

Proceedings of the Webinar on Nationwide Celebration of the AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV on 12th March 2021

1. On the occasion of the launch of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav – a 75-week programme dedicated to the 75th anniversary of India's independence, Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized National Webinar at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi on 12th March 2021 to interact with State/UT Departments of Panchayati Raj and 75 District Panchayats, 75 Block Panchayats & 75 Gram Panchayats regarding suggested activities for 75 weeks (12th March 2021 – 18th August 2022), implementation strategy, action plan and issues relating to nationwide celebration of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
2. Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj chaired and senior officers of the Ministry attended the webinar, and barring a few States/UTs, majority of State/UT Departments of Panchayati Raj and representatives of 75 District Panchayats, 75 Block Panchayats and 75 Gram Panchayats attended the Webinar. The number of participants attending the webinar today was quite encouraging. Today's webinar hosted more than 600 persons including active participants and attendees connected through view-and-listen-only mode.
3. Prior to today's webinar, the Ministry had shared relevant information regarding the activities proposed to be undertaken to mark India@75 under the aegis of Ministry of Panchayati Raj with Officers of State/UT Department of Panchayati Raj during the virtual meeting held under Chairmanship of Shri (Dr.) Chandra Shekhar Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj on 12th February 2021 with an aim to taking all concerned on-board for nationwide celebrations of 75 years of India's Independence.
4. While introducing the webinar, participants were apprised in brief about importance of commemoration of 75 years of India's Independence and the significance of the historic Dandi March led by the Father of our Nation – Mahatma Gandhi-Ji on 12 March 1930 for his symbolic breaking of the provisions of the hated Salt Tax in all the stirring annals of our Freedom Movement.

5. Through a PPT presentation, the participants were informed about the **objectives** [(i) Citizen Campaign: Low Cost, People Intensive, (ii) Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, (iii) Every State, Every Language, (iv) Emphasis on India's Glorious History, (v) Showcasing India's Development, (vi) Roadmap of 2047 and (vii) Global Outreach], **themes** [(i) Vishva Guru Bharat, (ii) Ideas, Achievements & Resolve, (iii) Aatmanirbhar Bharat, (iv) India's Rich Cultural Heritage, (v) Celebrating Unsung Heroes and (vi) Independence 2.0], **five pillars for celebration of 75 years** [(i) Freedom Struggle, (ii) Ideas at 75, (iii) Achievements at 75, (iv) Actions at 75 and (v) Resolve at 75] and **five important dates** [(i) 23 March 2021, (ii) 13 April 2021, (iii) 10 May 2021, (iv) 9 August 2021 and (v) 21 October 2021] in connection with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

6. Thereafter, some activities to be undertaken at national level with active involvement of State/UT Department of Panchayati Raj and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), and set of 75 activities for 75 weeks suggested for PRIs were discussed in detail. As regards suggested activities, State/UT Departments of Panchayati Raj were advised to formulate State-specific Action Plan for 75 weeks based on the suggestive activities for Panchayati Raj Institutions and the same can be customised according to the local conditions/ requirements / suitability.

7. States/ UTs were also advised that the list of **Beacon Panchayats/ Panchayat Brand Ambassadors** i.e. well-performing 75 District Panchayats, 75 Block Panchayats and 75 Gram Panchayats may further be expanded at State/UT level. Selection of PRIs as "Agents of Change" for their exemplary developmental works worth emulating may cover all States/UTs.

8. The idea behind selection of Beacon Panchayats is to select the exemplary representatives from these PRIs and make them as brand ambassadors to lead the campaign of exemplary development work in the rest of the country during the period of celebration of India@75. The exemplary work to include promotion and adoption of e-panchayats, formulation and implementation of local need based GPDP / Panchayat Development Plans.

9. Panchayats were requested to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' as a *Jan-Utsav* in the spirit of *Jan-Bhagidari* through outreach initiatives like *Jan-Samvaad* and *Jan-Jagran* about **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**. The following activities **suggested for 75-weeks** were also discussed in brief: (i) 29 awareness campaigns in 29 weeks on 29 subjects/ matters listed under Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, (ii) 6 awareness campaigns in 6 weeks on six key goals under Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with critical Roles of PRIs, (iii) 5 regional/zonal conferences of Sarpanches on Jan Samvaad in 5 weeks, (iv) Commemoration of National Panchayati Raj Day falling on 24th April of 2021 & 2022, (v) 6 Special Gram Sabhas in 6 weeks, (vi) 8 exposure visits in 8 weeks by the identified beacon PRIs, (vii) 3 Exhibitions in 3 weeks and (viii) 10 other miscellaneous activities in 10 weeks like wall painting, essay competitions, debates, heritage walk/tour/study tour, Swachhta activities etc.

10. While sharing their achievements during the last few years and action-plan for India@75, Panchayati Raj Institutions expressed their resolve and commitment to work towards achieving the national goals such as Aatmnirbhar Bharat and what will India be like in 2047 (India@100). Elected representatives and functionaries of PRIs from Haryana, Telangana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim and Punjab contributed to the discussions and their experience sharing as well as future roadmap made the discussion productive for all participants from different States/UTs.

11. The webinar concluded with remarks that Panchayats have a huge role to play in the overall developmental process and implementation of the programmes/ schemes aimed at meeting the aspirations of the rural masses, and with strong determination, community participation, and good governance can help Panchayats to achieve the goal of **Aatmanirbhar Panchayats**. States/UTs were requested for proper documentation of all the activities / events relating to **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** and share the photographs/ videos of weekly events / activities, best practices and related materials with the Ministry through dashboard / section being created on the website of the Ministry.


