



Decentralization Community Update 92 April 2015



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Dear Members,

We are happy to share the 92nd Update on Decentralization Community of Practice!

This update covers news on: celebration of National Panchayat Raj Day; invitation of good practices and selection of panchayats for Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana; mid-term appraisal of 12th Five year Plan and revamp of subsidy regime by NITI Ayog; compulsory voting in Karnataka panchayats; social audits of village panchayats in Rajasthan; unified budget formats for gram panchayats in Kerala; introduction of bill to empower women in panchayats by Himachal government.

We also share some readings, web links and articles on: Fourteenth Finance Commission and Local Governments; Food Security for the poorest and the role of Gram Panchayats; newsletter of Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra; building agencies to rate public policy; designing policies that support growth; business schools to promote CSR; Bihar Society, Polity and Culture; Spatial poverty across India; interview excerpts of Mr. Bibek Debroy, use of interactive web tools for planning; Bhuvan application for monitoring of urban growth and web publishing tools for NGOs.

We request Members to: participate in the upcoming events of their interest / share the details with relevant stakeholders; spread the word on vacancy announcements and comment on the Charter of Demands of Local Government Support Initiative (ILSI). Members are also requested to provide their inputs to the ongoing discussion on KILA's query on 'Manual for strengthening capacities of local bodies on Public Reporting and Grievance Redressal'.

The link to the online membership is now active and new members can submit their request for joining the community online through the following link <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/signup>

We thank all the members for their contribution towards this edition and invite suggestions to improve upon.

We hope members would find this edition beneficial.

Regards,
Naveen Das,
Resource Person,
Decentralization CoP, Solution Exchange

Community Activities

[Ongoing Query](#)

- **Inputs on the manual for strengthening capacities of local bodies on Public Reporting and Grievance Redressal. Experiences and Advice.**

Kerala Local Government Service Delivery Programme (KLGSDP)-a World Bank funded Programme, aims to enhance and strengthen the institutional capacity of the local government system in Kerala. The project will benefit all the 978 Gram Panchayats and 60 Municipalities in the State. Under the project, KILA is entrusted with the task of preparing Manuals for Local Governments in different areas. Inputs for many of these Manuals are state specific in nature, however Manuals on Public

Reporting and Grievance Redressal are generic and hence inputs on ideas and literature from other states would benefit to enrich its content. Hence we request , members of the Decentralisation Community to share examples and advice on:

- What are the aspects that should be considered / covered while drafting a manual on public reporting and grievance redressal mechanisms?
- Examples of successful public reporting models and grievance redressal mechanisms that presently exist in Indian states. In case similar manuals have been developed in other countries, kindly let us know the sources.

Inputs from Members of Decentralization Community would help KILA in finalizing manual for strengthening the capacities of local bodies on Public Reporting and Grievance Redressal under KLGSDP project.

Read the full query [here](#)

Please send your responses to se.decn.solutionexchange@un.net

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Closed Query

➤ Role of PRIs in improving the health and nutritional services at village level. Experiences and Advice.

Most of the Central and State Government programmes are supposed to be implemented through panchayats at the village level. Since the upper castes are socially, culturally and economically powerful, they hold key positions in the village, which gives them the power to take decisions or influence the selection of beneficiaries under the government programmes. This prevents the selection of beneficiaries from SC and ST community for most of the beneficiary oriented schemes and also does not allow them from assessing the services, though most of the development programmes are meant for them.

Members of the decentralization community are requested to share their experience and examples on:

- What role can PRIs /Village Health, Sanitation & Nutrition Committees play in bridging the gap between the existing healthcare providers and the people in need of services particularly the excluded groups during Village Health, Sanitation & Nutrition (VHSN) days ?
- What are the parameters that need to be included while assessing the quality of the Health & Nutritional services of a village?

What are the ways to assess/ investigate the access of services (Information, Physical, Financial and Social Capital) by the excluded community in a village

Read the full query and responses [here](#).

Please send your responses to se.decn.solutionexchange@un.net

Revised Consolidated Reply

Simple systems of effective participative planning for cities: Experiences and Referral From Arun Maira, Chief Mentor, India Backbone Implementation Network (IbIn) and Former Member, Planning Commission, Government of India. Issued on 20 March 2015. Download [PDF](#) (Size 429 KB).

Seeks examples and referrals on simple systems of participative planning which have proven effective, especially in urban areas.

Please send your responses to se.decn.solutionexchange@un.net

Updates

News

From [Resource Person](#)

PM's remarks on National Panchayati Raj Day

On the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day- 24 April 2015, the Prime Minister urged Panchayat members to work with a five-year vision with concrete development plans to bring about positive changes in their village.

Read more [here](#)

Entries on good practices for Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) invites entries on "Good Practices" in various sectors of Rural Development from willing individuals/organizations. The selected entries will be collated by MoRD and widely disseminated with an aim to encourage replicability. The last date for the entries is 15 May 2015. For application process and other details visit http://www.saanjihi.gov.in/pdf/Good_practices.pdf

673 gram panchayats identified in 1st phase of Saansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana

Under the 'Saansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana' 673 gram panchayats have been identified to be developed in the first phase. A draft of 31 central schemes involving 20 ministries has been prepared to develop them as model gram panchayats. Members of Parliament and officers would have to try and mobilize resources at their own level, since no funds have been allocated under SAGY. It is estimated that out of 3.75 crore houses that would be built under the Indira Awaas Yojana, three crore would be built in these model villages.

Read more [here](#)

Finance Ministry moves cabinet note on 18 schemes poised for central funding cut

Staying firm on its budget announcement to change the funding pattern for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), the Finance Ministry has moved a cabinet note identifying 18 such schemes where Centre's funding will be brought down to 50%. The rest will be borne by the states. The one scheme that will receive 100 percent central funding will be the Skill Development Mission being implemented as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna.

Read more [here](#)

NITI Aayog begins mid-term appraisal of 12th Five Year Plan

NITI Aayog has initiated the process of undertaking the mid-term appraisal of the 12th Plan. This opportunity is also being used to weave in the national development agenda discussed in the meeting of the Governing Council for its suitable implementation in the remaining two years of the 12th Plan, which ends in March 2017.

Read more [here](#)

NITI Aayog plans subsidy regime revamp

NITI Aayog proposes to marry data from the unique identity project Aadhaar, the Jan Dhan accounts opened by banks as part of the government's eponymous financial inclusion drive and the socioeconomic and caste census to better target subsidies. The plan has been inspired by the so-called JAM (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) trinity proposed by the finance ministry. This approach will provide a fillip to the direct transfers of food and fertilizer subsidies to their intended beneficiaries and eliminate intermediaries and leakages.

Read more [here](#)

Karnataka government plans compulsory voting in panchayat polls

Replicating the Gujarat Local Authorities Laws Bill, 2009, the Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill 2015, under discussion in the state assembly, has made voting mandatory for all three tiers of panchayats in the state. Elections to the panchayats are expected to be held in May.

Read more [here](#)

13 gram panchayats of Belagavi to go high-tech

Under the National Telecom Policy-2012, Central government, state government and BSNL have signed MoU to execute the project through funding support under Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) of central government. Thirteen gram panchayats of Bailhongal taluk in Hubli, Karnataka will go high-tech shortly by getting high quality broadband access. The work of laying optical fiber cable network for providing the facility is in its final stage.

Read more [here](#)

Social audits of gram panchayat works to begin once again

Social audits of the village panchayat works would begin once again in Rajasthan. These would be carried out by the union government in association with the civil society organizations. Two village panchayats from each block of the state have been selected for social audits through draw of lots.

Read more [here](#)

Grama Panchayat Budgets to have unified format

Kerala is the first state in the country to have introduced double entry system of accounting in grama panchayats. The system is more scientific and handier for preparing accurate financial statements directly from books of accounts. Though the double entry system of accounting was introduced from April 2011 in grama panchayats, the absence of a unified budget format posed a hurdle. This system provides a better picture of an organization's profits during a financial year or at a point of time.

Read more [here](#)

Himanchal government tables bill to empower women in panchayats

With the aim to ensure political participation by women in village panchayats and to overpower the patriarchal system at the ground level, the government has now decided to hold separate 'mahila gram sabhas' in which women could raise their issues freely. The state government of Himachal Pradesh tabled a bill to amend the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Act, 1994. The bill proposes to conduct 'mahila gram sabhas' in all panchayats in the state four times in a year.

Read more [here](#)

12 panchayats all set to make a difference in Kozhikode

People in selected 12 grama panchayats in Kozhikode are set to adopt a participatory waste management scheme, which would make it zero- waste generating areas. The scheme will be executed with the financial aid of Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE). Ward and panchayat level committees will be formed for the effective execution of the scheme. At ward-level, a cluster comprising 50 houses will be formed to ensure that all the people actively participate in the initiative.

Read more [here](#)

Cleaning Guards' soon in 42 village panchayats

To implement garbage cleaning and solid waste management programmes for ensuring cleanliness in rural areas, the district administration of Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu has proposed to introduce 'Cleaning Guards' system in 42 designated village panchayats in the district. This would provide solution to the problem of lack of appropriate solid waste management programmes and cleanliness in rural areas. Cleaning Guard would be paid by the village-level Poverty Alleviation Association and would be provided with uniforms, a tricycle, shredder, identity cards, gloves, cap, etc.

Read more [here](#)

Agri-Clinics organised in panchayats

The final-year graduate students of Agriculture Collegue, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram organized a rural work experience programme. It was focused on crop conservation, pest control, terrace farming and mushroom cultivation. The students offered solutions to farmers for conserving pest-infected crops. An exhibition organized along with the programme provided information regarding various plant diseases and their solutions, methods of planting, agriculture calendar, honey bee cultivation and on medicinal plants.

Read more [here](#)

[Readings/Web links/Repositories](#)

Fourteenth Finance Commission and Local Governments: One Step Forward and Two Steps Back? (from [Prof. H. S. Shylendra](#), Institute of Rural Management Anand, Anand, Gujarat)

This blog article analysis the report of XIV-FC and opines that it holds few positives for local governments but has let them down in vigorously pushing further the agenda of decentralization. It says that increase in grant being only incremental and no other measure capable of a major breakthrough being made, a more autonomous fiscal domain for local governments remains elusive. The huge difference seen across FCs on the issue of incentivizing states to devolve more powers to local governments is likely to send confusing signals.

Read more [here](#)

Food Security for the poorest and the role of Gram Panchayats and SHGs (by [Debraj Bhattacharya](#), Institute of Social Sciences, Kolkata)

The presentation was made at ICSSR supported National Conference on Interrogating Development: Regional and Sub Regional Trends in India in the era of Globalization, on 29th March 2015 held at St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling. The presentation illustrates some practical examples which address the problem of food security of the poorest.

See the presentation [here](#)

Movement in the woods (by [Manu Moudgil](#), Independent Journalist and Researcher)

FRA gives powers back to the people not only for using the resources but also for conservation and protection. However, just passing a law does not change things on the ground especially in face of opposition of authorities like the forest department which literally lords over the forest land. The article points that Forest Rights Act is a game changer but there's still a lot of ground to be covered.

Read more [here](#)

Newsletter: Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra, March 2015 (from [Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra](#), Lucknow U.P.)

Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra has been working towards capacity building of civil society organizations and Government functionaries in the development field. SSK organizes need based training for different stakeholders which help them to learn, gain and implement the same in their field areas. This Newsletter gives glimpses of major programmes and activities conducted by SSK during March-15.

Read more [here](#)

From [Resource Person](#)

Building agencies to rate public policy (a McKinsey article by Ricardo Hausmann, Director of the Center for International Development, at Harvard University)

The avenue to economic growth is often blocked by an inadequate supply of productivity-enhancing public goods. Modern production requires many inputs. Markets provide some, but others are provided by governments. The article proposes developing a market-like mechanism that can generate feedback, crowd-source ideas for reform, and create incentives for improving performance.

Read more [here](#)

Designing policies that support growth (a McKinsey article by Catherine Mann, Chief Economist of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)

According to the writer of the article implementing policies that work together to enable growth is the best opportunity to sustain rising global prosperity. The article points that, to achieve rising and shared prosperity requires a new level of understanding of how those policies interact and how they play out in the actual workings of an economy: among workers, in factories and offices, and between nations. Though it is a challenge, but policy makers can compare strategies and learn best practices to increase the likelihood for success.

Read more [here](#)

Business Schools urged to promote CSR beyond legal and profit motives

The article argues that most business schools do not equip potential leaders with the awareness and tools to internalize the concept of corporate social responsibility. Companies have the power to drive development especially in underdeveloped communities through their corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. They also have a responsibility to ensure that their CSR programmes translate into improving people's lives, are not implemented for the public relations purpose, and that they are sustainable beyond CSR.

Read more [here](#)

Bihar Society, Polity and Culture (an EPW article by [Ratnakar Tripathy](#))

The article attempts to put together a well-rounded and updated picture of the Bihar society and polity, more specifically, the three sections on Politics of Development, Politics of Social Justice and Texts and Folk Narratives. These comprise of 13 articles by experts which makes it a comprehensive work equally useful for scholars, activists and journalists. A wide gamut of issues and topics tackled by the authors in the articles will assist the reader in correlating the somewhat disparate aspects of Bihar's society, polity and culture.

Read more [here](#)

Spatial poverty across India (Live Mint article by Laveesh Bhandari and Minakshi Chakraborty)

The article suggests the use of spatial poverty to identify pockets of poverty and measure its extent via remote sensing for a more focused and targeted approach to tackle poverty. It points out by giving examples that there exist small pockets with a high concentration of poor population spread out across the country. It says that most of the poverty alleviation programmes have had limited success as they lacked appropriate measures to identify the poor population in a vast land of multiple diversities.

Read more [here](#)

A mix of old and new (Business Standard article by A K Bhattacharya)

The Planning Commission has been abolished. A new body in its place has been set up - the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog. Fresh responsibilities, too, have been outlined for the NITI Aayog, indicating what kind of role it could play in the coming months. But more significant and revealing are the details in the Expenditure Budget for 2015-16 that show the government's financial allocations for the NITI Aayog.

Read more [here](#)

We don't need a poverty number to brandish around (Bibek Debroy's interview excerpts)

The economist and NITI Aayog member talks about the way ahead for this nascent institution that replaced the Planning Commission.

Read more [here](#)

Using interactive web tools in planning to improve communication about sustainable development

The report examines how communication in the context of developmental issues can be supported by modern web tools, social media, and new visualization approaches. Furthermore, the potential of social media to support communication about sustainability on a local scale and the prerequisites for its use in the planning process are discussed. Using a framework for the use of social media, the article suggests different application levels of social media in participatory planning.

Read more [here](#)

Urban Sprawl

The tool named BHUVAN is developed by National Remote Sensing Centre, Indian Space Research Organisation, Government of India. It provides multi temporal and multi spectral data, maps, satellite view of areas and many such more features for characterization and monitoring of the urban growth patterns.

Read more [here](#)

Decoding leadership: What really matters?

The article discusses the type of leadership behavior that an organization should encourage. Should companies now concentrate their efforts on priorities such as role modeling, making decisions quickly, defining visions, and shaping leaders who are good at adapting or should they stress the virtues of enthusiastic communication. Most recent research, however, suggests that a small subset of leadership skills closely correlates with leadership success, particularly among frontline leaders.

Read more [here](#)

Web Publishing Tools for NGOs

SANGOTeCH provides software and hardware to NGOs at discounted fees in conjunction with ICT donor partners. It supports NGOs to make the most of their ICT purchases and infrastructure.

Read more [here](#)

Past Events

India and the MDGs: Gender and Development- An assessment round table discussion on 20 March 2015

As the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approach their December 2015 deadline, UN Women, along with the UN-ESCAP Sub-regional office for South and South West Asia and the UN Information Centre organized a panel discussion on 20 March 2015. The discussion was aimed at assessing the MDGs in India through a gender lens.

Read more [here](#)

International Conference on Strengthening Democracy in Asia: Inclusion, Participation and Rights (from [George Mathew](#), Institute of Social Sciences, 23-24 March, 2015 at India International Centre, New Delhi)

The Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) in cooperation with the World Movement for Democracy (WMD) and the Asia Democracy Network (ADN) organized the International conference on "Strengthening Democracy in Asia: Inclusion, Participation and Rights" on 23-24 March 2015. More than 250 participants from India and abroad (20 countries) participated in the conference.

Read the report [here](#)

The Fourteenth Finance Commission: Emerging Contours of Cooperation Federalism on 23 April 2015 at India International Centre, New Delhi

The workshop was organized by the Centre for Public Affairs (CPA) and the Centre for Multilevel Federalism (CMF) in support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and India International Centre (IIC). The aim of the workshop was to debate and discuss the potentially far reaching implications for cooperative federalism via its recommendations for fiscal federalism.

Read more [here](#)

42%: The Math and Aftermath: Annual Endowment lecture on Budget 2015 on 25 April 2015 at the Indian Institute of World Culture, Bangalore (from [Jyotsna Jha](#), Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Bangalore)

The 2015/16 Budget has radically altered the fiscal architecture of the Indian state by accepting the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission to transfer 42% of all taxes collected by the Central government to states. The lecture discussed the full implications of this shift which has both positive and negative fallouts. Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Member of Parliament spoke on the topic of Fourteenth Finance Commission and After.

Read more [here](#)

Upcoming Events

Training of Trainers (TOT) on Integrating Gender Issues and Concerns in Decentralized District Planning from 27 April- 1 May 2015 at Hotel Suryansh, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (from [Sundar Mishra](#), GoI-UNDP Project, UNDP, New Delhi)

Under the Government of India – UNDP project- Strengthening Capacities for Decentralized Planning (SCDP), State Planning and Coordination Department, Government of Odisha is organizing a 5 day Training of Trainers (TOT) programme at Hotel Suryansh in Bhubaneswar from 27 April 2015 to

1 May 2015 in technical support from PRIA, New Delhi. The aim of the training is to build capacities of identified government functionaries to engender district planning and programme implementation processes. The process of 'engendering' will ensure that planned activities and budget allocations in District Plans across different departments, schemes and programmes suitably address gender concerns and issues of women's empowerment.

Women's Citizenship: Its centrality in an inclusive democracy. Annual Endowment Lecture on Gender and Development, Bangalore on 13th May 2015 (from [Jyotsna Jha](#), Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Bangalore)

Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Bangalore is organising an Annual Endowment Lecture on Gender and Development in memory of Dr. Poornima Vyasulu on the occasion of her birthday on 13th May at the Institute of World Culture in Bangalore. Dr. Shobha Raghuram, a well-known philosopher and researcher working in the areas of Development Studies and Philosophy, Social Justice and Public Policy, has kindly agreed to be the speaker.

Read more [here](#)

North East Summit 2015, 26-27 May 2015, Veterinary College, Khanapara, Guwahati (from [Siddharth Gautam](#), Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, Guwahati)

[North East Summit 2015](#) is the largest event in the region with broad focus on agro and rural sector and overall social and economic development. The event is organized by CARD and ASSOCHAM and is supported by Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Skills development and creation of jobs and employment opportunities for local youths and entrepreneurship development will be the focussed activity. The event is expected to be attended by farmers, NGOs, elected representatives, media and extension agencies, state and district level officials from all the eight North Eastern States.

The brochure can be obtained [here](#).

Seminar on "Decentralization in Kerala" at Trissur, Kerala Varama College on 6th June 2015 (from [Remakanthan Nandakumar](#), Kerala Varama College, Trissur, Kerala)

Kerala Varama College, Trissur is going to organize a seminar on 'Decentralization in Kerala' on 6th June 2015, as a part of the Kerala Patana Congress. The thematic sessions of the seminar are: Decentralization and Democratization in Local Governance; Decentralization and Participatory Development Planning including Resource Mobilization; Decentralization and Strengthening the Productive sectors; Decentralization and Enhancing Quality of Service Delivery; Decentralization and Social Inclusion; Decentralization and Capacity Development; New Amendments in the Legislative Framework for Decentralization.

Management Development Programme (MDP) May-June 2015 at IRMA, Anand, Gujarat (From [Girish K. Agrawal](#), Institute of Rural Management Anand -IRMA)

This MDP is designed specifically for employees and training of trainers, individuals and teams who aspire for enhancing their skills on Leadership and Team Building skills. Request the interested members to kindly join the MDP. [Brochure, nomination / application form](#) for the programmes can be downloaded from www.irma.ac.in/imdp/mdpcalendar.php

Comments and suggestions

India Local Government Support Initiative (ILSI) (from [Jacob John and Jos Chathukulam](#), ILSI, New Delhi)

Centre for Rural Management (CRM) and Kerala Development Society (KDS Delhi) have jointly started India Local Government Support Initiative (ILSI). This new initiative is launched in the context of a radical change in the Government's vision of Centre-State-Local relations within the framework of Cooperative and Competitive Federalism. The initiative will work with different stakeholders including NGO partners, research/ technical institutions, professionals and consultants, Local Government Associations, elected authorities and officials of local Governments. Suggestions and comments are invited on the [Charter of Demands](#) of ILSI from the members.

Read more at www.indialocalgovernment.org.

Announcements/Opportunities

From [Resource Person](#)

UNDP

Job Title	Deadline	Location
Technical Expert, Information, Education and Communication (IEC), UNDP Project: Supporting Democratic Electoral Management (Open to Indian Nationals Only)	3-May-2015	Election Commission of India, New Delhi
Technical Expert, Training and Documentation, UNDP Project: Supporting Democratic Electoral Management (Open to Indian Nationals Only)	3-May-2015	Election Commission of India, New Delhi
Technical Expert – Information and Communication Technology (ICT), UNDP Project: Supporting Democratic Electoral Management (Open to Indian Nationals Only)	3-May-2015	Election Commission of India, New Delhi
Technical Expert, International Cooperation & Capacity Building, UNDP Project: Supporting Democratic Electoral Management (Open to Indian Nationals only)	3-May-2015	Election Commission of India, New Delhi
Project Associate, "Creating employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women in India" Project	3-May-2015	New Delhi
Technical Support (Sustainable Consumption and Production), UNDP- MoEFCC Project on Sustainable Development - (Open to Indian Nationals Only)	6-May-2015	Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi
Technical Support (Sustainable Development), UNDP- MoEFCC Project on Sustainable Development - (Open to Indian Nationals Only)	6-May-2015	Ministry of Environment and Forest, New Delhi

UNICEF

Job Title	Deadline	Location
Partnership Officer	13-May-2015	New Delhi
Supply and Procurement Assistant	5-May-2015	Uttar Pradesh

UNAIADS

Job Title	Deadline	Location
Administrative Assistant	8 May 2015	New Delhi

FAO

Job Title	Deadline	Location
Economist (Agribusiness and Value Chains)	18 May 2015	Cairo, Egypt

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue!

If you have items to feature in the Updates, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Decentralization Community at

se-decn@solutionexchange-un.net.in



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