

## NAKSHA PILOT PROJECT

The NAKSHA (National Automated Mapping and Surveying for Heritage Areas) Pilot Project is an innovative initiative aimed at revolutionizing the way we map and document heritage sites and resources across India. The project is part of a broader effort by the Government of India to integrate technology with heritage conservation, making it easier to preserve, manage, and protect valuable historical and cultural landmarks.

The primary objective of the NAKSHA Pilot Project is to create digital maps for heritage sites using cutting-edge technology such as GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and remote sensing. By doing so, it ensures accurate and easily accessible information about India's vast cultural and historical heritage. This is particularly significant for sites that are often overlooked or at risk due to urbanization, natural disasters, or neglect.

One of the key features of the NAKSHA project is the inclusion of community participation in the mapping process. Local communities, scholars, and experts work together to document and survey heritage areas, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in preserving their cultural history. This participatory approach is crucial, as it helps ensure that the history and traditions of local communities are accurately represented and preserved for future generations. The NAKSHA Pilot Project was launched in select regions across India, with a focus on areas rich in cultural heritage but lacking comprehensive and modern mapping tools. These regions are mapped digitally, allowing authorities and conservationists to monitor changes in the landscape, identify areas of concern, and develop strategies for preservation. Through the use of digital technology, the project aims to create a central database that can be accessed by heritage professionals, government agencies, researchers, and the general public. This database will provide crucial information about heritage sites, including their historical significance, current condition, and any preservation efforts underway. Moreover, the NAKSHA Pilot Project is designed to address key challenges such as the degradation of heritage sites, unauthorized construction, and the lack of proper documentation. By digitizing maps and information, it provides a tool for better planning and management of heritage sites, ensuring their long-term protection. The success of the NAKSHA Pilot Project is expected to set the stage for expanding the program nationwide, helping to safeguard India's rich cultural heritage while leveraging technology for more effective conservation and sustainable development.

## Jammu has degenerated into Crime Capital of UT

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

It is very unfortunate and disturbing that the city of temples which Jammu has the distinction of being is degenerating into a hub and capital of crimes .It is matter of grave and grave concern that crime graph in Jammu is rising and Jammu has become infamous for crime ,mafia ,drugs ,rowdy elements ,goons and other anti social activities .In recent days many instances of crime ,theft ,dacoits ,ransom collection and kidnapping have raised its ugly head and all these negative things has become the order of the day and the common public suffers great as it is engrossed in this unfavorable environment and the people want some relief from day to day thefts, dacoits ,robberies ,abductions ,chain snatching etc. People are feeling suffocation and heat of the crimes day in and day out. Increasing crime has become a big headache and concern to the common man as he is caught in the cobweb of crimes perpetuated by the criminals of various kinds. People feel frightened and want a zero crime atmosphere. There is a sense of insecurity among the people as thefts and robberies are taking place in various parts of Jammu and its peripheries in broad daylight .It seems that there is no fear of police and law enforcing agencies in the criminals ,gangsters ,goons and rowdy elements and they are committing crimes without any fear and remorse .In recent days dacoits have looted a jewelry shop in Greater Kalish area at gun point and the dacoits snatched gold weighing 1.500 kg .Few days after this daredevil crime the robbers struck a medical shop in Jammu city and looted Rs 45000 from the shop

that too during day time .A murder occurred in the busy Jewel chock in which was members of a gang /gun wielding goons stopped a Red Thar and pumped bullets on the person driving the vehicle and the gangsters fled on a grey colored scooty at gun point .The injured man was identified as Sumit Jandyal of Vijaypur and he was taken to GMC hospital where doctors declared him dead .it has become clear that this unfortunate murder was the result of some old rivalry among the two groups of gangsters .But thank God that Jammu police acted swiftly and apprehended 11 accused in the murder .Few days ago thieves took the benefit of darkness as the power went off in Janipur and the thieves took away some garlands of Rupees and went away .However the police of Janipur acted very swift and caught the thieves .Few months ago an auto Riksha driver who was ferrying a couple of Monarama Vihar Patta Bohri and was known to the couple ,murdered the couple that too in the day time without any fear .This gruesome murder shook the people of Bhoiri/Talab Tiloo area and the incident sent shock waves in whole Jammu .The auto riksha driver was also apprehended within few days of the double murder. The pall of gloom descended Talab Tiloo ,Bohri areas on hearing this unfortunate double murder of a retired principal and his wife by a person known to the couple .There was good relations between the couple and the auto driver and they could have never thought even in their wildest dream that such unfortunate thing will be done to them that too by the person known to them for many years .The fact that thefts ,murders

,group clashes, gang war resulting into deaths is frequently taking place in and around Jammu and such crimes are giving sleepless nights to Jammuites .People feel much insecure in their homes ,while going to do daily chorus and even going outside for a walk and while going for purchasing the daily items from the market .Chain snatching is also on rise .Few days before shooting took place at Pallan Mandal on a vehicle and the shooter fled away .Jammu has seen a rise in crime in recent days including gang violence and extortions. As pointed above in February 2025 ,a gangster was shot and killed in a daylight shooting in Jewel Chowk .Yes police have increased their efforts to crack down on crime syndicates ,including extortion rackets .Rangarh ,Vijaypur ,Bishna, Bari Brahmna ,and RS pura have become hotspots of highway robberies .Drug smuggling is also a problem in these areas .Drug addiction is on rise in Jammu and many people especially youth and even women are taking drugs and have become drug addicts .It seems that police in and around Jammu should have to take certain concrete steps to tighten noose around the thieves ,goons ,gangsters, extortionists ,dacoits who have lately become proactive as the city and its periphery have been witnessing cases of theft, robberies and gang wars in the recent days .There is insecurity and unease among the residents of Jammu as never before as the region is witness to increase in crime that people fear to leave their shops and houses during the day as well as night because the cases of burglary and robberies have taken place in various parts of the city .The people have now

raised their voice and showed their concern over the crimes with certain political parties demanding strong action against the criminals including thieves .The crime has become uncontrollable and people have never seen such surge in crimes .Thieves have struck a grocery shop in Shalimar Chowk area and have snatched Rs 50,000.Few days ago thieves struck two shops in Patoli area and decamped with different items worth Rs 3-4 lakh .There is urgent need to take these cases of thefts ,robbery and gang wars very seriously because if police show leniency and complacency ,the thieves ,robbers and goons will be emboldened and it will give steep rise to crime and ultimately people will become sufferers .It is no exaggeration to point out that thieves ,dacoits and gangsters and goons have become hyper active and if all this is not dealt with an iron hand ,the situation will become uncontrollable and the brunt will be borne by the general populace .It is worth appreciation that Jammu police is working with honesty and determination and has solved cases of theft and gang war recently .Jammu police is tirelessly and selflessly working to unearth the thefts and murderers in Jammu and around it .Still there is need to proactively tighten the noose against the thieves ,robbers ,goons and gangsters so that people will heave a sigh of relief. People of Jammu have high expectations on police and it is hoped that law enforcing agencies will leave no stone unturned to crack on thieves, goons and all unscrupulous elements who are becoming threat to peaceful life in Jammu city. (The author is a columnist, social, KP activist & Freelancer)

## Jal Jeevan Mission is achieving steady progress in UT of J&K

### Lanker Pombay village in Kulgam districts receives tap water within premises of households for first time

Jammu and Kashmir has made significant strides in improving access to clean water in rural households through the Jal Jeevan Mission. The Union Territory is marking substantial progress towards achieving the goal of Jal Jeevan Mission with many far-flung and hilly areas getting tap water supply for the first time. The latest example of achievements under the mission is village Lanker Pombay of Panchayat Halqa Khaloora in district Kulgam, comprising of about 80 households. This habitation was not having any sustainable water supply scheme and inhabitants were finding it very hard to meet their water demand. Public would mainly depend on hand pumps drilled in the village and water tankers supplied by the department, for meeting their daily domestic water needs on bare minimum basis.

With the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, a water supply scheme with dug-well as source, at an estimated cost of Rs. 187.68 lakh, was conceived for this habitation for providing the potable water supplies as per prescribed standards, after thoroughly discussing the proposal with the locals who univocally consented for it. The land for the construction of 0.60 lakh Gallons RCC SR was provided by the villagers themselves, although the same being Govt. land, but the possession was taken without



any hindrance. The people centric and inclusive

approach adopted in conceiving this water supply scheme rekindled their hope and the public reposed faith in the department for having a sustainable water supply system.

Now, this scheme with a rising main length of 2000 m, distribution pipe network of about 6000m and Reinforced Cement Concrete Service Reservoir, stands completed as on date and the water supply through household level tap connections has been provided to this habitation.

Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide every rural household with a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) within their premises, capable of delivering a minimum of 55 liters of water per capita per day while adhering to quality standards outlined in BIS 10500. More than 3200 water supply schemes have been taken up across the UT at an estimated cost of about Rs. 13000 crores, against which Rs. 7000 crores (approx.) have been expended so far with completion of about 1400 schemes and the remaining projects are at advanced stages of completion.

To ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Mission, a robust monitoring mechanism under the overall supervision of Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission with various units like UT

level experts/consultants, District Project Management Units (DPMUs), Third Party Monitoring Inspection Agencies (TPIAs) and Pani Samiti's besides District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM) headed by respective District Development Commissioners (DDCs) has been established in addition to regular monitoring by field engineers & Technicians. Local communities have also actively participated in planning, implementation & monitoring of the mission activities at the village level. Procurement of material and execution of all works is done through competitive e-tendering process. The physical and financial details related to schemes being executed under JJM is readily available in the public domain on JJM-IMIS Dashboard.

To ensure cost-effectiveness and efficiency in project completion within established timelines, proven and successful solutions from regions like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Ladakh have been adopted. These solutions include the utilization of HDPE pipe distribution systems in specific locations and the incorporation of GRP water storage tanks.

With the accelerated pace of implementation over the past year, J&K remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring drinking water security for all its rural residents for the next three decades.

## Self-Help Groups-A Tool for Socio-economic Development of Rural Women

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

In many countries majority of people continue to live in rural areas despite the global trend of urbanisation. These rural people are mainly depending on the agricultural activities and lacking income and employment activities .Often these rural people remain amongst the poorest countries ,amongst which the most disadvantageous groups usually are the women. Over the years a plethora of poverty alleviation programmes has been implemented in India and a huge amount of social and financial investments has been made to achieve the sole objective of poverty eradication. Most of these programmes were based on top-down approach and did not consider the needs of the people. Activities for poverty alleviation programmes in most cases adhered to fund based development. The economic vulnerable groups were forced to remain under-confident and the guarantee for security of their livelihood was found missing in the entire endeavor to eradicate poverty from the country. Considering the large number of people still living below the poverty line, therefore the resources used for poverty eradication and provision of subsidies in the name of poor have not been much effective in achieving the goal of poverty alleviation. In the late 1990s evaluation reports of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), a major programme for creating self-employment opportunities in rural areas reflected the flaws in the implementation of the programme. After that holistic programme called Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was announced by the Government of India. This programme was based on group approach rural development where the rural poor were organized into self-help groups.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are small functional groups in rural areas to increase the resource base of the members through the act of thrift and credit among themselves.



To form quality groups, rural participation plays a pivotal role in identifying its members who are brought into the SHG-fold through the process of social mobilization. Group functions are assessed and monitored by the external agencies with active support of government, the lead bank of the region and the Panchayats Union. The SHGs developed under various programmes provide a great opportunity for convergence of various programmes of various ministries and organizations. Necessary training can be provided to the SHGs members to create awareness on community health, traditional and modern agricultural practices, micro-credit, veterinary practices, water resource management, Panchayati Raj and other issues. These trainings could be helpful in increasing the abilities and confidence of the rural poor people that may enable them for an effective contribution towards their own community development. Various micro-enterprises like pickle manufacture, agarbati making, honey and food processing, spices production, dairy farming ,group leaf plate making etc. have proved to be most viable economic activities in the country to drive beneficiaries out of the poverty trap in the

rural areas. The products are produced according to the local demand patterns. To sustain the community economic activities, leadership and membership trainings backed by participatory management is a must for the SHGs. The SHGs members if imparted entrepreneurial trainings combined with exposure visits to the successful micro-enterprise of the same nature would have a greater impact on the quality of the products produced by the poor beneficiaries. The success of the economic activities taken by the self-employed persons largely depends on their social influence, their role in decision making process, broader financial base through enhanced thrift and credit activities and widened ownership rights to the assets created by them.

The agricultural extension programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture could be effectively implemented by the help of SHGs members in the rural areas as 66% of the rural people depend on agriculture. Dairy, poultry farming, sheep breeding are preferred activities among rural people. The benefits of the activities can be maximized for the SHGs by ensuring appropriate forward and backward

linkages with the activities of the department of animal husbandry and dairy development. The services of SHGs can be utilized for the eradication of diseases like Tuberculosis, Polio, and Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) which are common among the rural people. The SHGs can play an instrumental role in the population stabilization programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through reaching the communication as well as benefits of these programmes to the BPL families who tend to have large families leading to higher dependency ratios. Maternal and Infant Mortality Rates are higher in these families. Mechanism would need to be developed for the Reproductive and Child Health Programme benefits to reach the SHGs. The members of the SHGs can be involved in the on-going Adult Education programme of the Department of Education where the self-employed members could be considered for training under Total Literacy Campaign continuing Adult Literacy programme activities. In this endeavor, a major chunk of adult illiterate population could be systematically covered and would have multiplier effect in

increasing the performance of the literacy drive in the country. The organizations like Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Small Scale Industries, Ministry of Textiles, Development Commissioner, Handloom etc. have programmes for development of clusters in places where traditionally some activities have been going on. For instance, carpet weaving, handloom, pottery, wood-craft, stone carving cane and bamboo etc. are popular in some parts of the country. There is need to identify all such activities that could be taken up in clusters covering the groups of rural artisans in various areas. Cluster approach has the advantage of bringing in economies of scale as well as developing backward and forward linkages.

The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education popularly known as Mid-Day Meals Scheme is under implementation in the country since 1995 with an objective to ensure universalisation of primary education by increasing enrolment and attendance and reducing school drop-out rates and simultaneously impacting on nutritional status of children in primary classes.

There is possibility of utilizing the

services of the SHGs for implementing the on-going Mid-Day Meals Scheme in different states. Quality SHGs can be identified and a flexible decentralized approach be adopted for involving the members of these groups in cooking and supplying the mid-day meals to the school going children. This endeavor would ensure successful implementation of the centrally sponsored mid-day meals scheme. The role of people effected by drought and various other calamities has to be properly outlined while planning and executing calamities mitigation activities. An atmosphere encouraging community participation through SHGs has to be created where access to information, knowledge on effects of drought and possible ways of relief from droughts like situation can be ensured through the government and non-government machineries. The SHGs can be trained to analyze and understand the social, economic, political and environmental consequences of regular scarcities of food, water and fodder. The SHGs can be inspired to interact with the government and non-government agencies to initiate various relief measures taken up by the central and state governments. The SHGs can also be given responsibility of running fair price shops under the Public Distribution System in the rural areas.

Community organizations like SHGs could be asked to take up the activity of dissemination of necessary awareness on sanitation procedures in rural areas. Various ministries, departments, organizations etc. should look towards the SHGs for targeting their programmes which ultimately would help in improving the quality of life in rural areas.

Self Help Group approach could serve as valuable instrument to improve the living conditions of the poor and contribute to local economic development.

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