



Panchayat Raj Officers Conclave-2024

RDPR DEPARTMENT HOSTS FIRST-EVER PANCHAYAT RAJ OFFICERS CONCLAVE TO STRENGTHEN INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION



The Panchayat Raj Officers Conclave-2024, held in Bengaluru, marked a significant step toward enhancing inter-departmental coordination for the effective implementation of government programs. Organized under the leadership of the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department (RDWSD), the event brought together 1000+ key officials and stakeholders from across Karnataka, signalling a commitment to improved service delivery for rural communities.

Event Highlights and Launches

The conclave was inaugurated by the Honourable Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Shri Priyank Kharge, who also launched several pivotal initiatives: the O&M Policy for Rural Drinking Water Supply Sector, the JeevaJala water quality monitoring App, the Sevarashaka Service Level Benchmarking Dashboard, and the MGNREGA App.

Minister's Call for a Solution-Oriented Approach

In his address, Shri Priyank Kharge emphasized a shift towards a solution-oriented approach, urging officials to foster responsiveness and efficiency. He introduced five core principles to strengthen the Panchayat Raj system:

- 1. Responsiveness:** He highlighted the importance of actively listening to communities, noting that understanding their concerns could resolve half of the issues.
- 2. Coordination:** Stressing the need for efficient file processing, he underscored the importance of smooth inter & intra-departmental coordination.
- 3. Timeliness:** He addressed delays in fund distribution and urged departments to meet deadlines to ensure timely support to citizens.
- 4. Effective Implementation:** Projects should reach all eligible beneficiaries efficiently and in full.
- 5. Accountability:** Every official and staff member must uphold accountability, essential for impactful service delivery.

These principles, he said, would improve the overall effectiveness of the Panchayat Raj system, delivering greater benefits to communities throughout Karnataka.

Technology-Driven Solutions for Better Service Delivery

Shri Sharath Bachegowda, Chairman of KEONICS, underscored the importance of leveraging technology for efficient service delivery. "Our software and websites are designed to streamline Panchayat functions. When used effectively, they can transform service delivery and reach," he said.

Shri Anjum Parvez on Strengthening Rural Service Delivery

Shri Anjum Parvez, ACS of RDPR, underscored the conclave's importance in reaffirming the commitment to rural communities. He emphasized the Panchayat Raj system's goal to ensure essential services reach every rural household, bridging service gaps and addressing specific needs. He urged proactive measures to tackle challenges such as limited water access, inadequate sanitation, and infrastructure needs, aiming to improve rural quality of life and support inclusive development across Karnataka.

Key Applications Launched

- JeevaJala App**
Designed to ensure comprehensive water quality monitoring and public awareness, the JeevaJala App, introduced by Shri Nagendra Prasad, Director of RDWSD, offers features like laboratory registration, geo-tagged attendance tracking, sample collection, and real-time report viewing, promoting transparency and safety in rural water quality.
- Sevarashaka Service Level Benchmarking Dashboard**
Deputy Secretary Shri Jafar Sharif Sutar presented the Sevarashaka Dashboard, a tool for assessing and improving Gram Panchayats' performance in delivering water and sanitation services. This dashboard fosters transparency and strengthens rural sanitation efforts by tracking and evaluating service quality.
- Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Policy for Rural Drinking Water**
Chief Engineer Shri Aijaz Hussain introduced the O&M Policy, setting a framework for reliable and sustainable water supply in rural areas. It emphasizes maintaining water sources, ensuring every household's access to safe, clean drinking water, and enhancing system efficiency.
- MGNREGA App**
Shri Pavan Kumar Malapathi, Commissioner of Rural Development, unveiled the MGNREGA App to streamline processes under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, enhancing ease of access for beneficiaries and ensuring timely service delivery.

Leadership Insights and Panel Discussions

Shri L.K. Atheeq, Additional Chief Secretary of the Finance Department, spoke on the qualities essential for leadership in Panchayat Raj. Panel discussions followed, covering expectations and strategies for RDWSD, Panchayat Raj, and MGNREGA programs.



Experts Share Best Practices from Other States

The conclave featured experts from other states who shared valuable insights on achieving sustainability goals in WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene). IAS officers from Kerala and the Chief Engineer from Tamil Nadu presented successful strategies and best practices from their regions, highlighting approaches to strengthen WASH initiatives. Their presentations offered practical guidance and emphasized the importance of inter-state learning to improve rural services and sustainability efforts across Karnataka.

Distinguished Participants

Key dignitaries included Smt. Uma Mahadevan, ACS of Panchayat Raj; Anjum Parvez, ACS of RDPR; Dr. Arundhati Chandrasekhar, Commissioner of RDWSD; and senior officials from various districts, emphasizing Karnataka's commitment to enhancing rural services.

With broad participation from Zilla Panchayat CEOs and 1000+ officials at state, district, and taluk levels (DS, SE, EE, EO, AEE) the Panchayat Raj Officers Conclave-2024 has set a foundation for collaborative, technology-driven rural governance. The conclave underscored Karnataka's commitment to advancing public service efficiency and delivering impactful, community-centered initiatives.

Way Forward: Building on the Success of Panchayat Raj Officers Conclave-2024

The Panchayat Raj Officers Conclave-2024 has laid a solid groundwork for collaborative, tech-driven rural governance in Karnataka. RDPR aims to build on this by focusing on:

- 1. Enhancing Accountability and Responsiveness:**
Guided by Minister Shri Priyank Kharge, RDPR will strengthen accountability and prioritize community needs for effective service delivery.
- 2. Expanding Technology Solutions:**
Tools like the JeevaJala App, Sevarashaka Dashboard, and MGNREGA App will further streamline processes, improving transparency and service access.
- 3. Scaling Best Practices:**
Drawing from successful models shared by experts, RDPR will adapt sustainable WASH practices to advance Karnataka's rural sustainability goals.
- 4. Strengthening Coordination:**
Enhanced interdepartmental collaboration will ensure smooth program implementation for comprehensive rural development.
- 5. Capacity Building:**
RDPR will focus on training Panchayat Raj officials in technology, operations, and community engagement.

These steps aim to foster an inclusive, sustainable governance model that improves life in Karnataka's rural areas.