Smart Gram Panchayat

By iastoppers | 2024-02-15 15:15:00

Smart Gram Panchayat

Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj launches pilot project 'Smart Gram Panchayat: Revolution towards Digitization of Gram Panchayat' to extend PM-WANI Service in Gram Panchayats of Bihar's Begusarai District.

[ref- indiatimes]

About Smart Gram Panchayat: Revolution towards Digitization of Gram Panchayat:

- The pilot project focuses on **extending PM-WANI** (Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) Service to **all Gram Panchayats in Begusarai District, Bihar**.
  - Begusarai becomes the **first District in Bihar** to **equip all Gram Panchayats** with **Wi-Fi services** under the **PM-WANI Scheme**, reflecting the commitment to bridging the digital divide.

Need to digitise gram panchayat:

- Transparency: Improve connectivity, bridge the gap between rural and urban areas, promote **accountability**, and **enhance efficiency in local self-governance**.
- **Technology for Rural Development:** Technology facilitates **developmental initiatives** in education, healthcare, agriculture, e-Governance, and skill development.
- **Digital Empowerment:** User-friendly and uninterrupted Wi-Fi services have a transformative potential for **women self-help groups**, farmers, students, and other segments of rural society.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Adoption of technology aids **inclusive growth and transformation**.
- **Smart Panchayats:** Transformative power of technology makes villages smarter gradually.
- **Socio-Economic Transformation:** Technology like Wi-Fi services catalyze growth in various sectors, fostering socio-economic development in rural areas.

About PM-WANI (Prime Minister's WiFi Access Network Interface) Scheme:

- **PM-WANI (Prime Minister's WiFi Access Network Interface)**, launched by the Department of Telecommunication in 2020, aims to **revolutionize digital communications infrastructure** in India, with a particular focus on rural areas.

Objectives

- **Enhance Proliferation of Public WiFi Hotspots:** Improve access to public WiFi hotspots for better connectivity, especially in underserved urban and rural regions.
- **Empower Entrepreneurs**: Increase employment for small and micro-entrepreneurs through the establishment of public WiFi hotspots.
- **Provide Affordable Internet**: Offer low-cost internet to underserved urban poor and rural households.

PM-WANI Ecosystem

- **Public Data Office (PDO)**: Establishes WiFi hotspots, providing internet access.
- **Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA)**: Offers authorization and accounting services to PDOs.
- **App Provider**: Displays available hotspots in the phone's proximity through the application.
- **Central Registry**: Maintained by the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)**, overseeing details of App Providers, PDOs, and PDOAs.

Benefits of PM-WANI

- **Enhanced Internet Penetration**: Potential to **increase GDP** through improved internet access.
- **Rural Internet Access**: Scaling up internet accessibility in rural areas to **narrow the digital divide.**
- **Job Generation**: Creation of jobs in small- and medium-scale sectors.
- **Affordable Access**: Providing **affordable internet** to the underserved, contributing to the vision of Digital India.