

4. Notes

The need and rationale for a Gram Panchayat Development Plan through people's participation:

The Global Human Development Report 1993 states that 'We have to weave development around people, not people around development. And we have to ensure that development cooperation focuses directly on people, not just on nation-states.'

The Constitutional Amendment Act relating to Panchayats for greater participation of the people and more effective implementation of rural development programmes mandates, people centered and people oriented planning. Therefore Village Panchayats shall prepare the Gram Panchayat Development plan by participatory planning process, as is required under the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

Salient features of the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994:

The Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 was assented to by the Governor of Goa on 09.07.1994. The salient features of this Act are:

- Adoption of a two tier system at the District and Gram Panchayat level.
- Empowerment of Village Panchayats and Gram Sabhas.
- Imposition of collection of taxes for financial sustainability of Village Panchayats.
- Compulsory elections to PRIs once in five years.
- Reservation of seats and executive positions for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs)/ Other Backward Classes (OBC).
- Reservation for Women.
- Constitution of Goa State Finance Commission.
- Constitution of the Goa State Election Commission.
- Constitution of the District Planning Committees (DPC).

Categorization of Village Panchayats in Goa:

The Village Panchayats comprises of revenue villages and are constituted and classified in four categories as per the population in the villages. The classification is as under;

Classification	Population	No of Elected Representatives	No of Village Panchayats
D	1500 to 2000	5	17
C	2001 to 5000	7	96
B	5001 to 8000	9	45
A	More than 8000	11	32
Total			190