




# drishti

## Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

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### Why in News

According to the Ministry of Rural Development, only 252 Members of Parliament (MPs) have adopted gram panchayats under phase-4 of **Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)**.

At present, the **total strength** of both Houses is **about 790** which includes elected as well as nominated members.

### Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana

- **The scheme was launched by** the Prime Minister of India on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 on the birth anniversary of **Jai Prakash Narayan**.
- **Goal**
  - Under the Yojana, Members of Parliament (MPs) are responsible for developing the socio-economic and physical infrastructure of three villages each by 2019, and a total of eight villages each by 2024. The first Adarsh Gram (Model Village) was to be developed by 2016, and two more by 2019.
  - From 2019 to 2024, five more Adarsh Grams must be developed by each MP, one each year. This implies that a total of 6,433 Adarsh Grams, of the 2,65,000 gram panchayats, will be created by 2024.
- **Process**
  - **Gram Panchayat:** The **basic unit** for development.
  - **Lok Sabha MP:** chooses a Gram Panchayat from within **his/her constituency**.
  - **Rajya Sabha MP:** chooses Gram Panchayat from the rural area of a district of his/her choice in the **State from which he/she is elected**.
  - **Nominated MPs:** choose a Gram Panchayat from the rural area of **any district in the country**.

- **Action Taken**

- The MPs engages with the community, facilitate the Village Development Plan and mobilise the necessary resources particularly from **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and philanthropies**.
- The planning process in each village is a participatory exercise coordinated by the District Collector.
- MPs also fill up critical gaps in the plan using the **Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADs)** funds.

## Analysis

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- Since the launch of the scheme, only 1,753 gram panchayats have been selected across four phases, way **below the expected figure**.
- In Phase-1 of SAGY, 703 MPs adopted gram panchayats but that number went down to 497 in Phase-2 and 301 in Phase-3, showing a gradual decline in subsequent phases.
- **Specific To Lok Sabha:** About **two-thirds of Lok Sabha MPs are yet to select gram panchayats** under Phase-4 of the scheme. The Lok Sabha has a total strength of 545 members which includes 543 elected members and two nominated members from anglo-Indian community.

## Way Forward

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- The vision behind the evolution of SAGY villages was to create model villages by ensuring convergence and dovetailing of schemes and its proper implementation on priority basis. However, the **seriousness required to achieve the motto is lacking**. MPs need to be more responsible towards the scheme.
- At the same time, the Ministry of Rural Development should ensure that the SAGY villages are dealt with the vision envisaged under the scheme and are not left behind.

## Jai Prakash Narayan

- Jai Prakash Narayan was born on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1902 in Uttar Pradesh. He was an Indian political leader and theorist. He is popularly known as **Lok Nayak**.



- Narayan was educated at universities in the United States, where he became a Marxist. Upon his return to **India in 1929, he joined the Indian National Congress (Congress Party)**.
- In 1932 he was sentenced to a year's imprisonment for his participation in the **Civil Disobedience Movement** against British rule in India. Upon release he took a leading part in the formation of the Congress Socialist Party, a left-wing group within the Congress Party,
- He formed the **Praja Socialist Party** in **1952**.
- Soon becoming dissatisfied with party politics, he announced in 1954 that he would thenceforth devote his life exclusively to the **Bhoodan Yajna Movement**, founded by Vinoba Bhave, which demanded that land be distributed among the landless.
- In 1974, the students of Gujarat requested him to lead the Nava Nirman Andolan. The same year in June, he gave a call for peaceful **"total revolution"** wherein he exhorted the students to rise against corrupt political institutions and asked for a closure of colleges and universities and to devote their time to rebuild the nation. It was this time in the history that he was popularly called **"JP"**.
- This movement finally culminated in the proclamation of Emergency and subsequently in the victory of the **"Janata Party"** which formed the first ever non-Congress Government in the Centre in March 1977. He had the credit of bringing all the Non-Congress Parties under single umbrella of **Janata Party**.
- As a tribute to this modern revolutionary, the Government of India posthumously awarded him **Bharat Ratna**, the highest civilian award of the **country in 1999**.

**Source: IE**