

Proceedings of National Webinar on Atmanirbhar Panchayats – Role of Technology, Entrepreneurship and Harnessing Energy in Achieving Self-reliance for Sustainable Development, in commemoration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, organised by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on 20th December 2021

1. As the Nation is celebrating 75 years of Independence as ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, Ministry of Panchayati Raj is undertaking several activities and initiatives to uphold Hon’ble Prime Minister’s vision of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ in the light of the fact that the vision of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ could only be achieved if the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the country become self-dependent in all aspects, said Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Thus, it would be apt to say that only ‘Atmanirbhar Panchayats’ can lay the foundation for ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’.

2. Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj delivered a keynote address while declaring open of a day-long National Webinar with the theme ‘Atmanirbhar Panchayats – Role of Technology, Entrepreneurship and Harnessing Energy in Achieving Self-reliance for Sustainable Development’. Today’s Webinar is sixth in a series of National Webinars organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in commemoration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav since its nationwide launch on 12 March 2021.

3. Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj shared his vision on achieving the Green Energy, improvement in Ease of Living and Good Governance Week on theme *Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur* (प्रशासन गाँव की ओर) focusing on the improvement in the services provided in rural India. He also added that introducing technologies to traditional fields like cottage industry, handlooms, agriculture, and other scopes is very important. The Ministry is promoting the use of Gram Manchitra, ISRO’s Bhuvan in GPDP, and facilitating the elected representatives to become familiar with the use of modern technologies. The issue of climate change need to be addressed with the rapid adoption of renewable energy where the target is to increase the generation of renewable energy to 500GW by 2030 and achieve the target of ZERO carbon emission country by 2070 as our commitment in COP26. The participation of PRIs in successfully achieving the CoP26 goals is mandatory and the Ministry would wholeheartedly guide them in all possible ways.

4. Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj said that role of modern technology, entrepreneurship and energy self-sufficiency is going to play an essential part in the making of ‘Atmanirbhar Panchayat’. Panchayats should be made aware of new technologies which are cost-effective, tested and useful so that its benefits could reach the last mile and our Panchayats can become Economic Growth Centres and Demand Centres. Panchayats can serve as a bridge between the IIT’s Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) like institutions and the villages.

5. With regard to conceptualization of National Webinar on Atmanirbhar Panchayats – Role of Technology, Entrepreneurship and Harnessing Energy in Achieving Self-reliance for Sustainable Development, Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj said that today's National Webinar is yet another important initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj towards bringing greater self-reliance in the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

6. While delivering keynote address at the National Webinar, Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj emphasized that technology will have a major role to play in improving the ease of living and standard of living for citizens in rural areas, which is one of key goals of the Government of India. People are willing to accept the technology and technological interventions if they are made to understand in their own languages.



7. Exhorting Panchayati Raj Institutions to actively participate in Good Governance Week (20 – 25 December 2021) with theme *Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur* (प्रशासन गाँव की ओर), Shri Sunil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj underlined that Good Governance with an ingredient of technology and e-Governance makes the Government at various levels transparent, accountable, responsive and efficient, and all Government employees and public representatives are expected to play a pivotal role in promoting the cause of Good Governance and help in bringing transparency and accountability in the systems. Better governance can make sure technology works for everyone and also for addressing the multi dimensions of unemployment in rural areas. Technologies hold great promise for improving government effectiveness in delivery of fast, better and efficient citizen services to the local residents at the basic unit of local self-government.

8. While making opening remarks, Dr. C. S. Kumar, Additional Secretary said that today's webinar is very important in many ways. Today is the commencement of Good Governance Week and the theme of the Good Governance Week and the theme of the Webinar are also in sync. Keeping up with a rapidly changing technology landscape, Panchayats have to provide leadership, play the role of bridge and also contribute to the issues of national and international importance like energy self-sufficiency, climate change, carbon zero climate pledge, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals etc. Opening remarks were made by Shri (Dr.) Bijaya Kumar Behera, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Pachayati Raj.



9. The National Webinar was attended by all senior officers of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Department of Panchayati Raj of States and Union Territories, State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (SIRD&PRs). A large number of elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions joined the National Webinar remotely through VC link as well as NIC Webcast link. People joined the National Webinar from centres of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan as well.

10. Technical Session I on 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan : moving towards achieving Panchayat self-sufficiency in Localised Renewable Energy and sustainable rural development' was co-chaired by Prof. P. M. V. Subbarao, Head, CRDT, IIT Delhi and Prof. Virendra Kumar Vijay, Professor, CRDT, IIT Delhi & National Coordinator, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Ministry of Education whereas Technical Session II on 'Atmanirbhar Panchayats as instruments of economic development in rural areas through Rural Technology and Entrepreneurship' was moderated by Shri Khushwant Singh Sethi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

11. All the speakers shared their ideas, opinions and experiences regarding remarkable work done for proving technological solutions to requirements of daily needs and day-to-day lives. Detailed Presentation were made by Ministry of Power [Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)], Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the Government of India and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-Delhi) during the Webinar.

12. During the first technical session, presentation on Role of Technologies in rural areas for a Gram Urja Swaraj, carbon neutral society for AtmaNirbhar Bharat was made by Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-Delhi). The idea of energy self-sufficiency in rural areas is inspired from Mahatma Gandhiji's vision of "Gram Swaraj" that "Every village should be its own republic, independent of its neighbours for its own vital wants and yet interdependent for many others in which dependence is necessary". Aim of Gram Urja Swaraj is to develop an area based micro-level integrated system of Renewable Energy Technologies which would be able to meet the local energy requirements of villages, considering the

constraints in supply, socio-economic factors and the requirements for different end-uses by tapping different locally available biomass resources.

13. Presentation on Carbon Neutrality – Village Energy Systems and Income Generation Opportunities was made by Prof. (Dr.) P. V. Aravind, Chair of Energy Conversion, University of Groningen and Negative Emission Program, TU Delft Climate Institute, The Netherlands. Presentation on PM-KUSUM was made by Shri Shobhit Srivastava, Scientist D, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) Scheme is aimed at ensuring energy security for farmers in India, along with honouring India’s commitment to increase the share of installed capacity of electric power from non-fossil-fuel sources to 40% by 2030 as part of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). Shri Shobhit Srivastava demonstrated the vision of the Ministry on ‘New National Biogas and Organic Manure Programme’ and other Schemes and initiatives for rural masses.

14. Presentation on Efforts in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation in Rural Areas was made by Shri Abhay Bakre, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India. Presentation on “Ways and Means to Achieve Carbon Neutrality: Agri/Biological and Engineering Interventions” was made by Dr. P. V. Unnikrishnan, Member-Secretary, Kerala Development and Innovation Strategy Council, (K-DISC), Government of Kerala and Shri Girigan Gopi, M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Wayanad, Kerala.

15. Presentation on Atmanirbhar Village through Sustainable Waste Management was made by Shri Gajanan Patil, Urja Bio System, Pune, Maharashtra. Presentation on “Solar Revolution: Continuous Illumination” was made by Smt. Zahera Naseem, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Bidar, Karnataka. Presentation on “Carbon Neutrality Experiences of Meenangadi Gram Panchayat and Bathery Block Panchayat” was shared by Smt. Beena Vijayan, Former President, Meenangadi & Member, Sulthan Bathery Block Panchayath, Kerala. Presentation on “Atmanirbhar Panchayat – A Case study on Odanthurai Panchayat under Coimbatore District in Tamil Nadu” was made by Smt. Madhura, Assistant Director Audit along with Shri G. Thangavel, President and Shri R. Shanmugam, Ex-President, Odanthurai Gram Panchayat.





16. In the second technical session on Atmanirbhar Panchayats as instruments of economic development in rural areas through Rural Technology and Entrepreneurship, presentations on the innovative ways of implementation of technologies in rural part of the Nation were made by Smt. (Dr.) Ketaki Bapat, Senior Scientist, Office of Principle Scientific Adviser and Shri (Dr.) Sanket, Professor, IIT Mumbai. Shri (Dr.) B. K. Ray, Director, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship made presentation on the 'SANKALP' program which will give a direction in providing right skill for right section of the rural society. Shri Satish Sharma, Joint Director, Department of Panchayati Raj, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Smt. Suchitra Jana Pramanik, Gram Pradhan and Shri Suvra Kanti Jana, Secretary, Pratapadityanagar Gram Panchayat, South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal, Smt. Archana Bhojar, President of Kalamb Mahila Producer Company, Maharashtra, along with Smt. Prajakta Gedman from Navnirman Mahila Gram Sangh, Aklara village, Maharashtra, and representatives from Perinjanam and Kanjikuzhy Gram Panchayats from Kerala made presentations and shared their models of economic development in rural areas through rural technology and entrepreneurship.

Summary of Technical Session 1

17. To celebrate 75 years of Independence as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Departments and Ministries are hosting several activities to uphold Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. This vision could only be achieved if the Panchayati Raj Institutions of the country become self-dependent in all aspects. Thus, it would be apt to say that only 'Atmanirbhar Panchayat' can lay the foundation for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Role of modern technology, entrepreneurship and energy self-sufficiency is going to play an essential part in the making of 'Atmanirbhar Panchayat'.

18. In this light, a 'National Webinar on Atmanirbhar Panchayats – Role of Technology, Entrepreneurship and Harnessing Energy in Achieving Self-reliance for Sustainable Development' on the 20th December 2021. It was the 6th webinar

organised by the Ministry in celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and was inspired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision presented in the COP26 on carbon neutrality and importance of self-reliance on green energy to achieve the goal.

19. Technical Session 1 on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan: moving towards achieving Panchayat self-sufficiency in Localised Renewable Energy and sustainable rural development was Chaired / Moderated by Prof. P. M. V. Subbarao, Head, CRDT, IIT Delhi and Prof. Virendra Kumar Vijay, Professor, CRDT, IIT Delhi & National Coordinator, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Ministry of Education.

20. A detailed presentation was given by Dr. P. M. V. Subbarao, Head, CRDT, IIT Delhi and Prof. Virendra Kumar Vijay, CRDT, IIT Delhi & National Coordinator, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Ministry of Education and Dr. P V Aravind (TU Delft - Netherlands). Dr. P. M. V. Subbarao emphasized on importance of role of energy in human evolution, Pico-Hydel Power units for rural energy application, waste biomass - technology to end use, Biodiesel reac., Commercial Scale Biogas Production from Rice Straw, Gram Swaraj thru GREEN Technical Interventions. Whereas Dr. P V Aravind focussed his presentation on Carbon Neutrality – Village Energy Systems and Income Generation Opportunities, Avoiding/reducing the Emissions, Offsetting - Negative Emission Technologies via Afforestation and reforestation, Soil carbon sequestration, Biochar, BECCS, Building with biomass. While presenting the Case study of Carbon Neutral Meenangadi- the First Step in Kerala, Costarica Carbon Neutral Coffee Initiative, Carbon Neutrality in Rural Areas (Groningen The Netherlands) and summarising with Carbon Neutral Villages- Rural income generation opportunities, Carbon Neutral Villages- Building up climate resilience is important, Triple Helix concept- Universities and research institutes work together with the industry and government.

21. Shri Shobhit Srivastava, Scientist-D, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, presented the initiatives of Ministry taken under the 'P M Kusum' program. He apprised that the program was launched in March 2019, scaled up in November 2020, the program has been divided into three components (Comp. A, B & C) as part of component A 10,000 MW of Grid Connected Solar Plants (500 kW to 2 MW capacity), Component B 2 million standalone Solar Ag Pumps (up to 7.5 HP), and Component C as Solarisation of 1.5 million grid-connected Ag Pumps (up to 7.5 HP). He also mentioned that how panchayats can participate: Directly participate and install projects under component-'A', Participate through Cluster Based Irrigation System / Water User Association under Component-'B' & 'C', Approach the State Government/ Discom for solarisation of the agriculture feeder, Encourage farmers to adopt USPC based solar pumps, Encourage the farmers to use micro irrigation techniques resulting in higher yield and less water usage, Awareness drives to be conducted through CPSUs at Panchayat level, Educate Small & Marginal Farmers about the Scheme to maximize benefit and save them from fraudulent activities.

22. Shri Abhay Bakre, Director General Bureau of Energy Efficiency Ministry of Power, gave his presentation on efforts in the field of Energy Efficiency and

Energy Conservation in Rural Areas. He took us through the journey of BEE towards making an energy efficient India via Government driven programs like UJALA, SLNP, AgDSM, MuDSM, Gram UJALA, enhancing energy efficiency in Cold Chain. And PSU/Multi and Bilateral driven programs through GEF, AJAY, SoUL, PRSF, NMRP. He also described the Star Labelling Program in India.

23. Case studies and best practices were shared in the session for two states, for Kerala Dr. PV Unnikrishnan, Secretary, Kerala Government and Shri Girigen Gopi Sr. Scientist MSSRF presented their Strategies towards carbon neutrality through Agroforestry, Soil amendments. For Maharashtra, Shri Gajanan Patil from Urja Biosystems Pune demonstrated the Aatmanirbhar Village through sustainable waste management using Biogas plant, options for utilization of Biogas also he demonstrated the potential of one cow in generating 6 cylinders of Gas or 250 units of electricity and 1.5 Ton of PROM per year.

24. Smt. Zahera Naseem, Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat Bidar, Karnataka shared the best practices in Solarization of streetlights in panchayats with the examples of villages like Dhupatmahagaon, Babli, Jeerga B, Manigyampur, Bhiku Nayak Thanda and Chandru Kelva Thanda. She also emphasized on importance of solarization. Cases of successful projects of Solar Digital Library, Solar power super Anganwadi, Disability Information Centre. Further she shared the case of Har Ghar Jal initiative under Jal Jeevan Mission and manmade Goggavva Tank.

25. Smt. Beena Vijayan, BP Member & former GP President from Sulthanbathery block panchayat (Kerala) shared the achievement in carbon neutrality in their Meenangadi GP. and Smt. Madhura, Asst. Director Local Fund Audit. Shri Thangavel, President and Shri R. Shanmugam, Ex-President presented the success story of Odanthurai Panchayat. Odanthurai Panchayat stands as a role model for self-reliance and sustainability. It's efforts towards localizing renewable energy has been an important step in achieving a carbon-neutral society. It has been attracting the attention of policymakers across India.

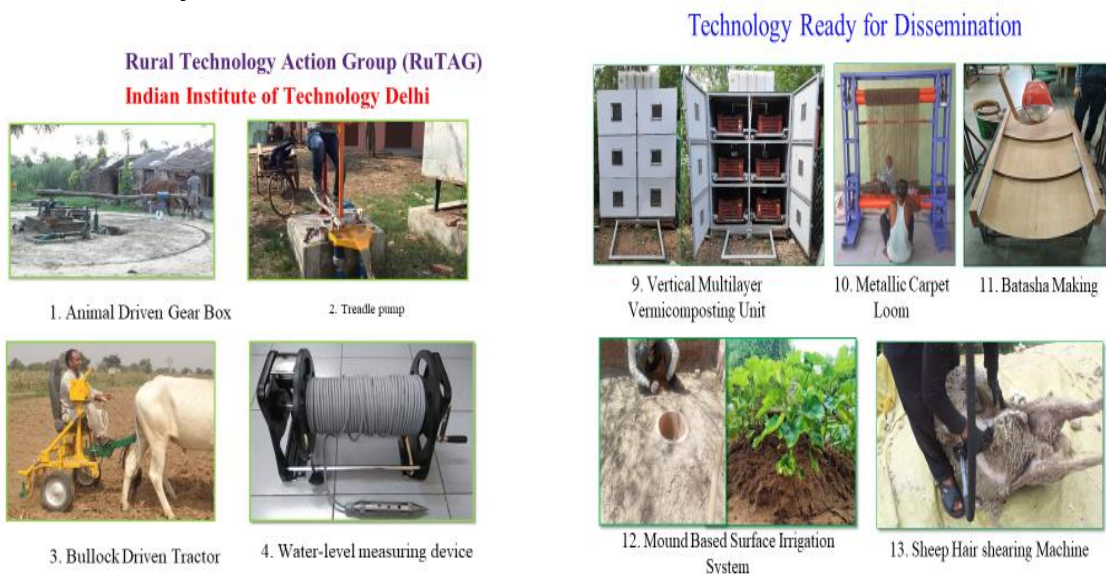
Summary of Technical Session 2

26. The second **Technical Session** of the National Webinar on the theme of **'Atmanirbhar Panchayats as instruments of economic development in rural areas through Rural Technology and Entrepreneurship'** was moderated by Shri Khushwant Singh Sethi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj. During the session a detailed presentation was made by Dr. Ketaki Bapat, Scientist 'F', Office of Principal Scientific Adviser on **'Rural Technologies catering to technological needs of rural India'**. Another presentation was made by Dr. B. K Ray, Director, Ministry of Skill Development on **'Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)'**. These presentations were followed by the experience sharing by the States, Panchayats and Farmers Producers Organisation (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the areas on Economic Development and Income Enhancement activities through convergence of different schemes.

27. A detailed presentation was made by Dr. Ketaki Bapat, Scientist 'F', Office of Principal Scientific Adviser and Prof Sandesh, Faculty of Industrial Design, IDC, IIT Bombay on Role of Technology, Entrepreneurship and Harnessing Energy in Achieving Self-reliance for Sustainable Development. Various innovative initiatives and field tested innovations done by Rural technology action group (RuTAG) centres were highlighted for addressing problems identified at local level to address different occupational groups, reduce the drudgery & add value to the products & services, bridging technology gaps, providing training, demonstration with innovative approach. It was stated that 50 field tested technologies for rural people have been developed, which has demonstrated better product output, ease of operation, social change etc.

28. RuTAG technologies related to various sectors, which can be used in rural areas for economic improvements, income generation and ease of living for rural populace were highlighted. The technologies related to various sectors were discussed in details during the webinar is as under:

Agriculture Sector: Improved Bullock Driven Tractor, Animal Driven Gear Box for Multiple Rural Applications, Low Cost Ground Water Level Measuring Device, Improved human operated Treadle Pump, Multi nutrient compressed feed blocks, Paddy thresher.



Artisan/Cluster & other Technologies: Improved material for Horse Shoe making, machines for Coir Rope, Jute Rope- 2 models, Door Mat (Papose) making, felt making, Coir Ratt, Potter's wheel- 3 models, Foot-driven-bicycle/sewing machine, device for making Tulsi Mala Beads, Furnace for Bangle Making, Motorized Sabai Grass Rope Making Machine, Motorized Sisal Fiber Extractor, Value addition to bamboo through charring.

Technology Ready for Dissemination



5. Tulsi Mala Bead Making Device
DC Power



6. Tulsi Bead Making Device
AC Power



7. Bangles Making Furnace



8. LPG Fired Potters Kiln

Textile Sector (Cotton/Silk/wool): Cotton- Foot-driven Amber Charkha, Pedal Loom, Silk- Motorized Muga re-reeling Machine, Eri Cocoon Opener, Power loom for Weaving of Muga Silk Fabrics, Accessory machines for Handloom and Power loom, Hank to Bobbin Winding Machine, Pirn Winding machine, Sectional Warping Machine, Wool- Modified Bageshwari Wool Charkha.

Energy Sector: Modified Pump used as Turbine for Pico hydro.

Other Technologies: Modified Bicycle for post-harvest agriculture produce, Sanitary Napkin, Betel nut cutter, Chaff cutting.

29. During the presentation various initiatives taken by different ITIs under National Vending Cart Mission to design different kind vending carts suitable for different stakeholders were also discussed and showcased through visual presentation. The role of such innovative technology in **Atmanirbhar Panchayats** were highlighted. The participants were also requested to avail such innovative technology which are generally made with the locally available materials and suitable for different agro climatic condition across the country for income enhancement for already engaged people in such activities.

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30. Dr. B. K Ray, Director, Ministry of Skill Development made a detailed presentation on '**Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)**'. It was appraised that SANKALP is a World Bank loan-

assisted project to address the ongoing challenges in the skills-to-jobs ecosystem like bringing about convergence, infusing quality in skill development programs and making them market relevant and accessible while ensuring private participation in the context of short-term training. It was further stated that the current jobs roles under different skilling programs are designed to meet urban/ semi-urban demand, not designed to cater to local demand & requirement, do not offer courses which market relevant and meet the emerging demand of the market, unmet requirements at the Gram Panchayat level with lack of access to skill development opportunities.

31. It was shared that the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has already signed to integrate skilling at the GP level. The engagement of MSDE and with MoPR aims at the following:

- Skilling local resources for a sustainable livelihood opportunity
- Development of multiskilling job roles (if required) and training
- Improved Wage and creation of fresh Self-employment opportunities at the GPs
- Creation of demand and supply ecosystem for services in drinking water and sanitation at GP level
- Identification of various market-based mechanisms to deliver aforementioned services
- Development and testing of employment solutions that will work at scale

32. The key achievement under SANKALP were also highlighted during the presentation, which is as under:

- Activation of over 600 District Skill Committees
- Mahatma Gandhi National Fellows placed in all districts, who are assisting the DSCs to prepare DSDPs considering SD demand in GPs
- Partnered with MoPR with the aim to integrate skill development planning in the GPDP. This would equip the GPs with skilled resources to deliver developmental activities.
- Pilot project completed in 254 GPs of Varanasi & Chanduali, where 5439 workers were assessed and certified by 5 SSCs, in 9 job roles, & linked to GPs for employment.
- Skill & entrepreneurship development of 3000 women artisans in Golden Grass craft from 35 villages in Kendrapara district, Odisha
- Adarsh Gram Skill Camps where over 15000 candidates are to be certified in 100+ villages across 11 states
- Baselineing of all states/UT

33. Above mentioned presentations were followed by experience sharing by the States, Panchayats and Farmers Producers Organisation (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the areas on Economic Development and Income Enhancement activities through convergence of different schemes. Shri Satish Sharma, Joint

Director, Department of Panchayati Raj, Government of Himachal Pradesh shared the experience of Eco-Tourism project sanctioned under the component of Economic Development and Income Enhancement of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). The following components are identified under the said project:

- Sustainable Eco tourism by promoting Eco/Rural Tourism along with preservation of Flora and Fauna and ensuring Biodiversity Conservation.
- Livelihood Generation and Economic Development with the focus on revival of Rural Economy as a result of Covid-19 Pandemic
- Promotion of local culture
- Distraction of Youth from Drug abuse by providing them with other opportunities.
- Execution in Convergent Mode



Natural Caves and trekking with Heritage Structures/Forts & trekking route

34. The features of the above project are; execution in complete convergent mode, involvement of SHGs, Capacity Building and Skill Development Training and Environment Friendly with the expected outcomes of employment generation, economic development, development of infrastructure, preservation of heritage & environment and promotion of local culture & local products.

35. Smt. Suchitra Jana Pramanik (Pardhan) and Shri Suvra Kanti Jana Sahayak-GP Employee of Pratapadityanagar Gram Panchayat, Kakdwip Block, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal shared the experience of the implementation of the project of Economic Development & Income Enhancement through Convergence. It was stated that Pratapadityanagar Gram Panchayat has undertaken several developmental programs in rural areas that are in line with Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) & these are not only helps to develop rural infrastructure but also creates impact on environment as well as to enhance socio-economic condition. Gram Panchayat has initiated a unique livelihood development programme- “Gram Sayambhar Yojona”, converging resources from various programme, Own Source of Revenue (OSR) & beneficiary contribution. The following projects are being implemented:

- Nursery raised by SHGs for Social Forestry
- Banana Orchard & Mixed Fruit Garden in convergence with MGNREGS & Horticulture Department.
- Organic Farming initiative in convergence with OSR & Agriculture Department.
- Skill develop trainings for the SHGs on beautician, handicrafts, paper bag making, tailoring, soft toys making etc.
- Marketing arrangement for SHG products by Gram Panchayat

Gram Panchayat has initiated a unique livelihood development programme- "Gram Sayambhar Yojana", converging resources from various programme, GP OSR & beneficiary contribution



36. Gram Panchayat has arranged stalls in market areas to sell products like clay dolls, soft toys, bags, handicrafts, stalls have also been set up to demonstrate and sell organic products produced by SHGs. Gram Panchayat is now planning to set up a Spice Grinding Unit that will be run by the SHG Cluster and this unit may give an annual turnover of minimum Rs.30 to Rs.35 thousand.

37. Ms. Archana Bhojar, President of Kalamb Mahila Producer Company (MPC), Maharashtra shared her experience of self-employment and income enhancement activities (grading and cooling units) undertaken by the MPC. She stated that in future MPC is planning more self-employment ventures such as Daal Mill, warehouse, cotton processing units with the help of new shareholders of MPC. Ms. Prajakta Gedman, member of Navnirman Mahila Gram Sangh, Aklara Village, Ralegaon Block, District Yatmaal Maharashtra shared the experience of self-employment generation in fisheries, goat rearing, poultry farming etc. under National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).



38. An experience on livelihood generation using local resources was shared by Kanjikuzhy Gram Panchayat of Alappuzha district, Kerala. It was stated that the villagers of Kanjikuzhi were the ones who made a living by beating the husks and making the ropes. But the wages earned through such occupations were not enough to alleviate hunger. It is at this point that the popular vegetable cultivation begins, bringing together the masses. Vegetable cultivation was a huge success and the income of the farmers has increased. And the farmers took care to educate their children. Another experience on Perinjanorjam Solar Project was shared by Perinjanam village of Thrissur district, Kerala. It was stated that Perinjanam Grama Panchayat is the first in India to generate 700 kW of rooftop solar power through the Perinjanam Energy Project which has brought it to the pinnacle of fame. Perinjanam became a role model for the entire country by installing 2,000 solar panels on the roofs of 246 houses in the Gram Panchayat. The total annual production is 11,900 units. The panchayat is currently generating electricity for lighting most of the street lights in Perinjanam GP.



39. Shri Khushwant Singh Sethi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj appreciated the efforts of Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Skill Development, States, Panchayats and Farmers Producers Organisation (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) for their presentations and experience sharing in their models of economic development in rural areas through rural technology and entrepreneurship. He stated that it could be a learning experience for the others to become **Atmanirbhar** using various locally available materials using innovative technologies and convergence various schemes.
