# PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE GRASSROOT

WITH A FOCUS ON SOCIAL AUDIT

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## **Meet The Speaker**

- Partner at JMJA & Associates LLP, Practising Company Secretary Firm.
- Speaker and Trainer on various topics related Corporate Laws, ESG, CSR, Social Audit, Digital Branding etc.
- JMJA & Associates LLP is a team of CS and currently we have 20 + employees looking after execution work
- Worked with Companies like Datamatics, MCX, Welspun Group in the past.
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## **Introduction - Gram panchayat**

- ☐ Gram Panchayat is the local self-government institution in rural areas of India.
- ☐ Grassroot institutions like Gram Panchayats play a critical role in service delivery
- ☐ Gram Panchayats play a significant role in promoting rural development and ensuring the welfare of the local community.
- ☐ Panchayat works at the village level for the economic and social development of the village.
- ☐ A Gram Panchayat cannot act by itself and it acts only through its elected members i.e. Panch(s) and Sarpanch.



## Introduction – Transparency and Accountability

- ☐ Transparency is the practice of making information, processes, and decisions accessible, visible, and understandable to all stakeholders. It is a critical component of good governance and is essential for promoting accountability, participation, and trust in public institutions.
- ☐ Transparency means decisions and actions are open to scrutiny. Accountability ensures that decision-makers are answerable to the public.
- ☐ Together, these principles create trust, reduce corruption, and enhance the legitimacy of public institutions
- ☐ The need for transparency in the working of Gram Panchayat is essential. It will ensure that the decisions made are in the best interest of the village and not influenced by any external factors.
- ☐ Transparency in Gram Panchayat can be achieved through various means such as making information regarding the functioning of Gram Panchayat available to the stakeholders, conducting regular audits, and involving the community in decision-making processes.



## Why grassroots transparency matters?

- Effective Use of Public Funds
- Empowerment of Citizens
- Prevention of Corruption
- Promotes Trust in Governance
- Optimize Resource Management
- Encourages inclusive Development
- Strengthens Democracy



## Multi-Channel Transparency Tools

- Wall writings and public display boards





## Multi-Channel Transparency Tools

- Wall writings and public display boards
- Use of digital platforms (e-Panchayat,
   eGramswaraj, mobile apps)



## egramswaraj.gov.in/

- To strengthen e-Governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has launched eGramSwaraj, a user friendly webbased portal.

- eGramSwaraj aims to bring in better transparency in the decentralised planning, progress reporting and work-based accounting.

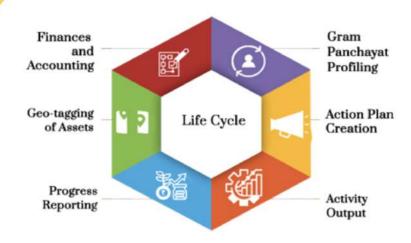






Simplified Work Based Accounting Application for Panchayati Raj

To strengthen e-Governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has launched eGramSwaraj, a user friendly web-based portal. eGramSwaraj aims to bring in better transparency in the decentralised planning, progress reporting and work-based accounting.





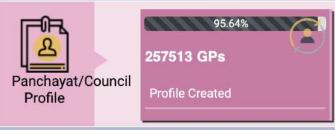
ໜ 📢 Now integrated with Bhashini

Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2023 **Bank Performance** 

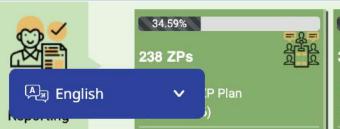
Bank Wise Pending
Details

**Theme Activity Master** 

**Weather Forecast** 

















### No. of GPs with Profile details

Print Download to Spreadsheet

S.No.	State Code	State Name	Total No. of GP	No. of GPs with Profile details	Profile Updated in (6 months)	<b>Updated Profile Percentage</b>
1.	35	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	70	70	68	97.14
2.	28	Andhra Pradesh	13327	13324	13324	99.98
3.	12	Arunachal Pradesh	2108	2108	1466	69.54
4.	18	Assam	2705	2146	1989	73.53
5.	10	Bihar	8054	8053	8053	99,99
6.	22	Chhattisgarh	11626	11623	8347	71.80
7.	30	Goa	191	191	191	100.00
8.	24	Gujarat	14674	14617	14350	97.79
9.	6	Haryana	6227	6223	6215	99.81
10.	2	Himachal Pradesh	3615	3615	3615	100.00
11.	1	Jammu And Kashmir	4291	4291	4291	100.00
12.	20	Jharkhand	4345	4345	3507	80.71
13.	29	Karnataka	5948	5948	2275	38.25

V

**Bank Performance** 

Bank Wise Pending
Details

**Theme Activity Master** 

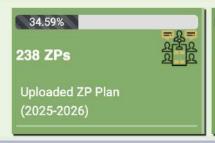
**Weather Forecast** 





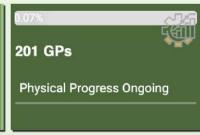


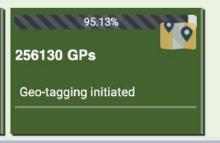






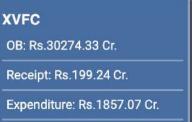


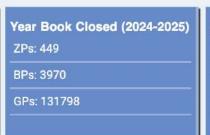


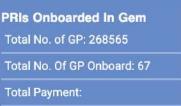












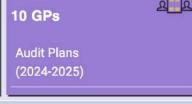








(2024-2025)















### eGramSwaraj (Accounting)

State Wise Summary Report (Financial Year:-2025-2026)

	Zilla Panchayat								Block Panchayat & Equivalent						Village Panchayat &			
State	Total No of Zilla Panchayats	with Master	Total No of Zilla Panchayats with Opening Balance Entry	Donahavata	Total No of Zilla Panchayats with Day Book Closed	Total No of Zilla Panchayats with Month Book Closed	Total No of Zilla Panchayats with Year Book Closed	Total No of Block Panchayats	Total No of Block Panchayats with Master Entry	Total No of Block Panchayats with Opening Balance Entry	Total No of Block Panchayats with Vouchers	Total No of Block Panchayats with Day Book Closed	Total No of Block Panchayats with Month Book Closed	Total No of Block Panchayats with Year Book Closed	Total No of Village Panchayats	Total No of Village Panchayats with Master Entry	Total No of Village Panchayats with Opening Balance Entry	Total No
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	264	0	0	0
ANDHRA PRADESH	13	13	13	10	6	0	0	660	660	660	330	399	0	0	13327	13324	13324	3870
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	27	25	25	15	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2108	2104	2107	700
ASSAM	30	29	29	16	15	0	0	182	178	178	62	50	0	0	2701	2144	2144	1011
BIHAR	38	38	38	38	27	0	0	534	533	533	276	419	0	0	8054	8053	8053	2625
CHANDIGARH	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	NA	NA
CHHATTISGARH	33	27	27	11	7	0	0	146	146	146	25	15	0	0	11620	11616	11616	1
GOA	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	191	191	191	17
GUJARAT	33	33	33	30	22	0	0	248	248	248	167	160	0	0	14674	14619	14626	2902
<u>HARYANA</u>	22	22	22	15	13	0	0	143	143	143	91	85	0	0	6226	6221	6221	2381
HIMACHAL PRADESH	12	12	12	4	2	0	0	81	81	81	33	32	0	0	3615	3614	3614	1105
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	285	0	0	0	0	0	0	4291	4258	4259	0
JHARKHAND	24	24	24	16	14	0	0	264	264	264	162	181	0	0	4345	4345	4345	1601
KARNATAKA	31	31	31	5	5	0	0	238	230	228	13	20	0	0	5948	5948	5948	3067
KEBALA	14	14	14	7	9	0	0	152	152	152	43	71	0	0	941	941	941	183

## eGramSwaraj (Accounting)

District Wise Summary Report Financial Year:-2025-2026 State-MAHABA SHTBA

											l Year:-2025- AHARASHT									
																			Exp	ort To Excel
			Zilla Panc	hayat						nchayat & E	quivalent						anchayat & F	Equivalent		
District	Entered Masters	Entered Opening Balance	Entered Vouchers	Day Book Closed	Month Book Closed	Book	Total No of Block Panchayats	Total No of Block Panchayats with Master Entry	Total No of Block Panchayats with Opening Balance Entry	Total No of Block Panchayats with Vouchers	Total No of Block Panchayats with Day Book Closed	Total No of Block Panchayats with Month Book Closed	Total No of	Total No of Village Panchayats	Total No of Village Panchayats with Master Entry	Total No of Village Panchayats with Opening Balance Entry	Total No of Village Panchayats with Vouchers	Total No of Village Panchayats with Day Book Closed	Total No of Village Panchayats with Month Book Closed	Total No of Village Panchayats with Year Book Closed
Ahmednagar	yes	yes	(RV-0) (PV-0) (CV-0) (JV-0)	no	no	no	14	14	14	1/(RV- 0)/(PV- 1)/(CV- 0)/(JV-1)	0	0	0	1323	1322	1323	35/(RV- 4)/(PV- 139)/(CV- 2)/(JV-0)	69	0	0
Akola	yes	yes	(RV-0) (PV-0) (CV-0) (JV-0)	no	no	no	7	7 '	7	0/(RV- 0)/(PV- 0)/(CV- 0)/(JV-0)	0	0	0	535	535	535	119/(RV- 29)/(PV- 416)/(CV- 10)/(JV-7)	146	0	0
Amravati	yes	yes	(RV-0) (PV-0) (CV-0) (JV-0)	no	no	no	14	14	14	0/(RV- 0)/(PV- 0)/(CV- 0)/(JV-0)	0	0	0	841	841	841	13/(RV- 1)/(PV- 72)/(CV- 3)/(JV-0)	20	0	0
Aurangabad	yes	yes	(RV-0) (PV-13) (CV-0) (JV-0)	no	no	no	9	9	9	1/(RV- 0)/(PV- 2)/(CV- 0)/(JV-0)	1	0	0	870	870	870	124/(RV- 41)/(PV- 540)/(CV- 12)/(JV-6)	141	0	0
Beed	yes	yes	(RV-0) (PV-0) (CV-0) (JV-0)	no	no	no	11	11	11	0/(RV- 0)/(PV- 0)/(CV- 0)/(JV-0)	0	0	0	1034	1034	1034	134/(RV- 72)/(PV- 397)/(CV- 7)/(JV-0)	163	0	0
Bhandara	yes	yes	(RV-1) (PV-39) (CV-0) (JV-0)	yes	no	no	7	7	7	2/(RV- 0)/(PV- 10)/(CV- 0)/(JV-1)	0	0	0	541	541	E 4.1	21/(RV- 6)/(PV- 71)/(CV- 1)/(JV-0)	21	0	0
Buldhana	yes	yes	(RV-0) (PV-0) (CV-0) (IV-0)	no	no	no	13	13	13	0/(RV- 0)/(PV- 0)/(CV- 0)/(IV-0)	0	0	0	870	870	870	104/(RV- 21)/(PV- 374)/(CV- 11)/(IV-4)	86	0	0

## eGramSwaraj (Accounting)

Block Wise Summary Report Financial Year:-2025-2026 State:-MAHARASHTRA,District:-Thane

	Block	k Panchayat &	Equivalen	t		Village Panchayat & Equivalent									
ed ers	Entered Opening Balance	Entered Vouchers	Day Book Closed	Month Book Closed	Year Book Closed	Total No of Village Panchayats	Total No of Village Panchayats with Master Entry	Total No of Village Panchayats with Opening Balance Entry	Total No of Village Panchayats with Vouchers	Total No of Village Panchayats with Day Book Closed	Total No of Village Panchayats with Month Book Closed	Total Panch Book			
	yes	(RV-0)(PV-0) (CV-0)(JV-0)	no	no	no	28	28	28	6/(RV-0)/(PV- 34)/(CV-0)/(JV-0)	7	0	0			
	yes	(RV-0)(PV-0) (CV-0)(JV-0)	no	no	no	121	121	121	36/(RV-10)/(PV- 114)/(CV-6)/(JV-0)	32	0	0			
	yes	(RV-0)(PV-0) (CV-0)(JV-0)	no	no	no	46	46	46	3/(RV-1)/(PV- 12)/(CV-0)/(JV-0)	4	0	0			
	yes	(RV-0)(PV-0) (CV-0)(JV-0)	no	no	no	126	126	126	3/(RV-0)/(PV- 7)/(CV-0)/(JV-0)	6	0	0			
	yes	(RV-0)(PV-0) (CV-0)(JV-0)	no	no	no	110	110	110	12/(RV-32)/(PV- 54)/(CV-2)/(JV-0)	14	0	0			

Back

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Designed & Developed by Panchayat Informatics Division, National Informatics Centre

## **Voucher Wise Summary Report**

Financial Year: 2025-2026

Month: APRIL

Village Panchayat and Equivalent: Jambhul

	Opening B	alance		5,179,888.86											
Receipts				Payments						Contra			Journal		
Voucher Date	Voucher No	Voucher Type	Voucher Amount (in Rs.)	Voucher Date	Voucher No	Voucher Type	Voucher Amount (in Rs.)	Case Record		Voucher No	Voucher Amount (in Rs.)	Voucher Date	Voucher No	Voucher Amount (in Rs.)	
09/04/2025	XVFC/2025- 26/R/1	Refund of Excess Payment		07/04/2025	XVFC/2025- 26/P/2		250,000								
		Refund of Excess Payment		07/04/2025	XVFC/2025- 26/P/3	Expenditures	120,000								
		Refund of Excess Payment		07/04/2025	XVFC/2025- 26/P/4	Expenditures	115,000								
		D. C. J. C		07/04/0005	VI/E0/000E	e	470.070								





### **Payment Voucher Details**

Financial Year: 2025-2026

Month: April

State: MAHARASHTRA

District Panchayat & Equivalent: Thane

Block Panchayat & Equivalent : Kalyan

Village Panchayat & Equivalent : Jambhul

Type Of Transaction	Expenditures	<b>Activity Code</b>	40069696
Scheme Name	XV Finance CommissionBasic Grant (untied)		**
Voucher Date	07/04/2025	Voucher No	XVFC/2025-26/P/2
Account Head	Expenditure Heads 3054 - Transportation 101 - Roads 23 - Major Works	Amount (in Rs.)	250,000
Particulars	Construction Of Paver Block Road At Sai Krupa School , Amit sawant Home approach road	Attached File	
Mode Of Payment	Details	To Whom Paid	Amount (in Rs.)
PFMS	Account Type:Bank Account No.:020301012866	Sonal Annasaheb Gite	250,000

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## Multi-Channel Transparency Tools

- Wall writings and public display boards
- Use of digital platforms (e-Panchayat,
   eGramswaraj, mobile apps)
- Open meetings and participatory planning
- Proactive disclosure under RTI
- Television and Art





## **Challenges at Grassroot Level**

- Lack of awareness among Villagers
- Unstructured documentation and data access
- Limited grievance redressal mechanisms
- Limited digital literacy and monitoring



## Compliance & Audit Issues

- Delayed Financial Oversight: Consistent issues with timely completion of audits and financial reporting
- **Beneficiary Selection Irregularities**: Procedural gaps in identifying and selecting eligible scheme participants
- **Documentation Deficiencies**: Inadequate maintenance of meeting minutes and essential Gram Panchayat records
- **Transparency Shortfalls**: Limited implementation of public disclosure practices and information sharing protocols



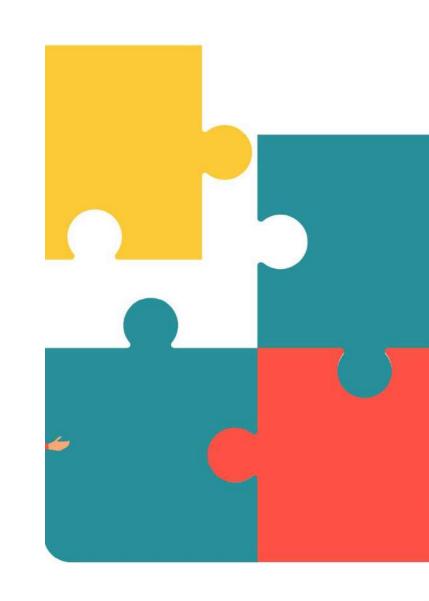
# Mechanisms for Accountability

Capacity building and training of Panchayat members

Grievance redressal systems

Social audit and performance review

Regular internal and compliance Audits



## **JAM trinity**

"JAM Trinity" refers to the JAM Yojana, a government initiative in India that links three key elements: Jan Dhan accounts (financial inclusion), Aadhaar (unique identification), and Mobile phones. This linkage aims to streamline government benefit transfers and enhance financial inclusion.

### **Key Components of JAM Trinity:**

#### Jan Dhan Account:

This is a basic savings bank account scheme that aims to provide financial access to the poor and marginalized.

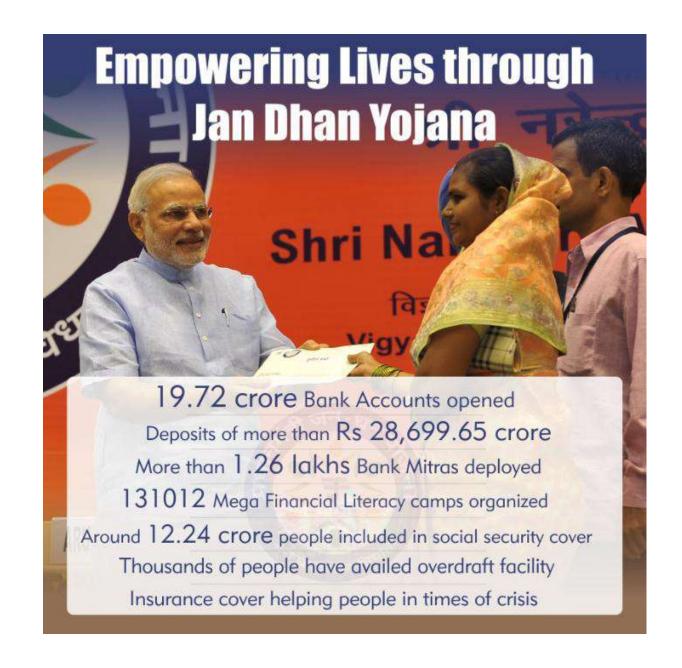
#### Aadhaar:

This is a unique 12-digit identification number issued to every resident of India, linking them to their biometric and demographic information.

#### **Mobile Phone:**

Mobile phones are used as a communication tool for various government initiatives, including direct benefit transfers and financial transactions.

## **JAM TRINITY**



**SOURCE: PMINDIA.GOV.IN** 

## **BENEFITS**

### **Benefits of JAM Trinity:**

#### **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBTs):**

The JAM Trinity facilitates the transfer of government subsidies and benefits directly to the beneficiaries' bank accounts, reducing leakages and corruption.

#### **Financial Inclusion:**

By linking Jan Dhan accounts to Aadhaar and mobile phones, the JAM Trinity expands access to financial services for millions of people who were previously excluded from the banking system.

#### **Transparency and Accountability:**

The digital nature of the JAM Trinity enables real-time monitoring and tracking of government transfers, making it easier to identify and address any irregularities.

#### **Digital Revolution:**

The JAM Trinity has been instrumental in driving the digital revolution in India, fostering a cashless economy and promoting digital literacy.

SOURCE: Google Al



A Social Audit is a participatory tool that allows the local community to scrutinize and verify how resources and services are delivered. It bridges the gap between **intended development outcomes** and what's actually implemented.

#### **How it works:**

Community members – often led by trained volunteers or local groups – review documents, physically verify projects (e.g., roads, toilets, ration shops), and hold public hearings (jan sunwais) to question and hold officials accountable

## **Social Audit**

Social Audit is a powerful tool, that is, associated with accountability and promotes the Right to Information (RTI).

## **Key Aspects for Social Audit**

- Verification of beneficiaries and public assets.
- Transparency in financial and operational records.
- Collective decision-making and grievance redressal.
- A Social Audit can be considered as an empowering process, in which the user community validates the usefulness and quality of the scheme/programme through monitoring process.
- It enhances transparency and accountability in the Government schemes/programmes.

## **Role of Social Audit**

Enhancing	transparency and accountability.
Identifying	corruption and inefficiencies.
Strengthening	community participation.
Ensuring	better utilization of government funds.

## Social Audit Process



**Define values and objectives of Gram Panchayat** 



**Identify indicators of performance** 



Collect data- qualitative and quantitative



**Evaluate data-internal and external comparisons** 



**Publish social results** 

## Role of Social Audit in Enhancing Transparency

- 1. Building Trust and Credibility
- 2. Accountability of Elected Representatives
- 3. Efficient Allocation of Funds
- 4. Promoting Local Democracy
- 5. Monitoring of Implementation



## **Case Study**



Andhra Pradesh – Pioneered institutionalized social audits under NREGA. Villagers identify fake bills, missing materials, and get grievances addressed.



Rajasthan – Regular Jan Sunwai meetings; officials respond to community directly.



Jharkhand – Civil society-led social audits helped uncover ghost schools and unutilized funds.

## Andhra Pradesh: Institutionalized Social Audit under MGNREGA

 AP was the first state in India to institutionalize social audits as part of MGNREGA. The state set up an independent Society for Social Audit, Accountability and Transparency (SSAAT) in 2006

#### **Key Features:**

- Trained village-level social auditors who are not part of the implementing agency.
- Detailed review of job cards, wage payments, material usage, and muster rolls.
- Use of Jan Sunwais (public hearings) where officials are directly questioned.

#### Impact:

- Identified large-scale frauds like fake job cards and inflated work bills.
- Recovered lakhs of rupees as well as Empowered women to speak up.
- Key Takeaway:

When social audits are regular, independent, and well-trained, they become a powerful deterrent to misuse of public funds.



## Rajasthan: Jan Sunwai Model – Public Hearings that Deliver

Rajasthan pioneered Jan Sunwais (public hearings) in the early 2000s with support from civil society organizations like MKSS (Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan). This became a grassroots model of social audit before it was adopted nationwide.

#### How it Works:

- Audit teams examine Panchayat records like work registers and purchase bills and Physical verification of works and public welfare schemes.
- Public meetings where discrepancies are presented, and officials must respond.

#### Impact:

- Exposed cases of corruption in rural employment, pension distribution, and school meals.
- Forced government to act—disciplinary action against erring officers and recovery orders issued.
- Led to a larger Right to Information (RTI) movement across India.

#### **Key Takeaway:**

Jan Sunwais encourage direct dialogue between people and power—making governance transparent and people-centered.



## Jharkhand: Social Audit Uncovers Ghost Schools and Unused Toilets

In districts like Latehar and Palamu, Jharkhand's community-led social audits have exposed anomalies in multiple schemes, including education, sanitation, and housing.

#### **Findings:**

- Ghost schools that existed only on paper but were drawing funds.
- Toilets built under SBM (Swachh Bharat Mission) that were either incomplete or never used.
- Ration cards issued to ineligible people while the poor were excluded.

#### **Execution:**

- Trained youth from local communities conducted audits.
- Help from civil society groups like PRADAN and Jharkhand Social Audit Unit.
- Issues raised in Gram Sabhas, and follow-up demanded.

#### **Key Takeaway:**

Even in resource-poor areas, community monitoring can expose ground-level truth and ensure course correction.



## **Scope of Compliance Audit**

### - Financial Compliance

Proper utilization of grants, maintenance of accounts, adherence to financial procedures.

#### - Administrative Compliance

 Meetings conducted as per norms, resolutions properly recorded, roles and responsibilities followed.

#### - Legal Compliance

- Adherence to Acts like the RTI Act, Environmental Laws, Labour Laws (e.g., MGNREGA provisions).

### - Project Implementation

- Correct implementation of schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), etc.



# Connection between the Social Audit and Compliance Audit

- Both aim to ensure accountability and transparency
- Often review overlapping records (e.g., project expenditures)
- Social audit findings can inform or trigger compliance audits
- Compliance audits can validate or support social audit claims
- Together they offer a comprehensive view of governance

Aspect	Social Audit	Compliance Audit
Conducted by	Citizens / civil society	Government auditors / authorities

Aspect	Social Audit	Compliance Audit				
Conducted by	Citizens / civil society	Government auditors / authorities				
Focus	Performance & service delivery	Legal & financial compliance				

Aspect	Social Audit	Compliance Audit			
Conducted by	Citizens / civil society	Government auditors / authorities			
Focus	Performance & service delivery	Legal & financial compliance			
Approach	Participatory, field-based	Rule-based, document- based			

Aspect	Social Audit	Compliance Audit				
Conducted by	Citizens / civil society	Government auditors / authorities				
Focus	Performance & service delivery	Legal & financial compliance				
Approach	Participatory, field-based	Rule-based, document- based				
Outcome	Community feedback	Official report with recommendations				

## Conclusion



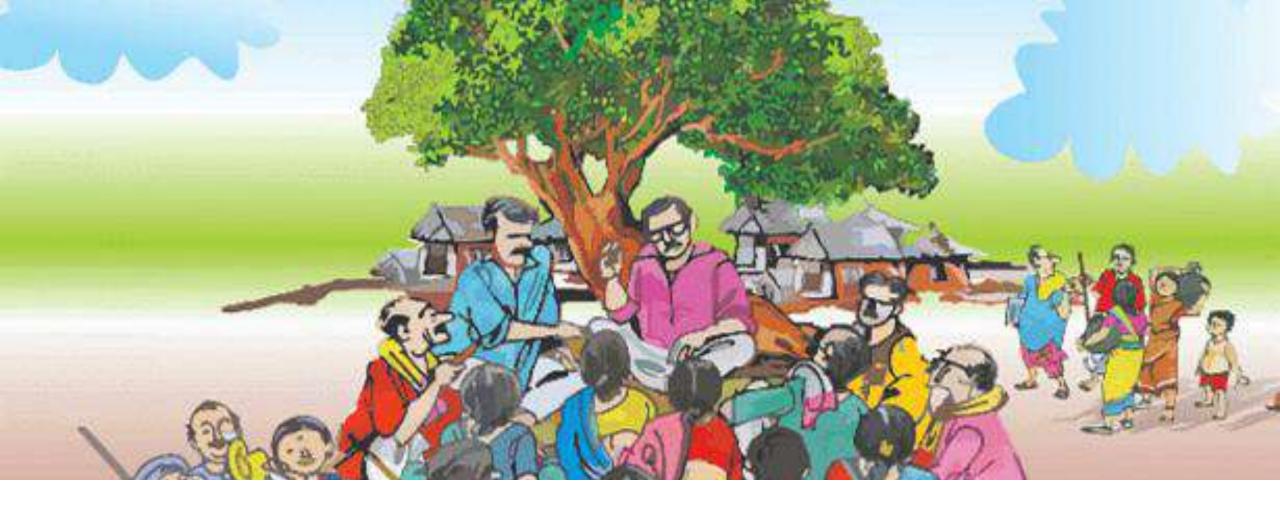
Transparency and accountability are not just ideals—they are **the foundation of democracy**, especially at the grassroots.



**Social Audit is the bridge** between citizens and the state. It empowers people to question, to verify, and to participate.



When backed by proper frameworks like ICSI's Model Governance Code, and implemented in spirit, we create a village-level governance system that is inclusive, responsive, and resilient.



THE BEST GOVERNANCE IS THE GOVERNANCE THAT IS TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE, AND WHERE PEOPLE ARE EMPOWERED TO ASK QUESTIONS.

- DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM



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Thank you