

**Model questions (ECONOMY - PANCHAYAT RAJ AND PALLE PRAGATHI )  
based on**

**TELANGANA SOCIO-ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2022**

STUDY MATERIAL FOR UPSC CIVIL SERVICES /

TSPSC GROUP I & Group 4 ;

TSLPRB SUB-INSPECTOR /CONSTABLE

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For Study purpose

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## **PANCHAYAT RAJ AND PALLE PRAGATHI**

1)For spatial and administrative decentralisation, and to bring in transparency, accountability and people-centredness to governance, the Government of Telangana, since its formation, has reorganized the 10 districts, 459 mandals and 8,368 gram panchayats into what ?

- a)33 districts,
- b)594 mandals,
- c)12,769 gram panchayats
- d)All the above

Ans: d

2)The Palle Pragathi programme was launched in 2019 with the twin objectives .What are they ?

- a)enhancing the quality of life in the rural areas and
- b)improving the governance of Gram Panchayats (GPs).
- c)Both (a) & (b)
- d)None of these

Ans : c

Question : When Palle Pragathi Programme was launched?

Ans : in 2019

3)ThePalle Pragathi programme has completed four campaign rounds until July 2021 with a total expenditure of Rs. 8,617.45 crore. Key achievements include the which of the following ?

- a) construction of 12,714 crematoria,
- b)12,751 dumping yards, and
- c)plantation of 9.30 crore seedlings across all GPs.
- d)All the above

Ans : d

4)The Telangana state has witnessed a transformation in rural governance, with improvements in Gram Panchayat (GP) infrastructure as well as better service delivery relating to sanitation, street lighting, water supply, green cover, and financial management.

5)The Telangana Government promulgated 'The Telangana Panchayat Raj Act 2018' clearly defining which of the following ?

a) powers available to GPs, outlining roles and responsibilities of their functionaries, and  
b) introducing a monitoring system for Mandal Panchayat Officers to inspect the functioning of GPs once every 3 months.

c) In line with the Panchayat Raj Act, the declaration of many tribal thandas as independent GPs has helped empower marginalised sections of society.

d) All the above

Ans : d

6)The Telangana state has ensured capacity building of newly recruited 9,355 Junior Panchayat Secretaries. The capacity building initiatives have been expanded to train functionaries across the state.

With the objective of promoting progress of Panchayat Raj Institutions, a data-driven GP level performance measurement and management framework has been launched with clear supportive supervisory systems across all levels of Panchayat Raj institutions.

## Decentralisation and Development

10)Active participation and effective governance of the people, by the people and for the people is central to a functioning democracy. Such participation and effectiveness is possible only when the functions and resources of the state are devolved to the elected representatives at the district, mandal, panchayat and ward levels. This devolution is aimed at empowering all sections of the people to come together, identify their strengths and problems, and suggest as well as demand solutions and monitor their implementation. This forms the crux of democratic decentralisation.

11)Taking the concept of decentralisation forward in letter and spirit, the Telangana Government, since the inception of the state, has been involved in changing the paradigm of the planning process so as to reflect the felt needs of the people in the policies and programmes. Through the introduction of the new Panchayat Raj Act, 2018 and its implementation through Palle Pragathi (Telangana Rural Inclusive Growth Project), the Telangana Government continues to focus on solving grassroots issues. Further, under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, special provisions are made for the Scheduled Areas. Currently, the Scheduled Areas in the state consist of 1,180 scheduled villages spread over 85 mandals in nine districts—Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem, Mancherla, Mulugu, Warangal (Rural), Mahabubabad, Bhadrachalam-Kothagudem, Khammam, and Nagarkurnool districts.

Question: Through the introduction of the new Panchayat Raj Act, 2018 and its implementation through Palle Pragathi (Telangana Rural Inclusive Growth Project), the Telangana Government continues to focus on what ?

Ans: solving grassroots issues

Question: When new Panchayat Raj Act introduced ?

Ans : 2018

Question : Palle Pragathi programme is which type of project ?

Ans : Telangana Rural Inclusive Project

Question: Under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India what is made ?

Ans: Special provisions are made for the Scheduled Areas.

Question: Currently, the Scheduled Areas in the Telangana state consist of 1,180 scheduled villages

spread over 85 mandals in nine districts. What are they ?

- a)Adilabad, Kumuram Bheem, Mancherial,
- b)Mulugu, Warangal(Rural), Mahabubabad,
- c)Bhadradri-Kothagudem, Khammam, and Nagarkurnool districts.
- d)All the above

Ans : d

12) By the 73rd constitutional amendment to the Constitution of India, the Indian government empowered the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) to create their own development plans, generate taxes, administer schools, health facilities, development infrastructure etc.

The 3-tiered structure of PRIs recognises the layered nature of welfare, development and public policy delivery. The roles and responsibilities of the elected representatives and government officials are well defined under the structure and they are expected to function in harmony and close cooperation for executing public work.

Question: By the 73rd constitutional amendment to the Constitution of India, the Indian government empowered the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) which of the following ?

- a)to create their own development plans,
- b)generate taxes, administer schools,
- c)health facilities, development infrastructure etc.
- d)All the above

Ans: d

Question: The \_\_\_\_\_ of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) recognises the layered nature of welfare, development and public policy delivery. The roles and responsibilities of the elected representatives and government officials are well defined under the structure and they are expected to function in harmony and close cooperation for executing public work.

Ans: 3 tiered structure

Question: When the 73rd constitutional amendment to the Constitution of India ?

Ans : 1991

### 13) Implementation Status: Telangana Panchayat Raj Act 2018

According to the Panchayat Raj Act, 2018 only the State legislature is competent to notify or de-notify a village. The Gram Panchayat is primarily responsible for maintenance of sanitation, plantations, streetlights and collection of taxes and non-taxes.

For this, each GP must prepare a Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and also take up activities connected with planning. In order to ensure the implementation of the plans and accountability of the village level functionaries, Gram Sabha must meet once in two months (6 times in a year). Several reports including annual development report, audit report and administration report need to be placed before the Gram Sabha which has four Standing Committees in the Gram Panchayat viz. Sanitation, Street Lights, Plantation and Works. Sarpanch and Panchayat Secretary stand to be removed from their positions for non-conduct of Audit in their Panchayat. Further, powers are delegated to the District Collectors to initiate disciplinary action against Panchayat officials. Additionally, a Gram Panchayat Tribunal is constituted to appeal on the removal of Sarpanchs.

Reservations to each category are extended for 2 terms with 100% ST population villages reserved for ST category in plain areas.

Accordingly elections to all the rural local bodies were conducted in 2019.

Question: Who is competent to notify or de-notify a village ?

Ans : According to the Panchayat Raj Act, 2018 only the State legislature is competent to notify or de-notify a Village

Question: The Gram Panchayat is primarily responsible for what ?

Ans: maintenance of sanitation, plantations, streetlights and collection of taxes and non-taxes.

Question: What is to be prepared by each Gram Panchayat ?

Ans : Gram Panchayat (GP) must prepare a Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and also take up activities connected with planning.

Question : In order to ensure the implementation of the plans and accountability of the village level functionaries, Gram Sabha must meet once in how many months?  
Ans : Two (i.e, 6 times in a year).

Question: Several reports including annual development report, audit report and administration report need to be placed before the Gram Sabha which has four Standing Committees in the Gram Panchayat . Which of the following is correct ?

- a)Sanitation,
- b)Street Lights,
- c)Plantation and Works.
- d)All the above four Standing Committees

Ans: d

Question : Sarpanch and Panchayat Secretary stand to be removed from their positions for what reason ?  
Ans : Non-conduct of Audit in their Panchayat

Question: Who can initiate disciplinary action against Panchayat officials?

Ans: Powers are delegated to the District Collectors to initiate disciplinary action against Panchayat officials.

Question:

Question: To make an appeal on the removal of Sarpanchs what is constituted ?

Ans : Gram Panchayat Tribunal is constituted.

Question: Reservations to each category are extended for \_\_\_\_\_ terms with 100% ST population villages reserved for ST category in plain areas.

Ans : 2

Question: Accordingly elections to all the rural local bodies were conducted in \_\_\_\_\_.

Ans : 2019

## 14)Reporting System for Panchayat Secretaries

Over the last two years, a foundation has been established for technology based, verifiable data based reporting by field level Panchayat Raj officials. A mobile application has been developed for Panchayat Secretaries (PSs) to report on daily, as well as, monthly indicators that have a strong outcome focus. Indicators reported are aligned with the responsibilities of the Panchayat Secretaries as per the \_\_\_\_\_.

Ans : [Telangana Panchayat Raj Act 2018](#).

## 15)Panchayats

The Mandal Panchayat Officer (MPO) plays an important role in the supervision of Gram Panchayat performance. With the smallest average mandal population of any state, Telangana is at an advantage as MPOs can cater to a manageable population and get the pulse of citizens to improve service delivery

A second mobile application has been developed for use by Mandal Panchayat Officers as well as other supervising officers tasked with conducting inspections (Divisional Panchayat Officers, District Panchayat Officers, Deputy Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Praja Parishads and Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Praja Parishads).

Question: Who plays an important role in the supervision of Gram Panchayat performance ?

Ans : Mandal Panchayat Officer (MPO)

16)A second mobile application has been developed for use by Mandal Panchayat Officers as well as other supervising officers tasked with conducting inspections (Divisional Panchayat Officers, District Panchayat Officers, Deputy Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Praja Parishads and Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Praja Parishads).

Question: Who are the other supervising officers tasked with conducting inspections, over and above Mandal Panchayat Officers ?

- a)Divisional Panchayat Officers ; District Panchayat Officers
- b)Deputy Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Praja Parishads
- c)Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Praja Parishads
- d)All the above

Ans : d

17)Care has been taken to ensure compatibility between Gram Panchayat level reporting and data collected by the inspecting officers from mandal, revenue division, district and state level. This supervisory approach being deployed by the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, can allow managerial officers at each level to efficiently oversee and support the progress of those under their charge, and as such holds potential to be replicated across multiple service delivery departments.

## 18) Citizen Feedback on Service Delivery

The Department has also implemented innovative measures to improve GP management. To obtain a citizen-centric view on Gram Panchayat performance, the Department has piloted an outbound call centre to get feedback on service delivery. An interactive voice response (IVR) automated calling system has also been tested as a means to capture citizen feedback at scale. To improve accuracy in data collection, the Department has also tagged all GP roads and GP office buildings. A GPS coordinate based attendance system has also been developed, allowing Panchayat Secretaries to fill their activity reports only once they report to the GP office.

Question: To improve accuracy in data collection, what is done by the Department ?

Ans : Department has also tagged all Gram Panchayat (GP) roads and Gram Panchayat (GP) office buildings. A Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinate based attendance system has also been developed, allowing Panchayat Secretaries to fill their activity reports only once they report to the GP office.

## 19)Guidance From District Administration

According to the Panchayat Raj Act, powers are delegated to the District Collectors to guide and monitor the performance of Panchayat Raj officials. To strengthen supervisory capacity at the district level, the state Government has created a new post of 'Additional Collector, Local Bodies' to look after the administration of Gram Panchayats, Mandal Praja Parishads and Zilla Praja Parishads and Urban Local Bodies in the district.

Question: According to the Panchayat Raj Act, powers are delegated to whom to guide and monitor the performance of Panchayat Raj officials ?

Ans : District Collectors

Question: To strengthen supervisory capacity at the district level, the state Government has created which post of to look after the administration of Gram Panchayats, Mandal Praja Parishads and Zilla Praja Parishads and Urban Local Bodies in the district ?

Ans : 'Additional Collector, Local Bodies'

## 20) Financial Support

The Telangana state plays an important role in financing GPs by matching the Union Finance Commission grants.

Allocation and release of funds are proportionate to the population with additional fund support being

provided to vulnerable groups. During 2021-22, Rs. 1,365 crore was allocated under the 15th Finance Commission grant and a matching amount of Rs. 1,365 crore was allocated under the State Finance Commission grant.

Efforts have also been made to improve financial planning at the Gram Panchayat level. All Gram Panchayats in the state have prepared their annual budget till 2023-24, keeping 10% of funds reserved for green activities. A system of expenditure codes has also been launched in GPs to track and analyse expenses of different focus areas of the Panchayat Raj Act.

Question: The Telangana state plays an important role in financing GPs by matching the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ans : Union Finance Commission grants.

Question: What is the basis of Allocation and release of funds to GPs ?

Ans : Allocation and release of funds are proportionate to the population with additional fund support being provided to vulnerable groups

Question: During 2021-22, Rs. 1,365 crore was allocated under the Government of India's 15th Finance Commission grant and a matching amount of \_\_\_\_\_ was allocated under the Telangana State Government's State Finance Commission grant.

Ans : Rs. 1,365 Crore

## 21) Service Delivery To Citizens

Question: Which of the following Services Delivery to Citizens is correct?

- a) Sanitation
- b) Green Cover
- c) Streetlights; Water Supply
- d) All the above (at Gram Panchayat level) (Also Covid-19 duties)

Ans : d

**Sanitation:** Gram Panchayats play a crucial role in sanitation of rural areas, from household waste collection and segregation to daily cleaning of village roads and institutions. The state finances various initiatives to promote waste management practices.

**Green cover:** *Telangana ku Haritha Haram* (Green Garland for Telangana) is a flagship programme of the Govt. of Telangana to increase the Green Cover from 24% to 33%. At the village level, a standing committee on plantation must be created to promote plantation activities.

**Streetlights:** Streetlights are integral to promoting public safety and reducing road accidents. Panchayat Secretaries are responsible for daily quality checks of streetlights, and the Department monitors the timely payment of power consumption bills for streetlights every month. Initiatives have also been taken to improve the quality of streetlight infrastructure in remote areas.

**Water supply:** Gram Panchayats play an important role in ensuring last mile access to drinking water as part of the state's flagship Mission Bhagiratha scheme. GPs are required to certify that there are no leftover households to provide tap water connections.

They are also required to report any problems related to supply of drinking water to the concerned Mission Bhagiratha officer and coordinate to ensure timely resolution of issues. Testament to the effective implementation of the scheme, *Telangana is India's first large state which has achieved 100% coverage of functional household tap connections in all rural habitations* through sustainable surface sources (as per Ministry of Jal Sakthi, GoI).

Question : Who play a crucial role in sanitation of rural areas, from household waste collection and segregation to daily cleaning of village roads and institutions?

Ans : Gram Panchayats play a crucial role in sanitation of rural areas, from household waste collection and segregation to daily cleaning of village roads and institutions. The state finances various initiatives to promote waste management practices

Question: At village level, on plantation what must be created to promote plantation activities ?

**Sub: A Standing Committee on Plantation**

Question: Who are responsible for daily quality checks of streetlights, and the Department monitors the timely payment of power consumption bills for streetlights every month.

Ans : Panchayat Secretaries are responsible for daily quality checks of streetlights, and the Department monitors the timely payment of power consumption bills for streetlights every month. Initiatives have also been taken to improve the quality of streetlight infrastructure in remote areas.

Question: Who are also required to report any problems related to supply of drinking water to the concerned Mission Bhagiratha officer and coordinate to ensure timely resolution of issues.

Ans: Gram Panchayats

Question: *Telangana is India's first large state which has achieved \_\_\_\_\_ coverage of functional household tap connections in all rural habitations through sustainable surface sources (as per Ministry of Jal Sakthi, Government of India).*

Ans : 100 %

#### **COVID-19 duties:**

To drive the state's COVID-19 containment activities to the grassroots level, \_\_\_\_\_ have played an active role in village disinfection, coordinating with frontline healthcare workers to supply masks, building awareness about vaccination, testing, and educating citizens about social distancing.

Ans : Panchayat Secretaries

## **22) Capacity Building Initiatives**

Telangana State Institute for Rural Development (TSIRD) is the apex institute for training the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department (PRRD) functionaries including the elected representatives.

From January to November 2021, TSIRD through its Hyderabad campus, as well as 2 extension centres (Rajendranagar, Rangareddy district and Hasanparthy, Warangal district) conducted 218 training programs with a total of 6,768 participants.

Core areas of training include: Implementation of Panchayat Raj Act, IT and e-governance, MGNREGS implementation, social audit, and thematic training on topics such as water and sanitation, and women and child welfare. TSIRD has also embraced digital tools for capacity building, using Society for Telangana State Network (SoFTNET) in 2017-18 to conduct 42 training programs for Panchayat Raj functionaries and elected representatives.

The Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department continues to use a data driven approach for capacity building. Surveys have been conducted with Panchayat Secretaries to understand training needs. Assessments are conducted post training to assess level of understanding.

Question: Which is the apex institute for training the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department (PRRD) functionaries including the elected representatives?

Ans : Telangana State Institute for Rural Development (TSIRD)

Question : From January to November 2021, TSIRD through its \_\_\_\_\_, as well as 2 extension centres (Rajendranagar, Rangareddy district and Hasanparthy, Warangal district) conducted 218 training programs with a total of 6,768 participants.

Ans: Hyderabad campus

Question: What are the Core areas of training ?



- a) Implementation of Panchayat Raj Act,
- b) IT and e-governance, MGNREGS implementation,
- c) social audit, and thematic training on topics such as water and sanitation, and women and child welfare
- d) All the above

Ans : d

Question: TSIRD has also embraced digital tools for capacity building, using Society for Telangana State Network (SoFTNET) in 2017-18 to conduct \_\_\_\_\_ training programs for Panchayat Raj functionaries and elected representatives.

Ans : 42

## 23) Monitoring District Level Outcomes Using 'Palle Pragathi for PS' App

With the launch of mobile applications for Panchayat Secretaries, it has become easier to collect, aggregate and analyse data reported by field functionaries and use it to drive improvements in outcomes. Data summarises the share of GPs in each district that have scored more than 80% on 'sanitation' and 'streetlight' indicators that are collected as part of the daily and monthly reporting of the Panchayat Secretary. The sanitation indicator includes data on cleanliness of roads, drains and institutions as well as waste management practices of Gram Panchayats. The streetlights indicator captures the share of functioning streetlights during daily random road inspections by the Panchayat Secretary. For the GPs having suboptimal performance as per the PS'App, the district administration has taken relevant steps to strengthen their performance.

Question: Which of the following is correct ?

- a) The sanitation indicator includes data on cleanliness of roads, drains and institutions as well as waste management practices of Gram Panchayats.
- b) The streetlights indicator captures the share of functioning streetlights during daily random road inspections by the Panchayat Secretary
- c) Both (a) & (b)
- d) None of these

Ans : c

## 24) Palle Pragathi

In 2019, the Government of Telangana launched the Palle Pragathi programme with the twin objectives of enhancing the quality of life in the rural areas and improving the governance of Gram Panchayats (GPs). Key focus areas of the programme include village sanitation, infrastructure, tree cover and governance of the Gram Panchayats.

Funding of the Program is through grant-in-aids, finance commission grants, panchayat's own resources, convergence funds from other schemes and donations. In addition the people may also contribute through Shram Daan. An amount of Rs. 8,617.45 crore has been utilised since the launch of the programme in September 2019 till December 2021. Till July 2021, four campaign rounds of Palle Pragathi have been taken up with various activities such as cleaning of roads & desilting of drains, identification

of low lying areas, filling up of potholes, replacement of damaged electricity poles, wires and street lights, laying of third wire, bailing out of water from low lying areas, identification and demolition of old and dilapidated buildings & cleaning of debris, as well as filling up of old and unused bores and open wells, avenue plantation, replacement of the diedup plants etc.

Further, all Gram Panchayats have been sanctioned a village Dump Yard with a cost of Rs. 2.30 lakh to each GP and Vaikunta Dhamam at a cost of Rs.12.50 lakh to each GP. A tractor and trolley are provided to each Gram Panchayat for transportation of segregated garbage and a tanker is provided for watering the saplings planted in Gram Panchayat area under Telanganaku Haritha Haram.

Question: In 2019, the Government of Telangana launched the Palle Pragathi programme with the twin objectives. What are they ?

- a) enhancing the quality of life in the rural areas
- b) improving the governance of Gram Panchayats (GPs).
- c) Both (a) & (b)
- d) None of these



Ans : c

Question: What are the Key focus areas of the Palle Pragathi Programme ?

- a)village sanitation,
- b) infrastructure,
- c)tree cover and governance of the Gram Panchayats.
- d)All the above

Ans: d

Question: What is method of Funding of the Palle Pragathi Program?

- a)Funding is through grant-in-aids, finance commission grants, panchayat's own resources,
- b)convergence funds from other schemes and donations.
- c)In addition the people may also contribute through Shram Daan
- d)All the above

Ans : d

Question: Till July 2021, four campaign rounds of Palle Pragathi have been taken up with various activities . What are they ?

- a)cleaning of roads & desilting of drains, identification of low lying areas, filling up of potholes, replacement of damaged electricity poles, wires and street lights, laying of third wire,
- b)bailing out of water from low lying areas, identification and demolition of old and dilapidated buildings & cleaning of debris, as well as filling up of old and unused bores and open wells,
- c)avenue plantation, replacement of the diedup plants etc.
- d)All the above

Ans : d

Question: Further, all Gram Panchayats have been sanctioned with what ?

- a)a village Dump Yard with a cost of Rs. 2.30 lakh to each GP and
- b)Vaikunta Dhamam at a cost of Rs.12.50 lakh to each GP.
- c)A tractor and trolley are provided to each Gram Panchayat for transportation of segregated garbage and a tanker is provided for watering the saplings planted in Gram Panchayat area under Telanganaku Haritha Haram.
- d)All the above

Ans : d

## Question: What are the Key Activities and works taken up in the villages ?

**1)Crematoria:** Construction of Vykuntadhamams/ Crematoriums have been taken up in all the 12,769 Gram Panchayats in the state and 12,714 of them have been completed with an expenditure of Rs. 1,308.84 crore.

### **2)Greenery:**

Functional nurseries have been established in 12,759 Gram Panchayats and during 2020-21, 18.84 crore seedlings have been raised by incurring an amount of Rs. 271.23 crore. For 2021-22, the PR&RD department surpassed its plantation target of 8.76 crore by planting 9.30 crore seedlings (106% achievement) with an expenditure of Rs. 436.02 crore.

### **3)Palle Prakruthi Vanam (Village Nature Park):**

PPVs constituting dense forest type plantations with an expenditure of Rs. 222.06 crore have been established in 19,472 Gram Panchayats and habitations which are serving as village nature parks and rural lung spaces.

**4)Park for Mandal Headquarters:** 5 BPPVs are being established in each mandal. Further, land identification has been completed at 785 sites against a target of 2,725. Plantation works have been completed in 98 sites and expenditure of Rs. 28.33 crore has been incurred.

**5)Multi-Layer Avenue Plantation:** MLAP plantation target of 8000 km (250 Km in each district) has been exceeded with 8305 km being covered at an expenditure of Rs. 26.42 crore.

**6)Soak Pits:** 11,64,643 individual and 32,941 community magic soak pits have been constructed in all the GPs of the State at a cost of Rs. 416.87 crore.

**7)Rythu Vedikas:** 2,597 Rythu Vedikas have been constructed in the State, for which an expenditure of Rs. 515.18 crore has been incurred.

**8)Drying platforms:** 49,170 Drying Platforms have been grounded and 19,309 are completed with an expenditure of Rs. 124.00 crore.

Answer code :

a)1,2,3,4,

b)5,6,7,8

c)1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,

d)None of these

Ans : c

## 25)Resourcing for Palle Pragathi

During 2021-22, under State Finance Commission Grants, the Government of Telangana has allocated Rs. 1,365.00 Crore on par with 15th Finance Commission grant of Rs. 1,365.00 Crore. Further, the state Government is releasing Rs. 227.50 Crores to all the PRIs every month w.e.f. April 2021. Additionally, to fill resourcing gaps, Ministers are given Rs. 2 crores each, District Collectors are given Rs. 1 crore each and Additional Collectors (Local Bodies) are given Rs. 25 lakhs each, amounting to an overall total of Rs. 72 crores for meeting incidental expenditures during the implementation of Palle Pragathi.

Till December 2021, under State and Fifteenth Finance Commission grants, an amount of Rs. 1,820.00 crores has been released to the Gram Panchayats, Mandal Parishads and Zilla Parishads. To ensure that the Gram Panchayats get a minimum of Rs. 5.00 lakh annual income, the Government has released Rs. 2.84 Crores to 332 Gram Panchayats under Assistance to Gram Panchayats for 2021-22. Further, the Government has allocated Rs. 500.00 Crores to Zilla Praja Parishads and Mandal Praja Parishads under State Finance Commission Grants.

## 26)Qualitative Aspects of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

Telangana has channelized the MGNREGS for implementing several works under the Palle Pragathi programme to provide not only employment to citizens but also create indispensable permanent and quality assets in the rural areas.

**Question:** Telangana has channelized the MGNREGS for implementing several works under the Palle Pragathi programme to provide not only \_\_\_\_\_ to citizens but also create indispensable permanent and quality assets in the rural areas.

**Ans:** employment

## 27)Implementation of MGNREGS

**Job Cards:** MGNREGS Job Cards are valid for at least \_\_\_\_\_ years, after which they are reissued with due verification. 35 lakh job cards with QR Codes were printed and distributed in 2021-22.

Ans : 5

**Use of ICT:**

**Mobile Monitoring System:** e-MMS is a mobile phone based technology customised for the MGNREGS field staff which includes mobile applications like Demand Capture, Work Allocation, e-Muster, e-Measurement, e-Check Measurement and e-Muster Verification. Who captures this data accessible through the web reports, which results in enhanced transparency and accountability?

Ans: Panchayat Secretary

**Public Finance Management System (PFMS):** Payment of wages in the State made centrally by Government of India has migrated from Electronic Fund Transfer system (eFMS) to National electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) platform. Material and administrative expenditure will be paid by the State Government through eFMS.

**Quality Control Wing:** An exclusive Quality Control Wing has been established under the Chief Quality Control Officer. **Grievance Redressal / Call Centre:** Grievance redressal rules were notified and a full-fledged complaint cell was established. Applicants can file complaints by calling a toll free number or by lodging their complaints on the website.

**Social Audit and Follow-up of Social Audit findings by the Vigilance Wing:**

Independent directorate of Society for Social Audit Accountability & Transparency (SSAAT) is a collaboration of Government and social activists and has been functioning since 2009. SSAAT's mission is to promote the empowerment of rural communities directly benefiting from welfare schemes, minimization of leakages and wastage of public funds. Findings of the Social Audit are presented before the Gram Sabha and Block Public Hearing. A Special Vigilance Wing is formed at the State level and at each district for the follow-up of social audit findings.

## Question: What is SSAAT ?

Ans: Independent directorate of Society for Social Audit Accountability & Transparency (SSAAT) is a collaboration of Government and social activists and has been functioning since 2009.

## 28) Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP)

SERP is a sensitive and supportive structure to facilitate social mobilisation of poor rural women in the rural areas of the 32 districts in the state, except in the urban district of Hyderabad. Focusing on the demand side of the problem, it works by building and nurturing Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women and their federations, by focusing on the following:

Question: What is SERP ?

Ans : Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP). SERP is a sensitive and supportive structure to facilitate social mobilisation of poor rural women in the rural areas of the 32 districts in the state, except in the urban district of Hyderabad

Question: SERP works on what ?

Ans: Focusing on the demand side of the problem, it works by building and nurturing Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women and their federations,

## Institution & Capacity Building

**Community Based Organisations Status (CBO):** A total number of 47.53 lakh SHG members have

been organised into \_\_\_\_\_ lakhs SHGs, 46,423 Persons with Disability into 6,643 PwD Groups, and 17,886 Village Organisations.

**Ans:** 4.39

**Social Category wise coverage:** Since the formation of the State till November 2021, SERP has formed 92,634 SHGs by mobilizing 10.24 lakhs people from the Scheduled Castes, 6.6 lakhs from the Scheduled Tribes, 25.7 lakhs from Backward Castes and 1.5 lakh minorities

**A Community Investment Fund/ Revolving Fund Grant** of Rs. 81.60 crore has been disbursed to Community Based Organisations from 2015 to November 2021.

## 29) Financial Access

SERP is facilitating bank linkages for SHG members and promoting diversified livelihoods to augment the income of the poor under the SHG-Bank linkage programme.

Since the formation of the State, the amount disbursed to the SHGs every year almost tripled from Rs.3,738.67 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.10,448.03 crore by 2020-21.

State Government in association with the Mandal Samakhya promoted by SERP, and Town Level Federations have promoted Stree Nidhi Credit Co-operative Federation Ltd. (Stree Nidhi) as an apex cooperative society for financing SHGs. In 2020-21, Rs. 2,381.51 crore loan has been disbursed to 1,61,010 SHGs with a recovery rate of 96%.

**Question:** What is Stree Nidhi Credit Co-operative Federation Ltd. (Stree Nidhi) ?

- a) an apex cooperative society for financing Self Help Groups (SHGs)
- b) In 2020-21, Rs. 2,381.51 crore loan has been disbursed to 1,61,010 SHGs with a recovery rate of 96%.
- c) State Government in association with the Mandal Samakhya promoted by SERP, and Town Level Federations have promoted Stree Nidhi Credit Co-operative Federation Ltd. (Stree Nidhi)
- d) All the above

**Ans :** d

## 30) Farm Livelihoods

As part of Sustainable Livelihoods initiatives, Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs) and Livestock Farmer Producer Groups with women have been formed to enable farmers to create additional income through productivity enhancement and improved market accessibility.

With regard to social category, nearly 49.0% of the FPG members belong to the Backward Castes, 23.5% to Scheduled Castes, 17.5% to Scheduled Tribes, 8.4% to Open Category, and 1.4% to Minority

**Question:** As part of Sustainable Livelihoods initiatives, what are formed ?

**Ans:** Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs) and Livestock Farmer Producer Groups with women have been formed to enable farmers to create additional income through productivity enhancement and improved market accessibility

Further, state-level federations which started operations in September 2019 have traded 3,041.2 MTs (vegetables and fruits) produce worth more than 6.04 crore till December 2021. Major marketing tie-ups have been made with Metro, Polimeras, Y&Gs, Ratnadeep, Reliance and e-platforms like Bigbasket.

**Question:** Major marketing tie-ups have been made with whom?

**Ans :** Metro, Polimeras, Y&Gs, Ratnadeep, Reliance and e-platforms like Bigbasket.

31) The Government of India has appreciated Telangana for being the National Lead State i.e. being the first to achieve the target of mandatory 100% audit of \_\_\_\_\_ for the audit period 2020-21.

**Ans :** Gram Panchayats

In a bid to curb misuse of funds, and ensure transparency and accountability in fund utilisation

in the local bodies, the Government of India had introduced the online audit of Gram Panchayats in 2020 using Audit Online—an open-source application developed as part of Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) under e-panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP) initiated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Online auditing in at least 20% of Gram Panchayats in each state was made mandatory by the 15th Finance Commission to receive further funds for development activities in rural local bodies. For the audit period 2020-21, Telangana was declared as the National Lead State for the second consecutive year by the Government of India for being the first State to achieve the target of mandatory 100% audit of Gram Panchayats.

### **Key highlights of the audit:**

Number of institutions audited: The State Audit Department, Telangana has successfully completed 100% online auditing of 12,769 Gram Panchayats, 540 Mandal Parishads and 32 Zilla Parishads.

Recoveries effected: State Audit department has made recoveries for an amount of Rs.8.78 crores for auditable institutions and enabled remittances of Rs.3.96 crores for items such as seigniorage charges, I.T., library cess, GST, etc. to different departments.

Extensive virtual training process and issuance of guidelines for panchayat secretaries, district-level auditors and audit officers during the course of the pandemic ensured quality of audit and timely outcomes

Use of Audit Online platform streamlined the audit process due to time-bound schedules being assigned to officials and ease of monitoring of progress of work

Training other State Governments: The State Audit team has also imparted training on usage of Audit Online to officials from states such as Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan and also on the best practices in Telangana.

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### **31)Case Study of Annadata Custom Hiring Centre in Singareni mandal of Khammam district**

SERP has conceptualised the “Custom Hiring Centre” (CHC) model executed by the Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) to make farm machines accessible to those individuals who cannot afford them, primarily to small and marginal farmers, on a rental basis.

Under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Rs. 25.00 lakh was sanctioned for the establishment of Annadata Custom Hiring Centre in Singareni mandal of Khammam district. The procurement of equipment was done at district level through the District Procurement Committee (DPC) which is chaired by the District Collector / Addl. Collector with the District Agriculture Officer, District Horticulture Officer and FPO Board of Directors as members and the District Rural Development Officer (DRDO).

Procurement of necessary machinery (based on a needs assessment) was done and CHC premises were identified on the main road for ease of access to farmers. Regular training is being given to the CHC manager and driver on the usage of equipment and accounting.

The CHC is accessible to the farmers from 11 villages and nearly 400 farmers are utilising the equipment. The CHC aims to cover 1,300 acres. Higher productivity and greater output are the two major contributions of CHC. The productivity of major crops increased due to timely availability of machinery for critical farm operations such as sowing/planting and harvesting/threshing. In a span of 8 months and 114 business days, the gross revenue generated by the CHC is Rs. 3,75,000 and the net profit earned after meeting the expenditure amount of Rs. 1,50,000 is Rs. 2,25,000.

52 such CHCs have been established across 31 districts during 2020-21. Further, SERP plans to establish 100 more CHCs in 2021-22, for which 78 mandals have been mapped so far and 30 proposals sanctioned.

Question: Under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Rs. 25.00 lakh was sanctioned for the establishment of Annadata Custom Hiring Centre in which mandal of Khammam district ?  
Ans : Singareni

Question: SERP has conceptualised the “Custom Hiring Centre” (CHC) model executed by the Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) to make farm machines accessible to those individuals who cannot afford them, primarily to small and marginal farmers, on which basis ?  
Ans : on a rental basis

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### 32) Livestock Livelihoods

Under Livestock-based livelihoods, 2,913 Small Ruminant Livestock Farmer Producer Groups have been formed, covering 48,371 members. A separate cadre of 2,359 SHG women have been trained in First-aid Veterinary Services as Pashumithras to render door-step services.

Question: Who are Pashumithras ?

Ans : A separate cadre of 2,359 SHG women have been trained in First-aid Veterinary Services as Pashumithras to render door-step services

To encourage additional livelihoods for poor SHG families, SERP has promoted the establishment of Non-farm Enterprises by SHG women. For the creation of Sustainable Livelihoods to Rural poorest of the poor beneficiaries, Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) have been established by Lead Banks in each district.

Question: Who have established Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) have been established in each district ?

Ans : Lead Banks in each district.

To overcome exploitation by middlemen, the farmer community demanded a system of collective procurement and marketing interventions of agriculture and Non-Timber Forest Produce. To meet this demand, till 2020-21, a total of 10,795 Procurement Centres have been established in the state to aggregate the produce at VO level so that farmers benefit by receiving a remunerative price (MSP at doorstep).

## Other Initiatives under Panchayat Raj

### 33) Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put the focus on sanitation. Under the mission, all villages, Gram Panchayats, Districts, States and Union Territories in India declared themselves “open-defecation free” (ODF) by 2 October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, by constructing over 100 million toilets in rural India.

Question: When Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched ?

Ans : on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014

Question: What is the aim of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) ?

Ans : Under the mission, all villages, Gram Panchayats, Districts, States and Union Territories in India declared themselves “open-defecation free” (ODF) by 2 October 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, by constructing over 100 million toilets in rural India.

To ensure that the open defecation free behaviours are sustained, no one is left behind, and that



solid and liquid waste management facilities are accessible, the Mission is moving towards the next Phase II of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)/SBMG i.e ODF-Plus. ODF Plus activities under Phase II of SBMG will reinforce ODF behaviours and focus on providing interventions for the safe management of solid and liquid waste in villages.

**Question:** Under Phase II of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)/SBMG i.e ODF-Plus. ODF Plus activities include which of the following ?

**Ans :** Under Phase II of SBMG will reinforce ODF behaviours and focus on providing interventions for the safe management of solid and liquid waste in villages

The Telangana Government has given emphasis for providing sanitation facilities to the rural community of the state in line with SBMG. The efforts have resulted in Telangana topping the list of highest number of open defecation free (ODF Plus) villages under SBMG Phase-II programme in the country with nearly 73.39% of its villages declared as ODF Plus Aspiring villages, 24.23% as ODF Plus Model villages and the rest 0.23% as ODF Plus Rising villages. In several key indicators of SBMG which overlap with the Palle Pragathi's indicators, specifically those related to sanitation, Telangana has outperformed the other states.

### **Other awards received by Telangana:**

#### **34) National-level Swachhata Award, 2020:**

Siddipet and Peddapalli districts from Telangana were among the 20 districts selected across the nation for this award on the occasion of 'World Toilet Day' for creating awareness on use of toilets, segregation of wet and dry garbage and their maintenance and campaign on Swachh Bharath in rural areas.

**Question:** Which districts from Telangana among the 20 districts selected across the nation for this award on the occasion of 'World Toilet Day' for creating awareness on use of toilets, segregation of wet and dry garbage and their maintenance and campaign on Swachh Bharath in rural areas?

**Ans :** Siddipet and Peddapalli districts

**2. Gandagi Mukh Bharath (GMB) 2020:** In Telangana, shramdaan, collection of single-use plastics (SUP), plantation drives, among others, marked the week-long behavior change campaign – Gandagi Mukh Bharat. As a result, Telangana received the top award for State with maximum Shramdaan, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. Karimnagar district of Telangana received National 3rd place for District with maximum villages with all information, education and communication (IEC) messages painted.

**3. Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, 2022:** Under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY), out of the top ten performing villages, seven are from Karimnagar and Nizamabad districts of Telangana. These villages were Vennampally in Saidapur mandal, Kowlas in Jukkal mandal, Ganneruvaram in Bejjanki mandal, Kandakurthi in Renjal mandal, Veernapalli in Yellareddypeta mandal, Ramakrishnapur in Veenavanka mandal and Tanakurdh in Nizamabad. As part of SAGY, villages are ranked based on 12 different parameters including Gram Panchayat conducting Environment Creation activities, completing baseline survey and uploading the survey details, whether the draft Village Development Plan got clearance of Gram Sabha, number of non-infrastructure projects completed, number of economic and livelihood activities etc.

### **35) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission**



## (National Rurban Mission)

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) was launched in 2016 by the Government of India with the mission of stimulating local economic development, enhancing basic services by creating well planned clusters. Integrated Cluster Action Plans (ICAPS) and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been prepared for all the 17 clusters. An amount of Rs. 1,574.21 crore has been utilised for the execution of various works in these Rurban clusters which include convergence funds of Rs. 1,373.75 crore and Critical Gap Fund of Rs. 200.46 crore.

In December 2021, Telangana was ranked first in the implementation of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) among the states. The Ryakal cluster in Sangareddy district and Jukkal cluster in Kamareddy districts of the state stood first and second respectively among the total 300 clusters in the country.

Question: When Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) was launched by the Government of India with the mission of stimulating local economic development, enhancing basic services by creating well planned clusters?

Ans: in 2016

Question: In December 2021, Telangana was ranked first in the implementation of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) among the states.

Which clusters in Telangana state stood first and second respectively among the total 300 clusters in the country?

Ans : Ryakal cluster in Sangareddy district and Jukkal cluster in Kamareddy district

## Way Forward

The Government of Telangana is forging ahead for the realisation of 'Bangaru Telangana' by balancing the wheels of development through strengthening of service delivery, accountability, and demand in rural areas. The Government aims to leverage technology in building strong supervision and citizen accountability measures in light of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018.

The Government is committed to accentuating its efforts to scale its legacy of bringing landmark reforms across all the key areas pertaining to the development of the rural masses. These would include greater access to credit, deepening of forward and backward linkages, and adoption of sector-appropriate technologies, leading to strengthening of the community level institutions and the institutions of governance that are key to achieving the desired development outcomes.