Initiatives of Himachal Pradesh Government for Improving

Ease of Living
in Himachal Pradesh

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Shimla-171002

Executive Summary

Directive Principles of State Policy reflect India as a Welfare State. Hence, State plays a key role in the protection and promotion of economic and social well-being of its citizens through equality of opportunity and equitable distribution of wealth.

The State Government is committed to ensure that all welfare policies are implemented sincerely for the benefit of its residents. Taking a cue from the statement made by the Prime Minister in the fourth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog on 17th June, 2018 on enhancing the ease of living and on the initiative of NITI Aayog, State Government constituted a State level committee to finalize & oversee 100 initiatives/steps of State Government for improving the ease of living of its citizens.

Subsequently, detail of all the initiatives being taken by State Government, which are monitorable and directly linked to daily life of citizens leading to easier living was collected. Some of these steps which involve directly or indirectly improving the ease of living of common people cannot be measured in quantitative terms. Many initiatives/schemes have been started by the Central Government and several steps have been initiated by State Government to provide desired benefits to the public. Efforts have been made to compile all such initiatives. With regard to some initiatives, availability of data cannot be ascertained, being qualitative in nature.

These initiatives collectively seek to foster a better quality of life for residents through improving governance, better Health and Education facilities and availability of quality services to the general public. To bring transparency in governance, many ICT driven initiatives have also been started by the State Government in different sectors.

We hope that compilation of these initiatives would be a precursor to more initiatives by the departments to make Governance more responsive and citizen friendly.

Planning Department,
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171002.

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What is Ease of Living

Being a social welfare State, our democratic set-up is determined to provide all the basic amenities for common people at their door steps. From the beginning of Independence era, all legislative, executive and decentralized institutions are bound to make sincere efforts in this direction as provided by the Constitution of India.

As every scheme/program is conceived by the government for the benefit of residents, it is important to ensure that ultimate beneficiaries reap the benefits of any Government initiative through simplification of procedures/forms, repealing of obsolete rules & regulations, leveraging technology to bring transparency in public interface and a robust public grievance redress system. In essence, living with ease requires a delicate balance between efforts made by an individual for his survival and the availability of opportunities by the government for making these efforts sustainable in the long run, ensuring a decent life with ease.

In this publication, efforts have been made to compile all such schemes/programs directly linked to the daily life of residents with customization as per local needs & minimal procedural requirements, ultimately leading to enhancement in ease of their living. Some of the citizen centric initiatives are discussed in the report in the following pages. Some of the initiatives are Central Government initiatives and some are State Government initiatives. While drawing up the list, the Committee has considered likely impact of the schemes in making the lives of the citizens, more comfortable. Some of the initiatives will help to reduce footfall in offices which will directly bring convenience to the common people.

Sector-wise Initiatives for Ease of Living

1. Health

1.1 LaQshya roll out- (Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiatives)

Besides improving quality of labour rooms& maternity operation theatres to reduce preventable maternal & new born mortality, morbidity and stillbirths, **Mukhyamantri Aashirwad Yojna** has been started by State Government to encourage institutional delivery under the supervision of expert medical/paramedical staff. Under this scheme, a kit (comprising of 11 items required for baby at birth) worth Rs. 1500 to all new babies born in hospitals is being provided by State Government. This has not only encouraged institutional deliveries being attended by trained staff but also caters to the needs of a newly born baby.

1.2 Facilities for Ante-Natal mothers

Antenatal care (ANC) is required by pregnant mothers for timely identification and mitigation of pregnancy related problems, which can potentially harm mother or fetus and require frequent visits to health institutions to screen them for any risk factors or other complications.

To facilitate such ante-natal care for mothers, Sarai (with bed and food facilities) facility is being provided near health institutions to ante-natal patients coming from far-flung areas, not requiring hospital admission. Provision of ante-natal care & emergency services at right time under guided supervision of medical staff has resulted in enhancing health status of mother and child.

1.3 Private Sector involvement

In case of non-availability of government doctors, the services of Obstetricians/Radiologist/ Pediatricians from the private sector are being utilized by paying them from NHM/RKS on weekly/daily basis. Besides this, any person/doctor establishing a private allopathic Hospital in identified rural areas is being provided with an investment & interest subsidy for establishment of such medical facility in rural areas under "**Swasthya Mein Sahbhagita Yojna.**"

1.4 Mukhya Mantri Chikitsa Kosh

This fund with seed money of INR 10.00 Crore has been established to provide financial assistance for the poor & needy people of the State in case of illness.

1.5 Mukhyamantri Nirog Yojna
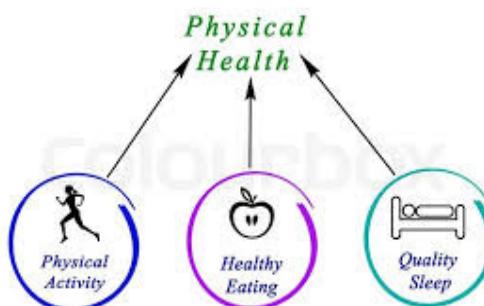
For detecting ailments in early stages and prevent long term illnesses through early diagnosis and treatment, multi diagnostic facilities including random Blood Sugar test, Blood Pressure, Eye Test and other Laboratory Tests are being identified for facilitating under this scheme.

1.6 Establishment of Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU's) and New Born Care Corners

For reducing IMR in the State, these special care units have been established at District level (except Kinnaur & Lahaul Spiti) to provide specialized & immediate health care to the newborns.

1.7 Himachal Health Care Scheme (HIMCARE): This scheme is being implemented since 1st January, 2019 by merging two of the State schemes namely Himachal Pradesh Universal Health Protection

Scheme and Mukhya Mantri State Health Care Scheme. Under HIMCARE Scheme, cashless treatment coverage up to Rs. 5.00 Lakh per year per family is being provided on family floater basis in the empanelled hospitals at the time of hospitalization. Differential Premium slabs have been fixed from Rs. 0 to Rs. 1000 based on category.

1.8   Online Blood Bank Management System

An online System has been designed to store, process, retrieve and analyze information related to administrative and inventory management within a blood bank. It aims at maintaining all the information pertaining to blood donors, blood of different groups available in each blood bank for managing them in a better way. This software will also facilitate online registration for organizing blood

donation camps, fixing appointments for blood donation by individuals, online request for procurement of blood of any specific group, check availability of blood, status of district wise stock of blood etc.

1.9   Telemedicine Project has

been started to improve the health services in the State by providing access of Medical Specialists/ experts from PGI/ IGMC to common man through mobile phone even at PHC/CHC level located in remote, sparsely populated areas of the State.

1.10   Introduction of E-hospital

Digitization of OPD/Laboratory Services/ Appointment system in the health institutions is being done in a phased manner. Recently, **ANUBHAV program -a step towards digital health**- has been launched on pilot basis in Kullu District for envisaging facilities to public to get doctor appointment online for their medical checkup. The registered patients get confirmation of their appointment with the doctor through SMS on their mobiles.

1.11   Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)

IGMC is among the few health institution in the country where such system is being implemented. This initiative provides better health services to the Citizens of Himachal Pradesh by including computerization of the routine activities of the hospital and to keep

track of patient record/ Medical history right from his registration to his discharge/ leaving the Hospital. The database of patients could also be useful for doctors from the research point of view. Disease surveillance can also be done using the reports of this software.

1.12 Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan

Efforts are being made to make the health institutions visitors' friendly for specially-abled people & senior citizens by making alterations/additions as per feasibility in existing buildings & through provisions of such norms in upcoming new institutions.

2. Revenue & Land Record Management

2.1 Digitization of Land Record

The system of modernized management of land records through computerization has been introduced for minimizing the scope of land/property disputes. Digitization of Cadastral Maps has been done to enhance

transparency in the land records maintenance and a system for providing 24*7 facility to general public to have access to land records is being rolled out.

2.2 Online Record of Rights (RoR-Jamabandi)

Record of Rights (Jamabandi) is easily accessible to general public through online portal facilitating availability of revenue record at their door-steps. Certified copies of these records can be obtained from nearest LMKs or CSCs.

2.3 Online registering of deeds

Land record has already been integrated with registration of deeds software and latest RoR (Jamabandi) becomes available to Sub Registrar on the screen with a touch of key. Being client-server based software, work is being done in the direction of registration of all kinds of deeds through software having features to capture biometrics

& validating input data with online land records. Its integration with land records is also being done which will enable reflection of transaction related to property recorded on land records database in RoR.

2.4   e-Stamping System

E-Stamping System has been adopted for collection of Stamp & Registration fees through authorized collection centers (ACC)in the State. This is helping in doing away with the time consuming process of purchasing stamp papers and other non-judicial papers.

2.5   e-Certificate

Various types of certificates are issued by Tehsil, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and other Offices to the public for further use for seeking employment, compensation, loans etc online. All these certificates are issued through E-Praman software and provided online to the public so that they can apply & take print on-line of all these certificates as per their requirements.

2.6   Nearby services related to land records

Lok Mitra Kendras (LMKs) and Community Services Centers (CSCs) are authorized for providing various types of land record services to facilitate the general public. The LMKs and CSCs are located in such a manner that the clients have to cover minimum possible distance to obtain required documents.

2.7   Revenue Court Case Monitoring System (RCMS): Revenue

Court Case Monitoring software for the use of Revenue courts at Division, District, SDM & Tehsil level for capturing the proceedings of routine courts & Judgments and for making details of the cases available online for the general public is being established. Initially, the system is being implemented in the office of the Divisional Commissioner Shimla, DC office Shimla & Tehsil Shimla (Urban) on pilot basis.

3. Power

3.1 Online portal

Consumers in the State have been provided with an easy to use online portal for online payment of electricity bills, applying for new service connections and obtaining power availability certificate (PAC). Electricity bills can be paid online through this portal (internet banking/ debit card/credit card/Lokmitra Kendra/Bharat Bill Payment System) throughout the State.

3.2 Simplification of procedure

Procedure for release of new electricity connection has been simplified by reducing various documentation processes.

3.3 Reduction in time-frame

Time frame for release of electricity connection after the date of completion of codal formalities and payment of charges has been reduced from 20 days to 7 days (where no extension of distribution mains and no Right of Way is required) and 15 days (where no extension of distribution mains and Right of Way is required).

4. Town & Country Planning

4.1 Web Portal for building permissions

A portal enabling users to apply online for building permission, deviation settlement, private professional registration, land conversion and for various land related information has been established. The portal also facilitates automated calculation of application fees and other Charges, uploading & downloading of documents and proposed site maps, payment of online application fee and reporting unauthorized construction in TCP & Municipality areas.
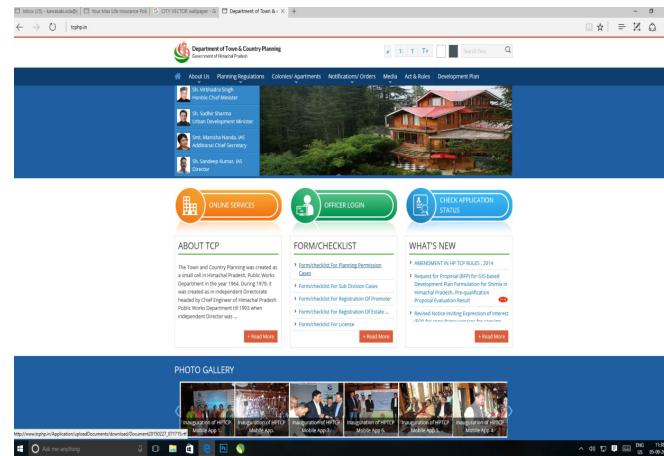
4.2 Mobile App

Mobile app has been developed for achieving the goal of m-governance across the state by providing services like tracking status of applications like pendency, approval etc. thereby enhancing 24x7 accessibility of the application.

4.3 Area Check Mobile App

A mobile application has been developed for checking the status of area without creating a login. This app checks whether one's Village, Mohal or Panchayat etc. is included partially or completely under the jurisdiction of TCP Act or not.
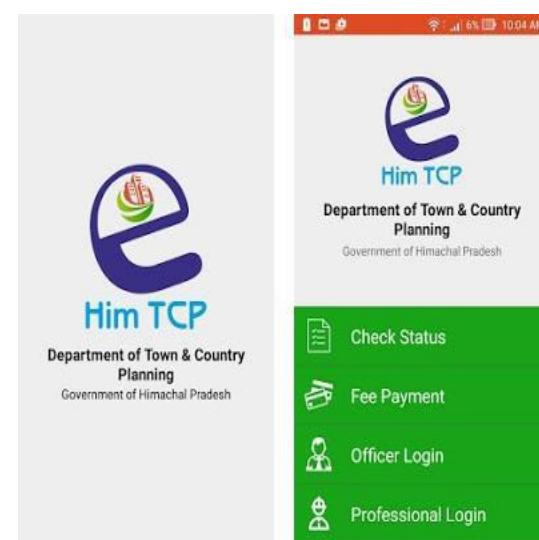
4.4 Toll Free Number

A toll-free number has been generated to facilitate the general public for their queries relating to various departmental activities of TCP Department.

4.5 Directory of professionals

A Directory of professionals registered with Town & Country Planning Department like Architect, Structure Engineer, Civil Engineer, Town Planner, Architectural Assistant, Draughtsman, Surveyor etc. has been prepared and is available on the departmental website so as to enable general masses to easily choose their consultant(s) for any construction work.

4.6 Micro Municipal Solid Waste Management

Efforts are being made for coverage of towns under solid waste management plant by setting up of demonstration Micro Municipal Solid Waste Management facilities having capacity to dispose of approximately 0.50 tons to 5 tons of waste at 10 different locations in HP as pilot projects on PPP mode for 10 years.

Image credit: istockphoto.com/Ralph125

4.7 Bio-Methanation plant

Bio-methanation plant using horse dung/ biodegradable waste from hotels to biogas/bio CNG on turnkey & end to end basis (waste collection till disposed) is to be established at Kufri in District Shimla.

5.   Transport

5.1   Plying of Electric Buses & Taxis

Extension of Electric Buses & Electric taxis facilities in other towns of the State apart from Manali-Rohtang Pass & around Manali town with a view to provide environment friendly, energy efficient and sustainable transportation facility to the public.

5.2   Cash less Transport offices

All the offices have been made cashless by installing Point of Sale (PoS) machines in all Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) for collection of taxes/fees. This encourages vehicle owners to pay their taxes/fees through different electronic modes thus making the system transparent & accountable.

5.3   Check Post Solution for vehicles entering in the State

State has introduced online composite fees collection system for collection of composite fees from Contract Carriage Vehicles of other States coming to Himachal Pradesh. This system saves the time & inconvenience caused by physically visiting the Transport Office, while the department is able to collect taxes in a cashless, transparent and seamless way with existing manpower as manpower already deployed at Barriers is to be utilized to carry out enforcement work in different districts.

5.4   Introduction of E-Challan Facility

Facility is being introduced in the State and to connect all the stakeholders through a common system which ensures data integrity, reliability and transparency. The end to end automation of processes will ensure efficiency at each level of users. Moreover, digitization & documentation of records helps in improving the database on offenders like types of offences frequently committed, payments received on time etc.

5.5   Dealer Point Registration System

Standard operating procedure for the dealer point registration of personalized vehicles has been notified by the State Government

wherein registration certificate would be delivered by the dealer itself. The system has been made functional on pilot basis at Shimla and efforts are being made to make it operational throughout the State.

5.6   No Honking Campaign

 To spread awareness regarding health hazards due to unnecessary honking that causes noise pollution, a mobile app to report any noise pollution complaints to authorities has been started to facilitate creation of no honking zones and towns.

5.7   Installation of GPS

GPS in all public transport & commercial vehicles will be introduced for real time monitoring & tracking of vehicle like exact location of vehicle, schedule of reaching the destination, parental monitoring in case of school buses & taxis and increased safety to the passengers especially vulnerable sections of society like children, specially-abled persons& women etc. while travelling alone.

5.8   Electronic Display Boards

Electronic display boards at bus stands/stops for displaying probable time of arrival of buses on various routes will be introduced in the State. This will be a dynamic, speedy and effective way to keep passengers informed on accurate and actual departure and arrival times, enabling them to more efficiently plan their trips and the transit agency to maintain or improve performance thereby increasing ridership & improving the customer experiences.

5.9   Swipe/Tap machines in Buses

Swipe/tap machines will be introduced in the buses for making payment through electronic cash cards to reduce hassle of passengers for payment.

5.10 Establishment of Mobile Automated Vehicle Inspection & Certification Station.

One such centre has been approved at Baddi in Solan District under the pilot scheme of MoRTH. Based on the vehicle population in Himachal Pradesh, one centre will not be sufficient and there is a need

to multiply the centre in State, which involves huge investment. Hence, State would also consider for setting up of mobile Inspection & Certification (I&C) centre under PPP mode instead of fixed lane.

5.11 Installation of ropeway & other mass rapid transport system as public transport system.

To provide connectivity by means of eco friendly ropeways and other over head transportation system to connect left out habitation, to decongest cities Shimla, Dharamshala, Manali, Mandi etc. This will provide hassle free eco friendly, free from traffic jams, time saving, first and last mile connectivity to the general public and will be a big step in ease of living.

6.   Public Works

6.1   Maintenance and upkeep of Rural Roads

Routine Maintenance of Roads through innovative methods like Performance Based Maintenance Contracts (PBMC) and Community Contracting has been initiated in the State so that the local villagers living near the road can maintain the roads themselves and get paid for that.

6.2   Employment opportunity at Local level

Services of local labour predominantly women & other community groups like self-help & women groups etc. are being engaged for road side plantations & maintenance of village roads, thus, providing seasonal/casual employment opportunity for Poor/BPL population.

6.3   Identification & rectification of Black spots

To reduce the number of accidents, accidents prone spots identified/ recorded through Road Accident Data Management System (RADMS) of Police Department is being monitored regularly. Appropriate engineering measures wherever required are also being taken.

6.4   Mobile App for redressal of Public Grievances

A mobile App has been introduced by the Public Works Department to highlight the bad conditions of road by uploading any photo by any user on the App for taking necessary action by the quality wing of PWD and to resolve the grievances.

6.5   Third Party Quality Control Mechanism

For ensuring good quality of constructions as per specifications, third party Quality Control method has been introduced by establishing an independent Quality Control Check Squad/Flying Squad in Chief Minister's office to inspect the quality of all infrastructure works executed by all the departments/ boards/corporations, local bodies, all universities and state deposit works etc. engaged in various construction activities for development of infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh.

6.6   Public Information boards

Boards depicting project cost, specifications & other details have been installed at the project site with a view to ensure transparency & accountability in construction works.

6.7   Supervision & monitoring of works

For supervision & monitoring of development works being undertaken in the Gram Panchayats, regular consultation sessions with all stakeholders & village level committees are being organized regularly at GP level.

6.8   Himachal Road Improvement Scheme

Cross drainages under existing State roads are being provided under Himachal Road Improvement Scheme for better maintenance of existing road infrastructure of HP.

7. Technical Education

7.1 Remedial Classes
Remedial Classes for all 1st year SC/ST and academically weak students in all Engineering Colleges of State Government have been started to improve the pass percentage.

7.2 Coaching for GATE
Special coaching classes for GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering) for all the final year students of Engineering Colleges of State Government have been introduced to increase the number of GATE qualifying students in the State.

7.3 Induction Programme
Induction Programme has been started for the 1st year students of Govt. of HP Engineering Colleges to make the students feel comfortable in their new environment and create bonding in the batch as well as between faculty and students.
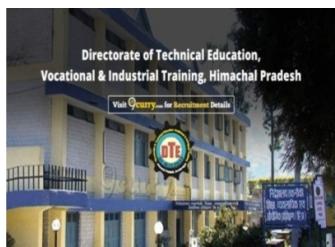
7.4 Swayam Prabha/Massive Open Online Course (MOOCs)
Subscription of Swayam Prabha/ MOOCs in Engineering Colleges of State Government has been introduced under Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme-III.

7.5 Startup Fests
Startup Fests has been introduced at Directorate level for Engineering and Polytechnics Colleges of State Government and Idea Labs have also been established in these institutes.

7.6 Incubation Centre
To develop entrepreneurship by turning educated youth from job seekers to job creators, various institutions in the State are being facilitated through Incubation Centers to build capacities, develop networking, establish necessary infrastructure and generate awareness under Chief Minister Startup/Innovation Project/New Incubation Scheme.

7.7 Online Fee Payment:
Facility of Online Fee Payment in all the Technical and Vocational Institutions has been introduced.

8. Women & Child Development

8.1 With a view to improve overall sex ratio in State preventing gender biased sex selective elimination, ensuring survival, protection & education of girl child "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" Yojna has been introduced in nine Districts of the State and will be extended in the entire State.

8.2 Reduction in child malnutrition

Supplementary nutrition to bridge the gap between recommended dietary allowances & actual intake of food of an individual is being provided through Anganwadis in the State.

8.3 Regular check-up of children & pregnant women

With a view to ensure 100% registration of pregnant & lactating women, regular health check-up of children & pregnant women and regular follow-up for immunization, vaccination of drop out children, institutional deliveries, counseling for better nutrition, care for water borne diseases, etc. has been introduced by the State Government.

9. Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs

9.1 Extra food grains

Extra food grains are being provided to all the consumers of the State at highly subsidized rates. The Other Than National Food Security Act (OTFSA) beneficiaries (APL Consumers) living at high altitude (Tribal Areas) are being provided with extra food grain (35 Kg per card per month).

9.2 Specially Subsidized Scheme

To compensate for rising prices, 3 kg pulses are being provided alongwith 2 liters edible oil (1 Mustard Oil & 1 Soya Refined oil) & 1 kg Iodized salt per ration card per month to all the ration card holders of the State with an option to choose any 3 of the pulses out of four options available under State Specially Subsidized Scheme.

9.3 Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojna

This scheme was started to empower women and to protect the environment by providing clean and smokeless fuel to all those eligible households of State not covered under Ujjwala Yojna. A bonafide resident having no

domestic LPG connection of his own or under any State/ Centrally Sponsored Scheme is eligible for the benefit under this scheme.

9.4 Linkage of Ration Cards with Aadhaar

To remove duplicity of ration cards if any, 100% seeding of Aadhaar Number of beneficiaries with their ration card is being ensured so that the benefit reaches the actual beneficiaries.

9.5 Android Based PoS Devices

Android Based PoS devices have been installed with biometric authentications features at all Fair Price Shops to check the pilferage of food grains.

9.6   Information through SMS

SMS based information regarding availability of food grain is being provided to the consumers on their registered mobile numbers as and when the stocks are received at the attached/their fair price shop.

9.7   Availability of Ration Card on Digilocker

To facilitate the consumers, ration card has been made available at Digilocker application. The consumers can get print their ration card from the transparency portal "epds.co.on"

9.8 SMS based cash memo and Cashless transactions at FPSs

To facilitate the beneficiaries, SMS based cash memo through registered mobile number and cashless transactions at FPSs is being developed.

10. Agriculture

10.1 Soil Health Cards
Soil Health Cards are being issued to the farmers indicating nutritional status of their soil alongwith recommendations for crops to be sown.

10.2 Farm equipments/machinery
Farm equipments/machinery are being provided to farmers as per their choice either through outright purchase (at subsidy) or through hiring centers.

10.3 Protected Cultivation
Protected Cultivation is being promoted in the State through establishment of polyhouses and equipping the farmers to have latest technical knowhow relating to protected cultivation of different crops which in turn would increase production and productivity.

10.4 Solar Fencing:
Mukhya Mantri Khet Sanrakshan Yojna has been introduced to protect crops from wild & stray animals by energizing farm fencing through solar energy by providing financial support to the farmers of the State.

10.5 Saur Sinchayee Yojna
Under this scheme solar photovoltaic pumping system along with necessary infrastructure is being provided to small/marginal/medium farmers for increasing the income of farmers by reducing the energy cost.

10.6 Micro Irrigation technologies
For efficient use of water sources, Micro Irrigation technologies have been adopted in the State to benefit the farmers.

10.7 Protected cultivation of high values flowers
Promotion of protected cultivation of high values flowers under Himachal Pushap Kranti Yojna is being ensured through high-tech polyhouses for flowers, training of farmers and other input has been introduced.

11. Animal Husbandry

11.1 Health Cards for monitoring the health of Cattle

7.78 lakh health cards(Nakul Swasthya Patra) under "Pashu Sanjivani Scheme" has been procured and distributed to field institutions to benefit the farmers for maintaining and monitoring the health of cattle.

12. Irrigation and Public Health

12.1 Water Conservation measures
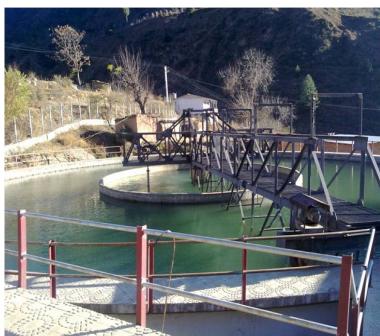
More check dams and ponds are being constructed for water percolation and conservation.
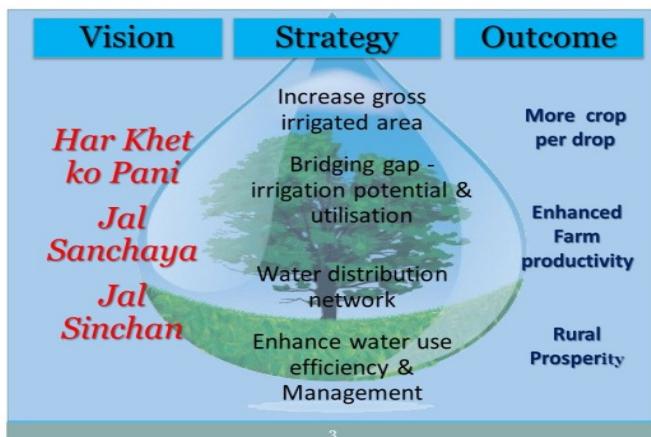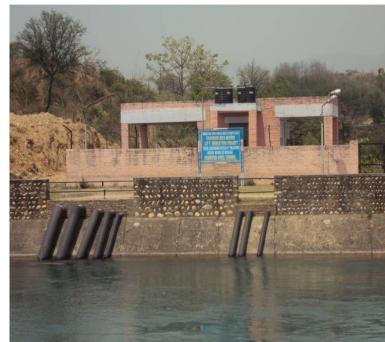
12.2 Har Khet Ko Pani

New programme to ensure sustainable irrigation facility to each field till tail end for ensuring percolation of water to recharge aquiferous under ground level has been introduced at State level.

12.3 Management of irrigation schemes

Krishi Vikas Sanghs (KVS) and Water Users Associations (WUAs) are being encouraged to operate & maintain existing water supply & irrigation schemes.

12.4 Online Water Bills

Automating water billing & payment system for on line billing & collection of water bills is under process and will be implemented soon.
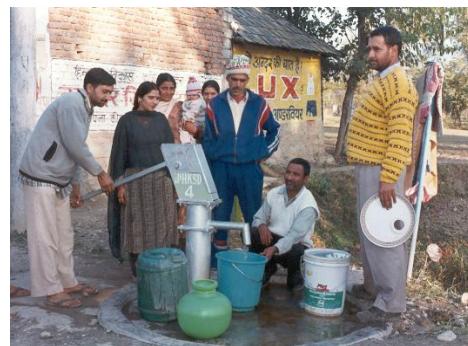
12.5 Ground Water exploration

Online application and approval for installation of hand pumps is under process.

13. Education

13.1 Model Residential Schools:

Under **"Mukhya Mantri Adarsh Vidya Kender Yojna" (now renamed as Atal Adarsh Vidyalya Yojna), o**ne model residential school is being established in such legislative constituencies, where Navodya schools and Eklavya Schools do not exist. In these schools free education with free hostel facilities will be provided to children. Some of these schools will specifically be for girls in constituencies with lower population & literacy rate of girls.

13.2 Integrated Interconnected Project Monitoring System (HPMS)

To share information with schools without loss of time and online attendance monitoring of Staff and teachers on daily basis, monitoring of scholarship programs, an Integrated Interconnected Project Monitoring System is being developed.

13.3 Improving proper learning environment in the schools

Free text books & braile books, large printing books alongwith provision of ramps & rails in schools for Children with special needs (CWSN) are being provided to all students to build and upgrade disability & gender sensitive educational facilities and to provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environment. Provision of supplementary reading materials including mathematics kits at primary level to ensure better learning environment in the schools has also been made.

13.4 Digital Education

All colleges and schools in the State are being covered under ICT in a phased manner by equipping them with smart class rooms for having access to digital education.

13.5 Atal Tinkering Labs

These labs are being established with a view to increase the number of Schools with Atal Tinkering Labs.

14. Forest

14.1 Vidyarthi Van Mitra Yojna: Under this scheme blank areas/degraded forest areas ranging from 0.5 hectare to 2 hectare are being earmarked to various schools for raising plantation and its subsequent maintenance by school children.

14.2 Samudayik Van Samvardhan Yojna

The programme aims to improve the tree cover and quality on suitable areas of open/degraded forest lands around selected villages, through active involvement of Joint Forest Management Committees/Village Forest Development Societies.

14.3 Van Samridhi-Jan Samridhi Yojna
This scheme has been introduced to enhance economic returns to the rural households engaged in collection and selling of Non Timber Forests Produce (NTFP) including medicinal plants through the formation of Community User Groups. Besides interventions for improving post-harvest handling, value addition and marketing, the scheme seeks to protect and strengthen the natural NTFP resource base in the long run, for ensuring improved livelihoods to communities.

15. Social Security & Grievances Redressal:

15.1 App for safety of women

An app for the safety of women has been launched at State level. A woman at the time of distress can press the red button on the mobile app and an alert will immediately reach the Police Response Team. Shaking the device will also trigger the app to send its location through GPS. Once triggered, the app automatically sends a message to the nearest police control room. Any woman at the time of any eventuality can call on this dedicated toll free number for police help.

15.2 Helpline toll free number for checking illegal activities

Information gathered through a toll free number is being used to crack down the activities of drug, forests and mining mafia and being monitored round the clock by the Chief Minister's Office.

15.3 On-the-spot redressal of public Grievances

To bridge the gap between people & Government and to redress the grievances of people at their door-steps, all the Ministers of the State Government are organizing regularly "Jan Manch" every month in remote areas of the district to resolve the problems of local people on the spot. The Officers of all major departments remained present on the occasion to facilitate grievance redressal.

15.4 Ensuring Equal Employment Opportunities for women in factories

Employment of women in three shifts in factories in HP has been permitted by the State Govt. for the units which have been registered under Factories Act, 1948 subject to certain conditions.

15.5 Women Police Stations

Eleven Women Police Stations have been established in the State for exclusively dealing with matters related to women and are entrusted with the task of providing pre-registration counseling in matrimonial disputes, dowry, domestic violence, adultery, rape and molestation cases, instilling confidence among women.

15.6 Vigilance Complaints Monitoring System (VCC)- The main objective of this module is to facilitate interactions between the public and SV&ACB. It provides facilities for submitting online complaints/information to the SV&ACB Police Stations.

15.7 Jail Varta (Prisoner-relative Video Conference System)

Prisoner-relative Video Conference System is the facility being provided to relatives by the jail authorities to fix a video conferencing session with their acquaintance prisoners.

16. Rural Development

16.1 Self-Employment to rural youth

20 more days of employment have been included under MGNREGA for ensuring self-employment to rural youth.

16.2 Moksh Dham

Crematoriums or*"Moksh Dhaams"* are being constructed in phased manner in each panchayat to provide dignity to the departed soul.

16.3 Jan Adhikar Pustika

A booklet on various welfare schemes of the State Government specifying the procedure to avail benefit under them is being compiled and will be made available to public through Panchayats/Ration Shops.

16.4 Digitization of PRIs/ULBs.

Digitization of PRIs & ULBs for entering/uploading data related to local bodies online to bring transparency & efficiency in their functioning has been introduced.

17. Programs for Self Employment/Skill Development:

17.1   Mukhya Mantri Swavlamban Yojana

To encourage local entrepreneurship and to provide more self employment opportunities, Mukhya Mantri Swavlamban Yojana has been introduced in the State. Under this scheme capital subsidy on plant and machinery upto an investment of ₹ 40 Lakh in Industries is being provided to Himachali Youths. Government land will also be provided at concessional lease rate of 1 percent.

18. Tourism

18.1 Nayi Rahein Nayi Manjilen

Under this scheme virgin destinations are being identified for improvement of road infrastructure, transport, parking's and other basic amenities for enhancing the tourism avenues at state levels.

18.2 Heli Taxis Services

Heli Taxis Services have been operationalized on identified heli taxi routes.

18.3 Introduction of Ropeways

Efforts are being made for installation of ropeways to minimize flow of vehicles in pristine areas.

19. Environment, Science & Technology

19.1 Online Environmental Clearance

Online submission of application for seeking environmental clearance has been introduced for enhancing the speed, transparency and accountability in the entire process of grant of environmental clearance.

Recommendations of the Committee:

1.   The draft report may be shared with all the concerned departments for their confirmation. All the concerned departments will confirm these initiatives and subsequently will ensure smooth implementation thereof so as to enable their regular monitoring at State level.

2.   After confirmation by respective departments, this draft report be forwarded to NITI Aayog, Government of India as a document on Initiatives of State Government for improving the ease of living of its citizens.

3.   The steps identified through this report in consultation with concerned departments to be adopted as template for reviewing/monitoring at Department/State level.

4.   As the public is ultimate beneficiary of these initiatives, Departments need to publicize steps/initiatives already implemented which can be used by public at large for getting the benefits. Schemes be uploaded on the departmental sites/social media, traditional media etc be used for proper dissemination of these initiatives.

5.   Other steps which the departments may propose subsequently are also to be taken to logical end and action in this direction is to be taken by concerned department.

6.   During deliberations with concerned departments, it was realized by the Committee that more steps are required to be implemented in the future for the benefit of consumers/public. Departments may identify all such steps and may supplement the already identified initiatives.

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