

SAMAGRA SHIKSHA BRIDGING GAPS

Education is a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of schools are under the jurisdiction of the State Government. Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing a centrally sponsored Integrated Scheme for School Education 'Samagra Shiksha', effective from 2018-19, for universalization of quality education throughout the country in coordination with the States and UTs. Bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of the Samagra Shiksha.

From 2018-19 to 2020-21, the Drop-out rate of girls at Secondary level has decreased from 17.03 per cent to 13.7 per cent, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at secondary level has increased from 76.93 to 79.45 and GER at higher secondary level has increased from 50.84 to 54.65. Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of gender segregated toilets in all schools.

As per UDISE+ 2020-21, 97.45 per cent Government schools have gender segregated toilets.

Also, there is a provision of Composite School Grant which may be used for annual maintenance and repair of existing school buildings, toilets and other facilities to upkeep the infrastructure in good condition.

School Health Programme, under Ayushman Bharat which is a joint collaborative initiative of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and DoSEL, Ministry of Education, a module on 'Growing up Healthy' has been incorporated, which interalia includes information on physical challenges during adolescence and attaining puberty.

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is implementing the Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) as part of the National Population Education Project (NPEP).

One of the learning outcomes of AEP is to make the learners aware of the concerns of adolescence, i.e. process of growing up during adolescence and to inculcate in them positive attitude regarding these concerns. Additionally, vide a joint letter of Secretary, DoSEL and Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti dated 08.03.2022, the states have been advised to utilize funds earmarked for Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and management of menstrual waste under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase-II at village level, for installation or maintenance of incinerators in schools having girls from classes VI to XII and for creating awareness on MHM among adolescent girls and in the society in general.

Moreover, all States and UTs have been requested to take necessary steps to create awareness amongst adolescent girls in schools about safe usage and benefits of Sanitary Napkins.

It has also been communicated that subsidized sanitary napkins are available at the Jan Aushadi Kendras set-up by the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilisers, Government of India.

Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in the Educationally Backward Blocks, which are residential schools for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL). KGBVs were functional for classes 6th to 8th under the erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Under Samagra Shiksha, a provision has been made to upgrade/converge the KGBVs with girls hostels to cover girls upto classes 10th (Type II) and 12th (Type III) to reduce dropout and enhance enrolment of girls at Secondary and Higher Secondary levels.

In KGBVs, specific skill training is imparted to provide need based vocational education to girls.

Further, Special State Specific Projects for varied interventions under equity are emphasized for enhancing access, retention and quality of girls by promoting enrolment drives, retention and motivation camps, gender sensitization modules etc.

Financial Support is also being provided under State Specific projects as per the allocation of flexi fund under quality to the state subject to viable proposal received from the respective State and UTs.

Such projects include Life Skills, Awareness programmes, Incinerators, Sanitary Pad Vending Machines etc.

Moreover, Samagra Shiksha aims at integrating Vocational Education with general academic education in all Secondary/Senior Secondary schools including KGBVs; enhancing the Employability and Entrepreneurial abilities of the students, providing exposure to work environment; and generating awareness amongst students about various career options so as to enable them to make a choice in accordance with their aptitude, competence and aspirations.

What diamond jubilee of nation means to common man-a perspective

■ RAVINDER JALALI

After getting independence in 1947, we have now entered year 2022, marking completion of 75 years of independence. Government is making all the necessary arrangements for the yearlong celebration of the Diamond jubilee year making the culmination of 75 years of independence. The most important is hoisting of tricolour on each and every household, institutions, offices etc. from August 13 to August 15 to inculcate the feeling of patriotism and nationalism among the Indian nationals. This has given me an opportunity to assess, what we have gained and what we have lost during these 75 years. This write up is not about any particular Government but spreads to all the governments we had since 1947. There is no denying of the fact that we have made tremendous progress under the successive governments but still there is a scope for further advancement. Now the question is despite having made so much of progress as claimed and also as evident on ground, we are still confronting the basic issues of ordinary common man which should not have been in existence at present. Take the case of elections and election manifesto of various political parties, these are being repeated almost after every election. Take the case of Bijli, Pani, Sadak (Power, Water and Roads), these are the issues which confronts every person and are yet to be fulfilled. Now see the brazenness of such political parties that they are not ashamed of repeating such issues. May be they know that that the people have weak memory and forget things shortly otherwise how they can repeat and face the electorate if they will be cross examined and asked for not completing, despite in power for so many times and so many years. But nothing doing, nobody asks. These issues should not have been there at present. Unemployment, poverty, corruption, malnutrition are still our burning issues and we are celebrating diamond jubilee. All Political parties are exploiting masses on these issues. They are all raising these issues, though they and their families' are outside such issues. We can thank them that at least; they have been able to take themselves and their families out of these issues. If we will look and compare the graph of the political leaders with their voters/masses, there is no match. The graph of the masses is downward while as that of leaders are upwards, going in opposite direction. When they start political career, they were ordinary people with no or little money but over a period of time they have amazed the wealth in disproportionate way and all political parties accommodate each other. Political parties expose them in public at the time of elections and then go hand in hand together. Take case of Delhi, NCR, considered so called literate, they also fell trap to freebee's like electricity, water and transport. While we are in 75th year of independence, a large chunk of population is without basic amenity of power, water and road connectivity. They do not have access to primary health care. Recent pandemic has shown us, how people came on roads due to lock down and travelled hundreds of Km for livelihood. Govt, itself claims that free ration is being provided to 80 crore of people. In a

country of 130 to 135 crore of people, we are providing free ration 80 crores is a significant proportion. Now the million dollar question is that what this Diamond jubilee celebration means for ordinary Indians. We have gone for space adventure, nuclear explosions, defence procurement, latest technologies, engaging foreign countries in various dialogues, improving foreign policy, even up to becoming one of the super powers, but people have to run for shelter, crave for electricity, and we cannot imagine how many people go without evening meals in this 21st century. Removal of Article 370 from J&K is one of the major achievements clubbed with 35A but at the same time hounding of Kashmiri Pandits from their homes and hearths in 1990s in Kashmir where they are the aborigines is a catastrophe. They have to leave their homes in a free, democratic, secular India. This is unheard in any part of world that people have been thrown out from their homes on the basis of religion in a secular country. In no part of world it has happened. This has brought a blot on the Indian democratic and secular canvas. The tragedy is compounded by fact that one of the intelligent subtle and proud community of the country is being virtually reduced to extinction in free and secular India and this has not happened under the tyrannical rule of ruthless rulers of Mughal and Afghan rulers but under the leadership of those who are considered secular and liberal. Had it been happened with any other community, things would have been different and would have become extinct but we appreciate the perseverance of this community who have stood against the odds. Unemployment is also one of the main concerns for the youth. The urban unemployment rate rose to 9.30 per cent in December 21 while rural employment stood at 7.28 per cent. Both urban and rural unemployment saw significant rise from 8.21 per cent and 6.44 per cent, respectively, in the previous month. The rise in unemployment has been attributed to muted economic activity and consumer sentiment, which has been dented due to the rise of Covid-19 cases after the emergence of Omicron variant across the world. Meanwhile, a study conducted recently has revealed that unemployment and coronavirus are the top worries among urban Indians. India's economy is forecast to grow by 9.2 per cent in the current financial year which means we can have 3.1 trillion dollar economy. India has set a target of 5 trillion dollar economy by the year 2025. Some experts are of the view that to have 5 trillion dollar economy by the year 2025 we should have GDP of 8 per cent. Monsoon session of the parliament is going on and all the day so far has been washed out due to the irresponsible behaviour of our so called Members of Parliament. Have they any regard for the common people who toil day and night for their livelihood and if they do not work, there is 'no work, no pay' policy. But here in Lok Sabha they don't perform and are being paid heavy perks and allowances besides too much subsidized meals. Further each hour of parliament costs crores of rupees and they have no regard for that as it costs exchequer.

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J&K witnessing era of socio-economic development

■ IMRAN CHAUDHARY

The hallmark of any developed region is the fine balance between manufacturing, services and agriculture sectors. The industrial landscape of the UT of J&K is dominated by MSME as it contributes about 8 per cent to the GSDP and employs the largest number of people in services and manufacturing sectors. Around 25000 MSMEs are operational in the UT employing around 90 per cent of the industrial workforce here. In this backdrop, Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Policy (JKIP)-2021-30 is a welcome change over the previous industrial policies. Combined with the incentives offered under "New Central Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu and Kashmir" notified by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India, in 2021, the industrial ecosystem in J&K is set to witness a paradigm shift. The new policy is different from the industrial policies that were in operation prior to this policy. The dispensations of the erstwhile J-K state had adopted industrial policies from time to time (i.e. 1995, 1998 & 2004) the latest being Industrial Policy, 2016. To support the old industrial policies, the Indian government sanctioned packages of incentives for the industrial development of the erstwhile state at different intervals namely Central Capital Investment Scheme, 2002, 2012; Scheme of Budgetary Support under Goods and Services Tax regime and JKIDS 2018 but the industrial sector in Kashmir failed to compete with other parts of the country. According to the new industrial policy, which has come into effect on April 1, all industrial units coming into commercial production as well as the existing units undertaking substantial expansion, shall be entitled for incentives under this policy. The new policy has a spending outlay of Rs 28,400 crore (Rs 284 billion), the largest incentive to date, on the industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir for the next 15 years. It is expected to generate an investment of Rs 20,000 crore (Rs 200 billion) and employment of 4.5 lakh over the plan period. This is the first block-level development project that intends to undertake the process of industrialization at the very grassroots level using the local resources, skill, and talent available domestically. The policy specifically promises an era of socio-economic development in the region, catering to the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The policy is aimed to prioritize the aspirations of the entrepreneurs while putting in concerted efforts for

making Jammu and Kashmir the most investor-friendly union territory. It also encourages and facilitates people who want to join the wagon of the industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The policy specifically promises an era of socio-economic development in the region, catering to the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This shift is directed towards ensuring the transformation of J&K from an 'aspirational' to an 'industrially advanced' region. The policy aims at driving industrial growth in an environment of stability wherein dynamic competition is allowed for the betterment of traditional core sectors such as Agriculture and allied sectors, food processing, tourism, health, pharmaceuticals etc. To promote Ease of Doing Business in J&K, the 'Single-Window approach' of the New Industrial Policy is envisaged to streamline the government's role as a 'facilitator; partner; provider; collaborator and promoter'. With conducive ease of doing business, setting up of Land Bank and handholding of MSMEs, J&K is all set to position itself as a lucrative investment destination in India over next 10 years. The new policy also outlines various themes of intervention in the domain of training in ITIs, industry and university collaboration and to encourage investment in capacity building by providing adequate financial support. The proposed Entrepreneur and Skill Development Fund shall prove to be a game-changer. The policy aims at minimum regulation and maximum facilitation keeping in mind the unique geographical location and environmental dynamics of UT. Environment Protection forms the bed-rock of the new policy and thus in consonance with the idea of 'sustainable development'. The new policy aims at promotion of new industries in the UT of J&K in fields of IT, Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture and Food Processing, Education and Skill Development etc. At the same time, it also sets a holistic plan for revival of sick units with adequate regulatory support and financial incentives. Zero Effect- Zero Defect' productivity is very much achievable in light of the new industrial policy. In brief it is evident that the potential of new industrial policy in terms of job creation, promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship, balanced development of all the regions of J&K and improving the quality of life is all set to be realized with the cluster-based approach and optimum realization of resources. 'Tradition, Growth and Transformation' the slogan of new industrial policy is all set to herald a new era of growth and prosperity for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Strengthening grass-root democracy: Rs 1,500 cr allocated to Panchayats post Art-370

■ ROHIT CHOPRA

With an aim to strengthen grass-roots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, Rs 1584.25 crore has been sanctioned for Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, District Development Councils and Block Development Councils for initiating developmental activities in rural or urban areas, said Jammu and Kashmir administration. After successful implementation of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, and conduct of Panchayat/Urban Local Body, District Development Council and Block Development Council elections, the main focus of the Government is to empower these Local Body Institutions with 3Fs (Funds, Functions and Functionaries). "The Government is providing Rs 1,000 crore as a grant to 4290 Gram Panchayats, Rs 200 crore to 20 District Development Councils (DDCs) at Rs 10 crore to each DDC, Rs 71.25 crore to 285 Block Development Councils (BDCs) at Rs 25 Lakh to each Block Development Council (BDC) and Rs 313 crore to 30 Urban Local Bodies for initiating developmental activities in rural and urban areas," the official statement reads. 27 functions have been transferred to Panchayats and functions of 7 depart-

ments to Urban Local Bodies and nearly Rs 1,727.50 crore have been devolved under MGNREGA, 14th Finance Commission, Midday Meal Scheme and Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) to the Panchayats. Rs 1,455.62 crore have been devolved to Urban Local Bodies in the last two years, besides 1,889 Panchayat Accounts Assistants have been recruited. The objective of the government is to provide transparent, responsive and accountable governance for which the Government of Jammu and Kashmir is focusing on unique initiatives of 'Back to Village', 'My Town My Pride', 'Jan-Abhiyan' and 'Block Diwas' for bringing Government programmes and initiatives at the doorsteps of the people. A massive public outreach programme was conducted last year across Jammu and Kashmir with as many as 73 Union Ministers and various Parliament Committees visited all the districts for public interactions and gathered grass-root level feedback on government policies. Interactions were held with representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, other important stakeholders from trade, industry etc. over a period of two months which is expected to improve governance and implementation of various developmental schemes and initiatives. The

introduction of principles of financial prudence, transparency and zero tolerance to corruption have revolutionized the project implementation and enhanced financial inclusion and social equity. Several important reforms have been undertaken to ensure transparency and accountability in the administration. Today a fear-free, corruption-free system of governance has been established through a paperless, faceless procedural framework. "No work is allotted without having Administrative Approval/Technical sanction. No bill is passed without geo-tagging of photographs through PROOF (Photographic Record of On-site Facility) application and physical verification of works. Every single penny is now spent for welfare of people," it added. "With the help of 'Empowerment' (Enabling Monitoring and Public Overview of Works being Executed and Resources for Meaningful Transparency) Janbaghdari (janbaghdari.nic.in) an Information Technology enabled programme, the common citizens of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir can overview works/projects being implemented in their areas and become a partner in the process of development," it said. Union Territory of

Jammu and Kashmir has become the first among States or Union Territories in the country to have a District Good Governance Index for assessing the efficiency of the public delivery system at the district level. This index is expected to foster transparency and accountability in the basic unit of governance and fulfil the aspirations of citizens. Best practices are being identified in each district for replication in others. e-Office has been implemented in Civil Secretariat including Raj Bhawan. It will be implemented in all offices of Jammu and Kashmir in 2022-23. The online system has been created for uploading of Annual Property Returns by all the employees. An online Annual Performance Report system in respect of all employees will be created. E-Audit will be introduced with the strengthening of Virtual Inspection Systems. A historic initiative 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' has been launched in which the scanned data of Jamabandi, Girdawari, Mutation and Musavi of all the 20 districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have been made available to the common citizens. Taking another step towards the empowerment of landowners, land passbooks have been issued in three languages.

J&K Govt's fiscal reforms paving way for enhanced growth, development

■ AJAY KUMAR

Introduction of a slew of major fiscal reforms by the Jammu and Kashmir government has tremendously transformed the financial system in the Union territory paving way for enhanced growth and development in the region. On such reformative measure Budget Estimation and Allocation Monitoring System (BEAMS) has empowered the J&K people to oversee works being executed in their areas on a real time basis. The administration has successfully implemented innovative initiatives in this regard which inter alia included BEAMS, online submission of bills through J&K PaySys, mandatory administrative approvals, technical sanctions and e-tendering, digital payments, GFR, GeM and related measures which have greatly helped the financial systems in J&K to be at par with any other developing financial system in the country. Publication of pictorial e-compendiums related to projects completed under Back to Village, District Capex, UT Capex and JKIDFC broadly reflects government's commitment to engage with the citizens.

During 2020-21, more than 18,000 works were available on Empowerment portal for the first time in J&K for public viewing thus bringing in real grass root empowerment. Notably, Jammu and Kashmir government has completed over 66,000 developmental projects in the last three years. Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said that significant steps are being taken up by the government in the past three years to eliminate impediments and expedite decisions on approvals for timely implementation of projects. In March this year, J&K Finance department accorded sanction to authorization of 100 percent Revenue and Capex budget out of Revised Estimates (RE) 2021-22 through BEAMS within the appropriation approved by the Parliament for the current financial year. "Sanction is accorded to authorization of 100 percent Revenue and Capex budget including District Capex out of Revised Estimates 2021-22 through Budget Estimation, Allocation and Monitoring System (BEAMS) within the appropriation approved by the Parliament vide The Jammu & Kashmir Appropriation Act, 2022 No 4 of 2022, dated March 25, 2022 for the current financial year 2021-22," reads an order issued by the Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) Finance Department. The order stipulates the conditions for utilization of Revenue budget which specify that the Controlling Officers will ensure that all budgetary allocations are strictly as per Demand for Grants and funds shall be released through BEAMS. The controlling officers immediately release the funds to the line departments within a period of one week from the date of authorization of funds by the Finance Department. The BEAMS administrator at the Administrative Department level will report compliance to the Finance Department on a monthly basis and the expenditure will be made strictly in accordance with GFR 2017. In a bid to bring more transparency and accountability in the governance system, Lieutenant Governor had launched PROOF 'Photographic Record of On-site Facility' app. It helps in uploading geo-tagged photographs while preferring bills in the concerned treasuries against the budget allotted through the BEAMS application.

PROGRESSING J&K 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' a flagship initiative for bringing transparency, ease in obtaining land records

Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani initiative is one of the flagship programmes launched by the government of J&K to bring ease, transparency and convenience for citizens about land records. Under this initiative, public users can search and view copies of scanned data online on CIS Portal <http://landrecords.jk.gov.in/>. The initiative facilitates easy online access to the Land Records System, thereby reducing manipulation of the Land Records and improving the efficiency of Revenue offices substantially. This initiative is part of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), and the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir has achieved an important milestone to provide the most transparent and accountable services to the common people under this initiative.

As per official records, 7.70 cr pages of revenue records and 55216 Musavirs (maps) were scanned till date. 6.5 lakh citizens have viewed their land records till date and the feedback of citizens has resulted in purification, updation of land records on constant basis. Earlier, there was no mechanism to view or monitor the status of the land records by the citizens who were dependent on the officials to check their land records. Ali Asghar Raza of Thannmandi calls 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' a landmark initiative which saved common people from burden of visiting tehsil offices and Patwari offices for their own land records. "We can check our land documents anytime at our own will. We can also apply for loan easily for starting our business without visiting the Patwari office", he said.

Echoing his views, Ghulam Muhammad Dar of Thannmandi said that we are grateful of Government for providing land records to people at the comfort of their homes. Similarly, Jehangir Ahmed of Qamarwari says that this initiative relieved them of visiting Patwari offices where there was always delay in issuance of land records. Khurshid Ahmed Reshi of HMT area of Srinagar says that Government has done great job by removing illegal encroachments from public land and utilising freed land for public welfare and institutions.

Pertinently, the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) was formally launched in UT in April-2016 for improving online accessibility to the Land Records System and stopping manipulation of the Land Records thereby making quality of services in Sub Registrar offices/ Tehsils more efficient and transparent. The programme aims to modernize management of land records, enhance transparency in the land records maintenance system, thus reducing scope of land/property disputes, and facilitate conclusive titles to immovable properties in the country. The major components of the programme include computerization and digitization of land records, Survey/resurvey and updation of all survey and settlement records, integration of property registration with land records and cadastral maps for enhancing authenticity and security of data, bringing utmost transparency in the system, Capacity building, and development of Land Records Information System. After August 5, 2019, Jammu & Kashmir has embarked on an unprecedented developmental trajectory wherein transformational initiatives in all sectors have been launched. Transparency in maintenance and upkeep of Land records was an area which required an urgent intervention and 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' (AZAN) is a landmark intervention in that direction.