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Mission Samriddh Gaon Launched, With Pilots in Two Madhya Pradesh Blocks

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REPORTS & SCHEMES

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Mission Samriddh Gaon Launched, With Pilots in Two Madhya Pradesh Blocks

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched **Mission Samriddh Gaon** at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, on **August 25, 2026**. Pilot projects will begin in **two blocks of Madhya Pradesh**.

WHAT WAS LAUNCHED

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Launched by	Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister for Rural Development
Venue and date	Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, August 25, 2026
Stated goal	Poverty-free, employment-rich, self-reliant villages
Pilot geographies	Budni block (Sehore district) and Khategaon block (Dewas district), Madhya Pradesh
Method	Convergence of existing schemes, not a new funding line

A point of precision: **the mission is launched, but the pilots themselves are prospective**. This is a launch event with implementation at pilot stage, not a nationwide rollout. Writing it as an operating national programme would overstate it.

THE CONVERGENCE MODEL

Mission Samriddh Gaon does not create a new centrally sponsored scheme with a fresh outlay. It **coordinates existing Central and State schemes** at the **Gram Panchayat** and household level across agriculture, employment, health, education and rural infrastructure.

The schemes in the convergence basket include:

SCHEME	DOMAIN
MGNREGA (2005)	Wage employment
DAY-NRLM	Self-help groups and livelihoods
PMAY-G	Rural housing
PMGSY	Rural roads
Jal Jeevan Mission	Piped drinking water
Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen	Sanitation
DDU-GKY	Rural youth skilling and placement
Lakshpati Didi	Women's incomes through SHGs

The mission's explicit aim is to end **distress rural-to-urban migration** by making the village economically viable, rather than by managing migration at the destination.

THE PANCHAYATI RAJ FOUNDATION

PROVISION	CONTENT
73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992	In force April 24, 1993; constitutionalised Panchayati Raj
Part IX	Articles 243 to 243-O
Eleventh Schedule	29 subjects devolvable to Panchayats
Article 243A	Gram Sabha
Article 243ZD	District Planning Committee

PREDECESSORS AND COMPARATORS

PROGRAMME	YEAR	DESIGN
Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)	2014	MP-adopted model villages
Aspirational Districts Programme	2018	112 districts, ranked public dashboard
Aspirational Blocks Programme	2023	500 blocks, block-level convergence

The block-level convergence design borrows directly from the **Aspirational Blocks** template, which is the most useful comparator for evaluating it.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Convergence missions succeed on the collector's incentive structure, not on scheme design.

The Aspirational Districts Programme worked where it worked because of a **ranked public dashboard** and real-time delta measurement, which made relative performance visible and therefore consequential for officials. Mission Samriddh Gaon has announced no equivalent accountability instrument. Without one, convergence remains an instruction rather than a mechanism.

“Poverty-free village” needs an operational definition. Absent a stated deprivation **threshold** and a measured baseline, whether from an SECC-successor dataset or NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index at block level, the mission cannot be evaluated at all. An undefined target converts into an output-reporting exercise, where activity is reported because outcomes cannot be.

The devolution deficit is the structural obstacle. The **three Fs, funds, functions and functionaries**, remain incompletely devolved in most States. A Gram-Panchayat-centred convergence mission is therefore layered on institutions that frequently lack untied funds and technical staff. Convergence at a tier that cannot spend or hire is convergence in name.

Pilot selection invites a fair question. Both pilot blocks are in the launching minister's home State, and Budni is within his long-held constituency area. This is not disqualifying, but it does raise whether two blocks in one State are representative enough to extrapolate nationally. A design robust to that objection would pilot across **agro-climatic and State-capacity variation**, so that what works in Madhya Pradesh is tested where administrative capacity is weaker.

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2 (Governance): Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation; devolution of powers and finances to local levels.

GS Paper 3 (Economy): Inclusive growth; rural development.

Prelims focus: The 73rd Amendment and its date of coming into force; Part IX and the Eleventh Schedule's 29 subjects; Article 243A and 243ZD; MGNREGA's 100-day guarantee and the 15-day unemployment allowance trigger; the years of the Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks Programmes.

Mains angle: Use this as a case study in **why convergence is hard**. Every scheme in the basket already exists; what has never existed is an incentive for a Gram Panchayat to sequence them. Argue that convergence requires three things the mission has not yet announced: a measured baseline, a public ranking, and untied funds at the tier being asked to converge.

Way forward: Publish a block-level baseline and a public dashboard; route untied funds to Gram Panchayats through the Finance Commission grant window so they can fund convergence gaps; sequence the mission with the Aspirational Blocks Programme rather than running parallel to it; and build third-party concurrent evaluation into the pilot before scale-up.

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MISSION SAMRIDDH GAON:

Launched August 25, 2026 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi by Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Ministry of Rural Development; a convergence mission, NOT a new centrally sponsored scheme

Pilots: Budni block (Sehore district) and Khategaon block (Dewas district), Madhya Pradesh

Goal: poverty-free, employment-rich, self-reliant villages; ending distress migration

PANCHAYATI RAJ:

73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992; in force April 24, 1993

Part IX: Articles 243 to 243-O; Eleventh Schedule lists 29 subjects

Article 243A: Gram Sabha; Article 243ZD: District Planning Committee

The “three Fs”: funds, functions, functionaries

MGNREGA:

Enacted 2005; guarantees 100 days of unskilled manual wage employment per rural household per financial year

Section 3 creates the entitlement; unemployment allowance follows failure to provide work within 15 days

COMPARATORS:

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana: 2014

Aspirational Districts Programme: 2018, 112 districts

Aspirational Blocks Programme: 2023, 500 blocks

Sources: Ministry of Rural Development, ThePrint

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