

**Sunil Kumar**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Panchayati Raj



**Sanjay Agarwal**  
Secretary  
Department of Agriculture and Farmers  
Welfare

**Upendra P. Singh**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Textiles

**Atul Chaturvedi**  
Secretary  
Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

**R. Subrahmanyam**  
Secretary  
Department of Social Justice and  
Empowerment

**Rajesh Bhushan**  
Secretary  
Department of Health & Family Welfare

**Vini Mahajan**  
Secretary  
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

**Nagendra Nath Sinha**  
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Department of Rural Development

**Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi**  
Secretary  
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

**Indevar Pandey**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Women & Child Development

**Anita Karwal**  
Secretary  
Department of School Education & Literacy

**Jatindra Nath Swain**  
Secretary  
Department of Fisheries

**Rajesh Aggarwal**  
Secretary  
Ministry of Skill Development and  
Entrepreneurship

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

Dated: 31st March, 2022

Dear Chief Secretary,

### Theme 1: Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village

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. The Government of India is operating with strategic visioning, prioritization, and implementation methods to achieve the 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 the 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 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 again address more than one SDG, thus involving more than one Ministry/ Department. For instance, **Theme 1- Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village** addresses SDG Goal 1 – No Poverty, Goal 2 – Zero Hunger, SDG Goal 3 – Good Health and Well Being, SDG 4 – Quality Education, SDG 5 – Gender Equality, SDG 6 – Clean Water Sanitation, SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities, SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 13 – Climate Action, and SDG 15 – Life on Land.

3. In Leaving No One Behind (LNOB), the focus automatically comes to those at the bottom of the pyramid. It also refers to those groups who are at risk and vulnerable and may be missed out, due to lack of access and reach. In recognition of the wide-ranging impact of Poverty on all aspects of life, the very first Global Goal (SDG) is No Poverty. While India has made substantial progress in reduction of poverty and has a multi-pronged approach across various sectors, including providing social protection and development, the goal is yet to be achieved. It is necessary to ensure that much before 2030, poverty must be eradicated and mechanisms are in place for identifying, assisting and ensuring that there are targeted interventions and no slip back to poverty. Poverty manifests in multiple ways connected to hunger, nutritional deficiencies, poor health status, lack of education, gender inequality, and lack of access to basic services, amongst others. The latest Multi-dimensional Poverty Index brought out by NITI Aayog, in the context of SDGs lays emphasis on this and also provides information and guidance for action.

4. If a Gram Panchayat resolves to transform itself into a **Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village**, it would envision, inter alia comprehensive coverage of all eligible beneficiaries under livelihood and social protection schemes; provide economic development & employment generation through individual/collective enterprises; create in-depth understanding on 'poverty' among Panchayat committees as well as strengthen the Committees working on poverty alleviation; facilitate handholding support to SHG formation; identify the poor through validation of the list of people living with multiple deprivations as per SECC data; develop criteria for identification of the poor, destitute and vulnerable in the Panchayat; ensure transparency in beneficiary selection; develop a comprehensive programme by Gram Sabha for need assessment through GPDP and Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP) processes; develop a monitoring mechanism for the actions by MA Survey and formation of labour bank along with adequate machines and skill upgradation.

5. Thus, if a Gram Panchayat is to become a 'Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village', it would require full support of Departmental functionaries of Rural Development, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Dairy, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Handloom and Handicrafts, Women and Child Development, Health, Education, Social Justice & Empowerment, New & Renewable Energy, Skill Development, Panchayati Raj among others. 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 'Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village', then the goal can be realized faster. It would also be important to measure progress in this regard through a set of 40 relevant Indicators in the 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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. All GPs in a Block/District, which undertake to focus on attainment of **Theme 1: Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village**, would need to be provided special hand-holding support to work towards that goal. Preparation of a Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village Plan would be the first step in that direction. Thereafter, 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 and finally culminating in


their integration into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and implementation. It is felt that convergent action by all concerned Ministries/Departments among others at Central and State Government levels will go a long way in attainment of desired outcome. Eventually, all GPs/villages have to become Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village if SDGs are to be attained by 2030.

7. In Government of India, the Nodal Ministry for the **Theme1-Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Village** is **Department of Rural Development**. 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,

  
(Sanjay Agarwal)  
Department of Agriculture and  
Farmers Welfare

  
(Upendra P. Singh)  
Ministry of Textiles

  
(Nagendra Nath Sinha)  
Department of Rural Development


  
(R. Subrahmanyam)  
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(Rajesh Aggarwal)  
Ministry of Skill Development and  
Entrepreneurship

  
(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