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K. Rajaraman
Secretary
Department of Telecommunication

D.O. No. M-11015/124/2021-CB

Dated: 31st March 2022

Dear Chief Secretary,

Theme 8: Village with Good Governance

As you are aware, India is a signatory to United Nations 2030 Agenda for achieving inclusive, people-centric and holistic Sustainable Development through 17 identified Goals. To this extent, the Government of India is operating with strategic visioning, prioritization, and implementation methods to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the motto of "Leaving No One Behind", through "Whole of Government and Whole of Society" approach.

2. You will appreciate SDGs are cross-cutting in nature and a particular SDG can be mapped to many Ministries which can be addressed through various schemes. Keeping this aspect in view, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has initiated thematic approach of relevance for Panchayats and villages through aggregating 17 SDG goals into 9 broad themes for localization of SDGs at grass-root level and their attainment through concerted and collaborative efforts of all concerned stakeholders. These themes address more than one SDG and concern more than one Ministry/ Department. **Theme 8 –Village with Good Governance** addresses targets in SDG 16- **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** and other interconnected goals such as SDG 1- **No Poverty**, SDG 2- **Zero Hunger**, SDG 3- **Good Health and Well Being**, SDG 4- **Quality Education**, SDG 5- **Gender Equality**, SDG 6- **Clean Water Sanitation**, SDG 8- **Decent Work and Economic Growth**, SDG 9- **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure** and SDG 10- **Reduced Inequalities**.

3. Good Governance has direct correlation to service delivery and progress. 5T pillars framework of Teamwork, Technology, Timeline, Transparency and Transformation are essential for Good Governance. It centers around the responsibility of Gram Panchayats to serve the people by delivering all citizen services in a timely, efficient and transparent manner. Adoption of Panchayat Citizen Charter by the Gram Sabha and adherence to the same is a very important first step in the process of becoming a Village with Good Governance. It is heartening that over 17 States have adopted and signed the Mysuru Declaration wherein they recognized 'citizen centric services' as being at the heart of governance and reiterated their commitment to provide such services at GP level and over 2.02 lakh GPs have, so far, prepared and approved their Panchayat Citizen Charter.

4. A Village with Good Governance must necessarily have very vibrant, strong and active Gram Sabha wherein there is large popular participation, informed discussion and inclusive decision making. It is envisaged that Gram Panchayat act as an information facilitation centre including proactive disclosure of all information and has in place an effective grievance redressal mechanism. Better public service delivery, better asset and financial management through use of technology and regular audit by designated Auditors and Social Audit of government programmes implemented in the village and submission of Action Taken Reports to the Gram Sabha within stipulated period are some of the other integral features of a village with Good Governance. Good Governance has emerged as one of crucial trigger processes which lead to holistic development of Gram Panchayats (GPs) and contributes substantially to improve the standard and quality of life of all sections of the population in rural areas. Information technology-based good governance platform are essential for providing good governance in all GPs. Extensive use of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network being laid in rural areas will greatly facilitate online delivery of services to rural residents.

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5. Thus, if a Gram Panchayat is to become a 'Village with Good Governance' it would require full support of Ministry/Departmental functionaries of Ministry/Department of Electronics & Information Technology, Rural Development, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Telecommunication, all Ministries who have Schemes operating in rural areas, along with Ministry of Panchayati Raj. In addition, if non-Governmental organizations, College students, Youth Organizations such as Nehru Yuvak Kendra volunteers etc. are also involved in the task of facilitating the Gram Panchayat to become a 'Village with Good Governance' by working with the local community, then the goals can be realized faster. It would also be important to measure progress in this regard through a set of 78 Local Indicators in a Local Indicator Framework (LIF) identified by the Expert Committee in its report on 'Localization of SDGs in Panchayati Raj Institutions' which has already been shared with all States and stakeholders and is available on the web site of Ministry of Panchayati Raj: <https://www.panchayat.gov.in>.

6. It is suggested to all States/UTs to organize meetings of all Gram Panchayats during the *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)* iconic week allocated to Ministry of Panchayati Raj between April 11 to April 17, 2022 followed by meeting of Gram Sabha on 24th April, 2022 on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day wherein GPs may resolve to focus on any one or more of the Nine Themes identified for realization of SDGs. GPs that decide to focus on attainment of **Theme 8: Village with Good Governance** would need to be encouraged with special hand-holding support to work towards that goal. Understanding socio-economic profile of the Panchayat, identification of persons and types of coverage required, preparation of a **Good Governance Village Action Plan** would be basic steps in that direction. Role and responsibility of all stakeholders would need to be clearly delineated and understood and resource mapping to be undertaken factoring in resources available under various schemes of Central and State Government, as well as taking a whole of society approach, culminating in implementation of the Panchayat Action Plan on the Theme, integrated into the GPDP. It is felt that convergent action by all concerned Ministries/Departments among others at Central and State Government levels will go a long way towards attainment of desired outcome. Eventually, all GPs/villages have to have Good Governance if SDGs are to be attained by 2030.

7. In Government of India, the Nodal Ministry for the **Theme 8-Village with Good Governance** is **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**. All other Ministries and Departments, which are signatory to this Joint Letter, will provide full support under their ongoing schemes to this effort at the GP/Village level. We expect and hope that similar convergent actions would be undertaken at the State and District level too and progress regularly monitored at High Level Committee constituted at State and District level.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Vini Mahajan)

Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation



(Anil Kumar Jha)

Ministry of Tribal Affairs



(K. Rajaraman)

Department of Telecommunications



(Nagendra Nath Sinha)

Department of Rural Development



(K. Rajaraman)

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology



(Sunil Kumar)

Ministry of Panchayati Raj

To,

The Chief Secretaries,
All States/UTs

Copy to: Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/Secretaries,
All Related Departments, All States/ UTs