

Scheme for

Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2026

Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Government of India

Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2026

1. Government of India has instituted a scheme in 2006 namely, "The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration" - to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts/ Organizations of the Central and State Governments. The Scheme was restructured in 2014 for recognizing the performance of District Collectors in Priority Programs, Innovations and Aspirational Districts. The Scheme was restructured again in 2020, to recognize the performance of District Collectors towards economic development of the District. The Scheme was revamped with a new approach in 2021 with the objective to encourage Constructive Competition, Innovation, Replication and Institutionalisation of Best Practices. Under this approach, emphasis was placed on good governance, qualitative achievement and last mile connectivity, rather than only on achievement of quantitative targets. With this in focus, the applications for Awards would be evaluated on three parameters; Good Governance, Qualitative and Quantitative. The scheme was further revamped in 2023 with the inclusion of the 'Holistic Development of Districts' category, with focus on saturation approach. The scheme was again revamped in 2024 with the inclusion of the 'Aspirational Blocks Programme' category, with the focus on development at the grassroots level.

2. It is expected that the Central Ministries, States and all Districts participate in this Scheme of Prime Minister's Awards for 2026. The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration under this new scheme shall be conferred by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

3. Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration Scheme 2026

For the year 2026, the scheme for Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration aims to recognize the contribution of civil servants under the following categories :-

Category 1- Holistic Development of Districts
Category 2- Aspirational Blocks Programme
Category 3- Innovation

The applications for the award would be required to cover all the aspects as stated below.

3.1 Holistic Development of Districts

For the year 2026, the scheme for Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration aims to recognize the contribution of civil servants in holistic development of the District under the following schemes:

(i) Har Ghar Jal Yojana
(ii) SBM (Urban) and AMRUT
(iii) Gyan Bharatam
(iv) PM Matsya Sampada Yojana

(v) Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0
(vi) PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana
(vii) TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan
(viii) Crop Diversification under three components
(ix) PM SHRI
(x) Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)
(xi) National Mission on Natural Farming
(xii) Capacity Building under IGOT

The applications for the award would be required to cover all the aspects of implementation of the cumulative implementation of the above schemes in a holistic manner, with focus on saturation approach, such as, activities covering production stage, quality control, governance and outcomes. Any application for the awards is expected to comprise of three parts:

i) Quantitative: to include quantifiable parameters to assess the scheme in holistic manner and covering all the stages of implementation of a programme.

ii) Governance: To include governance model to implement the programme, capacity/skill of deployed Human Resource (HR), capacity building mechanism for HR deployed in the implementation, methodology to enhance transparency, Public Grievance redressal mechanism and its functioning, technology driven governance architecture.

iii) Qualitative: Quality Control mechanism, Jan Bhagidari, Capacity Building/ skilling for quality control, Behavioural change brought about through the scheme, feedback mechanism and impression of beneficiaries covered under the scheme.

With the emphasis on the above, the parameters for evaluation would include Quantifiable parameters provided by the concerned Nodal Ministry/ Department. Further, the Qualitative and Governance parameters will be laid down in the Application Form developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). The Districts would be expected to emphasize such elements in the strategy that have enhanced quality and good governance in the scheme. The elements of good governance that are to be promoted include measures towards:

i) Enhancing transparency and checking corruption.
ii) Effectiveness of administration and regulatory quality
iii) Accountability
iv) Inclusiveness and community participation
v) Grievance Redressal mechanism and feedback system
vi) Quality and Capability of Human Resource and mechanism of capacity building
vii) Replicability and Sustainability
viii) Convergence of schemes

Further, the good governance practices and methodology vary among the Districts/ implementing agencies. The measures introduced to strengthen the scheme administrative architecture on the above stated eight parameters may be included in the applications. In assessment of an application for all the Awards **the overall weightage for Quantitative, Governance and Qualitative parameters shall be 50%, 30% and 20% for the year 2026.**

Since "Jan Bhagidari" is an important plank of implementation of government schemes, this would be analysed by following ecosystem approach, where the contribution of Jan Bhagidari at all the stages of implementation, such as mobilisation, production, quality control, seeking feedback of persons covered, as well as implementation of scheme shall be assessed. Further, additional weightage would be given to such applications where the Jan Bhagidari is successfully deployed through novel approaches.

3.2 Aspirational Blocks Programme

The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was launched on January 7, 2023, during the 2nd National Conference of Chief Secretaries. This aims to transform 513 blocks across 329 districts from 27 States & 4 Union Territories. The ABP focuses on improving governance to enhance the quality of life of citizens most difficult and underdeveloped blocks of India by converging existing schemes, defining outcomes, and monitoring them. Under ABP, Key Performance Indicators are identified to measure the progress of the blocks under 5 themes of Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Allied Services, Social Development and Basic Infrastructure. The blocks are ranked on the basis of incremental progress achieved by the blocks, thus instilling a sense of healthy competition among them and financial incentives are also awarded on a quarterly basis.

The awards will be given for the totality of the performance under the Aspirational Blocks Program. Assessment of overall performance of the Aspirational Blocks along various parameters will be made. The Aspirational Blocks would be evaluated based on the progress made in the evaluation period.

3.3 Innovation

The Innovations category has traditionally received the highest number of nominations. The scheme aims to recognize Innovations at National/ State / District level in 3 separate categories. The scheme will aim to recognise and award projects which demonstrate a high level of impact, sustainability and replicability. Towards this, along with the evidence of impact of innovation, random feedback of citizens, sustainability plan/ roadmap for the innovative practice, a tool-kit for replication would be required to be provided by the concerned applicant. Further, such an innovation model is desired to be part of implementation of an ongoing scheme or pertain to governance, rather than being a stand- alone innovation. The Districts and the implementing agencies would be expected to emphasize such elements in the strategy that have enhanced quality and good governance in the scheme. The impact of such an innovation in overall achievement/ implementation

of scheme would be assessed and the applications would be expected to include supportive evidence/ data.

4. Award categories:

4.1 Category 1 (Holistic Development of Districts)

This Category will have the following components under which the performance of the Districts will be evaluated in a cumulative manner. The Scheme seeks to encourage last mile delivery, saturation approach and citizen centricity. District Collectors will present a comprehensive picture of the progress achieved across the listed schemes and their leadership role over the implementation period in the nomination form.

i. Har Ghar Jal Yojana

Announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15th August 2019, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is implemented in partnership with States, to make provision of potable tap water supply to every rural household and public institution like Schools, Anganwadis, Ashramshalas, health care centres, etc. To bring transparency and effective monitoring, an online 'JJM dashboard' has been put in place, which provides State/ UT, district and village- wise progress as well as information regarding the provision of tap water supply to rural homes, schools, Anganwadi Centers, Ashramshalas etc. The assessment under the award shall be overall performance of districts in ensuring potable water supply to rural households and public institutions.

ii. Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) and AMRUT

SBM-U 2.0, launched on 1 October 2021 and extended till March 2027, with the vision of creating Garbage Free Cities, building upon the first phase's focus on universal sanitation and elimination of open defecation. The Mission focuses on scientific waste management, remediation of legacy dumpsites, sustaining ODF status, used water management and safety and dignity of sanitation workers. Urban waste processing has increased from 16% in 2014 to around 81% currently, while 64% of legacy waste has been remediated and 69% of identified urban land reclaimed. The Mission also promotes citizen participation, technology-enabled monitoring through the Swachhatam Portal and innovation to strengthen sustainable urban sanitation and waste management.

Liquid Waste Management under SBM-Urban: The initiative focuses on scientific management of wastewater through the collection, treatment and safe reuse of sewage and greywater. Key interventions include the establishment and operationalisation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants (FSTPs), prevention of wastewater discharge into water bodies, and promotion of treated wastewater reuse, thereby ensuring cleaner cities and sustainable urban sanitation.

AMRUT 2.0, launched in 2021 and extended till 31 March 2027, aims to achieve urban water security through safe drinking water supply, sewerage/septage

management, reuse of treated wastewater and rejuvenation of water bodies across statutory towns and cities. The Mission promotes sustainable and technology-driven water management through initiatives such as Jal Hi Amrit, Catch the Rain, shallow aquifer management, 24x7 'drink from tap' water supply, GIS-based utility mapping and innovative technologies. Its performance may be assessed through measurable outcomes relating to expansion of water and sewerage coverage, treatment and reuse of wastewater, groundwater recharge, rejuvenation of water bodies and timely completion of infrastructure projects.

iii. Gyan Bharatam

Launched in July 2025, Gyan Bharatam Mission (GBM) is a flagship programme to survey, conserve, digitize and disseminate India's manuscript heritage. The National Manuscript Survey (NMS), launched on 16 March 2026, has already identified over 1.23 crore manuscripts across all 28 States and 8 Union Territories, the largest manuscript survey ever undertaken in India. The survey is citizen-facing, voluntary and operational through a dedicated mobile app and web portal. States and Districts are the primary drivers of survey outcomes, making the NMS a direct, measurable, district-level governance deliverable.

iv. PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), launched in 2020, is a flagship scheme aimed at the sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector. It covers marine, inland and aquaculture fisheries, with interventions for enhancing fish production and productivity, strengthening infrastructure and cold-chain facilities, promoting value addition, technology adoption, entrepreneurship and capacity building.

The scheme may be monitored through measurable outcomes such as growth in fish and fish-seed production, improvement in productivity, beneficiary training, timely completion of sanctioned projects and registration of beneficiaries on the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP). Through coordinated implementation by the Centre and States/UTs, PMMSY seeks to strengthen livelihoods, enhance incomes and promote a resilient, sustainable and technology-driven fisheries sector.

v. Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0

Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission Poshan 2.0) is an integrated nutrition support programme aimed at addressing malnutrition among children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers through improved nutrition delivery, convergence and behavioural change. The Mission subsumes Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyaan and the Scheme for Adolescent Girls. Through the Anganwadi platform, the Mission provides supplementary nutrition, pre-school education, nutrition and health education, health check-ups and referral services. It also leverages technology through the Poshan Tracker and promotes community participation to strengthen transparency and improve nutritional outcomes. Its performance may be assessed through measurable improvements in nutrition coverage, service delivery and beneficiary outcomes.

vi. PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

To facilitate large scale adoption of rooftop solar, the Union Cabinet approved PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana on 29.02.2024 with a total outlay of Rs.75,021 crore for installing rooftop solar for One Crore households. Through this scheme, the households will be able to save on electricity bills as well as earn additional income through sale of surplus power to DISCOMs. A 3-kW system will be able to generate more than 300 units a month on an average for a household. The proposed scheme will result in addition of 30 GW of solar capacity through rooftop solar in the residential sector, generating 1 lakh crore units of electricity and resulting in reduction of 720 MMT of CO2 equivalent emissions over the 25-year lifetime. The scheme will create around 17 lakh direct jobs in manufacturing, logistics, supply chain, sales, installation, O&M and other services. To simplify the process of installation by residential consumers, Ministry has developed PM Suryaghar: Muft Bijli Yojana National Portal, through which any residential consumer can apply for rooftop solar without waiting for DISCOMs to finalize tender and empanel vendors. The entire process from registration of application to the release of subsidy is tracked online on the portal and subsidy is released directly to the consumer after the installation is completed.

vii. TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan

TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan is a flagship initiative of the Government of India under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), implemented through the National Health Mission (NHM) and launched in December 2024. It adopts a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach focused on active case finding, early diagnosis, quality treatment, nutritional support, preventive therapy and community participation. The initiative leverages AI-enabled screening, molecular diagnostics and the Ni-kshay digital platform for real-time monitoring, with District Collectors playing a key role in inter-sectoral coordination and implementation.

India's TB incidence declined by 21% and TB mortality by 25% between 2015 and 2024. Since its launch, over 28 crore people have been screened, resulting in the diagnosis of 40.26 lakh TB cases. The initiative has also enrolled 5.75 lakh Ni-kshay Mitras, distributed 38.95 lakh Poshan Kits and initiated preventive treatment for 21.88 lakh eligible individuals, demonstrating a technology-enabled and community-driven approach to TB elimination.

vii. Crop Diversification under three components (i) Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses (ii) National Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds& Oil Palm (NMEO-OS & OP) and (iii) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Crop Diversification is a key strategy of the Government of India to promote sustainable, climate-resilient and remunerative agriculture by encouraging farmers to shift from water-intensive and low-value crops to high-value crops such as pulses, oilseeds and horticultural crops. Through a combination of technology adoption, quality seed distribution, value chain development, post-harvest infrastructure and

market support, these interventions enhance productivity, improve resource-use efficiency, strengthen food and nutritional security, reduce import dependence and increase farmers' income. This would include the three components-

(a) Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses

Launched in November 2025, the **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses** seeks to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of Tur, Urad and Masoor through expansion of cultivated area, promotion of climate-resilient and high-yielding seed varieties, quality seed production, demonstrations, processing infrastructure and assured procurement under PM-AASHA. The Mission aims to increase domestic pulses production, reduce import dependence, strengthen nutritional security and enhance farmers' incomes through an integrated value-chain approach.

(b) National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMEO-OS & OP)

(i) The **National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-OS)**, launched in October 2024, aims to enhance India's self-reliance in edible oils by increasing domestic production of major oilseed crops. The Mission adopts a comprehensive value-chain approach comprising quality seed production, cluster-based cultivation, technology dissemination, post-harvest infrastructure, processing facilities and assured procurement. By promoting oilseed cultivation in rice fallows and intercropping systems, the Mission seeks to substantially increase oilseed production, improve productivity and reduce the country's dependence on edible oil imports.

(ii) **The National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP**), launched in 2021, aims to enhance domestic palm oil production and reduce dependence on imports. The Mission focuses on expanding oil palm cultivation in suitable areas by providing support to farmers for planting material, maintenance, intercropping and assured prices for Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFBs). It also promotes the development of oil palm processing infrastructure, with the broader objectives of enhancing farmers' income, increasing domestic edible oil availability and strengthening self-reliance in the edible oil sector.

(c) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

The **Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)** launched in 2014 is a flagship Centrally Sponsored Scheme that promotes holistic development of the horticulture sector through support for quality planting material, protected cultivation, post-harvest management, market infrastructure, mechanization, capacity building and technology dissemination. By encouraging diversification towards high-value horticultural crops, the Mission has significantly expanded horticultural production, strengthened value chains, reduced post-harvest losses and enhanced farmers' incomes while contributing to sustainable agricultural growth.

ix. Prime Minster School for Rising India (PM SHRI)

PM SHRI is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Government of India launched on 7th September, 2022 with the aim of preparing more than 14,500 PM SHRI Schools (PM Schools for Rising India) by strengthening the existing schools from amongst schools managed by the Central Government, State Governments, UT Governments

and local bodies. These schools are to showcase all the initiatives of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 and emerge as exemplar schools over a period of time, while also offering leadership to other schools in the neighbourhood.

PM SHRI schools provide leadership in their respective regions by delivering high-quality education in an equitable, inclusive and joyful school environment that caters to the diverse backgrounds, multilingual needs and different academic abilities of children. These schools make children active participants in their own learning process in accordance with the vision of NEP 2020.

x. Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)

Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), launched on 2nd October 2014, is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the aim to make the country Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2nd October 2019, by providing access to toilets to all the rural households. Following the achievement of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status across villages, Phase-II of the Mission was launched on 1st April 2020, with a focus on sustaining ODF status and transforming villages into ODF Plus (Model) through effective Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and visual cleanliness in villages i.e. to convert villages from ODF to ODF Plus (Model) by FY 2024-25. An ODF Plus (Model) village which sustains its ODF status; has arrangements for both Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste Management; observes visual cleanliness i.e. minimal litter, minimal stagnant wastewater and no plastic waste dump in public places; displays ODF Plus IEC messages; and all schools/Anganwadi Centres (AWC)/Panchayat Ghar in the village have access to a functional toilet, with separate toilets for male and female.

The Mission focuses on management of biodegradable and plastic waste, decentralised management of greywater at village/GP level through household level interventions such as soak pits/leach pits, kitchen gardens, wherever possible, or through community/village level interventions such as Waste Stabilization Ponds, Constructed Wetlands, Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS), Phytorids etc., wherever required & feasible. Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) through either in-situ or ex-situ solutions wherever needed. Construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) for left-out households and Community Sanitation Complexes (CSCs), along with Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and capacity-building activities. Its performance may be assessed through the proportion of villages declared as ODF Plus (Model) and the coverage of Blocks with Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMUs)/Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), reflecting the overall improvement in rural sanitation and waste management.

xi. National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

The National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), launched on 25th November 2024 as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme, aims to promoting sustainable, nature-based agricultural practices, encouraging on-farm production and utilisation of natural inputs, reducing dependence on externally purchased agricultural inputs, improving soil health and lowering the cost of cultivation. The Mission is also promoting capacity building, research, certification and market development of Natural Farming produce. The proposed expansion under the Mission envisages the formation of 50,000 clusters covering 25 lakh hectares and enrolling 62.50 lakh farmers during 2026-27 to 2030-31.

In this context, it is proposed to develop a robust, transparent and data-driven assessment framework to evaluate the relationship between the expansion of Natural Farming and changes in chemical fertilizer consumption at the district level. Its performance may be assessed through the expansion in the proportion of the district's gross cropped area under certified Natural Farming and the corresponding reduction in chemical fertilizer consumption, including Urea, DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate), MOP (Muriate of Potash), NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium) Complex Fertilizers and SSP (Single Superphosphate), against the established historical baseline. This would help assess the progress made by districts towards promoting sustainable agriculture, reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers and improving farmers' livelihoods.

xii. **IGOT Capacity Building**

The iGOT Karmayogi platform, developed under the Mission Karmayogi – National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), aims to enhance the capacity and competencies of civil servants through continuous, role-based and competency-driven learning. The platform provides access to a wide range of online courses, learning resources and capacity-building programmes to government officials across different levels of administration. It seeks to promote a culture of continuous learning, improve domain knowledge and strengthen the effectiveness of public service delivery. The platform can serve as a useful instrument to build Functional, Behavioural and Domain Competencies in district level officers at various levels and cutting across functions and departments. Its performance may be assessed through the onboarding of Districts on the iGOT platform, registration and participation of government officials, course enrolment and completion rates, and overall learning performance, reflecting the progress made by Districts in institutionalising capacity building and continuous professional development among their officials.

Five best performing Districts on cumulative aggregate criteria will be given awards under this Category. The progress achieved by Districts in adopting saturation approach in the period **1st April 2024 to 30th November, 2026** would be considered for the Award nomination.

4.2 Category 2 – Aspirational Blocks Programme

The awards will be given for the totality of the performance under the Aspirational Blocks Program. The Districts with Aspirational Blocks will participate in this Category covering 513 Aspirational Blocks**.** In districts with multiple Aspirational Blocks, a separate online Nomination Form by DARPG for this purpose, shall be required to be filled for each of the Aspirational Blocks. Independent evaluation will be carried on for each Aspirational Block. The Aspirational Blocks would be evaluated based on the progress made in the evaluation period. In assessment of an application for the Aspirational Blocks Programme, the overall weightage for Quantitative, Governance and Qualitative parameters shall also be 50%, 30% and 20% for the year 2026.

Five Awards for best performing Aspirational Blocks shall be given to the concerned Districts. The progress achieved by the blocks in the period **1st April 2024 to 30th November, 2026** would be considered for the Award nomination.

4.3. Category 3 - Innovation:

The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration Scheme recognise innovations at Central, State and District level by officers from all Central Services, as well as from the State Service officers. Nominations can be submitted by Central Ministries/Departments, State/UT Governments and District Collectors under the innovation category. In this category, awards shall be given to Central Ministries / Departments, State/UT Governments and Districts for various innovations in any field of administration.

Assessment of the award would be structured on the premise stated in the Online Application Form. The key aspects covered will include Innovative practices under any field of administration. There should be a focus on a clear identification of existing processes which needed improvement/ change, creation of awareness about the suggested changes, stakeholders/ beneficiary participation in the change management process, and fulfilment of the stakeholders' requirements in the changed scenario. Use of Technology and digital capacity building under the revised processes will also be considered towards making the public delivery system more responsive, transparent and efficient. The applicants will elaborate if innovation resulted in a seamless, faceless, end to end service delivery mechanism.

There **will be 6 Awards in this category**; two awards each for Central level, State level and District level initiatives respectively for its demonstration of innovation which is sustainable and can be replicated.

5. Eligibility:

The eligibility to submit nominations for the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2026 would be open to the following:

i. Awards for **Category 1 shall be open** for all District Collectors.
ii. Awards for **Category 2** shall be open for the best overall progress to be given to Districts covering 513 Aspirational Blocks**.**
iii. Awards for **Category 3 (Innovation)** shall be open for Central Government Ministries / Departments, State/UT Governments and Districts.

The Period of consideration is **1st April 2024 to 30th November, 2026**. The total number of Awards under the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2026 **would be 16.**

6. Criteria for evaluation:

(i) The awards for **PM's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2026** will be evaluated based on pre-determined indicators in consultation with Line Ministries/ Departments. For the **Category 2 (Aspirational Blocks Programme)**, the pre-determined indicators will be decided by the NITI Aayog.

(ii) The award for Innovation Category will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

a) Noted Gaps in Service Delivery and need for Innovation

b) Introducing and implementing an innovative idea/ scheme/project to meet stakeholders' requirement.
c) Bringing perceptible improvement in processes/ systems and building institutions.
d) Making public delivery systems responsive, transparent and efficient, particularly by leveraging technology.
e) Preparedness/ performance in emergent situations, disasters like cyclone, earthquake, flood etc.
f) Replication of best practices
g) Sustainability of the Innovation
h) Evidence of impact, the sustainability plan/ roadmap and tool-kit for replication
i) Innovation model should desirably be part of implementation of a scheme or governance, where its impact could be observed and evaluated.

7. Processing of applications:

(i) Online applications shall be invited from Central Ministries / Departments / State/UT Governments /Districts/ Implementing Units /Organizations under aforementioned schemes in the prescribed format detailing their achievements specifically highlighting path-breaking innovation done by any functionary/ organisation.

(ii) Step I: Short-listing by Screening Committee (first stage):

Screening Committee(s) chaired by Additional Secretary level officer(s) shall examine the applications of identified Central Ministries / Departments, State/UT Governments and Districts under the 4 categories. Inputs received with respect to holistic approach by the district and evidence of governance improvement done in the district would be taken into consideration. The Screening Committees would be constituted with the approval of the Secretary (DARPG).

(iii) Step II: Short-listing by Screening Committee (second stage):

Presentations by DCs and other applicants and feedback from beneficiaries / stakeholders on the applications shortlisted in the first stage will be obtained through a Call-Centre. The feedback will aim to verify whether the stated convergence of schemes and improvement in governance has been achieved. It would also aim to check the level of Jan Bhagidari in the districts. Screening Committee(s) will then examine the shortlisted applications on the basis of presentations & analysis of feedback received from the Call Centre and will further shortlist the applications.

(iv) Step III: **Evaluation by Expert Committee**:

A two-member team of officers of Central Government, not below the rank of Deputy Secretary, will conduct "on the spot study" of the implementation of various award schemes/ initiatives for innovation in Central Ministries / Departments, State/UT Governments and Districts shortlisted by the Screening Committee. The team would look at the impact of implementation in inducing behavioural changes and improvement in governance.

There would be an Expert Committee headed by Secretary, DARPG. The Expert Committee would evaluate the spot study reports and further shortlist the Central Ministries / Departments, State/UT Governments and Districts level initiatives for making recommendation to the Empowered Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. The Expert Committee would be constituted with the approval of the Cabinet Secretary.

(v) Step IV: Recommendation of the Empowered Committee: The Empowered Committee shall be chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. The Empowered Committee will consider the recommendations of the Expert Committee and may ask the applicants to make a presentation and/or make such inquiry as deemed fit. The Empowered Committee will then make its recommendations to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for final selection of Awards. The Empowered Committee shall be constituted with the approval of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

(vi) Step V: Approval of the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the Awards.

8. Submission of application(s):

(i) Applications for the PM Awards shall be received online through current incumbent in the prescribed format. All the columns of the application form must be duly filled as per the instructions contained therein.

(ii) Applications should contain a write-up based on common and flexible parameters on the **Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3** along with supporting documents like executive summary, field photographs, flow charts detailing uniqueness and success story of the initiative. Along with the application, a short film of 3-5 minutes duration highlighting the initiative/ innovation may also be appended.

(iii) The write up should contain details of the programme/initiative, strategies adopted in implementation, period of implementation, exceptional achievements and outcomes, positive impact, replication and sustainability.

(iv) The application for award in innovation should contain the details of beneficiaries/ stakeholders of the initiatives/ projects.

(v) Applications with incomplete/ insufficient details shall not be considered.

(vi) An index should be provided for all abbreviations/acronyms used in the application and documentation.

9. Details of Award:

(i) The PM Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2026 shall consist of a trophy, a scroll and an incentive of Rs. 20 lacs to the awarded District/ Organization to be utilized for implementation of project/ programme or bridging resource gaps in any area of public welfare.

(ii) A letter of appreciation to be issued by the Secretary, DARPG to the officers who received the award from the Hon'ble Prime Minister, with a copy to Secretary of concerned Central Ministry/ Department/ Chief Secretary of the concerned State/UT. A copy of the letter to be sent to DOPT for placing in the Performance Appraisal Dossier of the officer.

10. In all matters of the Awards Scheme, the decision of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Government of India, would be final and binding.

11. Approval of the Prime Minister:

Prime Minister's approval will be taken on the recommendations for the Awards.