

High Commission of India

Nairobi

Press Release

**Good Governance and Socio-Economic Justice to The People of Jammu & Kashmir:
First Anniversary of reorganization of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir into a Union
Territory**

5 August 2020 marked the first anniversary of the decision of Government of India (GoI) to reorganize the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir into the Union Territories (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, with the objectives to improve good governance and to deliver socio-economic justice to the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Last one year has seen the implementation of GoI's vision of promoting development, ensuring better governance, and delivering socio-economic justice to the disadvantaged sections.

2. All central laws are now applicable to the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, including laws meant for protecting and promoting social, economic and political rights of women, children, under-privileged sections, and ensuring transparent and accountable governance.

3. For the first time in October 2019, Elections to block development councils, with provision of reservation to women, were held with a record voter turnout of 98 %. The grassroots level of governance, The Panchayats, have been strengthened with funds and devolution of functions, along with strengthening of grievance redressal system.

4. In the largest addition during last 70 years, 50 new educational institutions with 25000 seats have been established. 0.5 million students from the region availed scholarship schemes of the government, which is nearly 4 times higher than the previous year. Two centres of Innovation, Incubation & Training will be established. 8 lakh student health cards have been issued under student health card scheme for school children.

5. To spur economic growth in Jammu & Kashmir, investment roadshows have been organized across Indian metropolitan cities, yielding 168 MoUs worth USD 1.81 billion in 14 focus sectors. To support the apple growers, a unique market intervention scheme was launched for direct procurement of apples from growers. For promotion of Kashmiri saffron, the only saffron grown at an altitude of 1600-1800 meters and having a GI tag, a trading centre has been established under National Saffron Mission. First e-National Agriculture Market platform of Jammu & Kashmir was inaugurated at fruit and vegetable market Parimpora, in an attempt to create a Unified National Market for Agricultural Commodities.

6. Government restored the reservation of all Government jobs for the residents of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, addressing a major demand of the local population. In the first phase, the Jammu & Kashmir Government has already advertised 10,000 posts for fast recruitment of youth at all levels, giving due weightage to domiciles of home district, divorced women and orphan girls, among others. More than 25,000 jobs are in the pipeline in near future. To further boost employment and encourage entrepreneurship, two IT parks, one each in Jammu and Srinagar, will be established. 12 selected start-ups have been sanctioned USD 0.16 million, under the start-up policy of the government.

7. 500 projects worth over USD 80 million have been completed under Jammu & Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation and over 2000 projects worth nearly USD 800 million have been sanctioned. Bottlenecks for a large number of projects across various sectors have been removed.
8. Jammu and Srinagar are being developed as smart cities, with modern and sustainable facilities, with 190 projects worth USD 1 billion already planned. The project proposal worth USD 1.3 billion to set up Light Rail Transit systems in both Jammu and Srinagar has already been approved and a housing, slum development, rehabilitation and township policy has also been approved under which 2 lakh houses are being planned.
9. Electricity has been made available to over 3 lakh households, including in remote areas for the first time in the last 70 years. Functional household tap connections have been provided to 2.93 lakh households, in the lead up to the aim of 100% coverage by March 2022.
10. Transgenders have been included as beneficiaries for the first time, which would, among others, help resolve around 2000 pending pension cases of transgenders.
11. Under the initiative One Nation One Ration Card scheme, eligible beneficiaries from the UT of Jammu & Kashmir would be able to get their entitled food grains from any fair price shop in the country with interstate portability.
- 12.. USD 1 billion worth new health infrastructure is planned, with construction of new 9 world class hospitals, 5 new nursing colleges and a state cancer institute. Additionally, 1400 medical/paramedical seats have been added for medical education.
13. For the first time 'Khelo India Winter games' were organized in the picturesque Gulmarg area, which saw participation of 900 sportspersons from across India for various sporting events such as skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing and snow baseball. To give impetus to sports infrastructure, indoor sports complex in every district, playfield in every Panchayat, floodlighting, synthetic turfing in stadia and international level facilities in Jammu and Srinagar have been planned.
14. Jammu & Kashmir is one of the best performing states/UT in India with a testing rate of 44744 per million, nearly 4 times that of average testing rate per million in India. The UT has 17 dedicated hospitals with 60,000 new beds including 20,000 ICU beds and 2500 isolation beds with oxygen facilities. To support the people of Jammu & Kashmir during the economic hardship caused by COVID19, USD 46 million was sanctioned covering people affected adversely in tourism sector such as houseboat owners, women entrepreneurs, self-help groups under handlooms and handicrafts industry, construction workers etc.

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