GRAMEEN SRIJAN

SPRC – A New Milestone in Rural Governance

"

*It is a moment of great pride that the **Panchayati Raj Training Institute, Arundhutinagar,** has been officially re-designated as the **State Panchayat Resource Centre** (**SPRC**), **Tripura on 21st November 2024 by the State Government.** This transformation marks a significant step toward strengthening grassroots governance and rural development. Through training, research, and policy support, it helps local bodies become more efficient, transparent, and community-focused, driving real change at the grassroots level.*

Looking ahead, SPRC plans to expand its reach through digital learning, specialized training, and global collaborations to enhance local governance. Key priorities include women's leadership, sustainable rural development, and smart governance. Additionally, SPRC will modernize its infrastructure to enable interactive, technology-driven training for PRI functionaries.

-Hon'ble Chief Minister, Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha

State Level Workshop on People's Plan Campaign

The Garden of SPRC, Tripura

Walk Library in the Front Office

Our *Pride* - SPRC
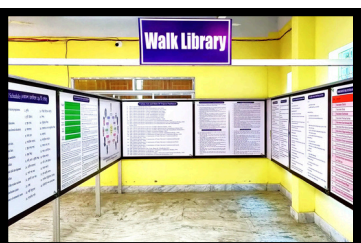
Empowering Local Governance with Knowledge

*The State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC) is at the heart of grassroots governance, empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) with training, research, and policy support. It equips local bodies with the knowledge, digital tools, and best practices needed for effective decision-making and transparent governance. SPRC fosters leadership, encourages innovation, and strengthens decentralization, ensuring Panchayats are self-reliant and people-centric. By bridging gaps in governance and enabling rural development, SPRC plays a key role in building strong, accountable, and progressive local institutions. More than just a resource center, **SPRC is our pride—a driving force behind empowered Panchayats and a brighter future for communities.** With its continuous efforts, SPRC is shaping a governance model that is inclusive, efficient, and future-ready. As we move forward, it remains committed to strengthening the roots of democracy at the grassroots level.*

Certificate Distribution after Training

50 Seated Capacity Classroom

Board cum Meeting Room

70 Bedded Hostel

Training Registration

76th Republic Day Celebration

Panchayat Darshan Model at Front Office

Need of Trainings for Elected Representatives

Empowering Elected Representatives Through Training: A Commitment to Better Governance

The State Panchayat Resource Centre is dedicated to empowering elected representatives and officials through comprehensive training programs. These sessions are designed to enhance leadership skills, improve governance, and promote effective decision-making. By fostering transparency, accountability, and informed policies, we aim to strengthen local governance and ensure that elected leaders can serve their communities with confidence and impact.

Story Inside

Objectives of Basic Foundation Course

Building Strong Foundations for Effective Leadership in Rural Governance

It aims to:

1. Familiarize participants with essential methods and practices needed for rural governance.
2. Enhance understanding of key topics like budget policy, the nine themes of LSDG, women empowerment, and sanitation.
3. Provide guidelines on how to run a Gram Panchayat efficiently and responsibly.
4. Encourage active participation through interactive discussions, activities, and multimedia tools.
5. Empower leaders to make informed decisions that positively impact their communities and drive sustainable development.

STATE PANCHAYAT RESOURCE CENTRE, TRIPURA

Towards Community Progress: Opinion of Elected Representatives

SPRC, TRIPURA

"The **State Panchayat Resource Centre, Tripura,** *has been instrumental in enhancing our understanding of governance. Through its comprehensive training programs, we have gained valuable knowledge on budget policies, rural development, and leadership skills, empowering us to serve our communities more effectively."*

Smt. Supriya Das Datta, Sabhadhipati, Sepahijala Zilla Parishad

PRTI, GOMATI

" **PRTI, Gomati,** *has been a great support in enhancing our understanding of governance and rural development. The comprehensive training programs have equipped us with essential skills and knowledge, enabling us to make informed decisions, address local challenges, and implement sustainable solutions. "*

Sri. Debal Debroy Sabhadhipati, Gomati Zilla Parishad

PRTI, KUMARGHAT

" **PRTI, Kumarghat,** *has provided us with exceptional training and guidance, helping us build a strong foundation in governance and rural development. The center's programs have enhanced our leadership skills and equipped us with the tools needed to address community challenges effectively. Through their insightful sessions on budgeting, policy-making, and sustainable development, we are now better prepared to serve our constituents, drive progress, and foster growth within our local communities. ."*

Sri. Amalendu Das, Sabhadhipati Unakoti Zilla Parishad

PRTI, AMBASSA

" **PRTI, Ambassa** *, has been a crucial partner in enhancing our capabilities as elected representatives. The training programs provided have broadened our understanding of governance, rural development, and leadership, helping us navigate the complexities of public service. PRTI's continuous support fosters growth, transparency, and effective leadership, helping us drive positive change in our villages."*

Smt. Susmita Das, Sabhadhipati Dhalai Zilla Parishad
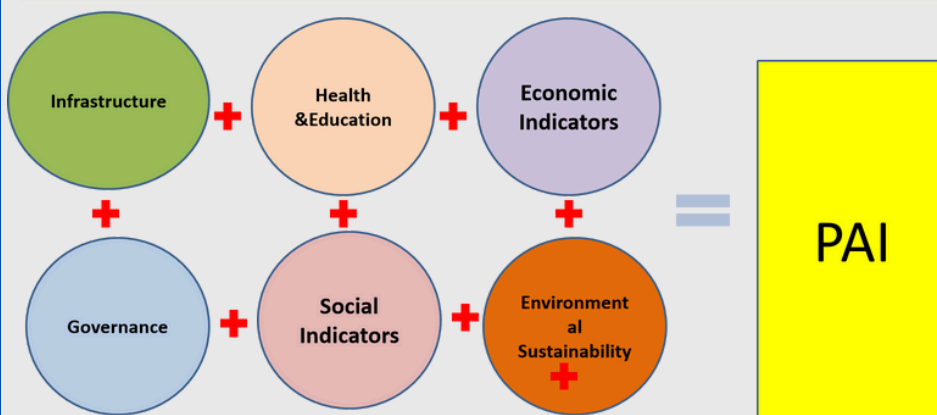
STATE PANCHAYAT RESOURCE CENTRE, TRIPURA

PANCHAYAT ADVANCEMENT INDEX

Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) is a mechanism for measuring the progress of Panchayats in achieving the LSDGs along nine individual themes as well as computing the composite progress as an aggregate of nine themes. It is a system of grading of Panchayats based on their performance towards the achievement of LSDGs.

Importance of PAI:

·PAI helps identify strengths and weaknesses in different areas such as education, health, sanitation, employment, and digital governance.

·It enables evidence-based decision-making and targeted interventions for balanced rural development.

·Encourages transparency and accountability by tracking the performance of local bodies.

·Promotes citizen participation and social audits to ensure effective service delivery.

·Acts as a benchmark to assess the impact of policies and schemes implemented at the panchayat level. Also, Helps policymakers and administrators track progress over time and make necessary course corrections.

·Assists in the optimal distribution of government resources based on real-time needs and performance.Encourages efficient utilization of funds under various schemes like MGNREGA, Jal Jeevan Mission, and PMAY.

·Supports the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the grassroots level.

Panchayat Advancement Index – Factors

Strategic Plan for Achieving Successful Completion of PAI in Tripura:

· Planning: Conduct a detailed study to map departments, targets, and indicators, ensuring accuracy and alignment with objectives.

· Institutional Framework: Establish accountability through regular reviews at block, district, and state levels.

· Capacity Building: Train Panchayat staff on PAI indicators and DCFs, providing SOPs, e-learning, and department-specific guidance.

· Monitoring & Evaluation: Set up a monitoring cell at the Directorate of Panchayats, shared PAI reports, and appointed Block-Level Master Trainers (BLMTs) for decentralized support.

· Targeted Interventions: Form BDO-led teams with 14 department representatives, pre-share DCFs, set staggered deadlines, and assign targets based on complexity for efficient data collection.

· Governance & Engagement: SPRC and PRTIs offer initial support, with faculty assigned to nine thematic areas for strategic guidance.

· Motivation & Recognition: Encourage participation through National Panchayat Awards and provided mentorship to low-performing Panchayats.

· Sustainable Support: Maintain a 24x7 helpline at the Headquarters for continuous assistance.

STATUS OF PANCHAYAT DEVELOPMENT INDEX (PDI) SCORE

PDI Score-Top five Districts

Name of the GP/VC	Overall PDI Score
Unakoti	68.69 (B-Performer)
South Tripura	64.22 (B-Performer)
West Tripura	64.18 (B-Performer)
Sepahijala	63.6 (B-Performer)
Gomati	62.17 (B-Performer)

PDI Score-Top *five* Blocks

Name of the Block	Overall PDI Score
Kumarghat	76.43 (A-Front Runner)
Padmabil	70.63 (B-Performer)
Amarpur	69.06 (B-Performer)
Rupaichari	69.06 (B-Performer)
B.C Nagar	68.66 (B-Performer)

PDI Score-Top *five* GP/VCs

Name of the GP/VC	Name of the Block	Overall PDI Score
Rupaichari	Rupaichari	82.08 (A-Front Runner)
Bampur	Amarpur	80.95 ((A-Front Runner)
West Malbasa	Amarpur	79.72 (A-Front Runner)
Madhya Brajapur	Charilam	79.41 (A-Front Runner)
Dudpur	Kumarghat	79.31 (A-Front Runner)

Water Budgeting- Way Forward

Water budgeting is a key concept introduced under the Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), launched on December 25, 2019, as part of the Jal Jeevan Mission by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Initially targeting drought-prone areas in Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh, the scheme aims to expand to additional states in its second phase. The primary objective of Atal Bhujal Yojana is to promote community-led sustainable groundwater management and create a replicable model for nationwide implementation.
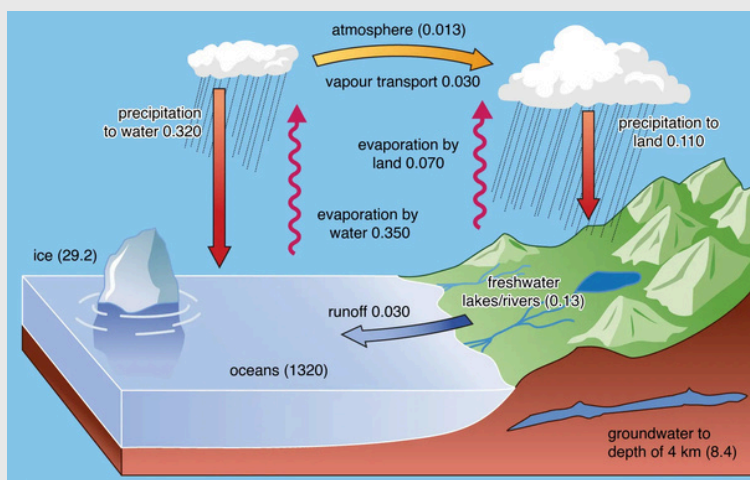
Water budgeting is a valuable process for assessing groundwater availability and usage in a specific area. It involves community participation in calculating the annual groundwater recharge through rainfall and comparing it with water consumption by humans and livestock. If water recharge is lower than consumption, the area faces the risk of water scarcity in the future. Conversely, if recharge exceeds consumption, groundwater levels will increase, ensuring sustainable water availability.

Training Session on Water Budgeting at SPRC, Tripura

This year, water budgeting training has been successfully conducted for Gram Panchayat and Village Committee functionaries, resulting in the preparation of water budgets. The findings indicate that highly populated Gram Panchayats are experiencing negative water budgets due to excessive dependence on groundwater. To address this, these Panchayats are now undertaking extensive water harvesting and recharge activities to mitigate future water scarcity and ensure sustainable water management.

Water budgeting is a key step toward efficient resource utilization and long-term water security. Through community participation and sustainable practices, Panchayats can play a vital role in preserving groundwater and ensuring water availability for future generations.

By identifying water deficit conditions, Gram Panchayats can implement various water conservation and recharge activities to ensure long-term sustainability. They can also optimize agricultural water use by adopting modern techniques such as crop diversification, efficient irrigation systems, and water-saving farming methods.

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

Gram Panchayats can address water deficit by:

Water Conservation & Recharge: Promote rainwater harvesting, rejuvenate traditional water bodies, and implement watershed management to recharge groundwater.

Efficient Irrigation: Encourage drip and sprinkler irrigation, and adopt micro-irrigation techniques to reduce water wastage.

Crop Diversification: Promote water-efficient crops like millets, and encourage agroforestry and mixed cropping to reduce water use.

Water-Saving Farming: Use soil moisture management techniques like mulching and conservation tillage to retain water and improve soil health.

Recognizing the importance of water budgeting, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is working toward implementing this process across all Panchayats in India. With this initiative, every Panchayat will gain awareness of their village's water situation, allowing them to take proactive steps to prevent future water crises.

STATE PANCHAYAT RESOURCE CENTRE, TRIPURA

FROM THE DESK OF BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Attainment of ISO Certification

The pursuit of ISO certification for any local body marks a significant step toward enhancing governance, service delivery, and overall efficiency. Achieving this certification not only improves transparency and accountability but also boosts public confidence in the administration. **The attainment of ISO certification for Kamalacherra VC and Uttar Nalicherra Panchayat under Ambassa RD Block, Dhalai District** will set a benchmark for efficient governance in rural administration. On the perimeters taken into account for ISO certification like facilities for public(Board and Amenities), facilities for staff, record management and infrastructure & housing, these two local bodies have developed significantly and strives to achieve the desired goal filling up the gaps at the earliest.

Smt. Munmun Debbarma
BDO, Ambassa
R.D Block

Way Forward

The journey toward certification involves gap analysis, standardization of process, capacity building, and internal audits. Proper documentation and training of officials will ensure smooth implementation. Regular monitoring and corrective actions will further strengthen governance mechanisms. ISO certification will streamline service delivery, enhance record-keeping, and promote accountability, ultimately benefiting the citizens of the area. With strong commitment and teamwork, this initiative will set a benchmark for quality governance and inspire other local bodies.

The Block Development Office remains dedicated to facilitating this process, ensuring Kamalacherra VC and Uttar Nalicherra Panchayat achieve this milestone successfully.

Rural Tourism and Panchayat- Possibility and Problems

Rural tourism, combined with Panchayati Raj Institutions, can drive sustainable development in India. An example is the hidden gem atop **Kalajhari Hill**, highlighting key issues and solutions.

On November 14, 2024, stakeholders from Amarpur R.D. Block, including Panchayat officials, embarked on a trekking trip to Kalajhari for tourism promotion. The journey aimed to explore hidden gems and encourage local development. After a challenging trek, the group was welcomed by locals with a traditional meal and shared discussions on sustainable tourism and community growth. Activities included games, the distribution of blankets and sweets for Children's Day, and a bonfire gathering where ideas for regional development were exchanged. The experience highlighted the significance of face-to-face interactions and the value of community connection in today's digital age.

Shri Utpal Das
BDO, Amarpur
R.D Block

Current infrastructure in the area is inadequate, with a deteriorating brick soling road that doesn't reach Old Dhananjoy Para. Electricity is available but subject to frequent load shedding. Water scarcity affects both domestic and drinking water needs. Additionally, most houses lack proper toilets.

To improve the area, road maintenance and extension are essential for better connectivity. The region has great tourism potential due to the welcoming locals, making it ideal for village tourism and trekking. A ropeway could offer access to the serene mountain views and connect to Dumbur Lake islands. Old Dhananjoy Para, over 250 years old, is rich in history and culture, with a Church and Shivling coexisting peacefully by the river.

Sustainability should focus on preserving vital local plants like the Insulin plant and the sabu-making plant, alongside protecting Jhum cultivation, the main livelihood for locals. Development plans should ensure these resources aren't harmed. A Botanical research lab could help preserve the area's unique flora and fauna, supporting both conservation and sustainable development.

STATE PANCHAYAT RESOURCE CENTRE, TRIPURA

Interesting Facts of Tripura Panchayat Act

The Tripura Panchayat Act, 1993, strengthens grassroots democracy and local self-governance by ensuring political representation, financial autonomy, and participatory governance. It promotes rural development and improves life quality in rural areas, in line with the 73rd Constitutional Amendment.
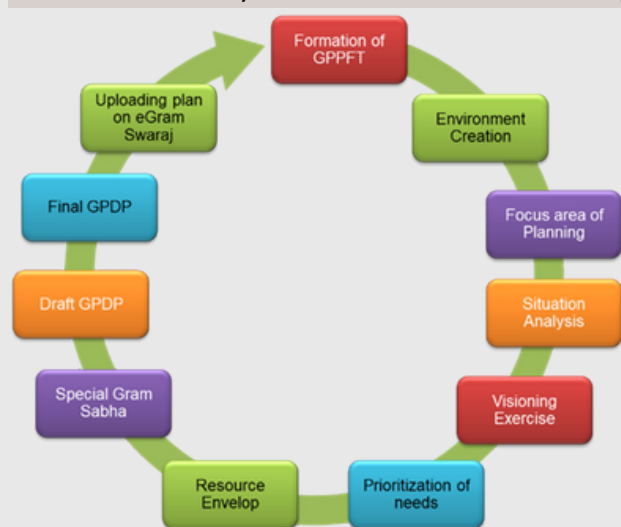
The Act, 1993, strengthens grassroots democracy through **direct elections**, ensuring that Panchayat members are elected by local voters for democratic functioning. It **reserves 50% of seats for women** to promote gender equality and ensures proportional representation for Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs) in all three tiers of the Panchayat system. Some Gram Panchayats are exclusively reserved for tribal communities.

The Act **empowers Gram Sabhas**, allowing them to approve development plans, monitor scheme implementation, select beneficiaries for government programs, and ensure transparency and accountability. It also devolves 29 key administrative functions to Panchayats, including agriculture, education, healthcare, rural infrastructure, and social welfare.

Panchayats are granted **financial autonomy,** enabling them to levy taxes and receive central and state grants for development. Additionally, the Act is dynamic, having been amended multiple times to adapt to evolving governance needs and improve administrative efficiency, reflecting the state's commitment to responsive and efficient governance.

How To Develop Smart PDP?

Panchayat Development Planning (PDP) is a crucial process mandated by Article 243G of the Indian Constitution to promote economic growth and social justice in rural areas. While some states have adopted a structured approach to PDP, many others lag behind. To address this, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched the People's Plan Campaign (PPC) in 2018, also known as Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas, to ensure systematic and inclusive PDP preparation.

The campaign begins with a Gram Sabha on October 2nd and concludes on March 31st with the submission of the District Panchayat Development Plan on the eGram Swaraj Portal. However, several preparatory steps must be undertaken before October, such as forming the Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team (GPPFT), creating awareness, and collecting data.

Data collection is a vital step in PDP preparation. Initially, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) relied on Mission

A training on Handholding support to the GP/VC for preparation of Theme based GPDP by the NLU Team was held at Charilam RD Block Conference Hall.

Antyodaya data, but now the Panchayat Development Index (PDI) is used to assess the real conditions of a Panchayat. By analyzing PDI data, Panchayats can identify weaker thematic areas and take Sankalp (resolutions) to improve them. As per the Sankalp, 25% of the available funds must be allocated to activities related to the identified theme, ensuring targeted development and effective resource utilization

A well-structured, data-driven, and participatory approach leads to a smart and sustainable Panchayat Development Plan, benefiting rural communities in the long run.