

The background is a dark blue gradient with several faint, light blue circular patterns. These patterns include concentric circles, dashed lines, and radial tick marks, resembling a technical or scientific diagram. Some of the numbers visible in the background are 140, 150, 160, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, and 260.

PANCHAYAT RAJ SYSTEM AND DISTRICT INITIATIVES

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VILLAGE GOVERNANCE

- **Similar sentiments were expressed by our first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru.**
 - “ India is poor because villages of India are poor. India will be rich if the villages of India are rich. Panchayats should be given greater powers, for we want the villages to have a greater measure of swaraj (self government) in their own villages.”
- **In the words of Prof Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate, “ It is empowerment that leads to entitlements and entitlements lead to enrichment.”**
- **Village governance is empowerment of Rural India.**

PANCHAYAT RAJ IN INDIA

- Feudalistic system of governance during Mughal rule in the medieval India created a new class of feudal chiefs and revenue collectors (Zamindars)
- Pachayats (democratic systems) were never a priority to the British rulers. They were interested in “controlled local bodies
- During British rule, establishment of local civil and criminal courts, revenue and police eroded in value and effected the Panchayat System.
- For a sustainable economic growth to take place in any country, it is necessary that people participate in political process of the society.

OBJECTIVES

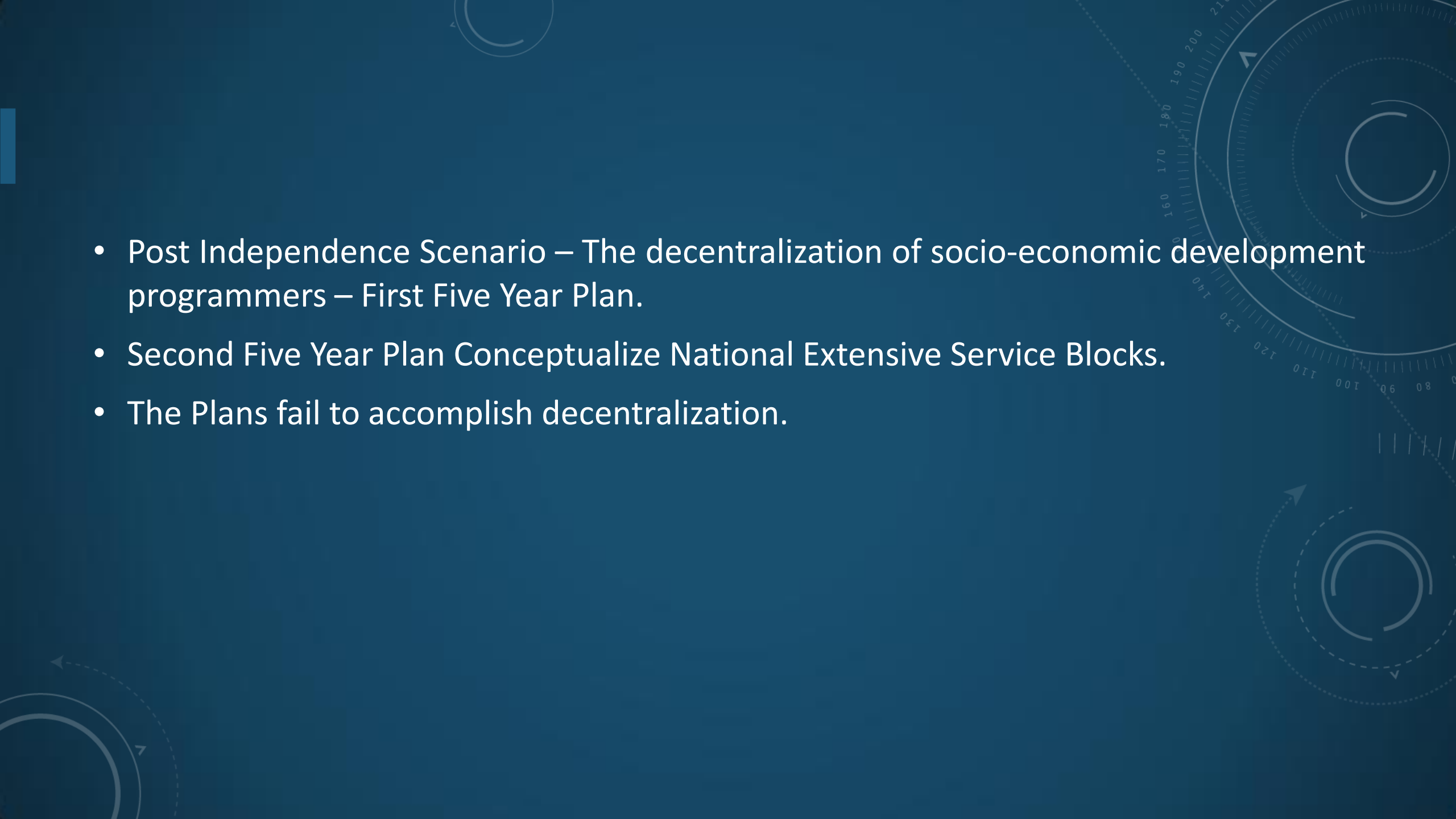
- Panchayat Raj System
- Advantages, Disadvantages
- Plans linked to potential (PLPs)
- Participatory role of village community in the planning process.
- District Initiatives – DRDA
- Empowerment of masses
- Women empowerment.

THE PANCHAYAT RAJ SYSTEM

The Panchayat Raj System has three tier structures.

- **Gram Panchayat**

Gram Panchayat is the first level elected body and the basic unit of democracy, is the local government with specific responsibilities. Gram Sabha is the general body of the citizens of entire village.

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- The background features a dark blue gradient with several faint, light blue circular patterns. On the right side, there is a large circular scale with numerical markings from 0 to 210 in increments of 10. The scale has an arrow pointing upwards. There are also other smaller circular patterns with arrows, some solid and some dashed, scattered across the background.
- Post Independence Scenario – The decentralization of socio-economic development programmers – First Five Year Plan.
 - Second Five Year Plan Conceptualize National Extensive Service Blocks.
 - The Plans fail to accomplish decentralization.

- Execute plans for the development of the scheduled castes and tribes.
- Works for women empowerment as per government directives.
- Encourage entrepreneurs, small-scale industries, cottage industries, handicraft, agriculture produce processing, dairy farms, etc.
- Provide work for the poor people. (tribes, scheduled caste, lower caste) and execute poverty eradication programs of the government.

- **Source of Income :**

- Taxes on water, pilgrimage, markets, etc.
- Grant form the State Government / Central Government.

PANCHAYAT SAMITI

- **Functions :-**

- Implement schemes for the development of agriculture
- Establishment of primary health centers and primary schools.
- Supply of drinking water, drainage, construction/repair of roads.
- Development of cottage and small-scale industries and opening of cooperative societies.
- Establishment of youth organizations.
- Establishment of youth organizations.

- **Source of Income**

- The main sources of income of the panchayat samiti are grants-in-aid and loans from the State Govt.

ABERRATIONS IN THE EFFORT

- Bureaucratic methods of the state Governments dilute the spirit of implementation.
- In some cases, Panchayats are becoming an institutions to perpetuate cast inequalities, that already exist.
- The power rooted in caste, gender and sometimes religion determines the functioning of Panchayat system.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF PANCHAYAT RAJ INSTITUTIONS (CONTD..)

- Empowerment with high degree of self confidence and self esteem coupled, with political awareness and service orientations.
- Cross country rural market network – “Rural Business Hub’s”. Fusion of rural produce with corporate expertise.
- Instrumental in planning and executing N.R.E.G. act ensuring 100-day wage employment in every financial year.
- Instrumental in implementing rural development schemes/ programs of Central/State governments.

- The new panchayats cover about 96 percent of India's more than 5.8 lakh villages.
- Nearly 99.6 percent of rural population is covered.
- Challenges facing rural India are resolved by rural participation.
- The largest experiment in decentralization of governance in the history of humanity.

PANCHAYAT RAJ INSTITUTIONS TODAY

- About 3 million elected representatives at all levels of the panchayat one- third of which are women.
- These members represent more than 2.4 lakh Gram Panchayats
- About 6,000 intermediate level tiers
- More than 500 district panchayats.

ZILA PARISHAD

- **Functions:**
- Provide essential services and facilities to the rural population.
- The planning and execution of the development programs for the district.
- Supply improved seeds to farmers. Inform them of new techniques and training in Agro production.
- Set up and run schools, Primary Health Centers and hospitals in villages.
- Construct bridges, roads and take care of public properties.

DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CONTD..)

- Provides synergies among different agencies and bring about a convergence approach
- Catalyst to development process.
- Review the implementation process, ensure the benefits earmarked to target group
- (e.g., SC/ST/Women/Disabled) reach them.
- Improve/ propagate the awareness regarding rural development and poverty alleviation programs.
- Empowering rural masses in their ability to overcome poverty.

GRAM SWARAJYA

- The institution of Panchayati Raj is specifically designed for rural population with the basic objective of democratic decentralization and devolution of power to ensure accelerated socio-economic progress with every individual being the architect of his/her own government.
- The real effect will come when system is participative and socio – economic equality is achieved – A socio – political change for better India.

FLAGSHIP SCHEMES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act launched Feb 2006 in 200 District, extended to 593 district covering approx 450 laces families with a current outlay of 39100 corers.
- Central sanitation Scheme
- Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana
- Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana
- PURA Yojna
- MP/MLA Funds.
- Schemes by other departments

KEY AREAS FOR PRI FOR NEXT 3-5 YEARS

- Energizing gram sabhas or village electorates. Ensuring accountability and transparency in these bodies.
- Sensitizing officials and facilitating stronger panchayat administration links. Enabling panchayats to deliver on their promise of facilitating more equitable and effective development.
- PRIs to develop broad based relationship with NGOs, state government and various institutes for greater impact and effectiveness.
- On going evaluation on PRIs capacities to effectively and inclusively perform multiple development functions.
- Help, generate pool of replicable ideas.
- States to take PRI seriously and commit resources to them.

THANK YOU