

24-hr power, water will steer urban UP: Report

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Lucknow: In order to provide quality life to people in urban areas and smart cities, UP needs to provide 24-hour power and water supply, suggests the Sustainable Development Report 2020, released by the governor Anandiben Patel on Tuesday.

The report, prepared by LU's Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and Planning department, evaluates UP's performance on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and recommends the government to make policy interventions majorly at human development needs and nature linked development strategies in all spheres.

According to Prof MK Agarwal from IDS, the report provides an idea on how UP is steadily moving forward in all directions from human development to infrastructure to sustainable development. "We need determined efforts to reach the goal," he said.

As per the report, the government needs to readjust and incorporate old welfare policies with other schemes and promote and invest in group farming by women self-help groups in order to reduce poverty.

To meet hunger needs, the government should implement resilient agricultural practices conducive to extreme climate weather conditions.

The report stresses on building food grain storage and processing centres for ensuring access to nutritious food round the year. In terms of offering a protective environment for children the government needs to create a cadre for protection of children at the block level and gram panchayat level. Use skill building to empower adolescent girls, who would help in ending child marriage, suggests the report.

On the education front, the report said that quality improvement in primary schools through joint efforts of public and private schools has been done. However, teachers should be encouraged to use new technology, pointed out the report.

For proper drinking water and sanitation, the report laid emphasis on door-to-door collection of waste. It also said that the solid waste management should be handled by private institutions. The government must regulate extraction of ground water and pass the Ground Water (Management & Regulation) Bill.

The report suggested the government to make people aware of health impacts of traditional methods of cooking. A semi-government nodal agency should be created which drives innovation and entrepreneurship with a mandate to execute strategies, the report stated.