

## **“Aspirational Blocks Development Programme” ABDP.**

### **1. Background**

Aspirational Blocks Development Programme (ABDP) was conceived with an idea to identify the most backward blocks of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir which require special focus and bring them at par with other blocks. Therefore, a unique area specific initiative is required with the aim of achieving holistic development of these most backward blocks in the UT of J&K. Innovative ways need to be explored, having regard to the unique challenges/constraints in their areas, for improving the socio-economic status of these backward blocks under the programme.

The Programme shall improve access of population of these blocks, to various schemes available for development of poor. This shall bring improvement in Educational level, Health & wellbeing, living conditions of the people. This will be a move forward towards inclusive development which is long overdue. The programme is expected to usher in a new era of development in these blocks.

### **2. Selection of parameters/ indicators for identification of Aspirational Blocks**

Planning Development & Monitoring Department, J&K, undertook the exercise of identification of the most backward blocks in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir on the directions of the Chief Secretary, J&K, for their socio-economic development. This exercise was taken on the analogy of Aspirational Districts Programme being implemented by NITI Aayog, GoI.

21 parameters/ indicators were finalized by PD&MD, J&K, for selection of Aspirational Blocks, after studying the methodology adopted by NITI Aayog in detail. These 21 indicators cover four major aspects of human development i.e., Poverty (3 indicators), Health & Nutrition (6 indicators), Education (7 indicators) & Basic Infrastructure (5 indicators) aiming for expeditious improvement in the socio-economic status of the selected blocks (most backward blocks). A Composite Index was developed in which Poverty was given 20% weightage, Health 30%, Education 20% and Basic Infrastructure 30% and equal weightage was given to all the parameters within the sector. The aforesaid sets of parameters were finalized in consultation with with NITI Aayog, GoI.

<b>INDICATORS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF ASPIRATIONAL BLOCKS IN UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR</b>	
<b>POVERTY (Weight 20)</b>	<b>1. Percentage of Homeless Households</b>
	<b>2. Percentage of Households living in Katcha Houses</b>
	<b>3. Percentage of Landless households dependent on manual labour</b>
<b>HEALTH &amp; NUTRITION (Weight 30)</b>	<b>1. Percentage of pregnant women receiving 4 or more antenatal care checkup</b>
	<b>2. Percentage of Institutional Deliveries to Total Estimated Deliveries in the Block</b>
	<b>3. Percentage of Children aged 12-23 months fully immunized</b>
	<b>4. Percentage of stunted children under 5 Years</b>
	<b>5. Percentage of wasted children under 5 Years</b>
	<b>6. Percentage of Households provided subsidized/ Free Ration under NFSA</b>
<b>EDUCATION (Weight 20)</b>	<b>1. Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) at Primary Level (1-5 class)</b>
	<b>2. NER at Upper Primary level (6-8 Class)</b>
	<b>3. NER at Secondary level (9-10 Class)</b>

<b>BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE (Weight 30)</b>	<b>4. Dropout Rate at Elementary Level</b>
	<b>5. Retention Rate at Elementary Level (1-8 Class)</b>
	<b>6. Percentage of schools having below normal Pupil Teacher Ratio at Elementary Level (1-8 Class)</b>
	<b>7. Percentage of Schools having below Normal Pupil Teacher Ratio at Secondary Level (9-10 class)</b>
	<b>1. Percentage of households un-electrified</b>
	<b>2. Percentage of households without piped water connection</b>
	<b>3. Percentage of households without Individual Household Toilets</b>
<b>4. Percentage of unconnected Habitations under PMGSY</b>	
<b>5. Percentage of Households using clean cooking Fuel (LPG)</b>	

### 3. Selection of Blocks

The data on these 21 parameters was sought from all the 20 districts of UT of J&K. The data received from the districts was analyzed in PD&MD and the results arrived at were shared with all District Development Commissioners and Administrative Secretaries for their comments.

44 most backward blocks were selected (2 Blocks from each District with inclusion of at least 10 most backward blocks of the UT), based on the data made available by the districts and the comments of District Development Commissioners/ Administrative Secretaries.

S. No	District	Number of Blocks selected	44 Blocks Selected as Aspirational Block	
1	2	3	4	
<b>A. JAMMU REGION</b>				
1	JAMMU	2	1. Samwan	2. Pargwal
2	SAMBA	2	1. Sumb	2. Rajpora
3	KATHUA	2	1. Duggain	2. Duggan
4	UDHAMPUR	2	1. Mongri	2. Dudu
5	REASI	4	1. Thakrakot	2. Jig Bagli
			3. Mahore	4. Chassana
6	RAMBAN	4	1. Khari	2. Gundi-Dharan
			3. Ukhral	4. Gandhri
7	KISHTWAR	2	1. Marwah	2. Warwan
8	DODA	2	1. Chilli Pingal	2. Kashtigarh
9	RAJOURI	2	1. Khwas	2. Buddhal Old
10	POONCH	2	1. Mankote	2. Balakote
<b>B. KASHMIR REGION</b>				
1	SRINAGAR	2	1. Khanmoh	2. Harwan
2	ANANTNAG	2	1. Chattergul	2. Larnoo
3	KULGAM	2	1. Manzgam	2. D.K. Marg
4	SHOPIAN	2	1. Keller	2. Ramnagri
5	PULWAMA	2	1. Ichgoze	2. Aripal
6	GANDEBAL	2	1. Gund	2. Lar
7	BUDGAM	2	1. Suresyar	2. Pakharpora
8	BARAMULLA	2	1. Singhpora	2. Uri
9	BANDIPORA	2	1. Tulail	2. Arin
10	KUPWARA	2	1. Keran	2. Machil
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44 locks</b>	

The blocks identified under Aspirational Blocks Development Programme are the most backward blocks of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir which require special focus to bring them at par with other blocks. Access of population of these blocks, to various schemes available for development of poor, shall be improved/ saturated which shall bring improvement in Educational level, Health & wellbeing, living conditions of the people. This will be a move forward towards inclusive development.

### 4. Operational Modalities

For effective implementation of the Aspirational Blocks Programme the operational modalities shall be as under:

- a. District Development Commissioners shall designate a Nodal Officer for implementation of Aspirational Blocks Programme.
- b. Blocks shall be eligible for seeking Financial Assistance of Rs. One Crore under Aspirational Blocks Programme only after meeting the Ten Qualifying Criterion/Indicators defined in the Minutes of the meeting issued by the Chief Secretary Office vide No: PS/CS/2021/Minutes/71/478-S Dated:23:08:2021.

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Setting up;</b> a. Panchayat Play fields b. Youth Clubs c. Sports activities
<b>2.</b>	<b>Panchayat meetings held for reviewing development activities, creating awareness</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Plantation activities taken up through Panchayat Committees</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Activities taken up for celebrating Azadi ka Mahotsav</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Perceptible change in the cleanliness of the block such as garbage collection and disposal</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Improvement in school enrolment ratio (Primary classes)</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Functional &amp; separate girls toilet in schools</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Saturation in individual beneficiary scheme</b> a. Old age pension b. PMAY c. MGNREGA mandays
<b>9.</b>	<b>Water harvesting activities carriedout</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Adoption of modern agriculture practices</b>

- c. After certification of blocks eligibility, the concerned, District Development Commissioners shall prepare Aspirational Block Development Plan for further development of that Aspirational Block. The resources shall be clearly delineated across various sectors (Poverty, Health & Nutrition, Education & Basic Infrastructure) of development at the concerned block.
- d. The Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDPs) so prepared by the DDC shall be submitted to PD&MD for approval. Additional Financial assistance of Rs. One Crore per block shall be made available to eligible Blocks after approval.
- e. GAD shall nominate the Prabhari Officers for these Aspirational Blocks.
- f. PD&MD shall finalize the framework for release of funds and monitoring progress of development in these blocks. The scheme shall be monitored by the PD&MD.
- g. NIC, J&K, shall create Dash Board for monitoring the progress of Aspirational Blocks.
- h. Best practices implemented in the development process across the Union Territory, shall be followed for the socio-economic up-liftment of these Aspirational Blocks.
- i. Capacity building of the block level officers shall be under taken at the district level by the dedicated personnel drawn from within the district.

## 5. Financial implications

The proposal involves providing of additional financial assistance of Rs. 44.00 Crores (Rs. 1.00 crore per block) for the speedy development of these blocks. The resources shall be clearly delineated across various sectors of development at the District level for funding the Aspirational Block Developmental Plan. The additional funding of Rs.1.00 crore each block shall be contingent on the fulfillment/ achievement of targeted progress.

The Finance Department has conveyed concurrence for providing of Rs. 44 Crore for the Roll out of "Aspirational Blocks Development Programme" in identified 44 Blocks of UT of Jammu & Kashmir vide U.O No. FD-BDGTOD-31/1/2021-03 FD dated: 06:09:2021.

## 6. Employment Generation Potential

The Scheme is not directly linked to generation of employment, however, with the help of convergence of various UT schemes/ programmes and CSS schemes/ programmes there is probability for some employment generation also.

## 7. Timeframe

The timeline for completion of the Programme shall be financial year 2022-23.

## 8. Approval of the Programme

"Aspirational Block Development Programme" (ABDP) has been rolled out in UT of Jammu & Kashmir vide Government Order No: 11 of 2021 of 08.11.2021 issued by Planning Development & Monitoring Department, after approval from Administrative Council Decision No. 104/15/2021 Dated: 19.10.2021.

## 9. E-launch of the Programme

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, IAS, Chief Secretary, J&K, e-inaugurated **44 Aspirational Blocks** today 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 under "**Aspirational Block Development Programme**" from **Civil Secretariat, Jammu** in the presence of Sh. Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt., General Administration Department, J&K. Ms. Sushma Chuhan, IAS, Secretary to Govt., Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Sh. Shahzada Bilal, Director General, PD&MD, and Sh. Suneel Pandita, Joint Director, PD&MD were also present.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu and District Development Commissioners of all the districts attended the e-inauguration through virtual mode from their respective offices.

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