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# National Panchayat Awards 2025 — Three Tripura Panchayats Win Top Honours

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# National Panchayat Awards 2025 — Three Tripura Panchayats Win Top Honours

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## WHY IN NEWS

Three **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** from **Tripura** received top honours at the **National Panchayat Awards 2025**, conferred by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** to recognise excellence in local self-governance and sustainable development. National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24) traditionally sees the award ceremony, but the 2025 awards were announced in early April 2026 based on FY 2024-25 performance.



## WINNERS FROM TRIPURA

PRI	DISTRICT	CATEGORY	AWARD	PRIZE
Sepahijala District Panchayat	Sepahijala	Best District Panchayat (Nanaji Deshmukh)	1st rank	Rs 5 crore
Kanchanbari Gram Panchayat	Unakoti	Healthy Panchayat (DDUPSVP)	1st rank	Rs 1 crore
Baikunthapur Gram Panchayat	West Tripura	Women-Friendly Panchayat (DDUPSVP)	3rd rank	Rs 50 lakh

## NATIONAL PANCHAYAT AWARDS — FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj operates two flagship award schemes for PRIs:

### 1. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP)

Evaluates **thematic performance** across 9 themes aligned with SDGs:

- ❶ Poverty-free and enhanced livelihoods
- ❷ Healthy panchayat
- ❸ Child-friendly panchayat
- ❹ Water-sufficient panchayat
- ❺ Clean and green panchayat
- ❻ Self-sufficient infrastructure
- ❼ Socially secured panchayat
- ❽ Good governance panchayat
- ❾ Women-friendly panchayat

Each gram panchayat is scored against indicators under the chosen theme. Winners receive cash prizes (Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1 crore) and are recognised for replication nationally.

### 2. Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (NDSPSVP)

The **highest district-level recognition** — evaluates holistic integration of:

- Infrastructure and service delivery
- Digital governance



- Livelihood and MGNREGS implementation
- SDG localisation

First-ranked district panchayat receives **Rs 5 crore**.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF TRIPURA'S PERFORMANCE

Tripura's clean sweep across categories is notable because:

- The state is one of India's **smaller states** (area: 10,486 sq. km; population: ~36 lakh)
- Has a significant **tribal population** (~31%) governed partly under the **Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC)** under the Sixth Schedule
- Has historically faced challenges in governance and infrastructure due to geographic remoteness and insurgency legacy
- The awards reflect the **BJP government's (CM Dr. Manik Saha)** focus on panchayat-level service delivery since 2018

## PANCHAYATI RAJ IN INDIA — CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

ARTICLE/SCHEDULE	PROVISION
Article 243	Definition of Panchayat
Article 243A	Gram Sabha (village assembly)
Article 243B	Three-tier panchayat structure
Article 243C	Composition of panchayats
Article 243D	Reservation of seats (SC/ST/women — min 1/3)
Article 243G	Powers of panchayats (11th Schedule — 29 subjects)
Article 243I	Finance Commission for panchayats (State FC)
11th Schedule	29 subjects devolved to panchayats
6th Schedule	Autonomous District Councils in tribal areas (NE states)



The **73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992)** gave constitutional status to panchayats, mandating three tiers (gram, intermediate, district), elections, reservations, and State Finance Commissions.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

### GS Paper 2 – Polity & Governance

- 73rd Amendment and Panchayati Raj institutions
- 11th Schedule – 29 subjects devolved
- Article 243D – reservation for SC/ST/women
- Sixth Schedule – tribal areas autonomy (NE states including Tripura)
- State Finance Commissions vs. Central Finance Commission
- National Panchayati Raj Day: April 24

### Prelims Fast Facts:

- National Panchayat Awards: **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**
- Top award (district level): **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar**
- 73rd Amendment passed: **1992**
- National Panchayati Raj Day: **April 24**
- Women reservation in panchayats (minimum): **1/3 seats** (now 50% in many states)
- 11th Schedule: **29 subjects**

## FACTS CORNER

- India has approximately **2.55 lakh gram panchayats** – the largest decentralised governance network in the world
- **National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24)** marks the date in 1993 when the 73rd Amendment came into force
- As of 2024, over **46% of elected panchayat members are women** – exceeding the constitutional minimum of 33%
- Tripura's **Sixth Schedule** areas are governed by the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), which has its own legislative powers separate from the state's panchayat system
- The **e-Gram Swaraj** portal (launched 2020) digitises panchayat planning, accounting, and asset management – a tool that high-performing panchayats like those in Tripura use for governance transparency



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