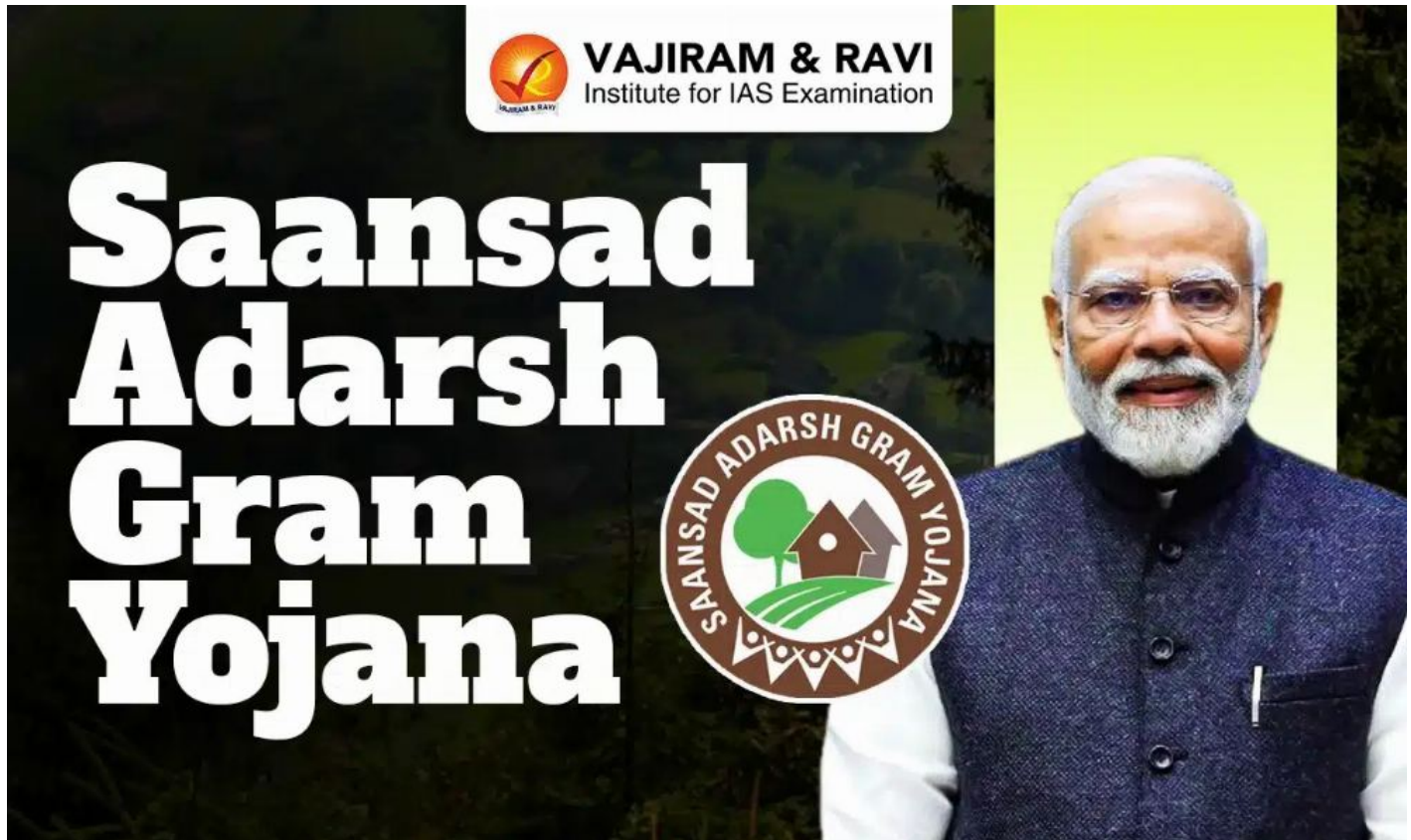


Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) 2014, Objectives, Features

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Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) is a rural development programme launched by the Government of India on 11 October 2014 on the birth anniversary of **Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan**. The scheme aims to transform Gram Panchayats into model villages through holistic development led by Members of Parliament. It was implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development and focuses on infrastructure, social progress, livelihoods, governance, sanitation, education, health, women empowerment and community participation through convergence of existing schemes rather than separate budget allocation.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana Background

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana was introduced to create self reliant and developed villages inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Gram Swaraj and participatory governance.

- **Launch:** The scheme was launched at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 11 October 2014 with the objective of creating Adarsh Grams that become centres of cleanliness, harmony, transparency and sustainable **rural development**.

- **Development Targets:** Every MP was expected to develop one Adarsh Gram by 2016, three villages by 2019 and a total of eight villages by 2024 including one village every year after 2019.
- **Scale of Programme:** SAGY targeted development of nearly 6,433 Adarsh Grams from India's approximately 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats through leadership and convergence of government welfare programmes.
- **Antyodaya Principles:** The programme adopted **Gandhian principles** such as self reliance, dignity of labour, cleanliness, women's respect, social justice, ecological balance and welfare of the poorest sections through the Antyodaya approach.
- **Participatory Governance Model:** Unlike traditional top down schemes, SAGY emphasized people's participation, Gram Sabha involvement, local planning, transparency and community ownership in village development activities.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana Objectives

The Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana seeks to improve quality of life in villages through integrated socio-economic, institutional and infrastructural development processes.

- **Holistic Rural Development:** SAGY aims to improve education, healthcare, sanitation, infrastructure, livelihoods, governance and social development simultaneously instead of focusing only on physical infrastructure creation.
- **Better Standard of Living:** The programme focuses on improved basic amenities, higher productivity, enhanced human development, reduced disparities and wider access to rights, welfare schemes and public services.
- **Social Mobilisation:** One objective is strengthening social capital through self help groups, voluntarism, community participation, Gram Sabha engagement and inclusion of **Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes**, women and weaker sections.
- **Livelihood Enhancement:** The scheme promotes diversified agriculture, livestock development, food processing, skill development, micro-enterprises and rural industrialisation to increase rural income and employment opportunities.
- **Model Village Replication:** SAGY intends to create successful development models that can motivate neighbouring Gram Panchayats to adopt similar governance and development practices across rural India.
- **Good Governance Promotion:** The programme emphasizes accountable Gram Panchayats, **e-governance**, social audits, timely grievance redressal, transparency and active participation of citizens in decision making processes.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana Features

The Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana combines MP leadership, village participation, convergence funding and institutional coordination for sustainable model village development.

- **Village Identification Criteria:** Gram Panchayats with a population of 3,000-5,000 in plains and 1,000-3,000 in hilly or tribal areas are selected as units for development under SAGY.
- **MP Selection Process:** Lok Sabha MPs select villages within their constituencies, Rajya Sabha MPs choose villages from districts within their states, while nominated MPs can select villages anywhere in India.

- **Restriction on Personal Villages:** MPs are not allowed to select their own villages or villages of their spouses to maintain fairness and avoid conflict of interest during implementation.
- **No Dedicated Budget Allocation:** SAGY functions through convergence of existing schemes such as **MGNREGA**, PMGSY, PMAY, MPLADS, CSR contributions, philanthropy funds and state government programmes.
- **Institutional Framework:** The District Collector acts as nodal officer and conducts monthly review meetings involving MPs, line departments and Gram Panchayat representatives for implementation coordination.
- **Community Participation Model:** The planning process is participatory in nature where villagers, **Gram Sabhas**, civil society groups and local institutions prepare Village Development Plans collectively.
- **Human Development Activities:** SAGY promotes universal immunisation, institutional deliveries, smart schools, e-literacy, nutrition improvement, village libraries, disability inclusion and health access for all residents.
- **Economic Development Measures:** Activities include organic farming, soil health cards, micro irrigation, seed banks, agro-service centres, dairy processing, food processing, eco-tourism and rural entrepreneurship promotion.
- **Environmental Sustainability Focus:** Villages are encouraged to adopt household toilets, waste management systems, watershed development, rainwater harvesting, social forestry and renewable energy including solar lighting.
- **Social Security Coverage:** The scheme supports universal access to pensions, insurance schemes, PDS benefits, UIDAI registration and financial inclusion through banks, post offices and ATMs.
- **Governance and Transparency:** Regular Gram Sabhas, Mahila Gram Sabhas, social audits, wall writing disclosures, grievance redressal systems and proactive public information dissemination are mandatory under SAGY.
- **Participation Status:** According to the Ministry of Rural Development, only 252 MPs adopted Gram Panchayats under Phase 4 despite Parliament's combined strength of nearly 790 elected and nominated members.
- **Declining MP Participation:** In Phase 1, around 703 MPs adopted villages, but participation declined to 497 in Phase 2 and further to 301 in Phase 3, indicating weakening political involvement.
- **Panchayat Selection:** Since inception, 3,390 Gram Panchayats have been identified under SAGY across India, with Uttar Pradesh selecting 549 villages and Tamil Nadu identifying 367 villages.
- **Scheme Convergence:** The Ministry of Rural Development prepared convergence support involving 127 Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored schemes along with 1,806 state level schemes for implementation support.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana Impacts

The programme has contributed toward improved governance practices, infrastructure development and social mobilisation in selected villages despite implementation gaps.

- **Infrastructure Improvement:** Several adopted villages witnessed development of roads, drinking water facilities, toilets, schools, Anganwadis, electrification, digital connectivity and community infrastructure through convergence funding.

- Increased Social Awareness: SAGY encouraged campaigns on sanitation, **women empowerment**, institutional delivery, immunisation, cleanliness and behavioural change through direct community engagement and local participation.
- Strengthened Local Governance: Regular Gram Sabha meetings, social audits, transparency practices and participatory planning improved accountability and democratic functioning at village governance levels.
- Livelihood Expansion: Skill development, agriculture diversification, self help groups, dairy activities and micro enterprises created additional employment opportunities and helped reduce distress migration from villages.
- Demonstration Effect: Some successful SAGY villages emerged as local development models inspiring nearby Gram Panchayats to adopt improved sanitation, governance, education and sustainable development practices.
- Better Service Delivery: E-governance initiatives, broadband connectivity, Common Service Centres and digitisation improved rural citizens' access to welfare schemes, documents and administrative services.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana Challenges

Despite strong vision and institutional support, the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana has faced multiple implementation, financial and administrative limitations since its launch.

- Low MP Participation: Only 1,753 Gram Panchayats were selected across four phases against expected targets, reflecting limited commitment and declining interest among many Members of Parliament.
- Absence of Dedicated Funds: SAGY lacks separate financial allocation and depends heavily on convergence of existing schemes, resulting in inadequate and delayed resource mobilisation in many villages.
- Uneven Development Outcomes: Success depends largely on individual MPs' leadership and administrative coordination, causing significant disparities between proactive and poorly managed adopted villages.
- Weak Political and Administrative Will: In several areas, the scheme failed to receive sustained attention from MPs, local officials and implementing agencies, reducing effectiveness of planned interventions.
- Coordination Difficulties: Effective implementation requires cooperation among multiple ministries, district administrations, Panchayats and line departments, but bureaucratic delays often slow project execution.
- Limited Community Ownership: In many villages, public participation remained weak due to low awareness, inadequate grassroots mobilisation and insufficient training of local institutions and stakeholders.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Gaps: Lack of strong real time monitoring systems and measurable outcome evaluation made assessment of actual development impact difficult in many SAGY villages.
- Sustainability Concerns: Some villages witnessed development only during active MP involvement, while long term maintenance and continuity weakened after shifts in political priorities or leadership.
- Infrastructure Quality Issues: Concerns were raised regarding quality and maintenance of roads, sanitation facilities and other infrastructure created through convergence with state and central schemes.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana Significance

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana remains an important rural transformation initiative promoting participatory governance, convergence based development and self reliant village growth across India.

- **Unique Development Model:** SAGY is among the few programmes directly leveraging MPs' leadership, public accountability and local participation for comprehensive Gram Panchayat development.
- **Strengthening Grassroots Democracy:** The scheme deepens democratic participation through Gram Sabhas, social audits, women's involvement and community driven planning at the village level.
- **Rural-Urban Gap Reduction:** By improving infrastructure, livelihoods, healthcare, education and digital access, SAGY contributes toward reducing disparities between rural and urban regions.
- **Focus on Inclusive Development:** The programme prioritises welfare of weaker sections including women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, **elderly citizens** and persons with disabilities through targeted interventions.
- **Sustainable Development Orientation:** Environmental conservation, renewable energy, sanitation, water management and ecological balance are integrated into village planning under the SAGY framework.
- **Promotion of Convergence Governance:** SAGY demonstrates how multiple government schemes, CSR initiatives, local institutions and community participation can be integrated for effective rural development outcomes.
- **Long Term Rural Transformation:** The scheme seeks not only physical infrastructure development but also behavioural change, self reliance, social harmony and institutional strengthening in rural communities.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/saansad-adarsh-gram-yojana/>

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