

'Progress of aspirational devpt blocks exceeding state average'

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Lucknow: The aspirational development blocks initiative has seen progress in both social and economic sectors in the selected blocks, with average progress in these exceeding the state average in 42 key indicators, a govt spokesperson said.

Over 70 aspirational development blocks have surpassed the state average in 50 indicators, and more than 50 blocks have exceeded the average in 63 indicators. High-performing development blocks are awarded Rs 5 crore. The scheme, launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, identified 100 backward development blocks across 34 districts in the state to be developed as aspira-

tional blocks, in line with the Centre's aspirational district programme.

The blocks saw focused work across sectors and strengthening of basic infrastructure facilities. Work is being done to improve the performance of each block on 75 key indicators.

The aspirational deve-

ON 42 INDICATORS

lopment blocks initiative focuses on five thematic areas – medical and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, and skill development. The blocks also receive priority in budget allocations for essential infrastructure and development projects in Anganwadi

centres, schools, polytechnics, health centres, and hospitals.

To ensure focused work on these 100 blocks, the govt started a scheme to appoint trained, educated youth as CM Fellows in each block to provide coordination between govt projects and schemes, and people on the ground. The Fellows underwent a two-week training programme and were provided with tablets for digital reporting. They have also been given residential accommodation within the development blocks and will receive training from international organisations like Unicef.

The aspirational development blocks programme is overseen at the chief secretary level.