



ABSTRACT

State Scheme - Budget Announcements 2020-2021 – Hon'ble Chief Minister's Rural Self Sufficiency Development Programme (CMRSSDP) – Sanction of Rs.100 crore for the implementation of Programme during 2020-2021 towards the "gap filling challenge cum incentive fund" – Guidelines prescribed – Orders – Issued.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SGS.1) Department

G.O.(Ms) No.32

Dated: 25.02.2021

சார்வரி மாசி மாதம் 13-ந் தேதி
திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு-2052

Read:

- (1) Para 73 of Budget Speech 2020-21 by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister.
- (2) From the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department letter No.996/SP/2020, dated 4.3.2020, 14.8.2020 and 24.8.2020.

Read also:

- (3) From the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, letter No.Rc.No.42697/2020/ MGNREGS 3-2, dated 23.12.2020 addressed to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department and copy marked to this Department.

ORDER:-

In the Budget Speech for the year 2020-21, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister has made the following announcement on the floor of Assembly on 14.02.2020:-

Para 73 "Creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities and provision of basic infrastructure and services in rural areas are the main objectives of the rural development programmes implemented by this Government. The presence of newly elected rural local body functionaries is a good opportunity to focus on the effective delivery of basic services to rural habitations. Accordingly, the Government will launch a new five year 'Chief Minister's Rural Self Sufficiency and Development Programme' (முதலமைச்சரின் கிராம தன்னிறைவு வளர்ச்சித் திட்டம்) which will focus on

achieving self-sufficiency in provision of water supply, sanitation, healthcare, education, food security, provision of access roads, burial grounds, street lights, housing, economic livelihood, and environment protection at the habitation level, by the convergence of ongoing programmes. The achievement of Sustainable Development Goals will be localized through integration with Village Panchayat Development Plans. The newly elected representatives, local officials and community organizers will be trained including in the Participator Tracking (P-Tracking) approach to optimize utilization of scheme funds towards self-sufficiency. Gap filling funds would be provided on a challenge-cum-incentive mechanism. The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and the Planning and Development Departments will work out the modalities for the implementation of the scheme. In the Budget Estimates 2020-21 a sum of Rs.100 crore is allocated towards the gap filling challenge fund”.

2. Pursuant to the above announcement, Planning and Development Department has furnished a detailed programme proposal, and the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in the letter third read above has furnished proposal alongwith guidelines for implementation of the above Programme and has requested to issue orders for the implementation of “Chief Minister’s Rural Self Sufficiency Development Programme” (CMRSSDP).

3. In order to implement the announcement made during Budget Speech 2020-2021 by the Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister, the proposal of the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj was examined carefully in consultation with the Planning and Development Department. After detailed examination, the Government accord approval for implementation of “Chief Minister’s Rural Self Sufficiency Development Programme” (CMRSSDP) as follows:-

I. Objective of the Scheme

The CMRSSDP will focus on-

1) achieving self-sufficiency in provision of water supply, sanitation, healthcare, education, food security, provision of access roads, burial grounds, street lights, housing, economic livelihood, and environment protection at the habitation level, by the convergence of ongoing programmes in the Village Panchayat.

2) achievement of Sustainable Development Goals localized through integration with Village Panchayat Development Plans (VPDP).

3) convergence with elected representatives of Village Panchayats, Standing Committees, other Committees of Departments, field functionaries from Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Agriculture, Health, Education, Social Welfare and all Departments working in Village Panchayats, Community Based Organisations, Self Help Groups, NGOs, etc., for optimum utilization of funds and resources.

4) gap filling funds on challenge-cum-incentive mechanism.

II. Goals of CMRSSDP

The goals of the programme are built into the following 8 Themes with the goals and sub-goals there under-

➤ Theme 1: Village self-sufficient in infrastructure –

நீடித்த கட்டமைப்புள்ள கிராமம்

- i. Availability of piped tap water to all HH
- ii. Schools and Anganwadi centers with good buildings, (incl water, sanitation and electricity)
- iii. Panchayat and habitations are connected with all season road
- iv. No katcha houses in the village
- v. All streets are well lit
- vi. Availability of Burial grounds
- vii. Emergency preparedness – flood, tsunami, cyclone, fire, epidemics

➤ Theme 2: Village of Health and Well-being –

நலவாழ்வில் மேன்மையடைந்த கிராமம்

- i. Reduction of IMR & MMR and Neonatal Mortality
- ii. Improved Child health and well being
- iii. Reduction in Anemia
- iv. Support for Mental Health and Well being
- v. Reduction in Prevalence of water borne, vector borne disease and other communicable disease
- vi. Support for differently abled

➤ Theme 3: Clean and Green (Environment Protection) -

சுத்தமான பசுமை நிறைந்த கிராமம்

- i. Use clean energy in the panchayat
- ii. Avenue trees in all road leading to and within the village
- iii. Solid waste management practices are in place
- iv. HH toilets are fully functional
- v. Liquid waste management followed
- vi. Sustainable agriculture practices

➤ Theme 4: Water Sufficient Village –

நீர் நிறைந்த கிராமம்

- i. 100% revival and maintenance of traditional Rain water Harvesting structures and in individual/public buildings and creation of new water bodies
- ii. Availability of quality drinking water
- iii. Availability of piped tap water to all HH and ensure Tail end water availability
- iv. No leakage of water

➤ Theme 5: Declared Poverty Free –

வறுமையில்லா கிராமம்

- i. All poor and very poor HH covered under Sustainable livelihoods
- ii. Eligible HH covered and given work under MGNREGA
- iii. Eligible women in SHGs received credit
- iv. All Eligible Youth covered under skill training and employed
- v. HH have their entitlements covered
- vi. Risk protection coverage to farmers, fishers and others

➤ Theme 6: Zero hunger –

பசி பிணியில்லா கிராமம்

- i. Regular Access to PDS to all
- ii. All vulnerable protected from hunger
- iii. No stunting and underweight children
- iv. Coverage of eligible HH under CMCHIS
- v. Kitchen garden in schools, Anganwadis and HH

➤ Theme 7: Child Friendly Panchayat –

குழந்தைகளின் நட்பு கிராமம் / குழந்தைகளின்

நண்பன்/ குழந்தைகளுக்கு பிரியமான கிராமம்

- i. Schools and Anganwadis with well-maintained basic infrastructure
- ii. Early Education Child learning outcomes
- iii. Minimum proficiency level in schools (reading and mathematics)

- iv. Ensure safety and protection of all children in the Village
- v. No child labour
- vi. Ensures Child health and well-being

➤ Theme 8: Socially secured village –

பாதுகாப்பான கிராமம்

- i. Coverage of all Vulnerable under social protection
- ii. Rehabilitation of physical and mentally challenged
- iii. Prevention of child abuse
- iv. Prevention of crimes against women

III. Implementing Department

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department which is the Nodal Department will be implementing the Programme in all the Rural Districts coordinating with the Planning and Development Department, all Collectors, and all Departments implementing schemes/programmes in Village Panchayats.

IV. Implementation of the Scheme

Effective implementation of the scheme depends on the involvement of the Panchayats. All Departments have key roles to play. The concerned Departments will assist the Panchayats to propose their targets and Schemes under which funds will be earmarked based on the VPDP to make the targeted Village Panchayats self-sufficient.

V. Strategies

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|
| (a) | Phasing: | The Programme will be implemented in a phased manner for a period of 5 years |
| (b) | Benchmarking: | A Baseline Survey is to be done in the Village Panchayats on various Socio-Economic and development indicators of the Programme for enabling benchmarking for assessing the status. |
| (c) | Preparation of VPDP: | The Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) is to be prepared, by the Village Panchayats, as done every year during the People's Plan Campaign (PPC). The VPDP is to ensure coverage of focus on the Themes, Goals and Targets to be achieved at Village Panchayat and at habitation level. |
| (d) | Convergence of resources: | Funds, functionaries, implementation mechanisms, IEC, monitoring, and evaluation, by Departments across Central and State Government schemes and programmes, are to |

be converged particularly at the Village level which is the fulcrum of this programme. The role of the District Collector in bringing this about is important.

(e) Monitoring:

Monitoring by Panchayats is key and will also be enabled through a Panchayat Level Dashboard. Economics and Statistics Department will be responsible for the development and maintenance of the Dash Board with the support of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department under the guidance of Planning and Development Department. All Departments are to ensure data sharing and updating for all data connected to them. P-Tracking will be an important part of Monitoring and linked to the Dashboard. Funding for the Dashboard will be provided by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department.

(f) Assessment :

The Assessment will be Annual. The Assessment will be based on the change from the baseline level at benchmarking, to level achieved at time of annual assessment and targets. The Assessment will be based on the performance in The Thematic areas (part X), special initiatives of panchayats (part Y) and (part Z) – Panchayat Functioning and Management. The Panchayat will do a self-assessment and submit the data online.

(g) Release of Challenge-cum-Incentive Funds:

Incentives will be based on the grade the Panchayat gets. Challenge-cum-incentive Fund will be released to the Panchayat directly on finalizing the grade.

VI. Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) Gap Filling Fund

Gap filling funds required would be released to Panchayats, for taking up works. It is essential that the Panchayat has to identify the gaps at habitation level and incorporate it on priority in the VPDP. The amount that would be given as Gap Filling fund from the CMRSSDP would be decided in the Empowered Committee. These Panchayats can be supported under the Scheme for an amount not exceeding Rs.4 lakhs.

VII. Challenge-cum-Incentive Funds

The challenge-cum-incentive fund is the incentive for good performance. All Panchayats can apply for the challenge-cum-incentive funds. There are 3 types of incentive funds in the Programme:

1. Grade Incentive
2. Bumper Incentive
3. Maintenance Incentive

1) Grade Incentive

Based on the grade achieved on assessment of progress under the Themes, Goals, Indicators and Targets, the Panchayat will get the following incentive fund:

For A Grade	Rs.7.5 Lakh
For B Grade	Rs.2.5 Lakh
For C Grade	Rs.0.50 Lakh

2) Bumper Incentive

On attaining all the indicators as listed out in a particular Theme, the Panchayat becomes entitled to a Bumper incentive as well as is recognized by - a **STAR STATUS** and gets Rs.10 Lakh.

3) Maintenance Incentive

If the Panchayat maintains its improved status, it will be eligible for the following Maintenance Fund:

For A Grade	Rs.3.75 Lakh
For B Grade	Rs.1.25 Lakh
For C Grade	Rs.0.50 Lakh

VIII. Non Lapsable Fund at State Level

The Funds provided under the Scheme in the Budget annually, are to be provided as a Non-lapsable fund.

IX. Monitoring Committees

There will be Monitoring as below:

- (a) Village Panchayat Level
- (b) Block Level
- (c) District Level : SDG District Level Committee
- (d) State Level :
 - (i) SDG High Level Committee
 - (ii) Empowered Committee
 - (iii) Programme Management Unit (PMU)

These Committee will monitor the programme at their respective level and also guide the implementation.

These Levels will all be connected to the Panchayat Dashboard.

X. Training and IEC

Training and IEC is extremely crucial and is an essential component of the Programme.

The State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in consultation with Planning and Development Department will evolve the required training for the officials, PRIs, the community and other stake holders. The capacity building and training will be undertaken by State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SIRD&PR) accordingly through RIRD&PRs and the DRCPs. The CPs/CRPs/Field Trainers under various schemes / programme of Government of India / Tamil Nadu shall be utilized. The IEC activities under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Water Mission and various schemes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and other Departments should be integrated to evolve an effective IEC strategy. Documentation and use of IT and media appropriately would also necessarily be part of the IEC of Departments concerned.

4. The Government also accord sanction for a sum of Rs.100 crores (Rupees one hundred crores only) as non-lapsable fund towards the gap filling challenge cum incentive fund for implementation of the Programme during 2020-2021.

5. The expenditure sanctioned in para 4 above shall be debited to the following head of account:

2515-00 Other Rural Development Programmes
101 Panchayat Raj State's Expenditure
A0 Chief Minister Rural Self Sufficiency Development Scheme
309 Grants-in-Aid-09 others
IFHRMS Code (DPC 2515 00101 A0 30909)

6. The Member Secretary, State Development Policy Council is authorised to draw and disburse the amount sanctioned at para 4 above to the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.

7. The detailed guidelines for implementation of Chief Minister's Rural Self Sufficiency Development Programme is appended to this order.

8. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is empowered to modify the guidelines issued for Hon'ble Chief Minister's Rural Self Sufficiency Development Programme (CMRSSDP) whenever necessary in consultation with the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, the Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development Department and the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Finance Department.

9. The parameters / formats for assessment of the programme will be issued separately, as approved by the Empowered Committee.

10. This order issues with the concurrence of Planning and Development Department vide its U.O Note No. 339/ACS(P&D)/21, dated 23.2.2021 and the Finance Department vide its U.O Note No.590/FS(P)/2021, dated 25.2.2021 have accepted the above Programme.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**HANS RAJ VERMA,
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To
The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Planning and Development Department, Chennai-9.
The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj,
Chennai-15.
The All Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/
Secretary to Government, Chennai-9.
The Member Secretary, State Development Policy Council,
Chepauk, Chennai-5
All Departments of Secretariat, Chennai-9
All District Collectors (except Chennai).
(through Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj,
Chennai-15).
All Project Directors,
District Rural Development Agencies.
(through Commissioner of Rural Development and
Panchayat Raj, Chennai-15).
The Accountant General, Chennai – 9/18/35.
The Pay and Accounts Officer (South), Chennai-35.
The Pay and Accounts Officer, Madurai.
All District Treasury Officers /
National Informatics Centre, Chennai-9.

Copy to

The Principle Secretary/Secretary-II to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chennai-9.
The Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary to Government, Chennai-9.
The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister for
Municipal Administration, Rural Development & Implementation of
Special Programme, Chennai-9
The Principal Private Secretary to the
Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Chennai –9.
The Private Secretary to the Additional Chief Secretary to
Government, Planning and Development Department, Chennai-9.

The Planning and Development Department /
Finance (BG-I/BG-II/RD) Department, Chennai – 9.
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Section Officer.



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**ANNEXURE TO G.O. (Ms) No.32, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ
(SGS.1) DEPARTMENT, DATED 25.02.2021**

**Guidelines for the implementation of the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Rural Self
Sufficiency Development Programme (CMRSSDP) for the year 2020-2021.**

As per the announcement made during the Budget 2020-2021, the 'Chief Minister's Rural Self Sufficiency Development Programme' (முதலமைச்சரின் கிராம தன்னிறைவு வளர்ச்சி திட்டம்) (CMRSSDP) is launched. The CMRSSDP has been so designed to localize SDGs by fixing target and achieving of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and integrating with Village Panchayat Development Plans, by the respective Village Panchayats. This programme may be implemented in a phased manner for a period of 5 years.

Core objective of CMRSSDP

The CMRSSDP will focus on achieving self-sufficiency in provision of water supply, sanitation, healthcare, education, food security, provision of access roads, burial grounds, street lights, housing, economic livelihood, and environment protection at the habitation level, by the convergence of ongoing programmes in the Village Panchayat. The achievement of Sustainable Development Goals will be localized through integration with Village Panchayat Development Plans. The elected representatives of the Village Panchayats, Members of the Standing Committees, field functionaries from RD&PR, Agriculture, Health, Education, Social Welfare and others, Village Volunteers and others are to be trained in thematic areas including in the Participatory Tracking (P-Tracking) approach to optimize utilization of scheme funds towards self-sufficiency. Gap filling funds would be provided on a challenge-cum incentive mechanism. In the Budget Estimates 2020-21, a sum of Rs.100 crore is allocated towards the gap filling challenge fund".

Implementing Department:

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department will be implementing the Programme in all the Rural Districts. It will act as the Nodal Department coordinating with the Planning and Development Department, all Collectors, all Departments implementing in Village Panchayats.

Programme Highlights:

The scheme focuses on Self Sufficiency and development of Rural Panchayats seen through specific Themes covering provision of water supply, sanitation, healthcare, education, food security, social protection, provision of access roads, burial grounds, street lights, housing, economic livelihood and environment protection at the habitation level, enabling a focused and planned intervention of the Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) to attain the goals by the convergence of ongoing programmes of various departments. Along with Departments' support for the preparation and implementation of VPDP, the Panchayats would be accessing the performance based challenge-cum-incentive funds to be used as gap fill fund for the VPDP implementation. In this process the State would be localizing SDGs at Panchayat level.

Key Strategies:

The following are the key strategies intended:

Phasing and participation of Panchayats, Benchmarking of the status, Preparation of VPDP and resource mobilization, Implementation of various activities, Monitoring, Assessment and Challenge-cum-Incentive Funds, Funds, Training and IEC and Convergence.

1. Implementation in phases

The Programme will be implemented in phases and all Village Panchayats will be covered in a period of 5 years

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Village Panchayats (cumulative)
1.	2020-21	3932(3932)*
2.	2021-22	2148(6080)*
3.	2022-23	1933(8013)*
4.	2023-24	2256(10269)*
5.	2024-25	2256(12525)*
Total		12525(12525)

*These are indicative numbers only.

- Panchayats will be covered in the first phase with Priority to Lower ranked Panchayats (<40) in the Mission Antyodaya / based on data from THAI survey updation, if available. In the second year Panchayats (<40) are planned (estimated) to be covered based on the gap in the VPDP, the score in the CMRSSDP, amongst the lower ranked panchayats.
- Registration of willing Panchayats who would like to participate in the challenge-cum –incentive to be encouraged. To ensure that 4 Panchayats per block, including high performing and mid-rung panchayats register to participate in challenge-cum-incentive in year 1.
- All priority Panchayats must also register for Challenge-cum-incentive in year 1
- Similarly participation and registration for each year would be increasing
- All 12525 VPs to be covered by 5th year
- Continuing coverage of Panchayats covered in a year in the subsequent years.

2. Benchmarking

A Baseline Survey is to be done in the Village Panchayats on various Socio-Economic and development indicators of the Programme for enabling benchmarking for assessing the status. Available baseline data from the Antyodaya Yojana survey and other data recently collected by Departments and various scheme data may be used. Additionally required data would be collected including by survey and P-tracking. Data would be disaggregated to habitation level. Panchayats will be involved in this process. Both static and dynamic data will be captured.

3. Preparation of VPDP and funding

The Village Panchayat Development Plan (VPDP) is to be prepared, by the Village Panchayats, as done every year during the People's Plan Campaign (PPC), assisted by the Village Panchayat Planning Facilitation Team (VPPFT) with the participation of Community Based Organizations (CBOS) like Panchayat Level Federation (PLF) and Village Poverty Reduction Committee (VPRC) and also related Department field functionaries. Further already under Tamil Nadu Village Habitation Improvement (THAI) scheme, survey on key infrastructure parameters has been done at habitation level and based on works taken up updated as per scheme guidelines. Hence the updated THAI survey data which is at habitation level would also be used for gap identification in the VPDP. This plan shall be comprehensive plan at Panchayat and habitation level, with the depth analysis of micro-level issues and would not be isolated activities. The VPDP will bring out the available resources of the Panchayat and identify the critical gaps, which need to be catered to by this scheme and convergence from various departments' schemes and sources. Along with availability of physical infrastructure like school buildings, Hospitals, Health Centres, Water Supply Structures, Roads, Ooranies, Street lights, Toilets, Pucca houses etc., the mapping of human resources in terms of literacy, health status, livelihood sources and vulnerable groups, environmental and social issues would also be focused. This will help to ensure Leave No One Behind (LNOB). This resource mapping would be done by the Development Committee of the Panchayats.

- **Convergence of resources** and Funds from various Central and State Government Schemes and other resources including that of Village Panchayat's own resources, Central Finance Commission Grants, State Finance Commission Grants, Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS), Discretionary Funds, Corporate Social Responsibility etc. are to be explored. The convergence with line Departments would be facilitated through a planned programme in Districts and selected-participating Panchayats under the scheme, as done for VPDP.
- The Panchayats may utilise the services of Civil Society Organisations / Non-Governmental Organisations working in the area as Resource Agency for assessing the gap and planning. The CBOs such as PLFs, VPRCs, Farmers' Producers Organization (FPOs), Common Livelihood Groups (CLGs) etc. may be involved in the planning process as members of VPPFT.
- **VPDP GAP Filling Fund:** Gap filling funds required would be released to Panchayats, for taking up works from the VPDP, directly works taken up / action taken by the Departments as per their scheme guidelines. The Panchayats would be considered for release of the Gap Filling Fund under CMRSSDP as per the VPDP only after all possible sources are exhausted. It is essential that the Panchayat has also identified the gaps at habitation level and incorporated it on priority in the VPDP. This would however be available only to limited number of Panchayats, at the very bottom of the spectrum of Panchayats as per the Antyodaya Mission marks (scores of less than 40), and identified panchayats with gaps as per the THAI scheme updated survey data. The amount that would be given as Gap Filling fund from the CMRSSDP would be decided in the Empowered Committee.

The Gap filling fund would be made available only in the first 2 years of the Scheme to the identified most backward Panchayats that have been selected and covered in year 1. In year 2 from out of these, the Panchayats with maximum habitations, and still low on score due to backwardness, and not due to nonperformance, will be supported. These Panchayats can be supported under the Scheme for an amount not exceeding Rs.4 lakhs, on the criteria that would be given in the scheme as applied under THAI. From year 3 onwards, with the increasing number of Panchayats, all the Panchayats work with the Challenge-cum-Incentive Fund only. In year 1 and 2, the Panchayats that receive the Gap fill fund can also get the Challenge-cum-Incentive Fund on registering for it in each year. The improvement they show by having progressed in their achievement levels of the goals will get them the grade and hence the incentive fund. As the Incentive is attractive, they would put in their efforts for it. Further the constant follow up and IEC etc under the scheme will motivate them to go for the higher incentive grade. This strategy will spur them to greater action and push and pull them to the higher achievement, bridging their gap against better placed Panchayats.

4. Implementation of the Scheme

Effective implementation of the scheme depends on the involvement of the Panchayats. Ownership of each Department is also equally important to implement the scheme in a robust manner. Though Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is the Nodal Department for the implementation of the scheme all Departments have key roles to play. A Panchayat Dashboard developed under this scheme will indicate the present development status and the gaps to be addressed through the Plan-VPDP. The concerned Departments will propose their targets and Schemes under which funds will be earmarked based on the VPDP by the Department themselves to make the targeted Village Panchayats self-sufficient.

The implementation of each indicator under each theme at Village Level will mainly be the responsibility of the respective Committees at Village Panchayat in which the Department's field unit staff is a part of. The Panchayat would choose/evolve its mechanism for working on the plan, utilizing and converging the schemes involving various groups and resources in the Village such as, SHG Structures suitable for it. Community Resource Persons / Community Professionals' Services would be extremely valuable in this Programme, as they would be Trainers, with their inputs work as grassroots level functionaries in the Panchayat who will be able to take the Programme forward very effectively. They will be an essential part of follow up in the Programme and any others that it deems best.

5. Monitoring

Monitoring by Panchayats is key and will also be enabled through a Panchayat Level Dashboard. It would draw on multiple data sources, including from THAI survey, P-tracking at Panchayat level and data shared by different Departments on identified schemes and connected indicators and data provided by the Panchayat. It would look to integrate the available data from e Swaraj portal of Ministry of Panchayat Raj and other systems being currently used in Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department as well as available from other Departments to the extent required, as well as enter the required data for Dashboard. The Panchayat Dash board data for the scheme would be

aggregated at Block, District, State level, and Panchayat Dash board would be integrated into the SDG Dash Board. Economics and Statistics Department will be responsible for the development and maintenance of the Dash Board under the guidance of Planning and Development Department. Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department will support development and maintenance of the Dash Board. All Departments are to ensure data sharing and updating for all data connected to them.

Monitoring Committees

Village Panchayat level – The Panchayat with its respective village panchayat sub-committee having membership from PRIs, Line Department Officials and the Community Representatives, associated with the theme will be monitoring the implementation of all related activities. The field officials of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department will monitor the implementation of the scheme including the convergence activities. The line Department will track and monitor the implementation of their respective works.

Block level – The Block Development Officer will be responsible for the successful implementation of the scheme. The Zonal officer at Assistant Director rank from various Departments to be drawn in as and when required, by the Block Zonal officer of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department who is designated as the Committee Convenor. Functionaries of various Departments at Block level will be the Members. There would be review on progress based on the work plan for the Scheme by this Committee.

District level – The **SDG District level Committees** are to monitor this scheme and review progress based on the work plan for the scheme. The Collector can add any other mechanism to strengthen convergence as the situation demands.

State level

- **SDG High Level Committee**– As the programme is also localizing SDGs at Panchayat level, its progress would be reviewed by the SDG High Level Committee at State Level which is headed by the Chief Secretary, with ACS P&D as the Member Secretary, and all Secretaries as its members when the meeting of the Committee takes place.
- **Empowered Committee** - The CMRSSDP is unique in design and concept. Achieving self-sufficiency and development covers effectively all aspects relating to People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnership with localizing SDGs at Panchayat level. It calls for institution building at Panchayat level and changes from mechanisms of working that have been the norm till date. From physical and financial progress, and departmental working in silos, it seeks to bring convergence in planning and implementation, awareness building and facilitation for outcomes. The programme is intense in its approach, providing phenomenal scope for grassroots level changes, continuously involving Panchayats and People's participation, encouraging local initiatives and brings in synergy and multiplier effects. The success of the scheme is dependent on vision and flexibility in the evolving nature of the scheme. There would be an Empowered Committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, whose

members would include the Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (Training), Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance or his nominee and Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj to guide the scheme. This Committee will also decide Gap filling Fund, the Challenge –cum –Incentive fund, any other matter of importance, not covered in the scheme guidelines and review the progress of the scheme. The Committee may coopt up to 5 Special Invitees for the meeting from Professionals, PRIs, and CBOs whenever necessary. The Empowered Committee will finalize the list of Panchayats for incentives after verifying the indicators. The matters to be placed before the Empowered Committee would be prepared by the Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department and Department of Economics & Statistics jointly.

• **Programme Management Unit (PMU)**

There will be the need for continuous and regular work and monitoring of the scheme, which would be done in Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. PMU will be established under Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj with due representation from Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (Training) and Planning and Development (including Economics and Statistics Department and / Data Bank). The PMU will have dedicated support staff specially earmarked for this Programme. The PMU will report to the Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (Training) and Additional Chief Secretary, Planning & Development Department jointly. Report from PMU is to be submitted monthly.

Programme Support and Guidance: This Programme is to be supported by all Departments as a part of their programmes and hence Departments are to allocate this scheme to an Officer and Section. An **Interdepartmental Coordination Meeting** for addressing issues that may arise can be held as and when required by the Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Additional Chief Secretary Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (Trng) and Additional Chief Secretary , Planning and Development.

6. Assessment and challenge –cum–Incentive Funds

- The Assessment will be Annual and the Incentives will be based on the grade the Panchayat gets.
- The Panchayat would need to do continuous and concurrent monitoring of its progress on the goals to be achieved so as to show the higher levels of achievements in the annual assessment challenge to avail the incentive.
- For the assessment of the annual performance challenge, the Panchayat will do a self-assessment and submit the data online. It will be cross checked by an external team at Block level, and this will decide the grade. This Block level team consisting of Officials and Community Representatives and peer Panchayats will verify the work done based on the self-assessment submitted by the Panchayat. (Random checks on Assessment from District level may be undertaken by a team of similar composition of officials and non-Officials). The assessment as confirmed by the Block Team, after random District Level checks, if any, would

- be approved formally in the District Committee and submitted to the State Committee for Approval for funds provision.
- The Assessment will be based on the change from the baseline level at benchmarking, to level achieved at time of annual assessment and targets.
 - The Assessment will take into account the increase in the goals and indicators in subsequent years.
 - The Assessment will also provide for maintenance of achieved levels and fall/drop from previously achieved levels.
 - The Assessment guidelines will be drawn up with the progress of the scheme and would be worked out in consultation with Panchayats so as to be fair, inclusive, motivating and achieving the goals and ultimate objective of the scheme.
 - The amount of incentive will reflect these aspects of assessment to make the challenge worth participating for the Panchayat, reflective of changes and efforts taken by Panchayats and aim to build in the concept of sustainability in the period of 5 years.

Release of Challenge-cum-Incentive Funds

- Nodal Department (Rural Development and Panchayat Raj) will release the Challenge-cum-incentive Fund to the Panchayat directly on finalizing the grade. The details of assessment will be available in the portal.
- The release of fund will be based on the grade obtained by the Panchayat.
- The incentive fund may be used for any activity to fill the gap in the implementation of the VPDP.
- The negative list of works as prescribed in MLACDS will apply.

Attaining self-sufficiency in a Theme and overall Progress STAR STATUS

On attaining all the indicators as listed out in one particular Theme, it is implicit that the Panchayat has attained self sufficiency in that Theme. This is like attaining the goal for that Theme and is a great achievement. This is recognized not only by a Special **Bumper Incentive** but also by - a **STAR STATUS**.

In all Themes, there are aspects for the Panchayat to progress on, it will be graded based on its points accumulated for progress/ achievements on the indicators, and incentive fund will be released based on the grade (correlated to the points). The Panchayat continues to work towards obtaining the STAR STATUS, and maintaining the STAR STATUS, with higher levels of goals (indicators) in the subsequent years.

7. Funds

The Village Panchayat Development Plans prepared need funding for implementation.

There are 4 main sources:-

- (1) Village Panchayat income from all sources

- (2) Scheme funds from concerned Departments which will be tied for a particular activity.
- (3) MPLADS, MLACDS, CSR funds, NGO involvement depends on the Panchayat's innovativeness to tap this source, and ongoing work.
- (4) Gap filling under this scheme (CMRSSDP) Available only to the most backward Panchayats, identified as the bottom Panchayats as per Mission Antyodaya score of <40, and based on post THAI implementation status, and preparation of VPDP and as decided by the Empowered Committee the GAP fill Fund is given only where no other source of fund is available. This is given only in the first 2 years.
- (5) Challenge-cum-incentive funds -ViDAI Nidhi

The challenge-cum-incentive fund adds to the sources of funds ViDAI Nidhi (éij ãÄ) which is the incentive for good performance. Upon implementation of the plan, the Panchayat can apply for the incentive once they have progressed towards achieving the targets identified and set. The parameters for assessment will be in the VPDP itself. The data will be available Online. The quantum of incentive would be an Amount to be decided by the Empowered Committee at the earliest in the beginning of the year.

➤ **Grade Incentive**

This would be based on grade obtained. At the present in year 1, it is as follows :

- Grade A – Rs.7.5 lakhs
- Grade B – Rs.2.5 lakhs
- Grade C – Rs.0.50 lakhs

➤ **Bumper Incentive** for achieving a STAR – Rs.10 lakhs

➤ **Maintenance incentive**

It would not be fair to either continue to give the Achievement amount of incentive to the same Panchayat repeatedly, for the same indicators of achievement, nor to not recognize the continuing efforts made by the Panchayat in maintain achieved levels. Hence there is an incentive for maintaining the levels achieved.

This incentive is as follows :

- Grade A – Rs.3.75 lakhs
- Grade B – Rs.1.25 lakhs
- Grade C – Rs.0.50 lakhs

While the maintenance of the Grade A and B is given half the amount, the Grade C continues to get Rs.0.50 lakhs as these Panchayats have a long way to go.

From **Year 3** onwards, under this Scheme the entire funding will be only as Challenge-cum-incentive funds, as even the bottom most Panchayats have received special attention of Departments with scheme funds as well as Gap fill funds, and due to the improvement shown have also accessed the incentive funds in year 1 and 2. The Departmental convergence and funding through their schemes on VPDP would be continuing, as it is integral to the CMRSSDP.

Non-Lapsable Fund at State Level

As the numbers of Panchayats responding and the phasing is an estimate, the time taken to set up systems and implement processes, especially of the Challenge-cum-incentive fund, the Funds provided under the Scheme in the Budget annually, are to be provided as a Non-lapsable fund. This will also enable the late bloomers to get funds as the scheme picks up.

8. Training and IEC

Concerted action to create awareness through training at Village, Block, District and State Levels has to be done, so that there is clarity in the minds of all concerned regarding the goals that the programme seeks to achieve as also regarding the strategies that could be adopted at each tier for achievement of the stated goals. This is an extremely crucial part of the scheme and is necessary for bringing in change at all levels in processes of Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation. The State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in consultation with Planning and Development Department will evolve the required training for the officials, PRIs, the community and other stake holders. The capacity building and training will be undertaken by State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SIRD&PR) accordingly through RIRD&PRs and the DRCPs. The CPs/CRPs/Field Trainers under various schemes / programme of Government of India / Tamil Nadu shall be utilized to maximum. Their services would be extremely valuable in this Programme, as they would, as Trainers, be able to take the Programme forward very effectively, working as grassroots level functionaries in the Panchayat. They will be an essential part of planning and follow up and discussing issues and sharing outcomes in the Programme.

Continuous IEC is to be planned as the progress and needs of Panchayats become dynamic and also partly demand driven and focused by the Departments. The mechanism for sharing of best practices and forum for constant interaction of progress by Panchayats needs to be built in by all Departments into the IEC plan of their connected schemes – seen individually or as a total to achieve related outcomes. Effective IEC has to be designed to spread the message and motivate the PRIs and the community to participate. The IEC activities under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Water Mission and various schemes of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and other Departments should be integrated to evolve an effective IEC strategy. Documentation and use of IT and media appropriately would also necessarily be part of the IEC of Departments concerned.

9. Convergence

Convergence would mean looking at the funds, functionaries, programme implementation in physical, institutional and IEC aspects, as well as in monitoring and evaluation by Departments across schemes and programmes as a unified whole. Close co-operation and convergence of various line Departments, particularly at the village level is the fulcrum of this programme. The role of the District Collector also in bringing this about and carrying it forward would be important. The directions to the field

functionaries and correlating of aspects of schemes is an extremely important role of the Department

Role of Departments

The Achievements by the Panchayats are a reflection of the work impact of the Departments, as the Theme and indicators are connected to and are the outcomes of the Departments involvement and their concerned schemes at Panchayat level. The Departments can ensure the Panchayats achieve STAR STATUS with their inputs and support which would include:

- Facilitate planning and flow of scheme funds and components as per need and plan.
- Work along with the Panchayats in benchmarking, monitor their performance to increase the rating of Panchayat (The credit goes to the concerned Department in improvement in its outputs and outcomes under different schemes).
- The Departments concerned being responsible for increasing the achievement levels and star rating falling in their domains
- Ensure effective use of IEC for the Scheme and progress there under.
- Ensure the Village Committees concerned are functioning effectively.
- Support in all activities related to the indicator and its improvement.
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Deliverables:

- ✓ The biggest takeaway would be the improvements and achievements under each indicator of relevance that shows the success of their schemes.
- ✓ As an institutionalized approach, this brings more community involvement and ownership for progress
- ✓ The schemes gets still more effectively implemented and monitored better through a battery of personnel supported by community (SHGs, Panchayat, Youth, Committee, NGO, etc) at field level.
- ✓ A larger visibility of the Departments' initiatives at field level.
- ✓ Innovations will help find novel solutions and might help expand success and evolve new schemes/programmes
- ✓ Greater effectiveness, outcomes and innovative implementation-more laurels for the Department.

Departments are highly effective in their schemes' implementation, and are well recognized for it. Departments' also have well funded schemes that can deliver still better results and especially for targeted Panchayats needing special focus, and up the ante for all Panchayats. The Government has announced CMRSSDP recognizing the power of Departments' to bring synergy. CMRSSDP is not just a scheme of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and Planning and Development Departments, but a Scheme of convergent action by different Departments' at Panchayat level, to facilitate achievement of self-sufficiency and development of Panchayats through convergence of efforts of Government, Non-Government Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Elected Representatives, Panchayats and People's

Participation. Through this Scheme, Tamil Nadu would also achieve localization of SDGs in Rural Panchayats in a focused and systematic way.

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is empowered to modify the guidelines issued for Hon'ble Chief Minister's Rural Self Sufficiency Development Programme (CMRSSDP) whenever necessary in consultation with the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, the. Additional Chief Secretary, Planning and Development Department and the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Finance Department.

**HANS RAJ VERMA,
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**

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Section Officer