To commemorate the 75th anniversary of Independence of India, this year India is celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, which will continue till August 2023. Indian Meteorological Society (IMS) and India Meteorological Department are jointly celebrating this Mahotsav by organising a series of popular lectures on contemporary topics.

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

Dr. Ranjan Ratnakar Kelkar is the former Director General of Meteorology (DGM), India Meteorological Department (IMD). Dr. Kelkar had served IMD in different capacities for 38 years including as DGM, IMD from 1998 to 2003 before his retirement. He was the Permanent Representative of India at the World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, and a member of its Executive Council. He was the Secretary, Vice-President and President of the IMS. He worked as ISRO Chair Professor at Pune University from 2004 to 2008. Now he is a freelance writer, blogger and speaker on weather, climate and spirituality.

**ABOUT THE TALK**

**Progress of Meteorological Services after Independence**

The IMD is a unique government organization that transforms science to service seamlessly and speedily. IMD is engaged in its own scientific research and it also supports research outside it. The Indian Meteorological Society (IMS) is also a unique professional body in the sense that it is not exclusively for professionals but is open to all who are interested in meteorology. One of its aims is to take the science of the atmosphere to the masses and make it relevant and meaningful to them. In India, in 1947, one could know about the weather only in the next day’s newspaper. Since then, IMD has systematically developed its infrastructure and expanded its services to meet the demands of the growing nation, with dedication and purpose. Today, citizens get their local forecasts on IMD’s mobile apps, IMD’s advisories are texted directly to millions of farmers, disaster managers receive alerts days in advance, pilots check their route weather on IMD’s portal, policymakers get nationwide forecasts a season ahead. Every state and most union territories have a Meteorological Centre that remains in close touch with the administration. In terms of the quality of service, IMD is second to none. Dr. Ranjan Kelkar, in his lecture, will take his audience through IMD’s incredible journey of progress in the last 75 years since Bharat got its Azaadi.

**Link**: https://youtu.be/Qh7LuaVf8DM