

From 12 districts with over 50% poor popn, UP now has just 1: NITI Aayog

Govt Focus On Aspirational Dists Pays Off

Shalabh@timesgroup.com

Lucknow: As many as 12 backward districts of Uttar Pradesh are on the path of progress and development, a NITI Aayog report released by its vice-chairman Suman Bery claimed on Monday.

The findings of the Aayog's 'national multidimensional poverty index: a progress of review 2023', based on the national family health survey, said that the condition of 11 out of the total 12 districts where more than 50% of the population was suffering from poverty has improved considerably over the past five years.

The survey, which provides an overview about the population's health, education and the standard of living, was conducted during 2019-21. The release of the report got delayed owing to the pandemic.

While during the last family health survey which took place during 2015-16 the maximum deprivation among families and individuals for basic necessities and services was

ON GROWTH TRACK

Percentage of multi-dimensionally poor population in backward/aspirational dists:

District	NFHS IV (2015-16)	NFHS V (2019-21)
Shravasti	74%	50%
Bahraich	72%	54%
Balrampur	69%	42%
Lakhimpur Kheri	60%	35%
Gonda	59%	30%
Siddharthnagar	57%	38%
Badaun	57%	40%
Sitapur	57%	40%
Kaushambi	56%	30%
Chitrakoot	52%	31%
Hardoi	51%	34%
Shahjahanpur	50.5%	33%

noticed in Shravasti (74%), Bahraich (72%), Balrampur (69%), Lakhimpur Kheri (60%), Gonda (59%), Siddharthnagar (57%), Badaun (57%), Sitapur (57%), Kaushambi (56%), Chitrakoot (52%), Hardoi (51%) and Shahjahanpur (50.5%), in the latest survey, poverty has gone down significantly in all these districts except Bahraich.

As per the latest survey, more than half the population has access to better basic services, amenities and infrastructure now in 11 of the 12 dis-

tricts. In Bahraich, 54% deprivation was noticed during the latest survey as compared to 72% in the last.

The findings corroborate that the focus of the UP government on the aspirational districts has ensured inclusion of increased numbers of families into the mainstream and wider outreach of the government run schemes, initiatives and projects, said an official. The NITI Aayog in January 2018 had come out with a list of 112 most backward districts in the country that were bro-



Ten districts with max reduction in poverty:

Maharajganj	29.6%
Gonda	29.5%
Balrampur	27.9%
Kaushambi	25.7%
Kheri	25.3%
Shravasti	24.4%
Jaunpur	26.6%
Basti	23.4%
Ghazipur	22.8%
Kushinagar	22.3%
Chitrakoot	21.4%

Maharajganj dist records sharpest fall in poverty

Lucknow: Maharajganj dist of eastern UP led the top ten district with sharpest fall in the number of poor, as per the Niti Aayog report, 'The National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Report'.

Overall, UP had 3.43 crore people overcoming poverty, which was highest in the country. UP was followed by Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan.

Among the 10 most improved districts, Maharajganj saw a drop of 29.64 percentage point in the number of the poor, followed by Gonda (29.55), Balrampur (27.90), Kaushambi (25.75) and Jheri (25.33).

ught under the aspirational district programme.

Eight districts in UP were brought under the programme and both central and the state governments had started focusing on strengthening healthcare, education, nutrition, power, water, sanitation and other basic facilities here.

Principal secretary (planning) Alok Kumar said that the turnaround in the situation of the majority of the

The number of poor who were deprived of nutrition was 30.4% in 2015-16, which came down to 18.45% in 2019-21. Similarly, the mortality rate of children and adolescents has also improved, falling from 3.81% in 2015-16 to 2.2% in 2019-21. Maternal health has also improved significantly and decreased from 25.2% in 2015-16 to 15.97% in 2019-21.

As for standard of living, the percentage of the poor who were deprived of cooking fuel in 2015-16 was 34.24%, which remained 17.95% in 2019-21. In 2015-16, 2.09% people were deprived of drinking water, which has come down to 0.93% in 2019-21. TNN

aspirational districts in UP has been achieved through a multi-pronged approach.

"As step one, we provided nutrition security to the deprived population. Health camps were organised and volunteers were deputed to improve attendance and ensure fresh enrollment in basic schools," said Kumar, who is also the nodal officer for USD 1 trillion economy vision of the UP government.