

11241/2020/MOPR

सुनील कुमार, आई.ए.एस.

SUNIL KUMAR, IAS



सत्यमेव जयते

सचिव
भारत सरकार
पंचायती राज मंत्रालय
SECRETARY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
Dated: 01 October, 2020

D.O. No. M-11015/141/2020-FD

Dear Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary

The Panchayats have been on the forefront taking various preventive and protective measures, right from the time of early onset of the COVID pandemic in the country, and their contribution has been widely appreciated at different levels. As per assessment of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), there are 73 districts in 9 States which have high load of COVID-19 infected cases. In these districts there are 35,865 Gram Panchayats involved in the fight against COVID, including measures for COVID appropriate behavior *i.e.* use of face cover/masks, maintenance of physical distancing in public places, frequent washing of hands using soap/hand sanitizer etc.

2. Considering the imminent onset of winter and forthcoming festivals in the months of October and November, experts have impressed upon the need to launch an intense and effective communication strategy to combat the spread of COVID 19 amidst unlocking of the economy. Accordingly, it has been decided to take up the following activities for PRIs as part of the focused campaign against COVID – 19.

- Display of wall paintings, posters, sign boards etc in Panchayat Bhawans in about 2 lakh GPs with GP Bhawans. For GPs without GP Bhawans, such Posters /wall paintings etc are to be displayed in prominent places within the GP.
- Dissemination on COVID appropriate behavior [use of face cover /masks, physical distancing (do gaj ki doori) and maintaining hand hygiene in Gram Sabha, Mahila Sabha and Bal Sabha meetings during the Peoples' Plan Campaign (PPC), (October, 2020 to January, 2021);
- Send customized sms or WhatsApp messages for reinforcing Covid appropriate behavior through bulk messaging or cascade WhatsApp groups
- To ensure adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour at the worksites while implementing various works undertaken in GPs.

3. You will agree that any complacency at this stage will undo the efforts undertaken so far in controlling the spread of COVID-19 in rural areas. Hence, I request you to take all possible steps to strengthen community preparedness and monitoring as already communicated vide my earlier DO letter dated 15th May 2020. In view of the upcoming festivals, it would be of critical importance to re-emphasize among rural citizens the need to maintain vigil and adoption of COVID appropriate behavior to combat the spread of COVID-19. Accordingly, this Ministry may be informed of the action taken at your end in this regard through regular weekly reports every Friday to Shri G.S. Krishnan, Consultant at his e-mail : gs.krishnan@gov.in

4. You are also requested to share the 'success stories' from Panchayats and other traditional local bodies with pictures and detailed write up pertaining to innovative and effective measures taken by the PRIs for the effective control of Covid-19.

Yours sincerely,

(Sunil Kumar)

All Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries
Department of Panchayati Raj, All States/ UTs (As per list attached)

Name & Address	Dr. Sandeep Bhatnagar, Secretary, Panchayati Raj & RD Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh, H. P. Secretariat, Shimla-171009.
Shri Gopal Krishan Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj & Rural Development Department, 5 th Building, Ground Floor, Government of Andhra Pradesh A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati, Hyderabad-522230	Mrs. Sheetal Nanda Secretary, Panchayati Raj & RD Department Civil Secretariat Jammu-180001
Shri Govind Jaiswal, Secretary, Panchayati Raj & RD Department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar-791111.	Mrs. Aradhana Patnayak Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi- 834004.
Dr. J. B. Ekka, Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Assam, Guwahati-781006.	Shri L. K. Atheeq, Principal Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, Gate 3, 3 rd Floor, M. S. Building, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru-560001.
Shri Amrit Lal Meena, Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Bihar, Patna-800015.	Smt. Sharada Murleedharan, Principal Secretary, Local Government Department, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthampuram-695012.
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Shri Sanjay Gihir, Secretary, Panchayati Raj & RD Department, Goa Secretariat, Panaji – 403 001.	Shri Arvind Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayati Raj & RD Department Gram Vikas Vibhag Government of Maharashtra, 25, Marzban Marg, Bandham Bhawan, 7 th Floor, Fort, Mumbai-400001
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Shri Sudhir Rajpal, Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj & RD Department, Government of Haryana, Haryana Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh – 160001.	Ms. Nidhi Kesarwani, Commissioner, Panchayati Raj & Rural, Development Department, Government of Manipur, Imphal-795001.

Mrs. Zohramthamgi Hauhnar, Secretary, Local Administration Department Government of Mizoram, Aizawal-796001
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Ms. Seema Jain, Financial Commissioner, Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Punjab, Vikas Bhawan, Sector-62, Mohali, Chandigarh-160002.
Shri Siddharth Mahajan, Secretary & Commissioner, PR & RD Department, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur-302001.
Shri C. S. Rao, Principal Secretary, Rural Management & Development Department, Government of Sikkim, Gram Vikas Bhawan Gangtok-737101.
Shri Hans Raj Verma, Additional Chief Secretary, Panchayati Raj & RD Department Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai-600009
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Shri Devender Singh, Secretary Panchayati Raj Department, U.T. of Dadra-Nagar Haveli and Daman - Diu, Fort Area, Secretariat, Moti Daman- 396220
Mr. Asgar Ali, Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department Lakshadweep Administration Kavaratti-682555
Shri Ashok Kumar, Secretary Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Puducherry, Chief Secretariat No.1, Beach road, Puducherry-605001
Shri Umang Narula Adviser to Administrator, UT of Ladakh Secretariat, Leh