



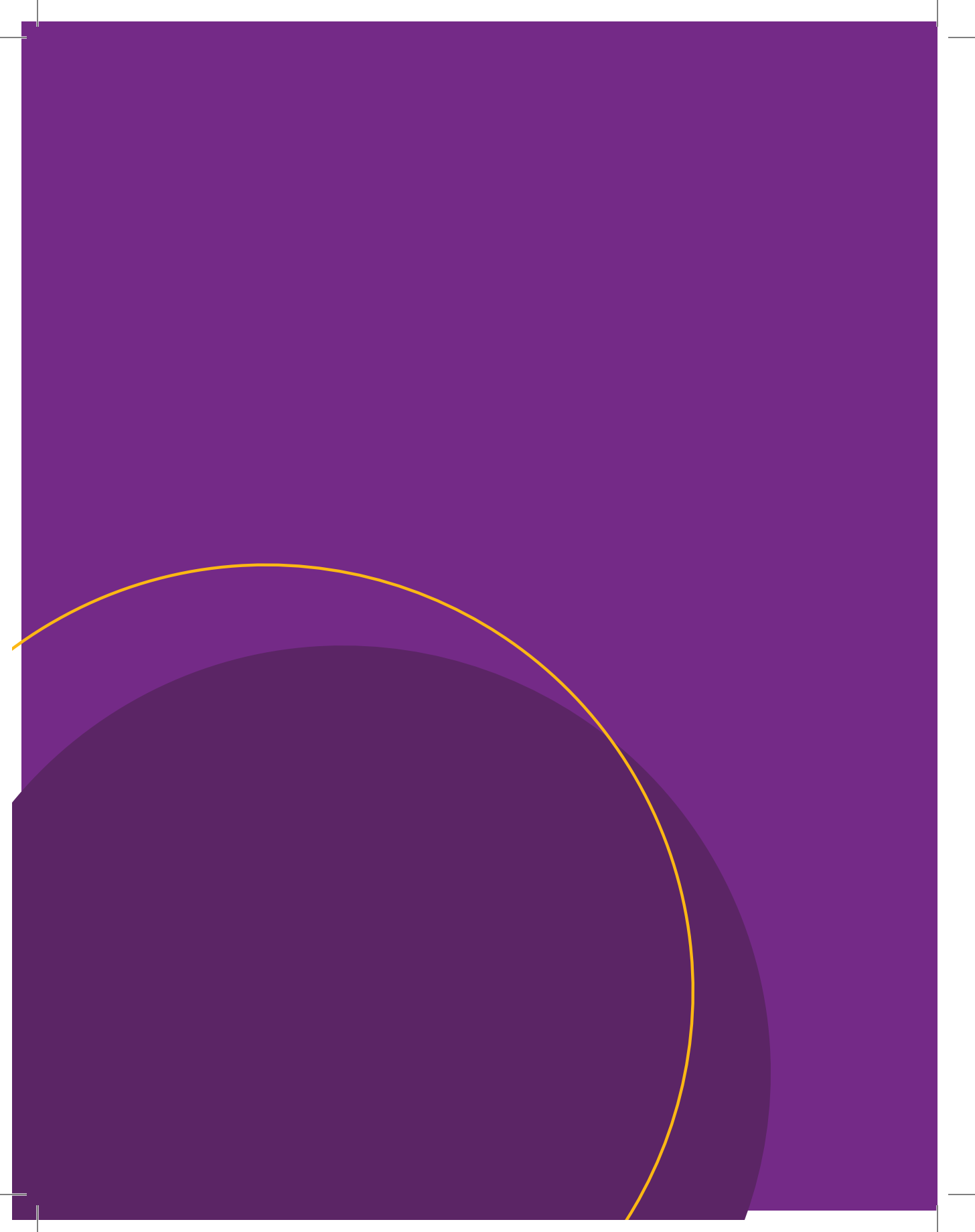
सत्यमेव जयते

NITI Aayog

# BEST PRACTICES ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS

VOLUME I







सत्यमेव जयते

**NITI Aayog**

# **BEST PRACTICES**

## **ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS**

**VOLUME I**







## ► PREFACE

The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in January 2018 with the vision that renewed focus and incisive interventions in the most backward districts of India are imperative to achieve inclusive and holistic growth. Anchored by NITI Aayog, the programme rests on the three pillars of Convergence (of Central and State schemes), Collaboration (between Centre, State, District and Citizens) and Competition (among the districts through NITI Aayog's Champions of Change dashboard), with the underlying spirit of mass movement. Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure are the programme's core areas of focus measured through 49 key performance indicators.

Districts are aspiring to first catch up with the best in their State, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others in the spirit of competitive and cooperative federalism. Healthy competition between the districts is embedded in the design of the ADP. NITI Aayog regularly shares best practices of the Aspirational Districts through mail and with the public at large on social media. This aspect of the programme is critical to facilitate replication of best practices by other districts that face similar challenges. For instance, Chatra District in Jharkhand has pioneered the concept of 'Bike Ambulance' for providing medical services in far-flung areas, which could be replicated by other districts with similar issues of inaccessibility. The 'Unnayan Banka' model of providing Smart Classrooms to school students was innovated in Banka District of Bihar and is now being successfully replicated in Districts of Jharkhand, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh & few other States.

Sharing of best practices and their subsequent replication by other districts forms the very edifice of cooperative federalism model that ADP seeks to promote. Instead of expecting every district to reinvent the wheel, dissemination of such innovative ideas allows them to learn from each other and provides a head start in finding solutions to common problems. Documentation of best practices implemented in various Aspirational Districts and their subsequent sharing is a part of NITI Aayog's mandate and this publication is another step in that direction.

As we complete two years of successful implementation of the Aspirational Districts Programme, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Districts for their innovative best practices and appreciate efforts of the ADP team at NITI Aayog in compiling them in this series; the first volume of which is being released. NITI Aayog will continue to publish subsequent volumes of the best practices series. I hope readers will find this collection of best practices as a vital source of organic innovation, emerging out of the most backward districts of India and help map the success stories with efforts of various unnamed district officials, innovators and members of the civil society, all of whom are the real 'Champions of Change' and worthy of our collective appreciation.

**Amitabh Kant**  
CEO, NITI Aayog

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# HEALTH & NUTRITION

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# AROGYA KUNJI

District: Chatra in Jharkhand



Arogya Kunji has greatly improved the outreach and efficacy of timely medical aid

Arogya Kunji, an initiative undertaken by Aspirational District Chatra, is an endeavour to ensure accessibility and availability of healthcare facilities in the district. Given that certain regions of the State are still underdeveloped, tribals in these areas do not have access to modern healthcare facilities. To offer respite to the people living in these affected areas, the State Government has designed and developed a new Medical Kit scheme, named Sahiya Arogya Kunji Yojana. This is a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at poor and deprived citizens of the district, for providing Medical Kits and efficient Ambulance services across the district. Arogya Kunji has greatly improved the outreach and efficacy of timely medical aid and healthcare services in rural areas of this district. Such interventions in the Health & Education sectors are kick-starting a new wave of development in the Aspirational Districts.





# CENTRALISED KITCHENS FOR BETTER NUTRITION

District: Nandurbar in Maharashtra

In order to tackle deep-rooted problems of Malnourishment and Anaemia in the tribal dominated Aspirational District of Nandurbar, the Tribal Department, under the aegis of District Administration has attempted to address the issue by establishing a Centralised Kitchen to provide hot and nutritious meals to children in residential schools, also known as Ashram Shalas. Operational since April 2019, the programme has enabled Nandurbar to perform well on Health indicators pertaining to the reduction of Severe Acute Malnourishment and Moderate Acute Malnourishment in the district.

The Centralised Kitchen is a joint initiative of the Tribal Development Department and Stri Shakti to provide healthy and nutritious meals in government Ashram Shalas. This Central Kitchen caters to 28 Ashram schools with a capacity of more than 11,000 students. The transportation mechanism with set routes, ensures hot and healthy food to the children. The Kitchen is equipped with advanced machinery, semi-automatic in nature, in order to create employment opportunities. The Kitchen strives to maintain the quality, hygiene and cleanliness of the meal, like a mother feeding her every child studying in this remote part of Maharashtra.

# ENGAGEMENT OF BIKE AMBULANCE, AUTO AMBULANCE AND DELIVERY VAN TO PROMOTE INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERIES

District: Kandhamal in Odisha



To avoid delivery on the way to hospitals and encourage Institutional Deliveries, the Aspirational District of Kandhamal has introduced Delivery Vans to enable Institutional Deliveries, touted as first-of-its-kind initiative, in the State. Being a tribal area, traditional healing systems are given more importance over institutional systems, leading to several deaths. Childbirths were usually conducted by untrained 'dais' in the villages and pregnant women hardly went to the hospitals for delivery, as community norms treat childbirth as part of a natural process, not requiring much external intervention.

To bring the community onboard, the district doubled its efforts for increasing the demand and supply side interventions. On the supply side, all delivery points were made functional. 5 Bike Ambulances and 11 Janani Auto vehicles were deployed in outreach pockets. 7 Maternity Waiting Homes (MWHs) were also established that have significantly contributed to the Institutional Deliveries. Apart from the '108' and '102' Ambulance service, all existing vehicles including Government Ambulances, Arogya Plus vehicles, MHU & MHT vehicles were also engaged to transport pregnant women to the Government health facilities. On the demand side, awareness generation activities were undertaken to improve intake of the services provided. The Bike & Auto Ambulances along with the Delivery Vans in Kandhamal have improved the last mile connectivity for pregnant mothers. As a result, the rate of Institutional Deliveries in Kandhamal is now the highest in the State at 97% & maternal deaths have reduced by 65%.







# ESTABLISHING MODEL ANGANWADI CENTRES

District: Ramgarh in Jharkhand

The District Administration of Ramgarh has established Model Anganwadi Centres across blocks to encourage best practices in management and improve learning outcomes. In terms of improving learning outcomes, BALA (Building as a Learning Aid) in Anganwadis has proved as a shining example of how Government-sponsored facilities can be made at par with private educational institutions.

These Anganwadis also host regular outreach and awareness campaigns in the community to promote better health and hygiene, such as VHSNDs (Village, Health, Sanitation & Nutrition Days) that have been benefiting families across blocks. The Model Anganwadis include an upgraded in-house kitchen where nutritious meals are prepared for children to ensure a balanced diet. In addition, spaces around the premises such as front yard of the Anganwadis have been developed into a vegetable garden for optimal utilisation of the space and to ensure incorporation of freshly grown produce in the diets being provided to the children.



## ‘HAMAR SWASTHYA’: APP THAT MAINTAINS MEDICAL RECORDS

District: Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh

‘Hamar Swasthya’ is an App for timely detection of non-communicable diseases and their treatment

To identify numerous undetected Non-Communicable diseases (NCDs), the Aspirational District of Rajnandgaon has launched the ‘Hamar Swasthya’ App to make people’s health cards available to the doctors and health workers. In the year 2017-18, 8,966 cases of diabetes and 6,871 cases of hypertension were identified in a single day during health camps conducted across all the Panchayats. The cases of NCDs were rapidly increasing due to late/non-detection and lack of awareness about available treatments. To address this issue, the ‘Hamar Swasthya’ App was launched for early detection of diseases and register the medical record of patients, so that doctors and health workers have access to the medical history of patients and initiate timely treatment and subsequent follow-ups.



## HOSTELS FOR PREGNANT TRIBAL WOMEN

District: Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh



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Nutritional food and intensive medical care under the close observation of gynaecologists are the highlights of these hostels

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A number of villages in Vizianagaram are very remote and lack proper road connectivity. Earlier, pregnant women of these villages were carried by dollies resulting in many casualties with very high maternal mortality rate. Thereafter, the District Administration along with the Integrated Tribal Development Agency came up with the idea of constructing Hostels for pregnant women of these villages. All the frontline workers including ASHAs and Anganwadis are creating awareness among the villagers about these Hostels. Pregnant women are brought to the Hostel one month prior to the Expected Delivery Date (EDD). There, they are provided with home-like care and support along with nutritional food and intensive medical care, under the close observation of gynaecologists.

Separate ambulances have been allotted to these Hostels. Post-delivery, the mother and child are shifted to their homes by Talli Bidda Express. So far, around 100 women from hill-top villages have been taken care of in these Hostels. The Hostels are evoking good response from the tribes. Pregnant women admitted have expressed great satisfaction over the facilities being provided in these Hostels.



# KALPANA PROGRAMME FOR BETTER HEALTH

District: Dhenkanal in Odisha



Pregnant women were prone to skip radiology tests due to inaccessibility

Pregnant women at the Aspirational District of Dhenkanal were prone to skip radiology tests due to inaccessibility. To facilitate these women, the District Administration enabled mechanism for mandatory Ultrasound Sonography (USG) testing for all pregnant women by scheduling mass USG test dates across the sub-district hospitals under the Kalpana Programme. Bringing all pregnant women together at these hospitals resulted in discussions regarding their lifestyle, food habits and sharing of experiences.

Established in January 2019 in the District Headquarters Hospital of Dhenkanal, 'Kalpana Poshan Kendra' derives its name from Kalpana Dash (renowned mountaineer). It is based on the concept of establishing Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres under the umbrella programme of National Health Mission. Kalpana Poshan Kendra helps in recovering the lost weight of children through intensive feeding of therapeutic food (rich in micronutrients) supplements. Capacity building of primary care givers in preparing home-made nutritious food from locally available ingredients and counselling of mothers on family planning are also conducted here.

The Kalpana Programme has been instrumental in improving the sex ratio from 852 in March 2018 to 972 in August 2019. This has been possible due to mass community awareness programmes across Dhenkanal advocating the message of 'gender equality', to change the predominant societal mindset of preference for a male child.





# KANYA TARU YOJANA

District: Hailakandi in Assam



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Parents of girl children are gifted with 5 Saplings (Coconut, Litchi, Assam Lemon, Guava & Amla)

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For encouraging Hospital Delivery and discouraging Home Delivery, parents of girl children born in any of the Government Hospitals of Aspirational District of Hailakandi were gifted with 5 saplings (Coconut, Litchi, Assam Lemon, Guava & Amla). Parents were asked to take care of the saplings like their daughters. The fruits of the trees can be used to feed the child to develop her immunity through Vitamin C in Amla, fight malnutrition by Coconut and the profits earned from the sales could be redirected to investing in the girl's education and improving green cover of the district. It was an effort by the district to quell the disappointment of citizens on the birth of a girl child and instead commemorate her birth as 'Ghar ki Lakshmi' with jubilation and glorification of "Girlforce-Unstoppable", which was the theme for 2019.



# NARMADA TRANSFORMATION CORPS

District: Narmada in Gujarat



The tagline  
'Hajavana  
Narmada,  
Lekharya  
Narmada' in local  
Dehvali dialect is  
used to connect  
with the youth

With an aim to mobilise the youth for local development, the District Administration formed the Narmada Transformation Corps (NTC); a group of young volunteers registered under a single platform belonging to different interfaces such as NSS, NCC, NYK, ASHA, Anganwadi Workers and other social and rural streams. The tagline 'Hajavana Narmada, Lekharya Narmada' in local Dehvali dialect is used to connect with the youth.

Local NTC Volunteers work as Shiksha-Saathi to support more than 300 schools by providing one additional teacher in each school. The Shiksha-Saathis teach after regular school hours in the prevalent tribal dialect. Under NTC, various skill development workshops including bamboo product making and hospitality training for eco-tourism are held to increase employability of the youth.

## Four Key Factors that Ensure Sustainability of Project Angan



# PROJECT ANGAN

District: Chatra in Jharkhand

Parents in Chatra District had developed a passive attitude in sending their children to Anganwadi Centres due to their dilapidated and unhygienic conditions. Likewise, children also displayed disinclination towards going to these centres. With the idea of constructing Model AWCs and remodelling the existing ones, the District Administration initiated “Project Angan” in Chatra District. The broad vision of the initiative is to transform the Anganwadi Centres into interactive and child-friendly learning spaces, where children are provided with utmost facilities. It involves imparting the best form of preschool learning to the remotest parts of the district. A total of 40 AWCs were selected under the project for redevelopment using the DMFT (District Mineral Funds) in Tandwa and Simariya blocks. These AWCs have been equipped with Integrated Learning Materials (IML), Information and Communications Technology (ICT)-enabled teaching and learning, BALA, healthy and nutritious foods, etc. Besides these, the spaces have been transformed into conducive centres where tiny tots get ample opportunity to enjoy their early phase of education.



# SANITARY NAPKIN PRODUCTION BY SHGs

District: Hailakandi in Assam



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This initiative  
has ensured  
hygienic  
menstrual days  
for majority of  
women in  
the district

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Women in SHGs in the Aspirational District of Hailakandi have undertaken the manufacturing of hygienic low-cost Sanitary Napkins. Apart from empowering them and other women, this has significantly improved the awareness regarding menstruation and personal hygiene. The number of Sanitary Napkins manufactured by SHGs is enough to cater to all women associated with different SHGs throughout the district. This initiative has ensured hygienic menstrual days for majority of women in the district.







## THE CHILD PROTECTION UNIT – CHILDREN FIRST

District: Muzaffarpur in Bihar

The Child Protection Unit in the district is a fundamental unit implementing integrated role on child rights, health and education. This unit apart from mobilising the community, emphasizes the importance of gender equality, mortality and also on other critical Health indicators including pre & post-natal, mother and child healthcare. The community members are sensitised using informative videos during daily Panchayats & Ratri Chaupals. The number of participants in these activities has significantly increased, with girls and women pro-actively spreading awareness and practicing them too.



## THE DIARRHOEA FIGHT – SWASTH BEGUSARAI

District: Begusarai in Bihar

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The District has marked a fortnight to fight the disease, create awareness for its prevention and eventually eradicate it through Jan Andolan

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Diarrhoea, was a major cause of death in India, contributing to an average of 15.5% of total deaths from 1990 to 2016. Begusarai District in Bihar has taken up the fight against this disease. Marching on the idea of the Hon'ble Prime Minister for making social cause as a Mass Movement, Begusarai District pledged to eradicate this disease from its root, and has therefore, marked a fortnight for creating awareness for its prevention. Everyone in the District, from school students to frontline workers, to local people, has participated to make it a Jan Andolan. Women from Frontline Health Workers and Self-Help Groups are creating awareness by encouraging mothers to use ORS and Zinc solutions for better health of their children. During the Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight, students encourage everyone in their family and neighbours to practice safe sanitation. The Aspirational District of Sheikhpura has also taken inspiration from Begusarai and replicated the idea of making a few days focused on Diarrhoea in order, to fight and eradicate it.



# ‘DAKSHATA’ INITIATIVE TO REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY

District: Gadchiroli in Maharashtra



Gadchiroli faces a distinct issue of High Maternal Mortality, significantly higher than even the State average (136 in Gadchiroli vs. 68 at the State level). In areas with challenging road connectivity due to dense forests, scattered populations in small pockets, and heavy rainfall, the District Administration enabled the Dakshata Initiative in 2016-17 to find solutions to this multi-pronged problem. The initiative focuses on Capacity Building for supply side frontline workers, routine tracking of pregnant women to enable safe deliveries, analytical exercises to examine the causal factors and bottlenecks to efficient health service delivery, and effective decentralisation in decision-making, allowing village level contextual needs to be translated to planning interventions at the Block and District level.

At all levels, pregnant mothers were tracked; due to which all the sub-centres and PHC ANMs displayed a list of pregnant mothers. This information was also communicated to other sub-centres in case of a different expected place of delivery. Causal data collected from all institutes in the district revealed that the major causes of maternal death in the district were severe Anaemia, Septicaemia and SCD Disease. After analysis, an Action Plan was prepared to address key bottlenecks. Preventable death causes like PIH, PPH and Sepsis were given priority. Phase-I of the Dakshata Initiative involved ‘Capacity Building’ to tackle supply side interventions for better health. Areas with language barriers were identified and it was ensured that the ASHA and traditional ‘Dais’ were able to communicate in the local language.

The effective and strategic implementation of Dakshata training led to skill enhancement of frontline workers (ASHA and ANM) and MOs of the Health Department.



# AMA SANKALPA (AN INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE INFANT AND MATERNAL DEATH)

District: Rayagada in Odisha

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Ama Sankalpa  
Ratha Yatras  
were organised  
to spread  
message about  
precautionary  
measures for  
maternal and  
child health

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Rayagada, a mineral-rich district in the southern part of Odisha has a predominant tribal population of 57.52%. Apart from Odia, several adivasi languages like Kui, Kondha, Soura are spoken in the district. All 11 blocks of the district are covered under the Tribal Sub-plan. As citizens were not availing health services due to poor connectivity, non-availability of referral systems in hard to reach areas, and low literacy, the District Administration developed a specific Action Plan to identify the real beneficiaries to uplift their standards by reducing IMR and MMR. The programme relies on a bottom-up demand-driven approach to improve uptake, with IEC & BCC relevant methods.

Three 'Ama Sankalpa Ratha' Yatras were organised to spread a message about the precautionary measures for maternal and child health. This was accompanied by folk shows on District-specific issues played at the village level through which Health messages were disseminated. In addition to this, supply side interventions were also strengthened. 126 Integrated Special VHND/RI sessions were conducted in the hard to reach areas (apart from the regular sessions), where Antenatal, Post Natal, Newborn and Child Health screening and services, and weekly tracking of high risk pregnancies were enabled. For the early identification and referral of Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) children between 6 months to 6 years; a special plan 'Project Surjyamukhi' under Ama Sankalpa was prepared. Under the special plan tracking Red & Yellow Zone children, facilities to provide therapeutic treatment and counselling were imparted, under the guidance of technical assistants to improve the nutritional status of each child in the district.





## MISSION API – 10: REDUCTION OF MALARIA

District: Koraput in Odisha



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This innovative initiative has brought down the Annual Parasite Incidence to 2 in the district

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In the Aspirational District of Koraput, the incidents of Malaria-related deaths were very high due to hilly terrain, forest cover, inadequate health facility coverage and low education levels of the population. To combat this, Mission API-10 was launched on July 15, 2017. The two main interventions under API-10 include use of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) coupled with supply side interventions, complemented by bottom-up incentives and nudges such as 'bell ringing' as reminders to use nets and night patrolling by ASHA/AWW/Volunteers. The health team has also received an 'Award of Appreciation' by the State. This innovative initiative to create awareness about Malaria has brought down the Annual Parasite Incidence (API) to 2 in the affected area. Extensive sensitisation was ensured through demonstrations in local markets, posters, Nidhi Ratha and rallies.

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# EDUCATION

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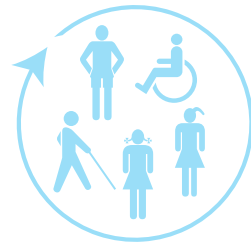






# AAKAR: RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED STUDENTS

District: Sukma in Chhattisgarh



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The school combines basic education with other activities for the overall development of differently-abled children

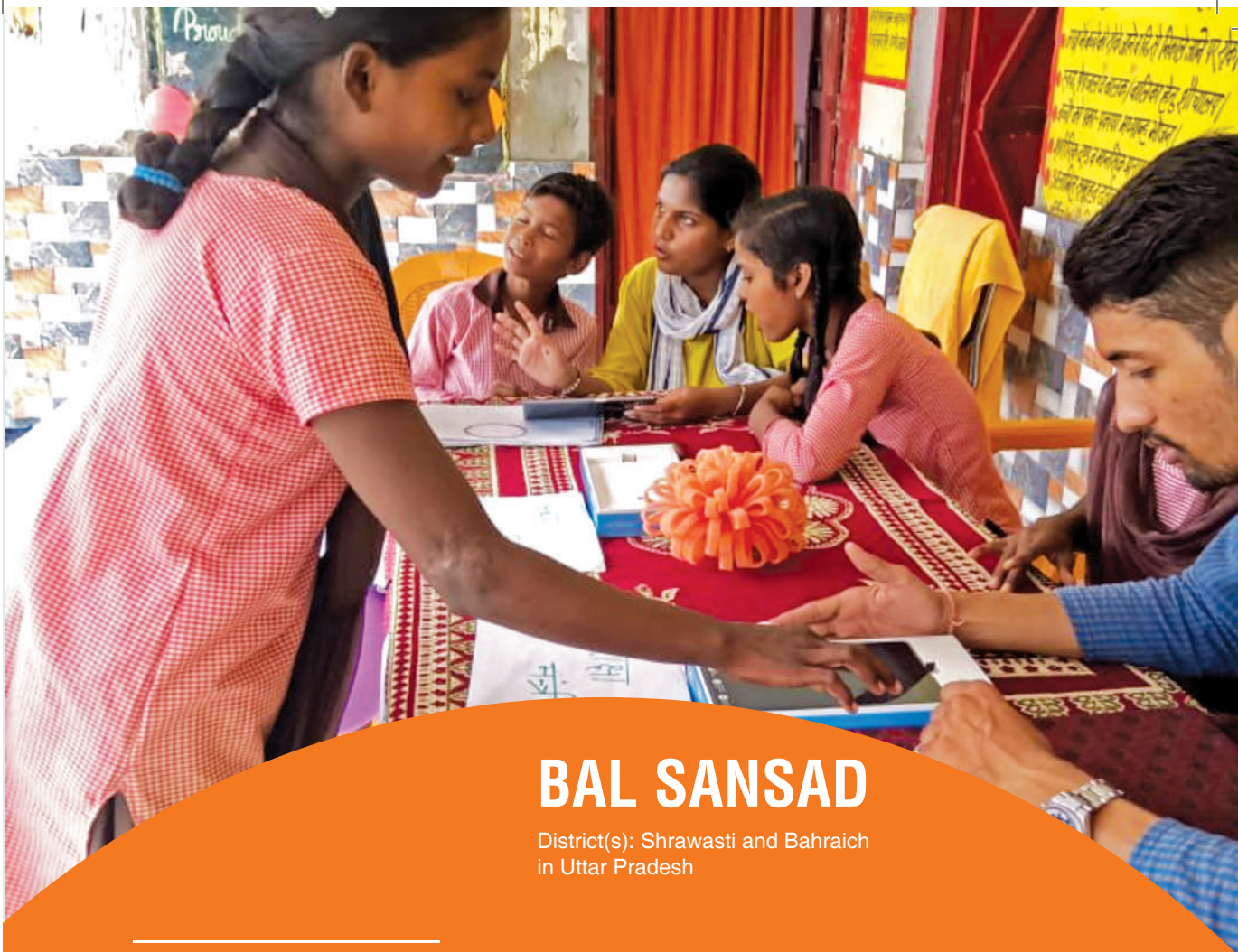
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To ensure inclusion of differently-abled students and to reduce their dropout rates, the Aspirational District of Sukma has started Aakar Residential School. The district has identified nearly 800 differently-abled children and enrolled them in this School. Apart from education, the School undertakes other special activities catering to the overall need of these children including therapies for their cognitive development.

Aakar School has specialised professionals including a physiotherapist and occupational therapist for catering to the needs of students with locomotor disability; an audiologist to help hearing impaired children; a psychologist to help mentally disabled children and special educators to facilitate day-to-day learning. Aakar School also has a Paralympics standard ground that provides an opportunity to students for excelling in sports and using it for dancing and other arts-based therapy for students with cerebral palsy and mental illness. The building has been designed in a way to ensure that accessibility is not a constraint.







## BAL SANSAD

District(s): Shrawasti and Bahraich  
in Uttar Pradesh

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Bal Sansad sensitises young minds to absorb the idea of democracy and promote inclusiveness among them

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Bal Sansad has been established in more than 3,200 schools across the District of Shrawasti in Uttar Pradesh. It provides a platform to young students to express their views on various issues like family, school, society, good values among other things. Students are not only informed about their rights as a citizen but also encouraged to speak freely about them. Bal Sansad also provides an opportunity to experience voting process as the school prefects and other office-bearers are elected through secret ballot, thus sensitising the young minds to absorb the idea of democracy. The initiative is promoting inclusiveness among students as they are encouraged to participate in school assemblies and cleanliness drives as a team. This initiative, pioneered by the Aspirational Districts of Shrawasti and Bahraich, is now being replicated across many other districts of UP.



## BALA IMPLEMENTATION

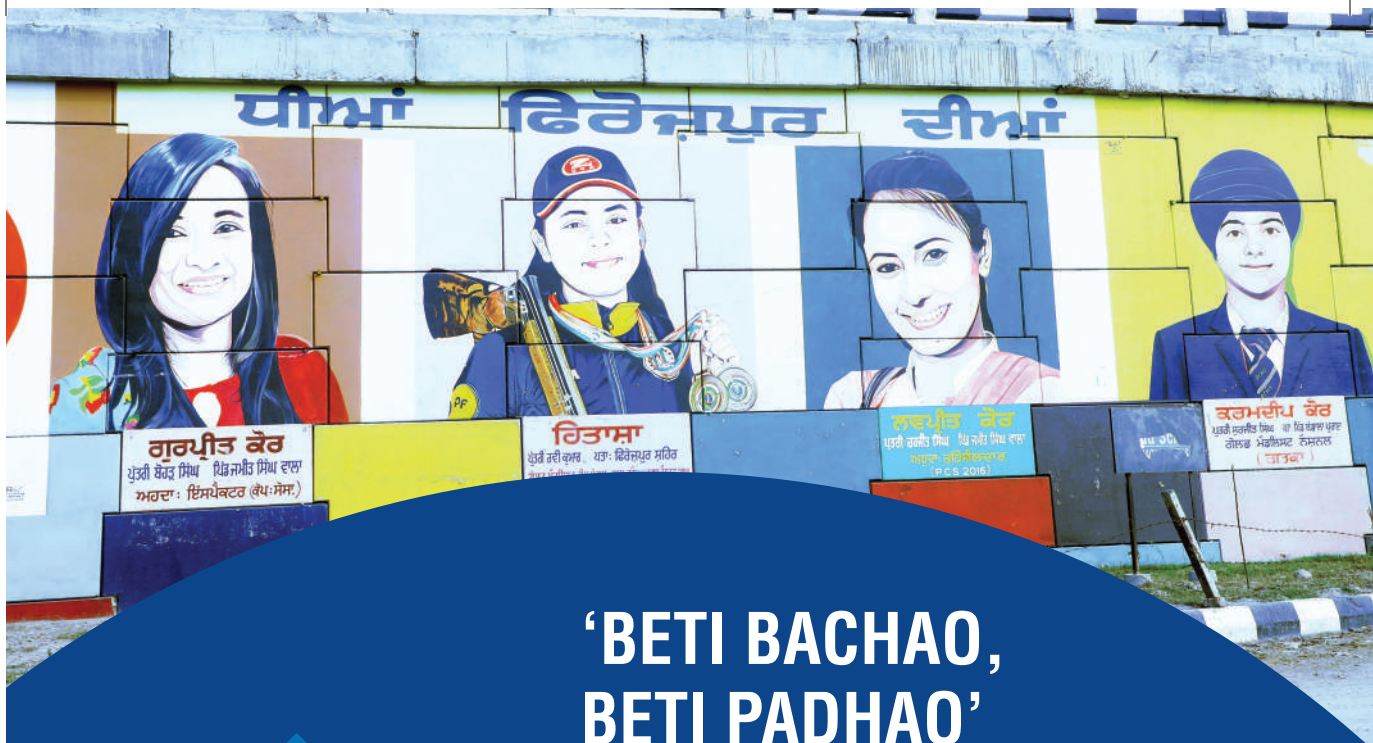
District(s): All Aspirational Districts of Uttar Pradesh (pictures are from Shravasti)

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BALA includes development of the entire physical environment of the school – indoor, outdoor and semi-open spaces

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Shravasti in Uttar Pradesh has adopted BALA (Building as Learning Aid) which is an innovative concept for teaching through child-friendly, learning and fun-based physical environment by building new infrastructure or refurbishing the existing School and Anganwadi buildings. The concept was originally developed by Vinyas, Centre for Agricultural Research and Design with the support of UNICEF. BALA includes development of the entire physical environment of the School – indoor, outdoor and semi-open spaces. It is departure from the traditional thinking that School buildings are only bricks and mortar units meant to provide shelter and safe environment for teaching. It leverages the physical space as a resource in the teaching-learning process, for instance, using window-grills to practically depict simple mathematical concepts or using the classroom walls to colourfully represent stories and vital information. Many districts across the country have also adopted this approach to rejuvenate the Anganwadis and Primary Schools by making them attractive for children and providing vibrant colourful spaces which has greatly improved the retention rates in schools.



# ‘BETI BACHAO, BETI PADHAO’ CITIZEN RECOGNITION

District: Firozpur in Punjab



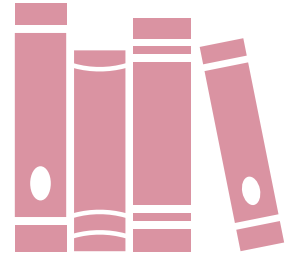
Inspiring and motivational to read about the success stories of local girls/ women. Also makes people proud of their daughters

In order to raise awareness about the ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ campaign, the District Administration has undertaken an innovative and inspiring measure. Graffiti of women with remarkable achievements in profession or studies are painted on the walls of over-bridges in Firozpur, highlighting their achievements. Reading the success stories is very inspiring and motivates the local girls/women with a spirit to excel in their studies/profession and attain public recognition. It also makes parents, proud of their daughters whose stories are painted/highlighted. Additionally, two roundabouts in the city have been dedicated to ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ campaign, wherein statues on different themes of ‘a mother nurturing a girl child’ and ‘a girl child studying’ have been erected. These statues are continuously acting as catalysts in imbibing value of ‘a mother’s care for a girl child’, and ‘the importance of girls getting proper education’. This move, by the Administration is to promote social awakening about the importance of girl children, their education and the need to have a balanced sex ratio.



# LIBRARY CAMPAIGN – EDUCATION FOR CHANGE

District: Sitamarhi in Bihar



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Enhancing  
imagination of  
kids and making  
them ready to  
face the world

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Given the fact that books are the greatest friends of mankind and reading helps one experience the world around; the Aspirational District of Sitamarhi in Bihar has taken education for all as an impacting indicator. The district has initiated a Library campaign in two phases to enhance the imagination of kids and making them ready to face the world. In Phase-I, the district has built 1,431 Model Libraries & in Phase-II, the district will have 600 Model Libraries to cover 100% Schools. The District Administration is making continuous efforts to motivate and encourage individuals of all age groups to overcome all the other social barriers and benefit from the Libraries. It has converted into a mass movement with teachers wholeheartedly participating in it.





# MOTIVATIONAL CAMPAIGNS TO INCREASE SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

District(s): Balrampur and Siddharthnagar in Uttar Pradesh

Balrampur District Administration launched the 'Padhe Balrampur, Badhe Balrampur' campaign involving district officials, teachers, parents, students and members of the civil society to help spread awareness about the importance of good education. Parents of unschooled kids were motivated to send their kids to schools, as a result of which around 54,000 previously out-of-school students got enrolled in schools with dramatic improvement in the attendance rates.

Similarly, Siddharthnagar District Administration launched the 'Main Saksham Hoon' campaign, specifically targeted at motivating parents to send their kids to schools. The schools also made it a point to involve parents in monitoring the performance and progress of their child, thus making them feel involved in their child's education.



# PROJECT SECOND INNINGS

District: Dahod in Gujarat

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This project is breathing new life in the lives of retired teachers and students

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Project Second Innings was launched by the Dahod District Administration to increase attendance of students in schools and their learning outcomes. Retired teachers voluntarily sign-up for teaching primary and upper primary classes in various subjects including languages and Mathematics.

517 such teachers have already signed up, and more are expected to join. Migration of labour being a major problem in Dahod, children in schools don't get parental attention in studies. The initiative aims to bridge this gap by taking help from retired teachers. The Administration actively helps retired teachers for enrolling in this initiative. The initiative has led to rise in the pass percentage of students from 37.35 to 49.18 in the district apart from breathing new life in the lives of retired teachers and students.





# SMART CLASSROOMS FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN

District: Ranchi in Jharkhand

Low literacy of Braille is a global challenge and has far-reaching implications on the economy of a country. The Government of Jharkhand in an endeavour to tackle this challenge, has installed 20 Braille-teaching devices in a Government Blind School in Ranchi. Indian Angel Network and Anand Mahindra backed start-up, Thinkerbell Labs have supported the Jharkhand Government in this initiative. The initiative aims at bringing cutting-edge technology to improve learning outcomes for K-12 visually impaired children.

The devices teach Hindi Braille and English Braille to children, through Hindi as the medium of instruction. Annie has been received with great enthusiasm and fervour by the students, teachers and school administration. The interactive audio-tactile content has reinvigorated their interest in learning Braille and has introduced them to the concept of self-learning which was completely missing in Braille education. The device comes with gamified content which makes self-learning easier and connectivity, which allows users' progress to be tracked by teachers, parents and other key government stakeholders via an intuitive dashboard. The content can be easily localised to any language and dialect, making the solution truly global. As Braille literacy rate is directly correlated to employability rate of the visually impaired, it will be promising to see the extent of improvement in the employability of the visually impaired through this efficient Braille education system.

# SCHOOL MERGER AND INTEGRATION

District: Udham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand



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This has led to optimal utilisation of infrastructure & transportation facilities among nearby schools

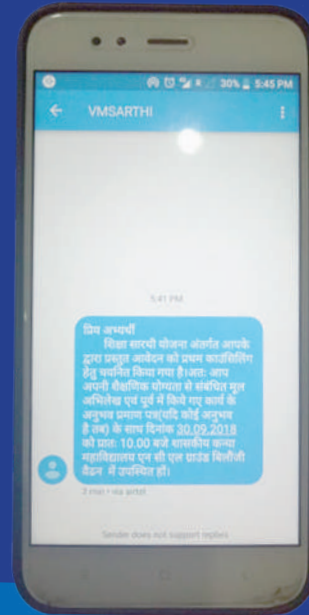
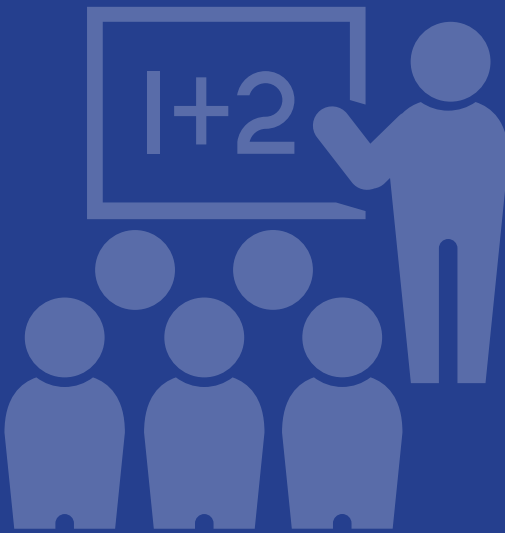
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Udham Singh Nagar District Administration conceived and implemented the concept of Merger and Integration of schools for optimum and best utilisation of infrastructure. It identified schools having inadequate infrastructure with poor student teacher ratio and merged them with the nearest school with adequate space and infrastructure support. Transportation facilities have also been provided to children coming from other schools if the distance exceeds 1 km. To further support the infrastructural facilities in the merged schools, the District Administration has initiated the School Adoption Programme, wherein CSR activities are being channelised in providing furniture and other infrastructure support.

The outlook along with the learning environment of all schools adopted under the School Adoption Programme has completely transformed with thematic paintings, as well as establishment of computer labs for Grade 3 students for learning educational games and providing room-to-read libraries.







## SHIKSHA SAARTHI YOJNA

District: Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh

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After the appointment of Shiksha Saarthis, student enrolments, attendance and proficiency level have significantly improved

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Shortage of teachers in schools of rural areas is a major reason for poor learning outcomes. The main reason for shortage is that teachers from urban areas are unwilling to move to rural areas due to lack of infrastructural facilities. To address this issue and ensure availability of teachers in primary schools, Shiksha Saarthi Yojna was launched. After the appointment of Shiksha Saarthis in 16 primary schools, student enrolments, attendance and proficiency level in all subjects have risen. The District Administration has received extremely positive feedback and overwhelming response from all quarters for this initiative.

# TEACH GAJAPATI: A JAN ANDOLAN FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

District: Gajapati in Odisha



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Interested persons willing to teach voluntarily are becoming part of this campaign

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In a district plagued with teacher vacancies, the Government of Odisha launched the 'Teach Gajapati' campaign under the 'Mo School' Abhiyaan. It is an initiative where the alumni of respective schools, interested public and community at large, participate in the overall development of schools. The volunteer-driven programme employs several methods to generate a bottom-up movement for social accountability including incentives such as contributing double the amount as a matching share to the 'donated amount', community awareness, plantation activities and cleanliness drives. Interested persons willing to teach voluntarily, in due consultation with the school can become part of this movement and render their services as 'voluntary teacher'. Their services will include taking 15 periods, conducting one assessment test and evaluating students thereof. Such volunteer-driven programmes have significantly helped in improving the quality of education and making it more participative.



# ‘MERA MOBILE, MERA VIDYALAYA’ UNNAYAN BANKA – SMART CLASSROOM MODEL

District: Banka in Bihar



Education, a fundamental right of every child, strives towards growth and development. Given the importance of education as the prime driver of development, the Aspirational District of Banka launched the “Unnayan Banka” initiative, that envisages ‘quality education for all’, using the latest technologies. It is a multiplatform model in which students get modern day animated, contextualised and comprehensive videos on various technology platforms like LCD/LED TVs, projectors, laptops & especially on mobile phones. Shifting from traditional model of education of chalk and talk, Unnayan is reinventing education using technology. The model is based on the principle of 24\*7 availability of learning material. The use of mobile phones due to their immense penetration is guaranteeing quality education on mobile platform making it an “Anytime Anywhere” model that is popularly referred as “Mera Mobile, Mera Vidyalaya”.

A unique feature of the App-based learning is that complete audio visual content is mapped according to the CBSE or State Board Curriculum in both English and Hindi medium and the interface is such that the educational content on DIKSHA platform can also be played. It also has AI technology-based mechanism for monitoring and continuous evaluation of learning outcomes of each and every student. Questions asked by students even from remotest part of the district are answered by an expert team scattered across India & abroad, comprising IITians, corporate professionals & educators. It is creating a genre of “Collaborative Networked Learners” where Peer-to-Peer learning is also being promoted simultaneously. The initiative is connecting students across the nation with quality educators, with more than 5 lakh Learners and 5,400 Educators, and is growing each day. In Banka, learning outcomes have shot up from 17% to 54% and attendance rates of more than 90% have been achieved. Following the success of this initiative, the model has now been successfully implemented in all districts of Bihar and some other Aspirational Districts like Godda (Jharkhand), Ramgarh (Jharkhand), Dhubri (Assam), Namsai (Arunachal Pradesh) and Dhenkanal (Odisha). Given the sustainability and efficacy of this initiative coupled with its completely measurable outcomes, it is being replicated across all the Aspirational Districts of Jharkhand.



## VIDYADAAN CAMPAIGN

District: Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh



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Providing a forum to young ignited minds for interaction with intellectuals is helping in imbibing good values and ethics

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The Aspirational District of Bahraich has added a new dimension to imparting primary education by roping in people from different fields to interact with the children of more than 400 Government Primary Schools. Intellectuals of the society including Government officials, retired employees, teachers in schools and colleges, educated housewives as well as youngsters, have joined this campaign in large numbers. They spent at least an hour with the kids every week. The campaign has given extremely positive results and volunteers are themselves taking out time to teach the children. Providing a forum to young ignited minds for interaction with intellectuals, has also helped them in imbibing good values and ethics from a young age.





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Designed for primary grade children, Bolo Android App is helping improve both English and Hindi

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## BOLO APP IN SCHOOLS OF DAMOH

District: Damoh, Madhya Pradesh

Damoh District Administration launched the BOLO App by Google across Government Schools of the district. The App designed for primary grade children, is an innovative step towards ensuring improved learning outcomes. Bolo App helps to improve both English and Hindi reading skills, by encouraging kids to read aloud. Till now, this speech-based reading App has impacted more than 10,000 students in the district!

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# AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES

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# AGRICULTURE ENTREPRENEUR SCHEME

District: Ramgarh in Jharkhand



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The model is proving to be an inspiration for the local community, as more and more farmers are adopting the best practices

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The Agriculture Entrepreneur Scheme is a promising example of coordination between District Administration, CSOs and local citizens to develop a sustainable and scalable model of Agricultural development. The scheme involves imparting training to selected 'Agri-Entrepreneurs' for incorporation of best practices in farming for a cost-effective and profitable model of Agricultural development. The Agri-Entrepreneur Project is being run by a CSO, TRI (Transform Rural India) wherein a farmer out of 100 is selected from a village and trained in all activities related to Agriculture, in a farm-to-market model, thereby encouraging best practices, efficient resource management, informed decision-making and minimal reliance on middlemen.

The model is proving to be an inspiration for the local community as more and more farmers are keen on adopting the best practices such as mixed-cropping of fruits and vegetables, drip irrigation, etc. The Agri-Entrepreneur model apart from enabling the younger generation in identifying the viability and economic success of farming practices in the district, has also proven to induce a behavioural change in the farmers by reversing the trend of rural-urban migration.







# CLEAN GOALPARA, GREEN GOALPARA

District: Goalpara in Assam



In order to protect and improve the environment, District Administration Goalpara, along with the Department of Social Forestry, Civil Society and citizens came together and planted more than 12.6 lakh saplings in mission mode within a period of 20 days; surpassing the target of 12 lakh (one person, one sapling) sapling plantation. Saplings have been planted across the district along highways, schools, health centres, forest lands and villages. Planted saplings include medicinal plants, fruit bearing trees, valuable wood and ornamental plants. As a result of this unique initiative, forest coverage area of Goalpara has increased from 19% to 23%.

# ENHANCING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH HIGH-DENSITY FARMING



District: Kupwara in UT of Jammu & Kashmir

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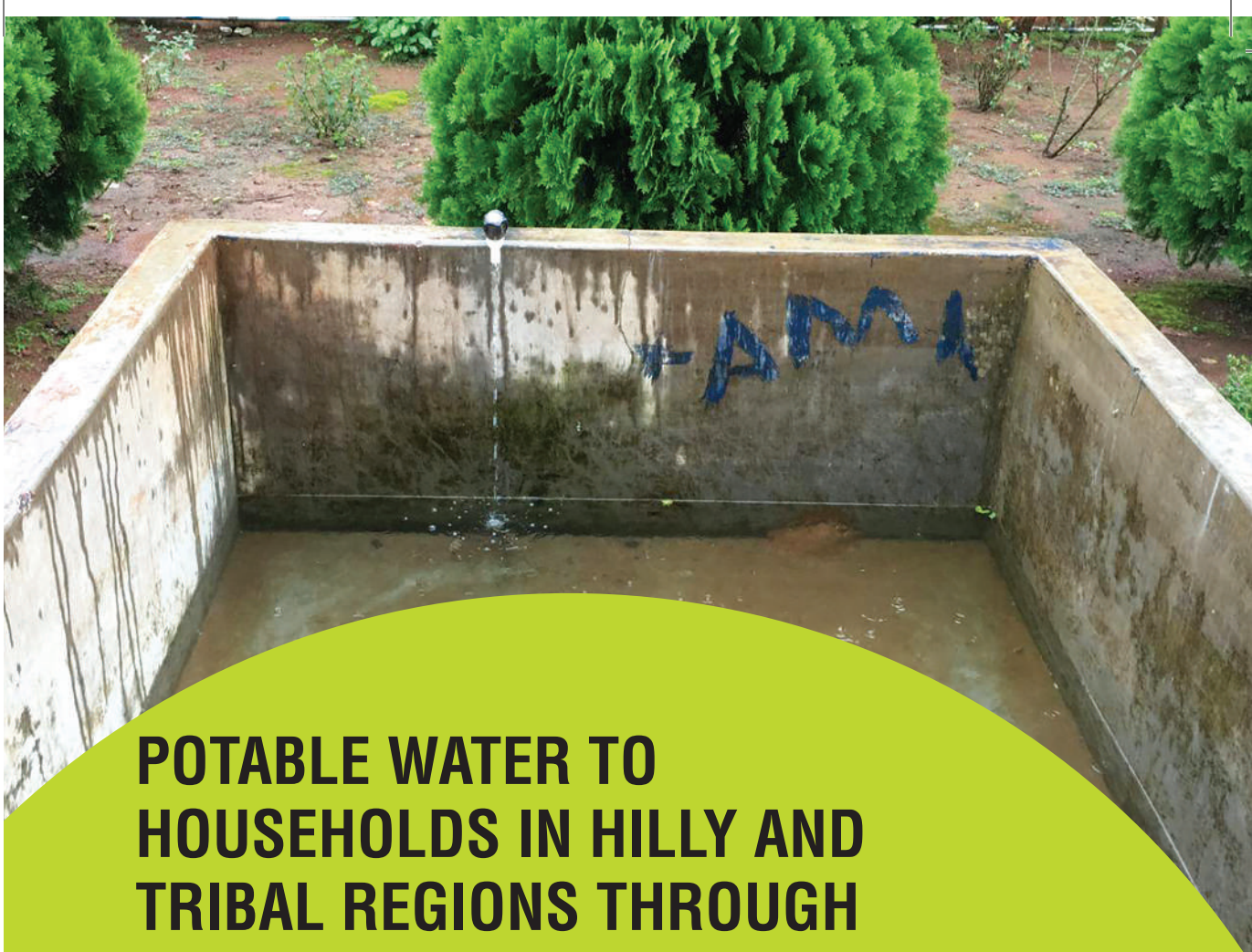
Traditional seedling-based orchards converted into high-density orchards, producing up to thrice the harvest

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In a bid to improve agricultural productivity and maximise utilisation of resources, best practices in farming are being promoted and developed in Kupwara District. Awareness drives to educate farmers about the benefits of high-density farming and the proactive involvement of the District Administration has helped in accelerating development in the Agricultural sector. This has been effectively implemented by converting traditional seedling-based orchards into high-density orchards, producing up to thrice the harvest of traditional orchards. Each kanal can now cater to 100-150 plants. The best practice has proven to create a success story, especially for crops like apples and walnuts, that is being emulated by other districts.







# POTABLE WATER TO HOUSEHOLDS IN HILLY AND TRIBAL REGIONS THROUGH GRAVITY FLOW SYSTEM

District: Kalahandi in Odisha

Under this project, water from springs is collected and distributed for drinking and irrigation purposes through gravity flow system taking advantage of the undulating terrain. Perennial stream water is harnessed in an elevated zone and utilising gravity power, water is brought to the lower-level through PVC pipe along with contours, intermittent outlets and controlling devices. Locals are involved in the whole process from survey to implementation. The Integrated Tribal Development Agency with the support of District Planning and Monitoring Unit has applied this technology to the hilly regions of the district to make it durable and cost-effective. During the last three years, 88 projects have been implemented in tribal-populated Thuamul, Rampur and Lanjigarh blocks, benefitting 24 villages and 12 Ashram schools. 36 more projects are in the pipeline for different villages. Each project is able to provide water to almost five acres of land and villagers receive potable drinking water through standposts.



# GREEN RIDER FOR GUN LICENSE

District: Firozpur in Punjab



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Seeking an  
Arms License?  
First plant  
10 saplings  
and grow them

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To nudge citizen's behaviour for environmental protection and increase the green cover, the District Administration of Firozpur has taken an innovative environmental initiative, which is gaining ground. Tapping on to the inclination of Firozpur residents to possess firearms, the Administration has created a process that involves planting of trees as a mandatory step before accepting applications for further review. It's a three-stage process: firstly, the applicant desirous of an Arms License has to plant 10 saplings; take selfie of these planted saplings and thereafter, submit an application along with the pictures to the Administration; secondly, after 30 days the applicant has to take and submit another selfie with the growing plants to prove that he has been taking their care. Thirdly, officials visit the site for verification. Thereafter, other procedures as per the extant rules for Arms License are undertaken.

Till now, around 10,000 trees have already been planted and more are in the pipeline, with growing number of applications. This initiative was adopted to augment the efforts of the State to increase the green cover from existing 7% to targeted 20%. The innovative process is currently for new applications only and will be soon introduced for renewal of existing Arms License as well.





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The initiative guarantees procurement at maximum price & partnership in local micro processing units for farmers while generating employment for the local youth

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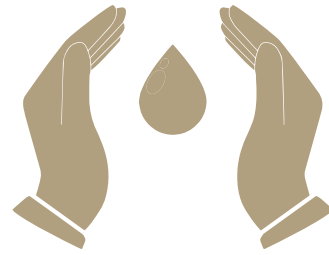
## HORTICULTURE PRICE AGREEMENT INITIATIVE

District: Chhatarpur in Madhya Pradesh

To make farming a profitable venture, the Horticulture Price Agreement Initiative was launched by the Aspirational District of Chhatarpur. The initiative has forward and backward linkages and guarantees procurement at maximum price & partnership in local micro processing units for farmers, while generating employment for the local youth. The target groups in this Scheme are small and marginal farmers, families with female head, families with specially challenged people as head of the family and farmers of deprived castes. Together, they constitute more than 85% of the farming population of the district and therefore, the Scheme is directly impacting the growth trajectory of the district.

# SARVAJAL PROJECT FOR PROVIDING SAFE DRINKING WATER

District: Udham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand



The project is leveraging technology to bring community-level safe drinking water to the underserved

As a part of its water conservation initiatives, the District Administration of Udham Singh Nagar along with Piramal Sarvajal has launched the 'Sarvajal Project'. The project involves installation of customised and decentralised drinking water solutions.

It leverages technology to bring community-level safe drinking water to the underserved. The solar-powered, cloud-connected water dispensing kiosks installed under the project have enabled citizens residing in remote areas, accessibility to clean palatable water. The District Administration has been encouraging schools to participate in the awareness drives, where school children promote the message of water conservation and best practices through campaigns. The Sarvajal Project has enabled the District Administration to develop sustainable infrastructure to provide piped water supply powered by solar energy to villages.







# SCIENTIFIC SERICULTURE – ENHANCING LIVELIHOOD

District: Mamit in Mizoram

Mamit is weaving the path towards development through Scientific Sericulture practices. The district is working towards creating gainful employment opportunities for the locals & increasing Mizoram's silk production capacity. Sericulture in India is a fairly organised activity and is largely rural-based and labour-intensive. Scientific Sericulture has effectively impacted the rural women of the district thus providing them with sustainable livelihood and income generation. To encourage Sericulture among the farmers of Mizoram, the Central Silk Board has introduced a new Scheme of Sericulture Project called Intensive Bivoltine Sericulture Development Project (IBSDP) for permanent economic settlement. This has been substantiated with a web-based platform SILKS, which is a single window, ICT-based information & advisory services system for farmers practising Sericulture. Major objectives of SILKS is to provide computerised information storage, value addition & supply Sericulture to the farmers; planning and advisory services in formats & language appropriate for the local Sericulturist and finally supply the information and advisory services through internet and satellite-based communications. This has made valuable contribution in development of the Aspirational District of Mamit.



## 'TAANKA' TECHNIQUE FOR WATER CONSERVATION

District: Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh



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The initiative follows standard rainwater harvesting technique and has helped the district to save enough water

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Sonbhadra is the first district in Uttar Pradesh to employ the traditional 'Taanka' technique for rainwater harvesting and water conservation. Popular in the water-parched State of Rajasthan, Sonbhadra has replicated this practice and is in the process of building more than 5,000 such taankas and equal number of ponds across the water-starved district. Taankas are underground rainwater storage tanks up to the capacity of 25,000 litres. This initiative follows the standard rainwater harvesting technique wherein rainwater from rooftops is collected through gutters and then made to pass through a sieve before being stored. Use of taankas has helped the district save enough water for lean summer months when the water demand is at its peak and supply invariably falls short. This initiative is a marked departure from the temporary respite provided by water tankers and is a significant step towards long-term sustainable use of water resources in the district.



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# FINANCIAL INCLUSION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

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# ‘ASHA – EK UMEED KI KIRAN’: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CENTRE

District: Kondagaon in Chhattisgarh

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The Asha Centre is empowering women through awareness, trainings and employment

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The Aspirational District of Kondagaon established the ‘Asha Centre’ in February 2018 as a special initiative to empower local women by providing employment. The Centre is operated in collaboration with the District Project Livelihood College and the District Skill Development Authority. The Asha Centre comprises five units : i) Garments Stitching Training- cum-Production Unit; ii) Handloom Weaving Training-cum-Production Unit; iii) Sanitary Pads Production Unit; iv) Glass Bangles Designing Training-cum-Production Unit and v) LED Bulb Repair, Assembling Training-cum-Production Unit. In all the units, only women have been inducted as trainees/ beneficiaries. Currently, more than 300 women are working at the Centre.

The Centre provides Skill Development Training under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and Mukhya Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (MMKVY) totally free-of-cost. The training duration of these courses vary from 2 to 4 months, post which the trained candidates are employed for production of finished products like Cloths, Sanitary Pads and Glass Bangles within the training centre. The main objectives of the initiative are to: i) Increase employability of women in all category and age group; ii) Generate awareness about various government schemes; iii) Empower women of the district as many of them have started earning their livelihoods and iv) Connect remote areas with the mainstream.







# SETTING UP AN INDUSTRIAL SEWING-MACHINE FACILITY

District: Palamu in Jharkhand

One of the major goals in Left-Wing Extremism affected districts is to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for the people of the district. In Palamu, people after getting trained by the State and Central Government under various training programmes, usually migrate out of the district in search of employment opportunities.

To address this challenge, an Industrial Sewing-Machine unit was set up with the objective of sustainable livelihood creation using a model that could be emulated in other districts. The facility fulfils the objective of supplying 2.5 lakh school dresses annually, through a Producer Group of 200 SHG members.

The initiative has been successful in creating employment opportunities for citizens within the same geography; thereby ensuring that the economic benefits accrued from their employment is channelled into growth of the district. This has motivated the skilled and semi-skilled workforce to stay in the district and contribute to the local economy.



## SOLAR MAMAS

District: Gumla in Jharkhand

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In the district, rural women have set example by fabricating solar panels, lights & photovoltaic circuits

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In remote districts like Gumla, few hamlets have not yet been electrified due to scattered settlements, difficult topography and challenges of inaccessibility. To mitigate this challenge, the District Administration along with an International NGO, Barefoot College, organised local women in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and trained them with skills needed for fabrication of solar panels, lights and photovoltaic circuits. These women are fondly addressed as Solar Mamas. The first phase of the project involved solar electrification of 150 unelectrified households. Women were also trained to practise sustainable livelihoods like bee-keeping and coffee plantation.

As a result of this initiative, women of Gumla District have equipped themselves with skill sets that ensure a steady income and also greatly helped in providing electricity to those households which were lingering in darkness.





# SOLAR POWER DRIVEN KHAWA CLUSTER TO BOOST MILK INDUSTRY AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

District: Osmanabad in Maharashtra

In order to keep themselves afloat during severe draughts, farmers in Osmanabad District, within a Khawa cluster have come together, as an alternative to selling only milk. Khoya or Khawa (reduced dry milk) as a product has more demand and shelf life than milk and every farmer makes a profit for every litre. Farmers have organised themselves in cooperatives and are pooling their cattle for making Khawa (milk solids) from their daily milk production. The profit margin is even higher during festivals and wedding seasons and is distributed according to share of the milk pooled-in by the farmers. This has led to a massive proliferation of such cooperatives with 150 of them presently churning out 35,000 kgs. of Khawa per day. The Khawa cluster concept has boosted the traditional milk industry & also promoted sustainable development, as modern induction machines are powered by solar energy.

The cluster has also helped in reducing deforestation in the district, as traditional milk and Khawa industry was running on wood-fired kilns. A Skill Development Centre is also part of the cluster and is skilling more than 1,000 youth every year and integrating them in the Khawa value-chain at different levels, also as self-employed individuals.

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# BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE

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# CONSTRUCTION OF SUBSURFACE DAMS

District: YSR (Kadapa) in Andhra Pradesh

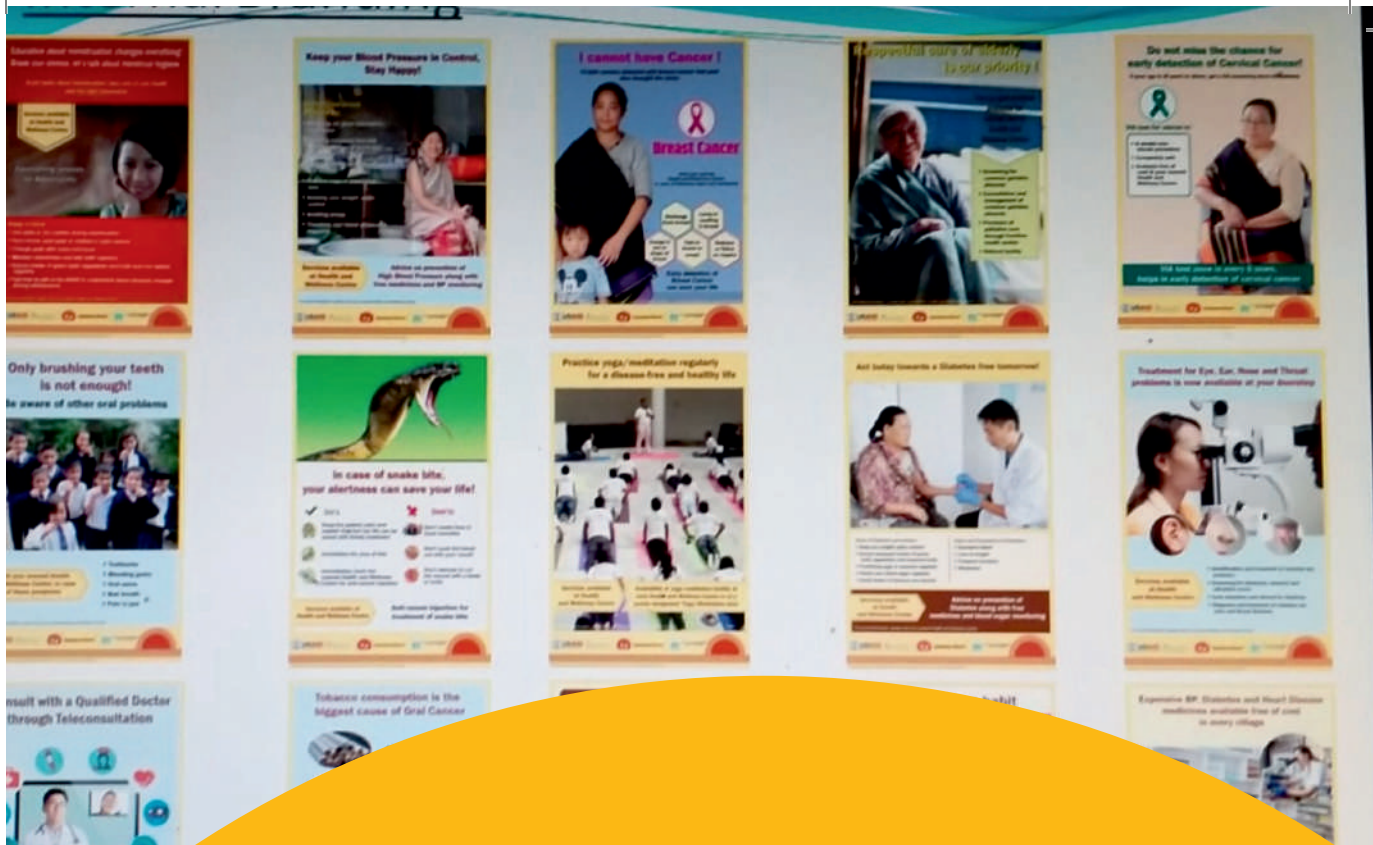
The subsurface dams using Z sheet pilling has significantly improved the water table leading to sustainable irrigation

Kadapa is a drought-prone district in Andhra Pradesh, primarily due to scanty rainfall and complex geology (impervious rock formation that results in very slow natural recharge). To address the issue of water shortage, the district has constructed subsurface dams using Z sheet pilling technology at six locations on River Papagni that is spread across 34 kms. The subsurface dams have not only played an effective role in proper utilisation of groundwater resources, but also helped to control undesired fluctuations of groundwater level.

Before implementation of this initiative, the water table in the adjoining areas of the river was very low, with the flow getting depleted at a faster rate due to steep gradient of the river. After construction of subsurface dams with 'Z' sheet pile technology, the surface water runoff got percolated to the sand layers and also in the adjoining alluvium along the river, thereby increasing the water table.

The construction of these subsurface dams has also resulted in increasing the borewell yields which has in turn led to sustainable irrigation from groundwater, both in the Khariff and Rabi seasons. This has led to stabilisation of Paddy crops during Kharif season and cultivation of Rabi second crop during Irrigable Dry (ID) conditions.





# INTERNAL EXTERNAL BRANDING: NUDGING THROUGH IMAGERY AND AESTHETICS

District: West Sikkim in Sikkim

In order to provide clean, hygienic and accessible Hospitals including sanitised environment for treatment, West Sikkim has renovated the Health Centres in accordance with the guidelines of National Health Mission. The buildings have been made aesthetic through the use of charts, pamphlets and posters describing major Health interventions and necessary preventions. They have been painted with colours to be easily identified and accessed. The Medical Officer of the district has put extra efforts to provide free lab facilities and regular supply of medicines. Nutrition gardens have been developed around the Health Centres thus creating awareness regarding importance of medicinal and nutritious plants. The district has also involved the youth in this process. The Administration and community both participating in this initiative, including maintenance of the premises, has greatly improved Health indicators of the district.

# IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN TECHNOLOGIES IN ROAD CONSTRUCTION



District: Goalpara in Assam

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Use of Green technologies for construction of roads has reduced dependence on natural resources and brought down the cost of construction

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Depleting natural resources and closure of stone quarries had gravely hampered the progress of all-weather roads construction in the district. Despite this challenge, in order to provide all-weather connectivity to citizens, the district adopted various Green technologies for construction of roads. Through this measure, apart from reducing dependence on natural resources and recycling waste plastic, the district has also been able to bring down the cost of construction and maintenance, thereby leading to economic benefits for the entire State. The technologies deployed by the district for construction of roads are: Waste Plastic Technology, Cell Filled Concrete Technology, Geogrid Technology (Tenax 3D Grids), Cold Mix Technology and Interlocking Concrete Pavement Block (ICBP).







## ‘LITER OF LIGHT’ PORTABLE LIGHTS

District: Ranchi in Jharkhand

In a unique initiative taken by the District Administration of Ranchi, women of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are being trained to lighten the lives of villagers in the district by producing portable room lights, designed and developed by the students of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai.

Recycled plastic bottles filled with water and a bit of bleach are fitted into the roof to provide lighting during the day, while at night, the same is upgraded with an LED bulb, micro-solar panels and a battery to provide a low-cost night lighting system. To make the product suitable for tribals, it has been further modified by attaching a battery and a solar panel, as a portable room light. It has been designed and fabricated in 36 hours using rudimentary and locally sourced tools and components at a cost of just ₹ 110. The District Administration further plans to install a ‘Liter of Light’ in all the toilets built under ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’. The solar bottles will be made available at all Pragya Kendras in the district to provide a ready retail chain. The Ranchi District Administration and Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) have tied up to create a chain of master trainers who would train local SHGs from other districts to help in the promotion of ‘Liter of Light’ across the State.



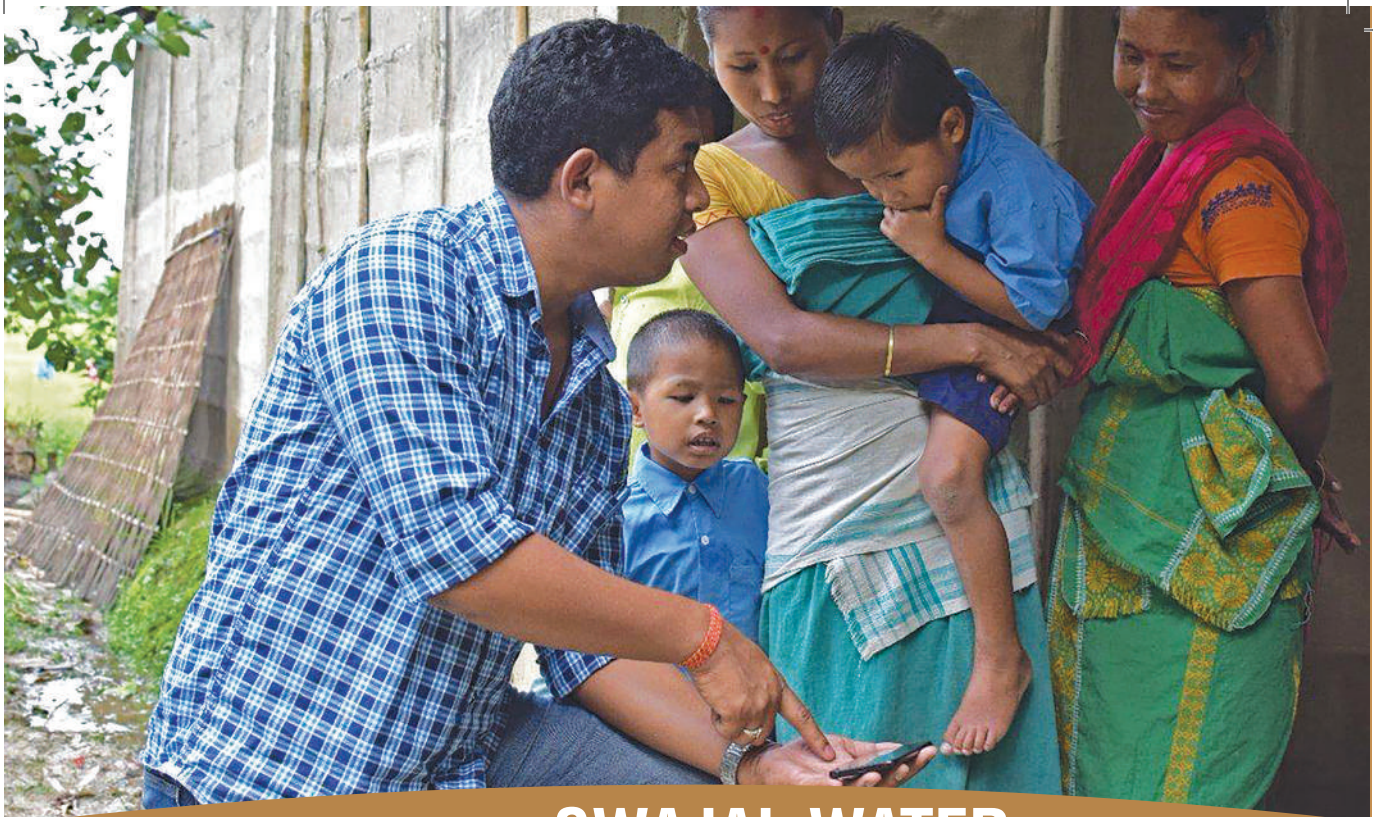
# PATSENDRI MODEL COLONY: AN INNOVATION THROUGH PMAY

District: Mahasamund in Chhattisgarh

Patsendri is a village in the Saraipalli block of the Mahasamund District. A Model Colony has been developed under the PM Awas Yojana (PMAY), with convergence between various physical work-related schemes and social sector schemes. Further expanding on this initiative, the District Administration has initiated convergence of various social sector schemes in Patsendri, and created a self-sustainable model for capacity building, employment generation, development & positive use of social capital, with a focus on the Patsendri Community. The Model Colony is a one-stop solution for transforming lives. Firstly, the convergence of schemes has led to the development of a Model Colony, wherein the houses, community hall, drainage, CC road have been built under PMAY, toilets are built under NREGA, electricity connection is provided under the Saubhagya Yojana, transformers, poles, etc. are provided under the Mukhya Mantri Majra-Tola Vidyutikaran Yojana, & water supply is provided under the Nal-Jal Yojana by the Public Health Department.

The innovative idea has led to behavioural change among the owners towards a more cohesive and responsible community. The onus now lies on the 84 households who manage and maintain the benefits provided by the schemes and also negotiate for other social capital investment in the colony. The Model Colony with planned structure has bestowed a feeling of ownership rather than an individual estranged house.





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With community ownership and participative planning, villagers especially women, have learned to ascertain the quality of drinking water

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## SWAJAL WATER TESTING TRAINING

District: Barpeta, Assam

The greatest threat to public health from Arsenic originates from contaminated groundwater. High levels of inorganic Arsenic is naturally present in the groundwater of the Aspirational District of Barpeta in Assam. Contaminated water used for the purpose of food preparation and drinking pose a great threat to the public. With community ownership and through participative planning, villagers, especially women in Barpeta, were sensitised about safe water practices and trained to use Field Testing Kits to ascertain the quality of drinking water.

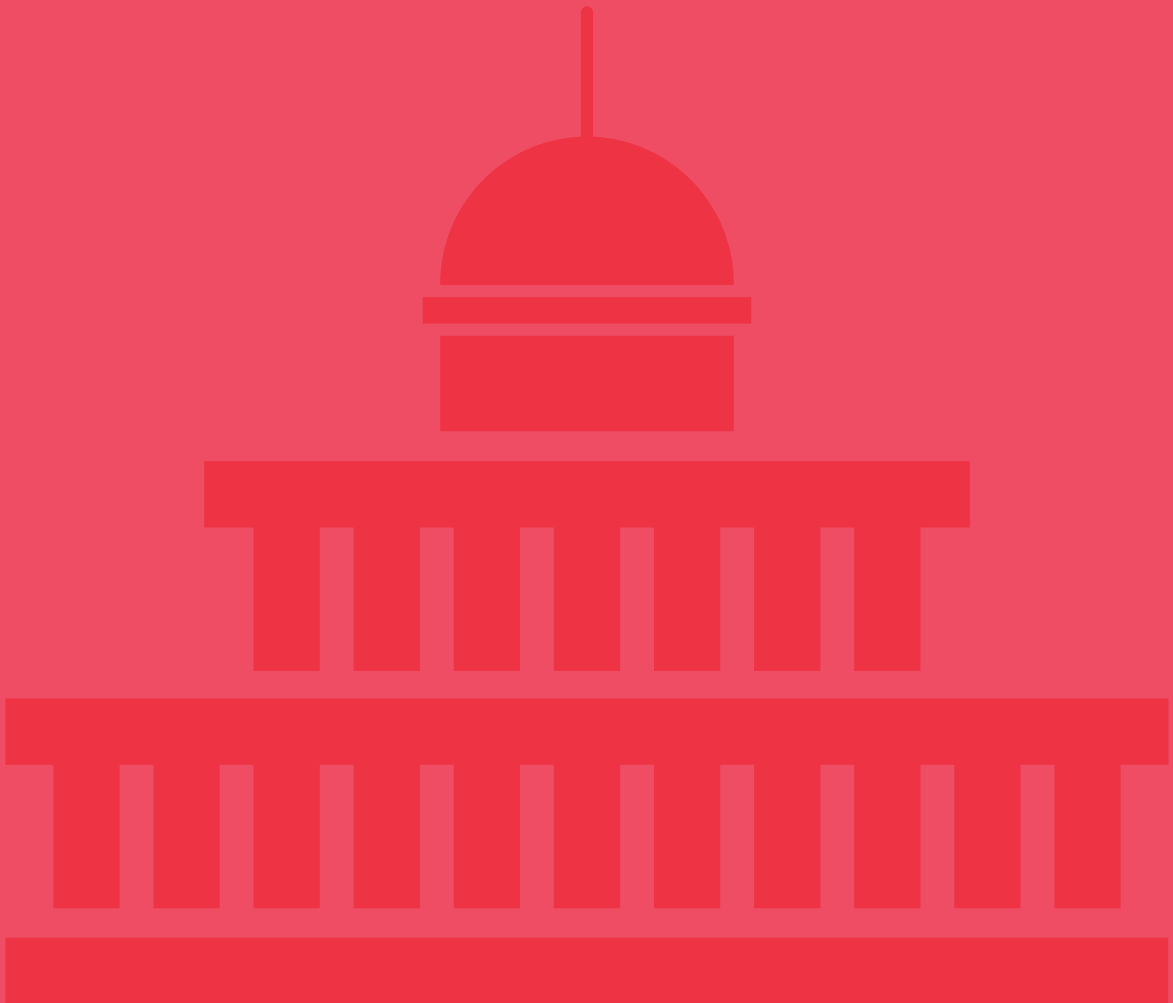
As an outcome of this initiative, the community members resolved to get a piped water supply scheme in villages and collected contribution from all the households. Now, water storage tanks are being constructed and members from the community have volunteered to monitor the scheme implementation.



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# GOVERNANCE

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# BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (BDO) SCORECARDS

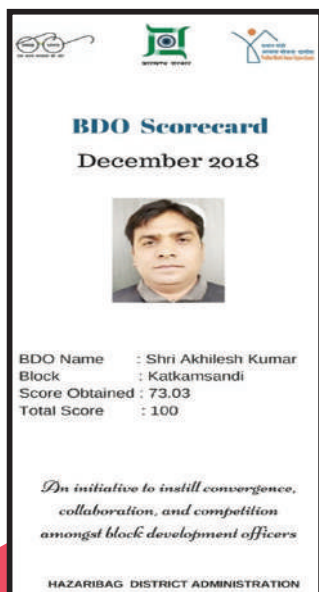
District: Hazaribagh in Jharkhand

Motivating Block Development Officers by recognising their work in the development of the district

While technology and financial capital are the enabling factors, human capital is the key driving factor behind any successful organisation.

Civil Servants are the first point of contact for citizens with the Government, and a motivated civil service is the best instrument to achieve outcomes desired by the State and society. The excellence in Civil Servants can be retained through motivation, recognition and rewards. Organisations need to relate rewards directly to the performance to ensure that they go to the deserving recipients. Monetary incentives may be the “currency of compensation” but they are not always as effective as the “currency of motivation and recognition”.

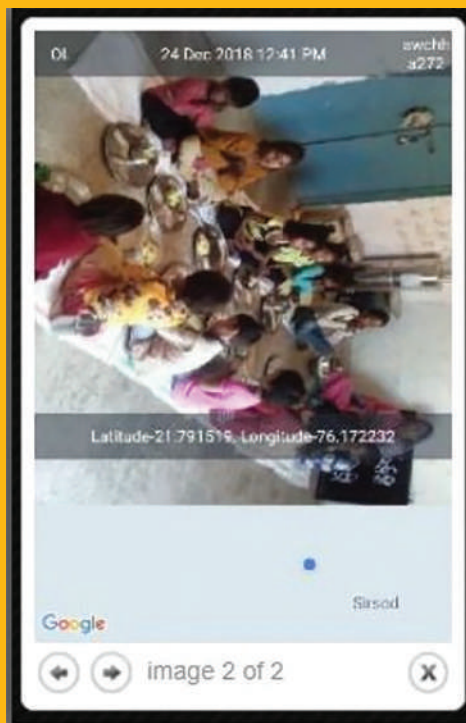
To motivate the Block Development Officers (BDOs) who are the true foot soldiers of rural development in our country, the Hazaribagh District Administration has taken a first-of-its-kind initiative by devising a ‘BDO Scorecard’ to assess the performance of the BDOs in a transparent manner while taking into account the officers’ self-assessment. This step further imparts objectivity and transparency in the BDOs’ performance assessment. Further, the District Administration has decided to include this assessment for wholesome evaluation of the BDOs, while framing their Annual Confidential Reports (ACR).







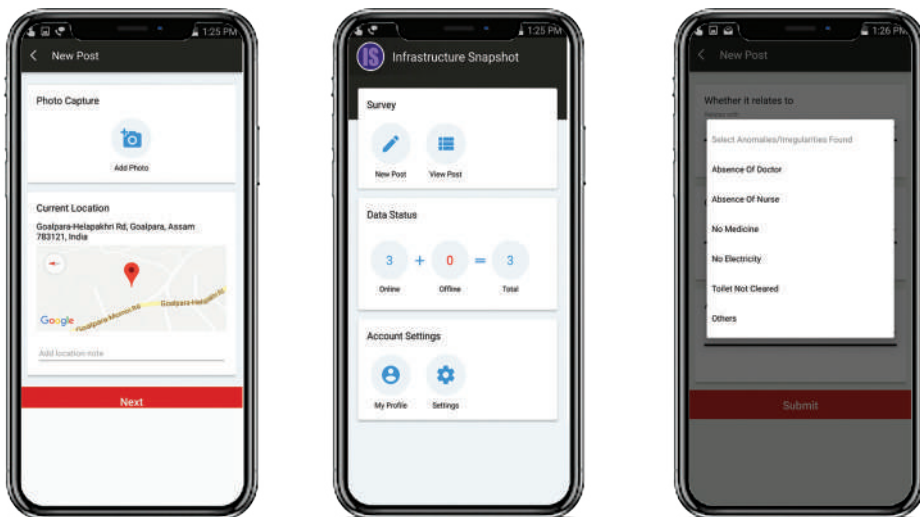
The App has significantly contributed in improving the quality of Government work and accessibility of officers to the public



## E-ATTENDANCE APPLICATION (LOK SEWAK APP)

District: Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh

The Aspirational District of Khandwa has established a new dimension in the direction of good governance by using the Lok Sewak App; an e-attendance and field monitoring tool that uses Geo-tagging technology. Through this App, the district has ensured presence of Government officials at workplace thereby leading to significant improvement in the quantum and quality of work and facilitating their accessibility to the public. The App has also ensured availability of ASHA, Anganwadi workers, teachers and other key frontline workers involved in implementation of various programmes. The Portal has more than 8,500 logins per day.



# INFRASTRUCTURE SNAPSHOT APP

District: Goalpara in Assam

The App is providing stepping stones for good governance through harnessing ICT and has led to fast service delivery to the public

Infrastructure Snapshot App, an innovative Android-based mobile application, launched by the Goalpara District Administration, is a one-of-its-kind application developed specifically for monitoring of Public Institutions like Government Offices, Schools, Health Centres and effective implementation of Government Schemes. The App has smart features like GPS location-based service to capture current location in both online and offline modes with data sync facility, filing grievances for issues pertaining to infrastructure, recording absence of Government personnel like doctors, teachers, Anganwadi workers, etc. along with pictorial evidences. The App also serves as a platform for registering any emergency including disaster alerts, reporting issues pertaining to domestic violence, etc. The objective of the App is to reduce the gap between public and the Administration and provide stepping stones for good governance through harnessing ICT. The App has led to an increment in resolution of public grievances and fast service delivery to the public. The App has also multiplied the community's involvement in uplifting and ameliorating the District Infrastructure.



## ‘WE FOR WAYANAD’ CAMPAIGN FOR EFFECTIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT

District: Wayanad in Kerala

For a district prone to natural calamities and floods, an effective warning system can prove to be life-saving for the entire community. The Administration and local population of Wayanad District have come together and displayed immense dedication in setting up a 24x7 Control Room under the ambit of “We for Wayanad”. The initiative boosts awareness about impending disasters, thus enabling the Administration as well as the local community to plan mitigation in an efficient manner. In 2018, despite severe floods, the number of casualties were restricted to six due to the proactive disaster management system set in place through this initiative, and percolating up to the Panchayat level.

A social media campaign was organised under this banner and set in full throttle to receive maximum support from the civil society. The programme also included collection of relief materials at designated Reception Centres set up by the District Administration. The sorting, packaging and distribution of relief materials was undertaken with the active engagement of officers, volunteers from NGOs and members of the civil society.



# MAHA LAND BANK SYSTEM

District: Washim in Maharashtra



The Land Bank is a major step towards bridging the information asymmetry on land records

The Aspirational District of Washim has created a unique repository of Government Land on a Portal, as a part of a State-wide programme in Maharashtra. The Land Bank serves as a repository of information for taking policy decisions on the allocation of Government Land such as provision of Affordable Housing, Irrigation, Public Supply, Self-supplied Industries, Aquaculture, Mining, Tree Plantation, etc. The Website is - mahalandbank.maharashtra.gov.in. It is also a citizen-centric effort and provides information about all types of Government Land (class of land viz. E, F, G, C, Nazul, City survey, etc.). The Land Bank is a major step towards bridging the information asymmetry on land records and providing valuable information to the citizenry.

मुख्य पान शासकीय जमीन भोगवटदार वर्ग २ भाडेपट्टा नडूल/शिटी सर्वे नोंदी आदिवासी खातेदाराच्या नोंदी भूदान मंडळाच्या नोंदी शर्तभंगा सरकार जमा जमिनी							
							
				वार्ड	ग्राम		
वर्ग नाव	नोंदी क्षेत्रफळ	वाटप क्षेत्रफळ	शिल्लक क्षेत्रफळ	शिर्षक	गणना	क्षेत्रफळ	एकक
ई वर्ग जनजातीसाठी मोफत गायरान म्हणून राखीव महसूल जमीन	396,626.91	361,171.44	35,455.45	एकूण शासकीय जमिनीच्या नोंदी	7075	442,581.72	हेक्टर आर
एच वर्ग वेगवेगळ्या सार्वजनिक कामाकरिता विहित करण्यात आलेल्या जमीनी	2,630.24	149.88	2,480.36	शासकीय जमीन वाटप	2292	4,263.16	हेक्टर आर
आय वर्ग ज्या जमिनीत सर्व्हे न देण्यात आलेले नाही उदा नदी ईत्यादी	158.30	0.00	158.30	भोगवटदार वर्ग २ जमीन वाटप	7262	14,359.46	हेक्टर आर
एच वर्ग शेतीच्या कामाकरिता उपलब्ध आकारी जमिनी	755.38	23.72	731.66	नडूल जमिनीच्या नोंदी	371	4,989,194.00	चौ मी
ए वर्ग मुख्यतः ईमारती व जळकट लाकडासाठीची वन जमीन	11,893.34	1.62	11,891.72	शिटी सर्वेच्या नोंदी	691	1,023,132.19	चौ मी
				आदिवासी खातेदाराच्या नोंदी	8379	14,307.05	हेक्टर आर
				भूदान मंडळाच्या नोंदी	214	392.35	हेक्टर आर
				भाडेपट्टाचे ठेकेदार शासकीय जमिनी खाली	1	0.00	हेक्टर आर



## MEEKOSAM MEALS SCHEME

District: Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh

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The scheme has led to sharp rise in the number of petitioners attending the grievance cell meetings

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Labourers and daily wage workers coming to file their grievances and attend proceedings of the grievance cell every Monday, from places as far as 100 kms. in Vizianagaram District, will henceforth not have to return empty stomach. Seeing their hardships, the officers in the District Administration decided to contribute to the genuine cause, for providing meals to the petitioners at a subsidised rate. This initiative is known as the Meekosam Meals Scheme. More than ₹ 7 Lakh has been collected by way of donations from the district officers. For a meal worth ₹ 28/-, ₹ 10/- is collected from the petitioner and balance ₹ 18 is directly paid to the owner of the canteen. This initiative has resulted in sharp rise in the number of petitioners attending the grievance cell meetings.



# THE TEAM

This volume of Best Practices has been compiled by the Aspirational Districts Programme team of NITI Aayog.

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**NITI Aayog**