



MESSAGE

On 11th October, the birth anniversary of Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narayan ji, following the footsteps of Gandhiji, we intend to translate the concept of Gram Swaraj into reality through the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. Under the visionary guidance of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, the NDA had vowed to bring economic opportunities closer to India's villages, through building roads and providing amenities at city standards. I had been closely associated in the conceptualisation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) which has contributed to better road connectivity in rural areas. Today, under the able leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, we carry on the commitment and pledge to bring development right to the doorstep of our villages through the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY).

The SAGY will keep the soul of rural India alive while providing its people with the physical amenities to enable freedom of choice to shape their own destiny. The Scheme is unique and transformative as it has a holistic approach towards development. It envisages integrated development of the village across multiple areas such as agriculture, health, education, sanitation, environment, livelihoods etc. It seeks to not only provide physical infrastructure and access to basic amenities but also improve the standard of living, enrich social capital and build community spirit. These are the ingredients that will ensure long term positive change and sustainability of this change.

Strengthening of local democracy through strong and transparent Gram Panchayats and active Gram Sabhas and facilitating good governance is an important objective of the Scheme. I am certain that several innovative practices will evolve to achieve this. For instance, Punsari village in Gujarat has put in place a biometric system for attendance of Gram Panchayat functionaries. This has ensured accountability and efficiency in executing tasks. Similarly, Hiware Bazar in Maharashtra has leveraged Joint Forest Management Committee to conserve forests, develop integrated water conservation measures so as to make the village free of drought and water scarcity.

The Members of Parliament (MP) will lead and guide this initiative in their respective constituencies. They will motivate the community to not only take up development works but also affirm the values specified in the Scheme. The MPs should nurture these Adarsh Grams to serve as demonstration villages for the surrounding areas to learn and replicate these efforts. The Yojana will also require planned coordination and convergence between different government ministries and departments.

I must mention that these Guidelines are the result of numerous rounds of discussions with my colleagues in the Parliament, State Governments, Government of India and other stakeholders. The scheme can only succeed with leadership of the MPs and leveraging community participation at the village level for developing a comprehensive village plan ensuring character building, environmental conservation and human development along with physical amenities.

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