

# **Decentralization Manifesto 2021 for Local Governments**

**Federal Union Government!  
Autonomous State Government!  
Self-Governing Local Government!**



## **Co-ordination**

Thannatchi, Voice of People,  
Institute of Grassroots Governance [IGG],  
Thozhan Iyakkam, Arappor Iyakkam  
and like-minded organisations

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## **Thanks!**

- Mr.S.S.Meenatchi Sundaram, Former Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government of India
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and to all men, women, activists and volunteers who work for the development of Local Self Government.

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## I. Preface

We all know that over the past few years, pro-Jallikkattu protests, anti-Neduvasal hydrocarbon protests and anti-Thoothukudi sterlite protests in Tamil Nadu, anti-CAA protests across the country and the ongoing farmers struggle against anti-agrarian laws have been spontaneously carried out by non-partisan masses. **The message of these struggles is that the people are moving towards power for themselves, in order to strengthen the democracy by questioning the arbitrary decisions of the rulers.**

In this context, it should be noted that both politically and ideologically, the conceptualization and dialogues on Gramsabha have been going on in Tamil Nadu for the last few years as never before. **In recent times, youth and women have become increasingly involved in Gramsabha, there by questioning the decisions of the Panchayats.**

We should also note that the constitutionally recognized people's sabha, namely the 'Gramsabha' that has been in place for 25 years is transforming into sabha passing pro-jallikkattu, anti-hydrocarbon resolutions and becoming a battleground where the voices of the common people are heard.

It shows that Tamil Nadu youth and women are growing to the point where they can use their existing democratic platforms with political maturity. **Their deepest intention is to decentralize the power concentrated in the center and the state and take it to the people. We are releasing this report in order for the political parties to realize this and to come forward to strengthen the local governments.**

## **Devolution of power: Historical background**

When the constitution of India was drafted after independence, the members of its drafting committee could not give legal recognition to the Panchayat governments due to lack of consensus among them.

However under the directive principles of state policy, Article 40 of the constitution provides for the establishment of Gram Panchayats as local self governments. On this basis Panchayat governments were functioning in many states.

## **New Local Governments**

In this context, the 64<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment bills introduced in 1989 by the union government, headed by former Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to establish New Local Governments were defeated in the parliament. Subsequently in 1992, the union government headed by former Prime Minister, Mr.P.V. Narasimha Rao passed the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendments to the constitution in the Indian parliament. As a result part IX and part IX A were incorporated into the constitution and the new (Rural and Urban) Local Governments came into force.

In Tamil Nadu also, the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994 was passed and three tier Panchayats were formed. In 1996 the first local government elections were held across Tamil Nadu under this act. Similar to the case of Rural Local Government in Tamil Nadu a separate law was enacted for Urban Local Governments in 1998 and rules were enacted in 2000 but the law was repealed for various reasons. **To date, no complete common law has**

**been enacted in Tamil Nadu applicable for all Urban Local Governments.**

However, based on the union government's Model Nagara Raj bill 2006, the government of Tamil Nadu amended the Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Amendment) Act 2010 (Act No. 35 of 2010).

The main points of the amended acts are:

- **Constitution of *Ward Committee* for each ward within the municipal area**
- **Constitution of *Area Sabha* for each area in a ward in the municipal area**

This amendment has confirmed the procedures for public participation in corporations and municipalities, similar to the 'Gramsabha' in Village Panchayats. The amendment was published in the Tamil Nadu Gazette on December 2, 2010. Although the act is therefore considered to have come into force ten years ago, the rules regarding the structure, duties and mechanisms by which the area sabha and the ward committee carry out their functions have not yet been framed and notified. Thus public participation in corporations and municipalities remains only on paper till today.

### **Local Government: The key to participatory democracy**

Representative democracy was in effect in India until Sections IX and IXA were incorporated into the Constitution of India by the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution. Representatives elected by the people

were framing the laws for the people. The government will work on the plan accordingly.

But, participatory democracy is guaranteed by Articles IX and IXA of the Constitution, by the Gramsabha in the Village Panchayats and by the ward committee in the municipalities (population 3 Lakhs and above). **Gramsabha and Ward Committees provide an opportunity for the people to work with their elected representatives to plan and implement projects.**

**That is why social movements across the country continue to work to strengthen them.**

### **Challenges faced by Tamil Nadu Local Governments**

The Constitution of India aims to establish autonomous Local Governments. But in many states it is still a daydream. Tamil Nadu is no exception for this.

The then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu (Budget for 1997-98) stated,

"The decisions on the responsibilities entrusted to the local government will be taken by the local government themselves. I assure you that the officials will be responsible only for the implementation of those decisions"

was not implemented by any government till date.

**In Tamil Nadu, local governments are practically operated as offices implementing state government schemes;** they have not become autonomous local governments. Our state government prefers to keep local governments as their dependent organizations only.

**Due to this trend, Tamil Nadu local governments are facing various challenges. For example, improper fund allocation and intervention in the administration can be cited as challenges faced by the Panchayats of Tamil Nadu.**

Recently, at the Dharmapuri District Collector's Office, Village Panchayat presidents protested with 'Thiruvodu' begging for funds. The situation today is that Village Panchayats not only in Dharmapuri but in Tamil Nadu as a whole is suffering without funds. Even during the Covid 19 lockdown, the state finance commission funds, which were mandatory for Panchayats, were not released.

In addition, the Government of Tamil Nadu has intervened in the road works to be decided by the Panchayat Council and the Gramsabha and issued tenders worth several thousand crores of rupees at the district level. Chennai high court canceled those tenders and advised the Tamil Nadu government not to interfere in the rights of the Panchayats.

This aside, **the basic features of Rural Local Government, such as Social Justice and Economic Development, looks like mirage in Tamil Nadu.**

**Caste oppressions against the Panchayat presidents of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes especially against female presidents among them are still continuing. Similarly, even though women have been given 50 percent reservation in local governments, we have not created the environment and support structure for them to work independently.**

In terms of economic development, **it is necessary for three tiers namely Village Panchayat, Union Panchayat and District Panchayat to plan together.** The real needs of the people can be identified only if at least Village Panchayat level planning is done. But the 'importance' given by the Tamil Nadu government to this important task and the rights in the Panchayats came to limelight through VPDP program that, without consulting the people to solicit suggestions for the Village Panchayat Development plan (VPDP) and obtain their approvals, it recently reported falsely on the government's official website that special Gramsabha meetings were held, without even conducting those meetings in reality.

Similarly, the Tamil Nadu government treats Gramsabha meetings in a disrespectful manner. **There is no other people's council as Gramsabha in Indian democracy. The Gramsabha is a Sabha recognized by the Indian constitution where the people have the opportunity to participate directly.** But in Tamil Nadu, Gramsabhas have not been convened yet after January 26, 2020. Gramsabhas were canceled on May 1 and August 15, citing Covid19. The October 2 Gramsabha, which was announced to take place, was also canceled at the last minute. Social movements have been fighting to 'convene Gramsabha' till date.

In short, **in Rural Local Governments, the powers of the Panchayat and the Gramsabha are not in practice as they are in the law book. The Union Panchayats have shrunk to contract making bodies. District Panchayats have become completely devoid of powers. The condition of Urban Local Governments is even more worrisome than that of Rural Local Governments.** It would not be an exaggeration to say that **in practice the powers of Rural and Urban Local Governments are in the hands of the State Government and officials.**

After all, the elections to local governments have been dragged out in Tamil Nadu for many years and elections have not been held till date for Rural Local Governments of 9 districts and all the Urban Local Governments. This is nothing but an insult to the state of Tamil Nadu, questioning the very basis of democracy and mockery of the constitution.

### **What needs to be done?**

State government,

- ✓ **Conducting local government elections and Gramsabhas properly**
- ✓ **Not to deprive or neglect the rights of local governments**
- ✓ **Ensuring proper devolution of funds**
- ✓ **Providing necessary protection to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe representatives.**
- ✓ **Creating the support structure needed for female representatives**

should be done with dedication.

**Similarly, the state must make all the necessary legal and political arrangements for the Urban Local Governments to function as autonomous governments.** The reason why the Kerala local governments are acting responsibly and appreciably in times of calamity and during the COVID 19 epidemic is because the local governments there have been given powers at various levels. With regard to Rural and Urban Local Governments, we must remember that there are many lessons to be learned from the neighboring state of Kerala.

**We need to realize that it is imperative now to establish strong local governments with people participation, to deepen democracy, establish corruption-free, accountable and transparent governance, protect the environment, ensure social justice and achieve equitable, self-reliant and sustainable economic development.**

For these ambitions it is necessary for the government, people movements, political parties and media to work together as one movement.

## **Policies for the local governments**

Based on the ideas described above, we would like to define the following as the basic principles of local governments.

- 1. Autonomous Rural and Urban Republics**
- 2. Social Justice**
- 3. Equitable, self-reliant and sustainable economic development**
- 4. Participatory Democracy (Strong Gramsabha, Area Sabha, Ward Committees etc.)**
- 5. Bottom up Approach, Decentralized planning**

With this policy we also present the following slogan for decentralization

**Federal Union Government!**  
**Autonomous State Government!!**  
**Self-Governing Local Government!!!**

With these policies and slogans in mind, we are going to take up with the major political parties, social organizations and the general public in Tamil Nadu the reforms that need to be made in the local government and the demands for it. The purpose of this election manifesto is to ensure that the election promises made by the parties during the forthcoming assembly elections should include the promises to strengthen the local governments as well.

## **II. Measures to ensure the Rights of Local Government**

1. Separate act or appropriate amendments in the existing act should be enacted to provide the respective local governments the power to allow or deny the operation of **TASMAC** liquor shops. In Rural Local Governments, the permission of the concerned Panchayat Council and Gramsabha should be obtained and in Urban Local Governments the permission of the area sabha and ward committees should be made mandatory respectively.
2. **Local List:** Similar to the Central list, State List and Concurrent List as given by the Constitution (Schedule 7 – Section 246) granting powers to the Central and State Governments, a separate list namely 'Local Self-Government List' affirming the powers of the Rural and Urban

Local Governments must be ratified by the constitution. Tamil Nadu political parties should recommend this to the Union Government.

3. **The approach of granting responsibilities and powers to local government through GOs should be avoided and should be done via the official power devolution laws.** The reason is that there is a situation in Tamil Nadu where some ordinances giving powers to local bodies are brought in and they are withdrawn after some time or with the change of regime.
4. Necessary legal amendments should be brought in to ensure the relevant government departments to take appropriate action on **the Panchayat Council Resolution and Gramsabha Resolutions relating to the compulsory duties of the Panchayat** and to be responsible for responding to them.
5. **The District Rural Development Agency should be brought under the responsibility of the District Panchayat.**
6. **Before converting the Village Panchayats into wards of Urban Local Government, it is mandatory to obtain the Gramsabha approval** of the concerned Panchayats.
7. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act-1994 should be amended accordingly **to ensure proper devolution of funds, functions and functionaries in all three tier Panchayats for the 29 subjects mentioned in Schedule 11 of the Constitution.** The Government should consider the recommendations of the L. C. Jain Committee, a high-level body set up for the devolution of power to Rural Local

Governments, which has provided comprehensive guidance in this regard.

8. **Need a Common Urban Local Governments Act:** A common Act should be enacted and implemented covering all the Urban Local Governments similar to Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994 covering all the Rural Local Governments.
9. Relevant amendments should be brought in to ensure **the proper devolution of funds, functions and functionaries related to 18 subjects as mentioned in Schedule 12 of the Constitution to Urban Local Governments.**
10. The Government of Tamil Nadu should bring in the Employment Guarantee Act for Urban Local Governments. The first step should be to enact a job guarantee act for Town Panchayats.
11. At the very least, **the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme should be extended to town Panchayats.** For that, the Government of Tamil Nadu should urge the Union Government to bring in appropriate amendments to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.
12. The Government of Tamil Nadu must frame and notify the rules for the structure, duties and mechanisms by which the Area Sabha and Ward Committee carry out their functions and implement the Tamil Nadu Municipalities Laws (Amendment) Act 2010 (Act No. 35 of 2010) which was published in the Gazette of Tamil Nadu on December 2, 2010,

within three months of the establishment of the regime after the 2021 elections.

Recommendations for the rules to be defined under this Act, through various rounds of consultations and seminars, have been developed by various people movements, groups and socially concerned citizens in Chennai (see link: [bit.ly/39xLycy](https://bit.ly/39xLycy)). These recommendations must be incorporated without further dilution in the rules to be framed by the government, as they encapsulate the basis for upholding the spirit of grassroots democracy.

Further, once the Government has completed the preparation of the Model Rules, public consultations should be organized in each district to ensure that they reflect the diverse views of the community.

13. Amendment should be enacted to constitute and implement functional ward committees and area sabhas in Town Panchayats as well, as it also comes under Tamil Nadu Urban Local Governments.

### **III. Administrative Reforms**

14. In Tamil Nadu, **separate departments and directorates should be set up for Rural Local Government (Panchayat Raj), Urban Local Government and Rural Development. All these should be run under the Ministry of Local Self Government.**

15. Under the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act-1994, from the first local body elections held in 1996, the power to appoint Panchayat secretaries was vested in the Village Panchayats. But starting from 2013, the

appointment of secretaries of Village Panchayats is done by the district level nominating committee [G.O. Ms. No: 72, Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Date: 09.07.2013]. Thus the secretary acts as an agent of the state administration, not subject to the Panchayats. This is completely contrary to the objectives of the Panchayat setup. **The power to appoint Village Panchayat Secretaries should be returned back to the Village Panchayats again.**

16. In the financial and administrative functions of the Panchayats, **the controlling of the Panchayats by oral orders of the Block Development Officers and other Rural Development Officers is now a culture prevailing in Tamil Nadu.** A series of such activities that questions the local democracy must be stopped altogether. The Government should ensure that appropriate action is taken against officials who make unnecessary interventions that impede the exercise of the powers mandated to the Panchayats by the Panchayat Representatives and the implementation of proper financial management decisions.

17. Based on the 29 subjects given in Schedule 11 of the Constitution, a clear definition of the duties, responsibilities and functions of the elected people representatives and officials of the three tier Panchayats should be defined.

18. Based on the 18 subjects given in Schedule 12 of the Constitution, a clear definition of the duties, responsibilities and functions of the elected people representatives and officials of all Urban Local Governments should be defined.

19. This information on the duties, responsibilities and functions of the elected representatives and officials of the both Rural and Urban Local Governments should be uploaded to Internet and made available to the people on the public platform.
20. **The power to issue birth and death certificates should be given to the Village Panchayats as it is in practice to the Urban Local Governments.**
21. Departments issuing technical clearances for Panchayat works shall issue orders within a specified period. Otherwise, **in order to obtain technical approval, Panchayats should vest with the power to authorize such works by appointing its own qualified engineers to carry out that work.**
22. **For works carried out under the Village Panchayat General Fund, valued above Rs. 2 Lakhs, it is mandatory to obtain administrative approval from the District Collector (GO No: 203, R.D. and P.R., Date: 20.12.2007). This order, which has been in place for more than 13 years, does not reflect the current economic situation. Therefore, the Village Panchayats concerned should be empowered to grant administrative sanction for works valued at up to Rs. 10 Lakhs under the General Fund of the Village Panchayats.**
23. In each Village Panchayat, five standing committees are set up as per GO 102, RDPR, dated on 12.07.2005. This order states that the Panchayats should require approval of the District Collector as the Inspector of Panchayats for the continued functioning of these

committees after a period of six months, even if the Panchayat establishes additional standing committees as required beyond these five standing committees. It is an order to interfere in the powers of the Panchayats. This should be abolished immediately **and the Panchayats should set up standing committees on the basis of need and ensure their legal rights.**

24. The word '**Local Body**' in government documents should be replaced by '**Local Self Government**'. An appropriate GO should be issued for the above.

#### **IV. Technological Development in Local Government Administration**

25. **Three tier Panchayat resolutions, Gramsabha resolutions and resolutions passed in Urban Local Governments shall be uploaded to the website of the concerned local government and to the website of the concerned district government and made available to the public.** In addition, all information such as actions on resolutions, allocated funds and their activities should be made available online.

26. **E-Governance in local governments:** Implement the Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) system leading to E-Governance in the local government. For example, PRIASoft, part of the PES, is required to timely upload information and reports on Panchayat budgets and other financial transactions. This will ensure transparency.

27. **Public Finance Management System [PFMS]:** To ensure transparency in local finance management, all the financial activities of the Panchayats have been implemented through PFMS from this financial year. Although trainings on PFMS have been provided to Panchayat presidents and secretaries, they have not been implemented at the Panchayat level. The PFMS accounts of the majority of the Village Panchayats have not yet been handed over to the concerned Panchayats. Instead the PFMS accounts of the Panchayats are handled by the Block Development Officer. **Anyone can see that the PFMS username and password belonging to the Panchayat are being used by the staffs of the Block Development Office. This is a blatant violation of the rights of local government authorities and is a heinous crime under the law.** These illegal activities should be stopped immediately and appropriate action should be taken to ensure that each Panchayat fully conducts financial transactions through PFMS on their own.

28. **e-Service Centers:** A Grama Sevai Maiyam (Village Service Center) has been set up in all the Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu. However, most of Village Service Center have been closed for months and are lying idle. **These Panchayat-owned centers, built with the aim of running rural e-service centers, should be brought into operation immediately.**

29. **Audit:** Reports of audits conducted by the Rural Development Department in the Village Panchayat, Union Panchayat and District Panchayats, **as per Section 4 (2) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, should voluntarily uploaded by the state administration on the website of the concerned Panchayat and on the district**

**government website and made available to the public. This should be implemented for Urban Local Governments as well.**

Details of audits conducted by the Tamil Nadu Local Fund Audit Department should be uploaded on the Department's website (lfad.tn.gov.in) and made available to the public.

## **V. Fund Allocation for Local Government**

30. For the last 24 years in Tamil Nadu, **the State Finance Commission funding to local governments has been only 10%** (10% of the State's own tax revenue). This allocation, which was 8% of the first Finance Commission recommendations for the 1996-2001 financial years, has risen by just 2% in the quarter century. **The state government, with this in mind, should gradually raise these funds.**

31. **The recommendation that the Central Finance Commission funds should be disbursed to the concerned local governments within 10 days of their release from the Ministry of Finance, GoI** should be strictly adhered to. To avoid unnecessary delays, the government should ensure that the Central Finance Commission funds are disbursed to the local governments immediately.

32. State Finance Commission funds, Central Finance Commission funds and consolidated funds **should be released from the state treasury to the concerned local governments directly.** The existing system should be abolished as the existing system of transfer of funds from state to district and from district to Village Panchayat is discriminatory.

33. **The State Finance Commission funds to be provided to the Rural and Urban Local Governments should be made available fully to the concerned local governments. The government should not divert a certain percentage of the funds of the local governments for other projects.** For example, By GO No: 84, RDPR, dated on 31.03.2017, 20% of the share for Rural Local Governments has been allocated for other infrastructure works. Such ordinances should be repealed and funds for local governments should be fully handed over to local governments.

34. Details of clear devolution of funds for **all local governments** such as Village Panchayat, Union Panchayat, District Panchayat and Urban Local Governments **should be attached as a separate attachment in the budget when the state budget is filed.**

## **VI. Development Planning**

35. **District Planning Commission:** Based on part IXA, Section 243 ZD of the Constitution of India, **the District Planning Commission shall be constituted to develop an annual plan covering three tiers of Rural Local Governments and all Urban Local Governments.**

36. The Government should make the necessary administrative reforms to properly plan and implement the project work of the three tier Panchayats and Urban Local Governments. **The plans developed at Village Panchayat level should be compiled at Union Panchayat level and the plans developed at the both union level and all Urban Local Government level should be compiled at the district level on the basis of bottom up approach. District level**

**plans should be compiled at the state level and planned for the state.** Funds should be distributed to all departments on this basis.

37. Thus, to ensure proper planning of Rural and Urban Local Governments, **the State Government should allocate funds separately in its annual budget as local government plan funds.**

## **VII. Local Government Electoral Reforms**

38. In practice, the Government shall take all measures to ensure that the State Election Commission functions independently.

39. **Ensure timely holding of local government elections in Tamil Nadu.** In case of failure to do so, at least appropriate amendments should be enacted to take stern action against the State Election Commissioner.

40. **Special Officer's** term of office **shall not be extended beyond a maximum of six months** if a local government is transferred to the post of Special Officer. Vacancies should be filled by holding immediate elections.

## **VIII. Rights and Empowerment of Local Government Representatives**

41. **Sections 205 and 206 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994 authorize the District Collector as the Inspector of Panchayats to dismiss the people's representatives such as the Panchayat President and the Vice-President.** This dismissal of a

representative elected by the people by a public servant is completely undemocratic. Abolish this system of dismissal of Village Panchayat presidents and vice-presidents by the district collectors as the inspectors of Panchayats and give that power to the concerned Gramsabha. **In the case of dismissal of the Panchayat President and Vice-President, the decision of the Gramsabha shall be final.**

42. **The monthly honorarium** paid to the Village Panchayat representatives is very low. It needs to be **increased**. The following amount can be set as the **minimum monthly honorarium**.

**1. Village Panchayat president: Rs. 15,000 / -**

**2. Village Panchayat vice president: Rs. 7,000 / -**

**3. Village Panchayat Ward Member: Rs. 5,000 / -**

43. **Ombudsman for Local Governments:** Ombudsman for Local Governments should be set up at the district and state level, to investigate allegations against local government representatives and officials and has to be dealt with by the court. The District ombudsman shall act in the first instance and the state ombudsman shall act as the appellate tribunal.

44. In Rural and Urban Local Governments, **an autonomous body / institution** such as the 'Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA)' **should be set up to improve the capacity of elected representatives and officials** and to conduct research on the development of local governments or to integrate existing training institutes / systems into a strong autonomous one.

## **IX. Social Justice and Local Governments**

45. **5% reservation right for the differently abled:** 5% of the reservation (reservation right) in all local government posts in Tamil Nadu should be reserved for the differently abled.
46. **In Rural and Urban Local Governments, appropriate legal action should be taken if their male relatives of the elected female representatives act in a dominant manner, or if administrative decisions are made by some other dominant caste person act as a substitute member instead of the elected person belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. That dominant person should be banned from contesting any local government elections for ten years. Appropriate action should be taken against officials who allow others to act as an alternative for elected representatives. The District Collector as inspector of Panchayats should periodically inspect and ensure that such things do not happen. In order to empower female representatives, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes representatives, they must be ensured proper, continuous, systematic protection, training and awareness.**
47. **The State Government should pay the election deposit amount for women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes contesting in rural and Urban Local Government elections.**

48. The appointment of Ward Committee Members of the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Governments shall include the following categories in such a way as to represent the various sections of the people in all the areas within the ward:

**Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes / Women / Marginalized People / Disadvantaged Groups / Civil Society Representatives / General Category**

## **X. Environmental Protection and Rights of Local Government**

49. **The approval of the Gramsabha, Area sabha and Ward Committees should be made mandatory for the implementation of projects that are detrimental to the environment and public health.** Necessary amendments should be made in the relevant laws.

50. **Biodiversity Management Committees** should be set up in all Rural and Urban Local Governments and state government should take the necessary financial allocation and other administrative measures for their proper functioning.

## **XI. Agriculture and Local Government**

51. **Registration of farmers** should be done with the participation of the Village Panchayat. The Revenue Department should make way for the concerned Village Panchayats to work in consultation for all the surveys such as who are the farmers with own land, who are the landless farmers, who are the female farmers, how much land they are cultivating and what crops are being cultivated by them.

52. **The authority to certify farmers engaged in organic farming at the village level should be given to the Village Panchayats.** The government should provide funding, training and infrastructure for this.

## **XII. Forest Rights and Local Government**

53. **The Forest Rights Act 2006** (Recognition of Forest Rights of Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers Act-2006) should be **duly implemented and the traditional Gramsabhas of tribal villages should be recognized** and ensured that they are carried out properly.

54. All forest villages which have not been declared as revenue villages should be declared as revenue villages as per the guidelines of the **Forest Rights Act 2006.**

55. At present the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is not being implemented in some forest village areas. The need for this project is very high in the forest. **The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme should be implemented in all forest village areas.**

56. During the implementation of Green House Scheme (CMSPGHS – Chief Minister Solar Powered Green House Scheme) Houses and Prime Minister Housing Scheme (PMAY – Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) Houses, additional costs for transporting construction materials to the hills, additional wages for staff and transport costs incur additional costs to the forest villagers. But the same amount of funds is allocated

to the forest villages. This is why the tribes are reluctant to get government housing schemes. Considering the cost of building houses in the forest, **additional funds should be allocated to the beneficiaries to implement rural development construction projects in the forest.**

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