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Odisha Creates History with a Glorious Hat-Trick Win at the National Panchayat Awards

Trailblazing Governance, Digital Innovation and Local Empowerment Bring Triple Honour to the State

Bhubaneswar, 24/04/2025

When good governance meets grassroots grit, milestones are not just achieved – they are redefined. Odisha has once again made the nation take notice by clinching the prestigious National Panchayat Award 2023-24 for the third consecutive year, showcasing its unwavering dedication to strengthening grassroots democracy and inclusive development. This year, the **National Panchayati Raj Day** was celebrated at **Madhubani, Bihar**, where the **Hon'ble Prime Minister of India** conferred awards to the winning **Panchayats and institutions**.

Adding to this proud moment, the State Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PR), Odisha, has secured the 2nd Prize under the “Panchayat Kshamata Nirman Sarbottam Sansthan Puraskar” category, recognizing its excellence in capacity building, mentoring, handholding support to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the state.

As a model Gram Panchayat, Hatbhadra GP of Kusumi Block in Mayurbhanj District, has received the national acclaim by being awarded the 2nd Best Gram Panchayat under the “Atmanirbhar Gram Panchayat” category. This recognition celebrates its remarkable achievement in enhancing Own Source of Revenue (OSR), championing self-sufficiency and embracing financial sustainability at the grassroots level.

Behind these honours lies the consistent guided mentoring and technical facilitation of SIRD&PR, which enabled the preparation of robust and participatory Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) across the state. SIRD&PR's contribution extends through its innovative training designs, back-to-back capacity-building workshops, and continuous follow-up mechanisms, which have built a strong foundation of knowledge and practice among PRI functionaries. A special mention must be made of SIRD&PR's digital leap through its unique Portal (pmssird.odisha.gov.in) - a one-stop platform featuring profiles of PRI members and officials, monitoring of committee meetings, PESA Gram Sabha activities, GP infrastructure mapping, ISO certification tracking, Panchayat Learning Centres and real-time field reports under “Champ by Action.”

These extraordinary achievements have been made possible through the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Mohan Charan Majhi, the proactive guidance of the Hon'ble Minister, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Sri Rabi Narayan Naik, the committed efforts of the Commissioner-cum-Secretary of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department and unwavering institutional support from the Department.

Sri Rabi Narayan Naik, Hon'ble Minister, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, expressed his happiness and said, “This national recognition for the third time in a row is a matter of immense pride for Odisha. I sincerely thank all the PRI members, officials and the entire SIRD&PR team for their tireless efforts. It reflects our collective vision for empowered and self-reliant Gram Panchayats.”

"This is not merely an award - it is a validation of Odisha's grassroots governance revolution. Our commitment to empowering Panchayats through capacity building, digital innovation and guided mentorship is showing transformative results. We dedicate this achievement to every PRI member, official and village community who made it possible," said Sri Surendra Kumar Meena, IAS, Director, SIRD&PR, Odisha.

With 7 national awards in 2022-23 (the highest monetary allocation to any state) and 8 awards in 2021-22, Odisha continues to lead by example in transforming PanchayatiRaj into a vibrant, accountable and self-reliant governance model.



Tanuja Mohanty
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