



# Panchayat Development Index Report

## Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj released the Report on **Panchayat Development Index (PDI)** at the National Workshop on Panchayat Development Index in New Delhi.

## What is the Panchayat Development Index?

- **About:**
  - The PDI is a composite index that measures the **performance of panchayats** in achieving the **Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
  - It provides a holistic and **evidence-based assessment** of the development status of panchayats, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses.
- **Objective:**
  - The PDI aims to promote the Localization of SDGs by creating awareness among panchayats and stakeholders about their importance.
  - It encourages panchayats to adopt **best practices and innovations** to improve their performance in achieving **SDGs**.
- **Ranking and Categorization:**
  - The PDI provides rankings for panchayats at different levels, including district, block, and village, based on their overall scores.
  - Panchayats are categorized into **four grades: D (scores under 40%), C (40-60%), B (60-75%), A (75-90%), and A+ (above 90%)**.
- **Themes and Focus Areas:**
  - The PDI considers **nine themes**, including **poverty-free and enhanced livelihood, healthy village, child-friendly village**, water-sufficient village, clean and green village, self-sufficient infrastructure, socially just and secured villages, good governance, and women-friendly village.
- **Applications and Benefits of the PDI:**
  - The PDI can be used by states/union territories for Panchayati Raj Awards and to emphasize a data-driven and evidence-based approach to development.
  - It serves as a tool for **planning, monitoring, and evaluating schemes implemented** by panchayats and other agencies aligned with the SDGs.
  - The PDI facilitates the **sharing of knowledge and experiences among panchayats and stakeholders** for learning and replication of successful models and interventions.

## What are the Key Highlights of the Report on the PDI?

- The pilot project was carried out **in four districts of Maharashtra, namely Pune, Sangli, Satara, and Solapur**.
- The data collected from the pilot project was used to compile the report of the Panchayat Development Index Committee.
- The pilot study showed that **70% of the panchayats in the four districts of Maharashtra fall in Category C**, while 27% are in Category B.
- The report highlights the need for **evidence-based planning**, resources must be deployed where required for overall development.

## What is Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI)?

- [PRI](#) is a system of **rural local self-government** in India.
- Local Self Government is the management of local affairs by such local bodies who have been **elected by the local people**.
- PRI was constitutionalized through the **73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** to build democracy at the grass roots level and was entrusted with the task of rural development in the country.

### UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

#### **Prelims**

**Q. The fundamental object of Panchayati Raj system is to ensure which among the following? (2015)**

1. People's participation in development
2. Political accountability
3. Democratic decentralization
4. Financial mobilization

**Select the correct answer using the code given below**

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only  
(b) 2 and 4 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (c)**

**Exp:**

- The most fundamental objective of the Panchayati Raj system is to ensure people's participation in development and democratic decentralization.
- Establishment of Panchayati Raj Institutions does not automatically lead to political accountability.
- Financial mobilization is not the fundamental objective of Panchayati Raj, although it seeks to transfer finances and resources to the grass root government.

**Source: PIB**