people rather than just offering handouts. As more young men are migrating from rural poverty to urban areas to seek employment, they are contributing to a rapid feminisation of agriculture. Women, especially dependent on agriculture, perform most of the backbreaking labour. Their low productivity in agriculture, itself increasingly affected by climate change, demands action by policymakers. Any transformation of agriculture requires removing the constraints on women; Bina Agarwal recently argued that the discontent of rural youth could become the agitations of rural women farmers, dissatisfied with lack of access to land, irrigation, credit, inputs and markets. It targeted poverty reduction, food security and climate change, which is hurting agriculture with rising temperatures, increasingly frequent floods and droughts, and a greater incidence of pests and diseases. New technologies enable small farmers to shift from input-intensive to knowledge-intensive agriculture. Precision agriculture can improve the timeliness of planting, secure the best market prices through market information and e-market reforms, provide fertiliser subsidies via direct bank transfers that eliminate or reduce the cost of financial intermediaries, and improve agricultural extension. In April , Modi launched eNAM National Agriculture Market , an online platform for farmers that integrates agricultural markets online, allowing farmers and traders alike to view all Agriculture Produce Market Committee-related information and services, commodity arrivals and prices, and buy and sell trade offers, thus helping farmers bid for the best prices across markets. Quantifying the relationship between rainfall and groundwater levels under alternative modes of irrigation and farming should enable prioritisation of prospective water and irrigation investments. Greater investment in research, meanwhile, is needed to develop multi-resistant crops. India has lagged behind its Asian neighbours in genomics, even resisting the approval of genetically modified crops developed by its own scientists. Arguably, such crops do not involve multinational monopolies, can be grown by poor farmers, and offer increased resistance to extreme climatic conditions. Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme DILRMP is updating millions of land records, providing title guarantees and increased security of land tenure to farmers while stimulating land rentals by nonviable smallholders and land consolidation. To facilitate communications, Digital India is implementing plans to connect 2. GOI has also mandated that all mobiles phones must support at least one of 22 Indian languages, other than English and Hindi, beginning July

More recently, the Modi government has focused on reforming PDS using new technologies. Several states have now installed electronic point-of-sale devices at FPSs to track sales of food grains to cardholders on a real-time basis. A much debated policy shift - in-kind cash transfers in place of food distribution - is also being facilitated by digital technology. Since , liquid petroleum gas LPG subsidies to over million consumers have transferred over Rs. Using DBTs to pay beneficiaries has reduced transfer costs, waste and corruption - and sidestepping any possible misallocation of funds transferred from central to state to district to panchayats for

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distribution. Geographical application of new technologies is still limited in rural areas; many farmers remain unaware of these advances. Insufficient connectivity in rural areas along with a lack of basic computer knowledge and literacy hinder development. Substantial investment is needed in physical infrastructure, power, broadband, transportation and education, particularly in rural regions and among the poorest populations in order to truly reap the benefits of the 4IR. This paper will be published in Agricultural Economics, the Journal of the International Association of Agricultural Economists, November issue Share Uma Lele , Independent researcher and author The views expressed in this article are those of the author alone and not the World Economic Forum.