

Press Release

**E-inauguration of "Aspirational Blocks Development Programme" (ABDP) –
44 Crore earmarked for Development of Aspirational Blocks-**

A New Era of Development will begin in these blocks: CS

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, IAS, Chief Secretary, J&K, e-inaugurated **44 Aspirational Blocks** today 31st 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.

Chief Secretary said that the Aspirational Block Development Programme is a step towards equitable and inclusive development in J&K. He said the developmental realities of these blocks are different, therefore, an affirmative action for these blocks is required. **The programme is expected to usher in a new era of development in these blocks.**

Earlier, in her presentation, Secretary, Planning Development & Monitoring Department, informed that "**Aspirational Block Development Programme**" (ABDP) is a unique initiative across the country and the Programme has been rolled out in UT of Jammu & Kashmir with the aim of achieving holistic development of the 44 most backward blocks in the UT of J&K. The Programme has been devised after rigorous and comprehensive consultations with NITI Aayog, GoI and has been approved by Administrative Council recently.

These **44 most backward blocks** (2 most backward blocks from each District) were selected as Aspirational Blocks based on their socio-economic backwardness on 21 parameters/indicators covering Poverty, Education, Health & Infrastructure in consultation with NITI Aayog, GoI. Under the programme, District Development Commissioners will prepare **Aspirational Block Development Programme Plan** in convergence with other schemes being implemented in the block. A sum of **Rs. One Crore per block has been**

earmarked under the programme and District Development Commissioners shall be the focal point for this programme, who will designate a Nodal Officer for each such block in their district for its implementation.

Dr Mehta informed that for proper implementation of the programme, Seniors Secretaries will be designated as Prabhari Officers of these blocks and each Secretary will be assigned more than one block for mentoring/supervision of the programme.

Chief Secretary, J&K, advised District Development Commissioners to explore innovative ways, having regard to the unique challenges/constraints in their areas for improving the socio-economic status of these backward blocks under the programme. He further said that mid-term appraisal of these blocks will also be carried out after 3-4 months for any necessary mid-term course policy change. A dash board shall be also developed by the NIC, J&K, for monitoring Aspirational Block Development Programme.
