

National Seminar

*Panchayati Raj in India: Retrospect and Prospect
(March 28, 2026)*

Sponsored by



*Indian Council of
Social Science Research
New Delhi*

Organised by



Anugrah Narayan Sinha

Institute of Social Studies

*(An Autonomous Institute created by Bihar
Legislature and supported by ICSSR, New Delhi,
Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)*

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About the Institute

Anugrah Narayan Sinha Institute of Social Studies (ANSISS) was established by the Government of Bihar, in memory of Dr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha, an ardent follower of Mahatma Gandhi since the days of the Champaran Satyagraha Movement, first Deputy Chief Minister-cum-Finance Minister and one of the architects of modern Bihar. It was inaugurated on the 31st of January, 1958, by Desh Ratna Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India. Later it was made a statutory autonomous body through legislation on the 8th of October, 1964 under the A. N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies Act 1964 by the Govt. of Bihar. The Institute is governed by the Board of Control and funded by the Department of Education, Government of Bihar and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) through the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The Institute is located in a sprawling campus situated on the southern bank of the river Ganga at a distance of 3 kms from Patna Railway Junction and in the North West end of the Gandhi Maidan on the Ashok Raj Path opposite Divisional Commissioner's Office. Even though located in the heart of the city, it boasts of a picturesque location with quiet surroundings.



About the Seminar

The Panchayati Raj System (PRS) is the foundational architecture of rural governance in India, symbolizing the shift from a centralized colonial administrative model to a participatory grassroots democratic one. As the "third tier" of the Indian political system of federal structure, it serves as the most immediate interface between the state and its citizens.

The ethos of the "Panchayat" is rooted in India's civilizational history, from the Vedic Sabhas to the medieval village councils. However, the modern institutionalization began with the experiments during colonial rule and later in post-independence period. While Article 40 of the Directive Principles initially urged states to organize village Panchayats, it lacked mandatory legal force, leading to inconsistent implementation across states.

The watershed moment arrived with the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 gave Panchayati system a new lease of life and attempted to introduce more inclusive rural governance through mandatory periodic elections, institutionalization of participation through Gram Sabha and one-third representation of women's participation. It coincided with the acceptance of neoliberal policy of state. Panchayati Raj system serves as the bedrock of India's democratic decentralization which has become a buzzword in governance in the developing countries. In the 1980s decentralisation came to the forefront of the development discourse alongside the renewed global emphasis and human centered approaches to development. The western world looks upon it as an alternative to provisioning public services in a more cost effective manner and the

developing countries are pursuing it to counter economic inefficiencies, governance and Sustainable Development Goals. As India moves towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and *Viskshit Bharat* with mantra of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*, it is need of the hour to look back and beyond the new trajectory of village governance.

The seminar seeks to convene academics, policy analysts, civil society activists, bureaucrats, PRI representatives, and researchers to critically evaluate the evolving journey of Panchayati Raj Institutions, identify pressing challenges, and formulate a strategic plan for the future.

Objectives

1. To trace the historical and constitutional underpinnings of Panchayati Raj in India.
2. To assess the contributions of PRIs to participatory democracy and equitable governance.
3. To identify the roadblocks in the journey of the Panchayati Raj Institutions as the grassroots democratic structures.
4. To review the outcome and obstacles to gender mainstreaming and empowering women through quota.
5. To formulate policy recommendations and a forward looking roadmap for PRIs.

Themes

1. Historical and Constitutional Foundations of Panchayat System in India
2. 73rd Constitutional Amendment and Democratic Decentralisation
3. Devolution of Funds, Functions and Functionaries

4. Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) and PRIs
5. The Road Ahead- Prospects and Reforms

Note: Above themes are suggestive in nature, contributors may present papers on any theme related to main theme “Panchayati Raj in India ”.

Paper Contribution

A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies invites research papers for participation in the One Day National Seminar sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi. Well researched papers based on either primary sources or on secondary sources with a proper title indicating the theme of the seminar with an Abstract of around 200 words and full paper of 5000- 6000 words with proper references in APA style in font size 12 Time New Roman, 1.5 line space in Word File. Shortlisted papers will be published in an edited book as per the ICSSR requirement or in ANSISS Journal. One hard copy of paper should be submitted at reception/registration counter while coming to attend the conference. On the cover page of the paper name, designation, affiliating institution, email ID, mobile number should be clearly mentioned.

Timeline for submission of paper and registration:

Deadline for submission of Full length paper: March 21, 2026

Deadline for the registration: March 24, 2024

Registration Fee:

Student/Research scholars- Rs 550/-

Faculty Members /Researchers- Rs. 1100/-

Process of Registration: Registration fee should be paid online in the following bank account:

Account Name: ANSISS SEMINAR ACCOUNT.

Account Number: 36095111294

IFSC Code: SBIN0000152

Bank Name: State of Bank of India,

Branch: Patna Main Branch,

West Gandhi Maidan, Patna

Fill in the google form with all the necessary documents:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScelihER6C6RmphtHv8Bqi_uu8lM_fZiaQy3p-NUL-dTuHzPkA/viewform?usp=publish-editor#check_browser_settings

Attach the payment slip/screenshot print with the registration form.

Registration should be done after the acceptance of the Paper by the organising committee.

Accommodation and food:

Participants are requested to arrange their accommodation on their own.

No TA/DA will be paid.

Tea, Breakfast and lunch will be provided during the seminar by the Institute.

All communications may please be addressed to:

ansissemnarpri2026@gmail.com

Dr. Bipul Kumar

Seminar Convener

Assistant Professor,

Centre for Non-Violence and Peace

ANSISS, Patna

For more details contact Shri. Avinash Kumar Rai (7079703206) and Shri. Pandey Rishi Raj (8797807750) ANSISS, Patna.

Registration Form		
A. N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna-800001		
<p><i>One Day National Seminar on</i></p> <p>Panchayati Raj in India: Retrospect and Prospect</p> <p>(Sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi) March 28, 2026 Saturday)</p>		
1	Name	
2	Designation	
3	Affiliating Institution	
4	Corresponding Address	
5	Email ID & Mobile Number	
6	Title of the paper	
7	Whether fee is paid: Yes/No	
8	Reference No. of fee payment	
10	Date and time of arrival	
11	Date and time of departure	
12	Mode of travel: Train/Air/Bus/Taxi	
13	Signature of the participant with date	

Note:

*** Participants submitting Full Length paper will only be invited for the seminar**

***Fill the registration form and send the scanned copy along with the registration fee payment slip through this email ansisseminarpri2026@gmail.com**

Fill in the google form with all the necessary documents:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScelihER6C6RmphtHv8Bqiuu8lM_fZiaQy3p-NUL-dTuHzPkA/viewform?usp=publish-editor#check_browser_settings

Note: Some eminent scholars are being invited as Key Note/Invited Speakers.