

# UP's Ease Of Living Makes Life Easier For Common Man

Sidharth Nath Singh

When Uttar Pradesh took a leap from 12th to 2nd rank for the ease of doing business, the message was clear: Entrepreneurs and businesses have been receiving the benefits of reforms implemented by the UP government.

Based on user feedback, UP successfully implemented 186 of the 187 reforms suggested by the Union government's department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT). By improving the ease of living in the state, the government has ensured provision of the most basic amenities, comfort and convenience such as food, clean potable water, shelter, electricity, proper roads and sanitation to the residents of Uttar Pradesh, who were deprived of them even after 70 years of independence. The state government's emphasis on transparency and best practices in business-to-government (B2G), interactive procedures through the use of technology, Nivesh Mitra and introduction of various IT-driven modules has set the stage in improving EoDB in the state.

The state government ensured to eradicate the illegal distribution of ration across UP and launched a campaign to provide ration with utmost transparency by scraping off 89,17,000 illegal ration cards from April 2018 and issued more than 1 crore 17 lakh new ration cards to the eligible holders. With state-of-the-art technological infrastruc-

ture, the entire system was made transparent and monitoring was commenced by on-line feeding of ration allocation, lifting from warehouses and distribution through computerized supply chain management systems. Under the state-level inter-district ration card portability scheme, 81,54,433 card holders took ration from other shops within the district and 7,64,819 card holders from one district to another through portability.

Under the Central Government's 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme, till January, a total of 3,749 ration card holders from other states took ration from UP and over 7,431 card holders from UP took ration from other states. The state government was also able to save a subsidy of ration of Rs 2,738 crore till December last year from the distribution of ration through e-POS machines via biometric authentication under FPS automation. The Central Government has rewarded the Uttar Pradesh Food and Civil Supplies Department for developing a system of delivery from Aadhaar-based ePOS, GPS-based monitoring of ration transport and payment to farmers from PFMS.

Efforts are being made to provide proper accommodation to the poor and needy by 2022 and fulfill the vision of affordable housing of Hon'ble PM Modi. With this, under the PMAY, homes have been provided to over 40 lakh people in rural and urban areas along with facilities like free electricity connection, proper toilets and Ujjwala Scheme. Uttar Pradesh has

not only emerged as the first state to give proper housing to maximum people under PMAY (urban) in the year 2019 but also to provide payment to the beneficiaries through DBT. Apart from this, Chief Minister Awas Yojana was started to reach out to people who could not benefit from the PMAY.

The UP government has launched a special campaign on December 15 last year, to curb property & land-related disputes in rural areas. This is a first of its kind campaign to end the persistent land-related issues in the rural areas and is aimed at eradicating the exploitation of the villagers in the name of 'Varasat' of land and property. This initiative is expected to settle



cases pending for years in an around one lakh villages of the state. Out of 8,67,343 applications, more than 8,43,611 cases have been disposed of in the state as of February 28.

The government is also allocating ownership rights to the legitimate owners of the houses built in rural regions under the Swamitva Yojana of the central government, a first of its kind scheme since independence. For this, a survey has been started in all the 75 districts of the state. In the first phase, more than 1,57,244 villagers from 1001 villages in 11 districts in the state have been provided with rural residential records / household certificates to give ownership of their residential property. After this, 'Gharani' will be

made on the lines of a 'Kha-tauni'.

The e-district plan inculcates 258 government services which are being provided to 35 departments. In the year 2020-21, 21.50 crore people have benefited under the schemes. In the Common Service Center-3.0 (CSAC) in villages, IDs of 89,945 people have been made till January 17 this year and 23,80,357 people have been given certificates from them. More than 40.83 lakh complaints have been filed through CM Helpline till January 31, out of which 14.08 lakh has been disposed of satisfactorily and 17.04 lakh has been disposed of under special circumstances.

Having connected through the UP State Wide Area Network-2.0 (SWAN), more than one lakh people are availing schemes from the government. In order to provide employment in villages and to connect women in rural areas with mainstream facilities, a total of 58,758 rural women have been appointed as banking correspondents under the BC Sakhi scheme. Community Toilets have been constructed in 58,758 Gram Panchayats and financial and social inclusion of more than 45 lakh families has been done through more than 3.93 lakh self-help groups in the state.

During the pandemic, the groups had made over 1.28 crore dresses and a total of 1 crore masks. The groups also distributed dry rations at 1,51,981 Anganwadi centers and distributed rations in 204 development blocks of 18 districts. More than 1,010 fair rate shops are being operated

by women of these groups and through the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission, this year 2 million more women will be added to 10 million self-help groups by 2024.

The government is scrupulously working to implement and execute the 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme under the Jal Jeevan Mission to provide pure drinking water to the people. Action plans for the supply of pure drinking water are also proceeding on war footing in areas affected by arsenic, fluoride, Japanese encephalitis, acute encephalitis and saline water issues. This scheme will also be implemented in the Vindhya and Bundelkhand regions and a total of Rs 15 thousand crores is being spent in the rural areas and about Rs 2 thousand crores are being spent in urban areas under the Jal Jeevan Mission. As of 2015-16, barely 1.5 percent of people residing in rural areas were provided with potable water, but today it has surpassed 10 percent. By 2024, every village and every house is expected to be covered under the visionary scheme. In order to make this innovative scheme sustainable, a provision has been made for its maintenance for the next 10 years.

With all-round development of the state, the government is improving the lives of people by providing them best facilities for a suitable living.

*(Writer is UP's Cabinet Minister for investment and export, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME). Views expressed here are personal)*