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**Decentralization Community**  
**Update 85**  
**September 2014**



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Dear Members,

We are happy to share the 85<sup>th</sup> Update on Decentralization Community of Practice!

In this update, we share news on: **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, limiting MNREGA in tribal and backward areas and Social audit to monitor urban schemes.** We also share: interesting EPW articles on restructuring of Planning Commission and Journal of Local Governance by KILA, Kerala.

We are delighted to inform the members of the **International Symposium on Excellence in Public Service/Public Administration** being organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India (GoI) in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 7- 8 October, 2014 in New Delhi.

We also request members to: share their experiences on the ongoing query on **Simple systems of effective participative planning for cities**; spread the word on **10<sup>th</sup> e-India ICT event 14-15 November 2014, Kovalam Kerala** and the vacancy announcements.

Hope you would find this edition interesting and useful.

Regards,  
Naveen Das and Aditi Malhotra,  
Resource Team  
Decentralization CoP, Solution Exchange

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## Community Activities

### [Ongoing Queries](#)

#### ➤ **Simple systems of effective participative planning for cities: Experiences and Referral**

Looking at the focus of government in urban areas, it is imperative to put in place systems of smart planning and governance to address the multiple interrelated plethoras of problems of cities. Hence, what is required is 'simple systems' that all stakeholders could apply to effectively build their capacity, leading to effective planning and implementation. With this background, we request members of the decentralization community to share:

- Simple systems of participative planning which have proven effective, especially in cities?
- Best practices/case studies that demonstrate the application of such systems/tools?

Read the full query [here](#)

Please send your responses to [se.decn.solutionexchange@un.net](mailto:se.decn.solutionexchange@un.net)

### [Closed Queries](#)

#### ➤ **Role of PRIs in supporting women's access to and control over land. Examples and experiences**

Panchayati Raj Institution can play an important role in furthering women's access to, and control of agricultural land rights, including those from households without agricultural land. With this background, the members are requested to share examples and experiences on:

- How have, and can, the Panchayati Raj Institutions play (ed) a role in promoting land rights of women from landless households, including Dalits and Adivasis and preventing land alienation?
- How have, and can, the Panchayati Raj Institutions play (ed) a role in supporting inheritance rights of women within the ambit of personal laws?

Read the full query [here](#)

### **Updates**

#### **News**

##### **From Resource Team**

#### **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana: All 750 MPs to be at scheme launch**

"Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana" is going to be launched on October 11, 2014 on the birth anniversary of Jai Prakash Narayan. Under this, each Member of Parliament (MP) will adopt a village every year for all-round development using the programmes of the Centre and States, aided by his constituency development funds (MPLADS).

Read more [here](#)

#### **MNREGA needed only in tribal, backward areas**

NDA Government has indicated that it is contemplating to restrict the UPA's flagship social sector scheme MNREGA only to the tribal and backward districts and withdraw it from the States enjoying higher per capita income in the country. Guaranteeing up to 100 days of unskilled work in a year to every rural household, is not required in areas having high per capita income, higher growth rate and higher agricultural growth rate. As per Government's latest survey, Delhi, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have a higher per capita income than other States.

Read more [here](#)

#### **Social audit to monitor urban schemes**

The government will soon introduce a 'social audit' system for new schemes to promote transparency and accountability in execution. For this consultative committees would be set up at the district level for monitoring implementation of the projects to avoid delays. The committees comprising local MPs co-chaired by District Collector, would also examine the resource position of urban local bodies and their ability to execute projects. Read more [here](#)

### **Readings/Web links/Repositories**

##### **From Resource Team**

## **Reorienting the Plan Process and Revitalising the Planning Commission an EPW article by Rajeeva Ratna Shah**

The starting point for repurposing the Planning Commission has to be the reorientation of the plan process itself. This article suggests the steps required to transit to a new plan process which would interweave a top-down process of enunciation of national plan objectives and parameters with a "grass root-up location-specific" planning process based on extensive deployment of technology.

Read more <http://www.epw.in/after-planning-commission/reorienting-plan-process-and-revitalising-planning-commission.html>

## **KILA Journal of Local Governance Vol-1, Issue-1 July-December 2014 (by Rajan JB, KILA, Kerala)**

Decentralization of power is a formidable task that can be successfully carried out only if the challenges are addressed properly. One such challenge is tailoring it to suit local requirements. Another one is capacity building of Citizens, Elected Representatives and Officials to enable them to work together to perform the functions that they will be assigned as a result of decentralization. Deepening of democracy happens when people participate in the decision making process and the only form of participation that is meaningful is informed participation. A well informed citizen can play an active role in development discourse and contribute to the process of arriving at right decisions. Right decisions produce results.

Read more [here](#)

## **Yojana Bhawan: Obiter Dictum an EPW article by [Dilip M Nachane](#)**

Now that the government has decided to abolish the Planning Commission and create a new body in its place, the question is what form and shape should the replacement take? Three articles discuss different aspects of the old and the likely new body. The first article here offers a detailed review of the history of planning dating from the Soviet era and outlines the different strands of thought that fed into the Indian experience with planning and argues that what was needed was a restructuring of the commission and not its abolition.

Read more at <http://www.epw.in/after-planning-commission/yojana-bhawan-obiter-dictum.html>

## **Standards and Specifications for e-Pramaan: Framework for e-Authentication**

Securing government services is critical considering the broad range of secure data they store. [e-Pramaan](#) by the Indian government is trying to address this. This document describes broad level specifications for developing the e-Pramaan authentication system. This will enable the reader to understand the rationale, use cases and process flows that will be used for detailed design. It also elucidates the standards that will be used to develop the components, APIs as well as the protocols for the framework. This document is also subject to change in future.

Read more [here](#)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **From [Resource Team](#)**



### **International Symposium on Excellence in Public Service/Public Administration**

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India (GoI) in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will host the

"International Symposium on Excellence in Public Service / Public Administration" from 7- 8th October, 2014. Read more [here](#)

## **10<sup>th</sup> e-India ICT event 14-15 November 2014, Kovalam Kerala**

The event is being organized to recognize Innovations and excellence in Governance, Education, Health and Financial Inclusion. The three day eINDIA 2014 – Kovalam will be attended by senior

officials from government, industry and academia and also key decision makers in the ICT domain and Higher Education decision makers from all over the country. The key discussion areas will be Security, Smart Cities: Creating High-Tech Urban Infrastructure; Era of m-Governance: Enterprise Mobility and Mobility in Governance; Cloud & Virtualization for Government Ecosystem: Challenges of Big Data; Reforming the Governance Landscape in India and Strategies for the Future; Cyber Security.

To apply for the awards and more details visit

<http://eindia.eletsonline.com/2014/Governance/conference/>

## Past Events

### Social Media for Democracy Workshop

The Social Media for Democracy workshop was organized for Uttar Pradesh MLAs by 'Fifth Estate Trust' along with Digital Empowerment Foundation and India Development Alternatives Foundation. It was held on 9 August at the Chief Minister's Residence in Lucknow. Mr. Yadav talked about his own social media experiences and how it is a very powerful medium with both positive and negative connotations. The first presentation was by Piyush Poddar, Google. Read more [here](#)

## Announcements/Opportunities

From [Resource Team](#)

### UNDP

Re-advertisement - Individual Consultant- Mid Term Review - (Open to Indian Nationals Only)	8-October-2014	Home-Based
National Security Officer - (Open to Indian Nationals Only)	12-October-2014	New Delhi

### World Bank

<a href="#">Senior Financial Assistant, Treasury</a>	9-Oct-2014	Chennai, India
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**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](mailto:se-decn@solutionexchange-un.net.in)



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