

INTRODUCTION

The 73rd and the 74th amendments in the Indian Constitution, brought into effect on 24th April 1992, envisaged a major reform in the governance of the country. It required changes in attitudes; administrative, planning, financial and personnel systems; institutions and methods of working. The formation of a separate Ministry of Panchayati Raj in June 2004 at the Centre was a clear indication of the determination of the Government of India to give a major push to this nation-wide reform.

The Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan (PMSA) & Panchayat Yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PYSA) are the two unique ventures launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj so as to facilitate the successful achievement of the national goal of inclusive growth through inclusive governance.

In order to address the empowerment of EWRs & EYRs of P.R.Is in a systematic, programmatic manner and not to rely on adhoc and sporadic interventions, the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, Govt. of India is implementing the new scheme, namely, "Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Abhiyan" (PMEYSA) during the 11th Five Year Plan. The Scheme has two components namely PMSA & PYSA.

In the State of Goa the Department of Panchayati Raj & Community Development was made the Nodal Department for implementing the PMSA and Mrs. Nelly Rodrigues, Z.P. Member of South Goa Zilla Panchayat was nominated the State Convener by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India.

As per the guidelines of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Shri. Menino D' Souza, the Director of Panchayats, Govt. of Goa facilitated the constitution of a Core Committee comprising of Activists, Feminists, Social Workers, EWRs and those interested in participatory governance and notified the same. The Charter of Demands of Elected Women Representatives was accordingly drafted by the Core Committee headed by Smt. Nelly Rodrigues with Smt. Auda Viegas as it's Secretary under the guidance of Smt. Herminia Costa, the Nodal Officer representing the Directorate of Panchayats, Govt. of Goa. The said draft Charter which laid down the road map for taking forward PMSA in the State was discussed, modified and approved by the Elected Women Representatives of the P.R.I s in Goa and submitted it to the then Union Minister for Panchayati Raj, Shri. Mani Shankar Aiyar during the State level Sammelan held on 19th October 2006.

Goa Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan (GPMSA) was accordingly launched by the then Hon. Union Panchayat Minister Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar on 19th October, 2006. However, as the general elections to the village panchayats in the State were due, the GPMSA Association could not be formed. Therefore, an Adhoc Committee headed by Mrs. Nelly Rodrigues with Mrs. Dorothy Fernandes and Mrs. Martha Saldanha representing EWRs of North and South District was nominated.

Subsequently after the general elections held in May 2007 the Directorate of Panchayats initiated the process for conducting elections to form the General Body and the office bearers of the Governing Body (State Executive Committee) and District level Committees of GPMSA so as to constitute the GPMSA Association.

GOA PANCHAYAT MAHILA SHAKTI ABHIYAN ASSOCIATION

GPMSA Association is a democratically elected body of thirty one members representing all the Elected Panchayat Women of 189 Village Panchayats and two Zilla Panchayats in the State of Goa having its General Body and Governing Body (State Executive Committee), two District Committees which were notified by the Govt. of Goa in its Official Gazette vide Series No. 42 dated 23rd January 2008. GPMSA has also democratically constituted its eleven Block Committees with the President and the office bearers giving representation to women and youth representatives of Village Panchayats who are geared with the right mind set to take the vision & mission of GPMSA to the new heights focusing on Good Governance & Social Change in the third millennium.

GPMSA Association is also registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as well as Goa Co-operative Societies Act, 2005 with Registration No. 59/Goa/2008 dated 21/4/2008.

GPMSA is implementing the Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PMEYSA) Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India through the Department of Panchayati Raj & Community Development, Govt. of Goa as a Nodal Agency.

The State Support Centre (S.S.C) housed at Junta Quarters, Margao - Goa is managed by the Governing Body of GPMSA through its President under the overall Supervision and Guidance of the Nodal Officer, presently with a single clerk.

GPMSA is successfully conducting sensitization and capacity building sammelans, orientations, workshops, conferences, camps, drives, Gram Sabha mobilization campaigns, quizzes, contests, exhibitions, street plays, festivals & local - national - international events/days, felicitation ceremonies etc. at the State, District, Block and Village level for empowering the Elected Women Representatives, Elected Youth Representatives including marginalized sections of the Societies in collaboration with the Govt. Organizations, N.G.Os, S.H.Gs, C.B.Os, V.Os and other Rural Agencies and Individuals with voluntary support of print and electronic media and other local and national networking institutions.

OUR VISION & MISSION

- ❖ Facilitate Democratic Decentralization and Strengthen Local Governance through the grassroots level institutions like Gram Sabhas and Panchayats.
- ❖ Empowering Elected Panchayat members including Women & Youth to build strong movements in developments and democracy at grassroots.
- ❖ Holistic Development of all sections of the Society through Panchayati Raj Governance.
- ❖ Participatory Planning and Sustainable Rural Development.
- ❖ Maximize people's participation to generate optimum utilization of the resources.
- ❖ Support the Co-operative Movement through N.G.Os, S.H.Gs, Mahila & Yuva Mandals, Rural Agencies etc. to ensure economic sustainability.
- ❖ Provide need based support to all the stakeholders to generate maximum efficiency in the day to day capacity mobilization.
- ❖ Promote community development initiatives by sensitization and awareness through the IEC (Information Education Communication) mode.
- ❖ Ensure Good Governance through ICTs to realize the goal of knowledge society in the country through the implementation of Five Year Plans.
- ❖ Achieve the successful realization of Millennium Development Goals (M.D.Gs) put forth by the United Nations Organization.