

Gram Panchayat Puraskar Contest Application

Google.org wants to reward the best innovations in local governance by gram panchayats in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. We need you to tell us about them.

We hope that this contest helps gram panchayats celebrate successes, share ideas with one another, and improve the quality of public services in villages. After all, grassroots is the Google way!

Section I – General information about the contest

The contest will be open for applications from December 12, 2008 through January 25, 2009. To participate, the gram panchayat/village will have to submit this application form and showcase an innovation that has had some impact on the provision of public services.

Innovation will be defined as a gram panchayat going above and beyond the call of duty in the schemes mentioned above. The gram panchayat will have to demonstrate the following:

- Participation/inclusion of all social and income groups in village decision-making or planning. This should include vulnerable groups like Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Other Backward Castes, women, youth, etc.
- Transparency to villagers. This could include proactively sharing information with villagers on:
 - Eligibility, entitlements and progress of the schemes
 - Gram sabha dates, proceedings and action items
 - Record maintenance
 - Gram panchayat plan
- Community tracking and monitoring of the budgets and quality of the schemes
- Convergence with other schemes to reach public service delivery objectives

This innovation has to be in the context of the following six areas:

- Education
- Health and nutrition
- Water supply
- Rural infrastructure
- Rural electrification
- Resource mobilization

Each application will be judged by an independent panel of rural governance experts from the public sector in India in order to select a total of 20 finalists in each State. A separate independent panel of judges from a broader sector of society will select the five winners in each State. Winners will be selected and notified by telephone in April 2009.

The judging criteria will include:

Empowerment

- Scope of participation/inclusion
- Proactive sharing of information

Innovation

- Originality
- Knowledge creation

Scale

- Potential impact
- Sustainability/self sufficiency

There will be a total of 10 prizes, five for each State. Each prize will be INR 500,000. All potential Winners will be required to pass a legal due diligence review and execute a grant agreement before receiving a prize.

Google.org will ensure that the prizes are used for constructive work by the panchayats that would result in the overall betterment of the entire village. The prize may not be used for the following activities:

- Any religious activities or purpose;
- Salaries or any other compensation to individuals or government officials;
- Any activities that only benefit individuals; and
- Any activities in breach of applicable law.

Section II – Instructions for filling the application form

- Make sure you read and understand the terms and conditions in the contest rules
- All legally recognized gram panchayats in the states of Karnataka or Andhra Pradesh, India are eligible to apply
- Only one application form per GP will be accepted
- Applications may be mailed to the following address:

Google.org Gram Panchayat Puraskar
c/o Rishi Jaitly
8th Floor
Tower C Building No.8
DLF Cyber City
Gurgaon, India
122002

- All applications must be post marked on or before January 25, 2009.
- For more information please visit: www.google.org/ggpp.html

Section III – Information about the Gram Panchayat

1. State _____
2. District _____
3. Block _____
4. Gram Panchayat (GP) _____
5. Complete GP Office Postal Address _____

6. GP Sarpanch/Representative _____
7. Contact Telephone Number _____
8. Which of the six areas does your innovation fall under. (Please check one):
 - Education
 - Health and nutrition
 - Water supply
 - Rural infrastructure
 - Rural electrification
 - Resource mobilization

Please attach answers for questions 9–14 to this application.

9. Describe your innovation and explain why you consider it innovative. (Maximum 500 words)
10. Explain in detail how your innovation has empowered your village. You must demonstrate participation/inclusion; transparency; community tracking and monitoring; convergence with other schemes. Please refer to section I for more details. (Maximum 500 words)
11. How did your innovation benefit your village. Please be specific about the impact. (Maximum 500 words)
12. How can this innovation be sustained? (Maximum 500 words)
13. List all the organizations (e.g. NGOs, CSOs) or individuals outside of the village community that have provided assistance in this innovation.
14. We encourage you to include any supporting documentation that will showcase your innovation. These could include copies of gram sabha meeting minutes, accounts ledger, pictures, letters of recommendation, rewards received, various committee meeting minutes and resolutions passed. Please list here and attach below.

We certify that the information contained in this application form is accurate and correct and that we are duly authorized to submit this application on behalf of the GP listed below.

Name and Signature of Sarpanch/President of the GP

Date

Name and Signature of Upa Sarpanch/Vice President of the GP

Date

Name and Signature of GP Member

Date

Name and Signature of GP member

Date