

Amrit Mahotsav: 75 Nadi Yatra's in Maharashtra

(*Chala Januya Nadila*)

Amrit Mahotsav is being celebrated across India as recognition and acknowledgment of the contributions of its citizen's in bringing India to its current stage of development in its evolutionary journey. The world as we know is changing and posing several challenges, however strength of our actions backed by our convictions would empower us to face these challenges successfully and overcome the Mani faceted crises that our country is facing.

Water crisis is one of the most critical challenges that our country is facing. JalBiradari under the mentorship and guidance of Dr. Rajendra Singh Ji, has been involved in water conservation and Rejuvenation of Rivers initiative since decades and hence suggested government of Maharashtra to jointly conduct Yatra's on 75 Rivers of Maharashtra in commemoration of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav**. These yatra's would facilitate communities' involvement and Resolve in the protection of River's.

Maharashtra Government readily and spontaneously accepted this idea and agreed to fully support and involve the administration in this peoples Nadi Yatra. It is in recognition of the fact that the collective resolve of people and government followed by well laid out action plans and determined efforts will make Maharashtra floods and droughts free, further it will be an important step in the direction of ensuring water security of Maharashtra.

Hon'ble Minister of Cultural affairs and forest of Maharashtra government shri. Sudhir Mungantiwar ji agreed to Dr. Rajendra singh ji's Proposal and emphasised that rivers of Maharashtra should again become **Amrit Vahini's** and resolved that the government will support the people's initiative on this. He further stated that we will collectively make determined efforts to achieve these aims.

Chief Secretary of Maharashtra Shri Manu Kumar Srivastava in the meeting of "**Chala Januya Nadila**" held in his office on 7-10-2022 Underlined the Importance and the commitment of the Government to make the Rivers pollution free.

Under this important programme of "**Chala Januya Nadila**" Nadi Yatra the civil society members and Organisations who are actively involved since Several years and decades and have voluntarily accepted Responsibility of Saving and Protecting Environment ,Rejuvenate Rivers, have expressed their readiness to Take part in this Nadi Yatra.

The Civil society members working on Rivers have always felt the need to closely collaborate and cooperate with the Administration and mutually empower each other in ensuring the protection and Rejuvenation of Rivers.

These 75 Nadi Yatras is an opportunity and an attempt to further forge and enhance peoples participation and Civil societies engagement in the administrations mandate of Protecting and Rejuvenation of Rivers.

Civil Society can play an important role in Protection of Rivers if they are empowered by the Administration with the information, data, Maps and schemes of the government's Various departments involved in various aspects of Water Resources Development and Management to protect and rejuvenate the rivers.

Aims and Objections of this Nadi Yatra

- 1) To increase awareness and Participation of various Stakeholders, Experts, College, Research students, Farmer groups, Water users Association, Industry Associations, Fishermen Associations and similar self-motivated and self-driven Individuals and organisations in this Nadi Yatra, this cohesive group will pave the way for forming Nadi Sansad.

River coordinators of the district will be representative of this Nadi Sansad in the Committee that will be formed by the Collector following the Guidelines given in GR Dated 14-10-2022 regarding “*Chala Jaanuya Nadila*” Initiative under the Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- 2) To prepare a Current Status Report of the Respective River Basin with inputs from various River Experts and various stakeholders including common citizens.

Studied inputs from Experts in the fields of Biodiversity, Aquatic life, Fisheries, Ecological flow, Waste Water treatment, solid waste, Catchment area development, Water supply dept, Sanitation Engineers, Dam Experts, Organic farmers to representing the demand side of water, Doctors studying the corelation of Pollutants and Diseases would be taken to compile this report.

This Current Status report will also take inputs from the Govt Officers of various Depts related to Water and Rivers as they are mandated to be involved in this Yatra. Sharing of their understanding, Knowledge and perspective of water and River issues will pave a way for integration of Knowledge and Experience, aspirations of civil society and Govt officers with respect to Water and River issues.

- 3) This Joint current Status Report Prepared by both Civil society members and Govt Officers would contain detailed functional steps and actions proposed to ensure the river is Made Free of Encroachment, pollution and over Exploitation with a aim to Making our Rivers Free Flowing and Amrit Vahinis.

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President JalBiradari Maharashtra.