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**CYBER CRIMES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

Cybercrime refers to criminal activities that involve the use of computer networks, digital devices, and the internet to commit unlawful acts.

- These crimes target computer systems, networks, and individuals, often causing financial loss, data breaches, privacy invasion, and disruption of services.

**Status of the Cyber Crimes in Himachal Pradesh:**

- **Rising Cyber Threats** - Cyberspace emerges as a prominent arena for criminal activities, with Himachal Pradesh recording approximately 18,000 cybercrime complaints in the past five years (2017-2021).
- **Monthly Cyber Complaints** - The state consistently registers an average of 5,000 monthly cybercrime complaints on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.
- **March 2023 Cybercrime Snapshot** - In March 2023, the cyber police received 2,700 complaints, including 1,135 financial fraud complaints, 293 social media-related complaints, 799 inquiries, and 473 other complaints, reflecting the diversity of cybercrimes facing the state.

**Different Categories of Cybercrime that Jeopardize the Security of the People of the State:**

- **Cryptocurrency Scam** - Under the scam, the fraudulent lured unsuspecting investors with the promise of high returns within a within a short frame, employing a Ponzi-style scheme.
  - ❖ E.g., the cryptocurrency scam was worth Rs 200 crore in Hamirpur, Rs 100 Crore in Una and Rs 200-250 Crore in Kangra district registered in the state.
- **Malware Attacks** - Malware, short for malicious software, refers to any intrusive software developed by cybercriminals (often called hackers) to steal data and damage or destroy computers and computer systems.
  - ❖ Viruses, trojans, ransomware, spyware, etc.
  - ❖ E.g., on Jun 18, 2023, police in Himachal Pradesh registered a case after a man claimed a ransomware attack on the server of his computer by hackers demanding money to decrypt files.
  - ❖ It is the first case of a ransomware attack reported in the state.
- **Hacking** - Unauthorized access to computer systems,

networks, or devices to gather information, disrupt operations, or manipulate data.

- ❖ E.g., personal details including telephone numbers, bank account details and Aadhaar numbers of more than 20 lakh customers of Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Ltd (HPSEBL) have been leaked online.
- **Identity Theft** - Uses another person’s personal identifying information, like their name, identifying number, or credit card number, without their permission, to commit fraud or other crimes.
  - ❖ E.g., the Aadhaar cards of Nepalese people and migrant labourers have been misused by cyber criminals in five to 10% of the cyber fraud cases in the past two years in Himachal Pradesh.
- **Financial Frauds** - H.P. police registered the greatest number of financial crimes out of total cybercrimes. Cybercrime hubs mostly situated in UP and Bihar are targeting residents by luring them with debit or credit card reactivation, online bookings, winning the lottery, revival of insurance policies, etc.
  - ❖ E.g., The cyber-crime cell of the state, while dealing with these cases, has successfully refunded Rs 75,36,789 to the victims and put on hold the transaction of Rs 1,53,76,785 involved during this period.
- **Cyberbullying or Cyber Stalking** - Harassment, threats, or intimidation conducted online, often through social media platforms.
  - ❖ E.g., Himachal has recently reported a spurt in cases of cybercrime in the state. In most such cases, miscreants persuaded women to send their nude or semi-nude photos to them, which they later used to blackmail or harass them.
- **Online Extortion** - Threatening to release sensitive information or data unless a ransom is paid.
  - ❖ E.g., Cyber fraudsters have been using novel methods for extortion from affluent elderly men in Himachal Pradesh, with the police receiving 55 complaints of honey trap in the first two months of the year alone.
  - ❖ Out of the 55 complaints, 95 per cent pertain to men in the age group of 45 to 75 years. In 80 per cent of the cases, the victims paid the ransom.

**Steps taken by State Government to Curb the Cyber-Crimes are:**

- **Cyber Crime Investigator Badge** - Officers who excel in the field of cybercrime investigation will be awarded a 'Cyber Crime Investigator Badge' under this initiative.
  - ❖ The badge will be presented twice a year by the Director General of Police (DGP).
- **Formation of Special Investigation Team (SIT)** - DGP Sanjay Kundu, in September 2023, constituted a 13-member special investigation team (SIT) to investigate cases related to cryptocurrency registered in various police stations of the state.
  - ❖ The SIT will be headed by DIG (Northern Range) Abhishek Dullar
- **Training Programs for ICT Teachers** - There is a proposal to train ICT teachers in schools. These trained teachers can then educate other educators and students about cybercrime vulnerabilities.
- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra in Himachal Pradesh** - The "Cyber Swachhta Kendra" (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) has been established in Himachal Pradesh in alignment with the goals of the "National Cyber Security Policy," with the aim of creating a secure cyber ecosystem within the state.
- **Awareness Generation Campaign** - The govt of the state along with NGOs and Gram Sabha has started awareness drives to check cases of cyber-crimes.
  - ❖ In the majority of instances, it was discovered that the crime occurred due to errors on our part.
- **Proposal for Cyber Police Stations** - At present. There are three cyber crime police stations in the state, i.e., at Shimla, Mandi and Dharamshala.
  - ❖ Further, the Himachal Pradesh Police has submitted a proposal to the state government for the establishment of cybercrime police stations in 10 districts as well.
- **Cyber Labs and Skill Enhancement** - Under the Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) scheme, facilities for cyber forensic analysis and training have been established.

As cybercrimes continue to evolve and adapt, the state of Himachal Pradesh is taking concrete steps to enhance its cybersecurity measures, protect its residents, and mitigate the impact of cybercriminal activities.

**DRUG MENACE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

The problem of drug trafficking has evolved into a significant state-level concern. As transportation networks expand and become more accessible across different regions, with numerous routes facilitating movement between states, the prevalence of drug-related issues has steadily risen over the years.

**Status of Drug Trafficking and Abuse in the State:**

- **Emergence of Synthetic Drugs** - While the smuggling of marijuana and charas remains a prominent issue in the Kullu district, the increasing prevalence of heroin/Chitta addiction in various regions of Himachal Pradesh has become an urgent concern.
- **Drug Addiction Among Youth** - Approximately 60 to 65 per cent of the state's youth population in Himachal Pradesh falls victim to the drug menace.
- **High Incidence of Trafficking** - More than 40 per cent of the total inmates imprisoned in 14 prisons across the state face charges related to drug offences under the NDPS Act.
- **Involvement of Foreign Nationals** - Between 2017 and 2021, a total of 72 individuals from foreign countries have been apprehended for their participation in the narcotics trade within the hilly state.

**Factors Contributing to the Rise in Drug Trafficking in the State Encompass Various Aspects:**

- **Geographical Location** - Himachal Pradesh's proximity to states like Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, historically linked with drug cultivation and trafficking, can result in spillover effects and an increased drug influx.
- **Tourism** - The state's status as a prominent tourist destination inadvertently boosts drug trafficking. Tourist areas become focal points for the drug trade due to demand from both tourists and locals.
  - ❖ E.g., Kasol has evolved into a hub for rave parties, intensifying the demand for drugs.
- **Unemployment and Economic Factors** - High levels of joblessness and limited economic prospects can drive individuals into illegal activities like drug trafficking as a means of earning a livelihood.
  - ❖ A study on "Dynamics of Drug Addiction and Abuse in North West India" underscores the connection between unemployment and the lure of easy money, contributing to the alarming rise of substance abuse and drug addiction in the region.

- **Advent of Social Media** - The tricks of the drug trade have also changed as most of the drug sales nowadays are done on the “Dark Net”.
- **Lack of Law Enforcement** - Ineffectual law enforcement and inadequate border control measures can facilitate the movement of drugs across state and national boundaries.
- **Networks and Routes** - Existing criminal networks and established trafficking routes contribute to the expansion of the drug trade in the region.
- E.g., **three major trafficking axes are the** Damtal-Nurpur Axis for heroin, the Baddi-Solan-Shimla Axis for heroin, and the Parvati Valley Axis for cannabis.
- **Cultivation** - In some instances, the state’s terrain is suitable for the cultivation of drug-producing plants, further fueling the drug trade.
  - ❖ Notably, Malana Cream, a world-renowned cannabis extract, serves as a potent drug.
- **Corruption** - Corruption within law enforcement agencies and local administration facilitates the smooth operation of drug trafficking networks.
- **Social Factors** - Socioeconomic disparities, lack of education, and other societal elements can render specific communities more susceptible to engagement in drug trafficking.
- **New Methods of Trafficking** – With the progress in technology, drug traffickers using new methods to smuggle drugs across borders.
  - ❖ E.g., use of Drones.
- **Global Drug Trade:** The international nature of the drug trade means that global factors, such as worldwide drug demand, can indirectly impact local drug trafficking scenarios.
  - ❖ Over a period from 2017 to 2021, a total of 72 foreign nationals were apprehended for their involvement in the narcotics trade in Himachal Pradesh, including 36 Nigerian nationals, 15 individuals from other African countries, and 14 Europeans.
- **Lack of Awareness and Prevention Programs** - Inadequate awareness and prevention programs can result in communities remaining uninformed about the dangers of drug trafficking and drug abuse.

**To Combat the Problem of Drug Trafficking within the State, the State Government has Initiated Several Strategies and Actions:**

- **Awareness Campaigns** - Various awareness campaigns have been initiated by the state government to educate the public, with a special focus on the

youth, regarding the perils of drug abuse and trafficking.

- ❖ E.g., PRADHAAV is a comprehensive program initiated by the government to combat drug abuse among the youth.
- **Strengthening Law Enforcement** - This involves training law enforcement personnel, equipping them with modern technology, and enhancing intelligence sharing to track down drug traffickers.
  - ❖ Notably, Himachal Pradesh has established a special task force, led by the Additional Director General of Police CID and officers from the Department of State Taxes and Excise, to combat the drug menace in the state.
- **Surveillance and Monitoring** - Advanced surveillance techniques and technology are being utilized by the state government to monitor drug-related activities, identify potential trafficking routes and locations, and take timely action against drug traffickers.
- **Raising Legal Penalties** - The government is reviewing and amending related laws to impose more stringent penalties on drug traffickers.
  - ❖ E.g., the Himachal Pradesh Assembly has passed a resolution to amend the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, rendering all drug trades as non-bailable offences to prevent drug traffickers from evading the law.
- **Community Engagement** - Local communities, NGOs, and civil society organizations are encouraged to facilitate support for drug addicts and their reintegration into society after rehabilitation.
  - ❖ E.g., GUNJAN Organisation for Community Development is an NGO in H.P. that fighting against the evil of drugs in the state.
- **Border Vigilance** - Given its proximity to international borders, Himachal Pradesh is intensifying border vigilance to deter drug smuggling across state and national borders.
  - ❖ E.g., the police forces of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab have collaborated on joint operations along the Punjab-Himachal Pradesh border to monitor criminal activities in these states.
- **Interagency Coordination** - Various government agencies, including law enforcement, health departments, and social welfare organizations, are working in coordination to address the multifaceted aspects of the drug trafficking issue.
- **Crackdown on Illicit Drug Manufacturing:**

Vigilant efforts have been made to identify and dismantle illicit drug cultivation and manufacturing units within the state.

- ❖ In one of the biggest destruction operations conducted over 2 weeks in Himachal Pradesh, officers of the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) destroyed 1032 hectares (12,900 bighas) of illicit cannabis (ganja) cultivation.
- **Seizure and Confiscation** - The government routinely conducts operations to seize and confiscate illegal drugs, thereby disrupting the supply chain and financial incentives for drug traffickers.
- **Rehabilitation and Counselling** - The government has established rehabilitation centres to help drug addicts recover and lead a drug-free life and also drafted a policy to ensure the goal of rehabilitation.
- ❖ E.g., State Policy on Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts of 2019.

**The State Policy on Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts 2019**

In 2019, the state of Himachal Pradesh recognized the urgent need to address the escalating problem of drug addiction within its borders.

**This Policy was Driven by Several Key Reasons:**

- **Mitigating Rising Addiction Rates** - Despite law enforcement's efforts to control drug supply, the state witnessed a surge in drug addiction, especially among the youth, necessitating urgent action.
- **Enhancing Awareness Initiatives** - Inadequate awareness programs left vulnerable groups uninformed about substance abuse risks, highlighting the need for improved prevention strategies.
- **Expanding Access to Treatment** - Existing De-Addiction Centers in Medical Colleges were either inaccessible or overwhelmed, emphasizing the necessity for broader access to addiction treatment.
- **Supporting NGOs Financially** - The absence of financial support for NGOs operating De-addiction Centers hindered their capacity to expand services, underlining the importance of funding assistance.
- **Improving Affordability and Quality** - Self-financed De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centers were unaffordable for most addicts, particularly those from middle- and low-income backgrounds, calling for more accessible and standardized therapeutic services.
- **Implementing Data Collection** - There was no systematic data collection system in place to monitor and evaluate drug demand reduction efforts in the state.

- **Legal Mandate for Comprehensive Policy** - The High Court of Himachal Pradesh also directed the state government to formulate a comprehensive State Policy on the Rehabilitation of drug addicts.

**The objectives of the policy were clear and aimed at addressing these concerns:**

- **Prevention** - To prevent drug abuse through awareness campaigns and education.
- **Capacity Building** - To train medical staff in addiction management and provide the necessary infrastructure.
- **Early Identification and Treatment** - To establish mechanisms for early diagnosis and treatment of drug disorder patients in health institutions.
- **Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration** - To reintegrate treated addicts into society through rehabilitation centres and support programs.
- **Accreditation** - To set minimum standards for De-addiction/Rehabilitation Centres, ensuring quality care.
- **Skill Development and Livelihood Support** - To offer skill development and vocational training to individuals in recovery, promoting their reintegration into the workforce.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation** - To establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track progress and effectiveness.

By continuing these efforts and adapting to changing dynamics, Himachal Pradesh aims to mitigate the drug problem and provide a healthier and safer environment for its residents, particularly its youth.

**ENACTMENT RELATED TO AGRARIAN SOCIETY**

In 1952, two significant legislative acts were introduced in Himachal Pradesh, namely, the Punjab Tenancy (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Act, 1952 and the Himachal Pradesh Tenancy Rights and (Restoration) Act, 1952. These acts brought about important changes in the regulation of land tenancy in the region.

**Punjab Tenancy (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Act, 1952:**

**Key provisions are:**

- **Establishment Maximum Limit on Rent** - This act established a maximum limit on the rent that tenants were obligated to pay to landowners, which was set at 1/4th of the agricultural produce.
- ❖ This marked a significant alteration in the

existing tenancy regulations.

**Himachal Pradesh Tenancy Rights and (Restoration) Act, 1952:**

**Key provisions were:**

- **Rights of Pre-Emption** - This act primarily focused on the restoration of land and the rights of pre-emption for tenants, who had been evicted after August 15, 1950.
  - ❖ These restored tenancies were to be on the same terms and conditions as they were held at the time of eviction.
- **Rent As Per Act Punjab Tenancy Act** - The maximum rent upon reoccupation had to comply with the amended rules outlined in the Punjab Tenancy (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Act, 1952, to ensure consistency with the updated tenancy regulations.

**H.P. Abolition of Big Landed Estates and Land Reforms Act, 1953:**

**Under this act, several crucial provisions were made:**

- **Security of Tenure** - The Act guaranteed that tenants would have a secure and protected status. This means that they couldn't be arbitrarily evicted from the land they were cultivating without just cause.
- **Resumption of Land** - Landowners could reclaim up to 5 acres of leased land for personal use, but they couldn't evict tenants from more than 25% of their cultivated land. This protected tenants from complete displacement.
- **Right to Acquire Ownership** - Tenants, excluding sub-tenants, had the opportunity to acquire proprietary rights by applying to the Compensation Officer.
  - ❖ They could pay nominal compensation to the landowner and become the owners of the land.
- **Compensation for Landowners** - Compensation for landowners was determined by the Compensation Officer and besides compensation of the land, the tenants were liable to pay the value of any building standing on the land belonging to the landowners.
- **Vesting of Rights in Government** - The landowner who held land, the land revenue of which exceeded Rs.125/- per year, the right, title and interest of such owner in such land were transferred and vested in the State Government
- **Maximum Rent** - The maximum rent payable by tenants was limited to 1/4th of the crop's value, and landowners couldn't arbitrarily increase it beyond this limit.

**The H.P. (Transferred Territory) Tenants (Protection of Rights) Act in 1968:**

**Provisions under the act are:**

- **Remove Disparities in Land Laws** - The Act was enacted after the merger of Punjab Hill States into Himachal in 1966. The act provided security to tenants in the merged areas.
  - ❖ Ejectment of tenants in these areas could only occur based on grounds similar to those in the existing tenancy laws of the old areas.

**Himachal Pradesh Tenancy and Land Reforms Act, 1972:**

**The major Provisions of the Act are:**

- **Abolishing Intermediaries** - The Tenancy and Land Reforms Act, 1972, abolished intermediaries, marking a new era in land ownership in Himachal Pradesh.
  - ❖ Occupancy tenants in old areas and Kismi tenants in new areas became immediate owners of their tenancy land upon the commencement of the Act.
- **Reserve Land for Cultivation** - Small landowners were entitled to reserve land for personal cultivation, with limits of 1.5 acres for irrigated and 3 acres for unirrigated land.
- **Non-Occupancy Tenant Ownership** - Non-occupancy tenants in affected holdings also gained ownership of their tenancy land.
- **Nominal Compensation** - Other non-occupancy tenants, including sub-tenants, could obtain ownership by paying a nominal compensation of 96 times the land revenue and rates.
- **Protection for Serving Soldiers** - Under the new law, tenants of the serving soldiers will not be able to acquire ownership of the tenancy land.
  - ❖ On ceasing to be a member of the armed forces, they can resume up to five acres of land for personal cultivation, provided such members of the Armed Forces were cultivating the land personally before joining the Armed Forces.
- **Protection of Vulnerable Groups** - The Act protected the land rights of vulnerable groups, including widows, unmarried/divorced women, minors, those with physical or mental disabilities preventing personal cultivation, and those under detention or imprisonment.
- **Burden of Proof** - In disputes between landowners and tenants regarding tenancy existence, the burden



of proof fell on the owner to establish that no tenancy existed.

- **Transfer Restrictions** - Tenants gaining land ownership under the Act were prohibited from transferring the land for ten years, except for productive purposes with the collector's prior permission.
- **Discouraging Land Speculation** - Section 118 of the Himachal Pradesh Tenancy and Land Reforms Act, 1972 places clear limitations on the transfer of land to non-agriculturists who do not engage in personal cultivation within an estate located in Himachal Pradesh.

**Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1972:**

The primary objective of this act was to address the issue of land concentration and to ensure equitable distribution of agricultural land among the landless and marginalized sections of society.

**Major provisions and objectives of the Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, 1972 are:**

- **Definition of "Family"** - The act defined a "family" as a group of persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, who normally reside together and cultivate land as a single unit.
- **Permissible Area** - The permissible land area for individuals or families based on irrigation capability is as follows:
  - ❖ Land with assured irrigation for two crops: 10 acres.
  - ❖ Land with assured irrigation for one crop: 15 acres.
  - ❖ Land of other classes, including orchards: 30 acres.
  - ❖ In the recent amendment, an adult girl child, married or unmarried will be considered a separate entity and the adult daughter will be permitted to have a separate independent unit of up to 150 bighas of land.
- **Exemptions** - Exemptions from this Act include:
  - ❖ Lands owned by the State or Central Government.
  - ❖ Lands owned by registered Co-operative Farming Societies, provided a member's share, along with other owned land, doesn't exceed the permissible area.
  - ❖ Lands owned by Land Mortgage Banks, State and Central Co-operative Banks, and other Banks.
  - ❖ Lands belonging to or vested in local authorities.

- ❖ Lands belonging to religious or spiritual bodies or organizations, propagating moral or secular teachings including the eradication of casteism, alcoholism, drug addiction etc.
- **Penalties for Violation** - The act prescribed penalties for individuals or families found in violation of the ceiling limits.
  - ❖ He/she shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.
- **Land Redistribution** - One of the main objectives of the act was to redistribute excess land holdings to landless and marginalized sections of society.
  - ❖ The government had the authority to take possession of excess land and distribute it to eligible beneficiaries, such as landless farmers and agricultural labourers.

**INITIATIVES TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF AGRARIAN SOCIETY**

Agriculture and its allied activities are integral to the lives and livelihood, as it provides livelihood to more than half of the state's workforce, i.e., 57%.

- Further it also contributes around 13% to the state GDP.
- Hence, to ensure its full efficiency, the state govt has started many initiatives to protect the interests of the agrarian society of the state.

**The various initiatives are:**

- **Irrigation Related Initiatives:**
  - ❖ **HIMCAD** - The state government of Himachal Pradesh has started a new scheme named 'HIMCAD', to provide irrigation facilities to farmers.
    - ✓ The scheme will provide end-to-end connectivity of farmers' fields for better water conservation, crop diversification and integrated farming.
  - ❖ **Jal Se Krishi Ko Bal Yojana** - Under the scheme, check dams and ponds are built. Total expenditure is borne by the state govt.
  - ❖ **Flow Irrigation Scheme** - Under this scheme besides renovating the source location of Kulhs, strengthening of Kulhs in the common area is being undertaken.
  - ❖ 100% of expenditure is borne by the government

on community-based work government has decided to grant a 50% subsidy for the construction of bore wells and shallow wells for individuals or irrigation purposes under this scheme.

➤ **Crop Protection Scheme:**

❖ **Mukhya Mantri Krishi Utpadan Sanrakshan Yojana** - The Mukhya Mantri Krishi Utpadan Sanrakshan Yojana, consolidates three separate schemes with the common goal of safeguarding agricultural produce. The various components of the MMKUS scheme include:

❖ **Solar Fencing** - This initiative offers an 85% subsidy when three or more farmers collaborate to install solar fencing, and an 80% subsidy is available for individual farmers who choose to install it on their land.

✓ This electric fence, powered by solar panels, generates enough current to deter stray animals, wild animals, and monkeys from entering and damaging crops.

❖ **Anti-Hail Nets** - In this segment, the state provides 80% financial assistance to eligible farmers for the acquisition of anti-hail nets.

✓ This scheme is designed to shield agricultural products from damage caused by hailstorms.

❖ **Greenhouse Renovation** - Under this component, the government offers a 70% subsidy for the replacement of poly sheets after five years of setting up the greenhouse or in cases of damage resulting from natural disasters.

❖ **Mukhya Mantri Nutan Polyhouse Pariyojana** - This program will result in the construction of 5000 polyhouses.

✓ It will be implemented in two stages; the first stage will be run from FY 2020-21 to 2022-23.

✓ Under this scheme 85% subsidy support is provided for the construction of polyhouses.

➤ **Agriculture Promotion Scheme:**

❖ **Mukhyamantri Krishi Samvardhan Yojana** - This scheme subsumed the eight ongoing programs with similar goals to prevent activity duplication and arranged them into four components.

**These are:**

- ✓ Cluster Bases Vegetable Production Scheme;
- ✓ Input Based Umbrella Scheme;
- ✓ Strengthening of Seed Multiplication Scheme;
- ✓ Strengthening of Laboratories.

➤ **To Promote Sustainable Agriculture:**

❖ **H.P. Crop Diversification and Promotion Project** - To promote sustainable agricultural diversification in prospective locations the crop diversification project with the aid of Rs 321 crores from Japan International Cooperation Agency was sanctioned and implemented in the state till 2020.

❖ Kangra, Mandi, Una, Bilaspur and Hamirpur were selected as project locations.

❖ The objectives of the scheme are:

- ✓ Increase area and production of vegetation;
- ✓ To increase farmers income;
- ✓ Training and capacity building of Agriculture Field Extension Staff.

❖ **Prakritik Kheti Kushal Kisan Yojana** - This initiative is introduced to promote Zero Budget Natural Farming to reduce cultivation costs.

✓ The use of synthetic fertiliser and pesticides is discouraged.

✓ The funds allocated to the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture for pesticide/ insecticides are utilised to deliver bio-pesticide and bio-insecticides

➤ **Farmer Protection Scheme:**

❖ **Mukhya Mantri Kisaan Evam Khetihar Mazdoor Jeevan Suraksha Yojana** - The state government introduced this programme in 2015-16 to provide insurance coverage to farmers and agricultural labourers in the event of suffering injury or death due to the operation of farm machinery.

✓ Under this programme in case of death Rs 3 lakh, in case of permanent handicaps Rs 1 lakh and for partial amputation Rs 10,000 to Rs 40,000 is provided to the affected farmers.

➤ **Horticulture Promotion Scheme:**

❖ **HP SHIVA Project** - Under the scheme, the government will develop a 6,000-hectare area

for horticulture in 28 development blocks in 7 districts (Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmaur, Solan and Una).

✓ This will be developed under the “One Crop One Cluster” approach.

❖ **Him Unnati scheme** - “Him Unnati,” which has received an initial allocation of Rs. 150 crore, will concentrate its efforts on enhancing various agricultural clusters, including those dedicated to milk production, pulses, millets, vegetables, fruits, flowers, cash crops, and natural farming.

✓ Over the upcoming five years (2023-28), more than 2600 such clusters will be established, which is expected to provide a significant boost to the agricultural sector in the state.

✓ For the current year (2023-24), 51 clusters have already been identified for the Kharif cropping season, and an additional 286 clusters are scheduled to be established during the Rabi season, with a budget of Rs. 25 crore allocated for this purpose.

➤ **Other Schemes of State Government:**

❖ **Mukhya Mantri Krishi Kosh Yojana** - The state government has initiated the Krishi Kosh program to provide financial support to farmers for purchasing seeds, offering interest rate subsidies, and ensuring credit guarantee coverage.

❖ **Krishi Se Sampannta Yojana** - This scheme is being implemented in the state to encourage the cultivation of Heeng (Asafoetida) in high-altitude areas (Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur, Pangi, etc.) and Saffron in suitable climate conditions.

❖ **Rajya Krishi Yantrikaran Yojana** - To facilitate agricultural engineering the mechanisation in the agriculture sector in the state, the government started Rajya Krishi Yantrikaran Yojana in 2018-19.

✓ Under the scheme, the state government is offering a 40% to 50% subsidy on additional equipment such as Chaff Cutters, Maize Shellers, Wheat Thrashers, Sprayers, Toolkits, etc.

These initiatives collectively demonstrate the state government’s commitment to the welfare of its agrarian society, promoting sustainable agriculture, and ensuring the security of farmers’ livelihoods.

**POLICIES FOR SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEDULED TRIBES**

The policies for the socioeconomic development of Scheduled Tribes in Himachal Pradesh encompass a range of constitutional provisions, acts, and schemes designed to ensure balanced growth and promote the well-being of these marginalized communities.

**The various initiatives of the state government are:**

➤ **Constitutional Provisions:**

❖ **Article 15(4)** - refers to the special provisions for their advancement.

❖ **Article 16(4A)** - speaks of reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of SCs/ STs, which are not adequately represented in the services under the State.

❖ **Art 338 (A)** - Provide for the establishment of a National Commission for Scheduled Tribes to ensure the overall development of the scheduled tribes.

❖ **Article 332** - Under Article 332 of the constitution, reservation is provided to the Scheduled tribes in the state legislative assembly.

❖ **Article 243 D** - Under the article, reservation of seats is provided to the STs in every Panchayat (i.e., at all the three levels), in the proportion of their population to the total population in the panchayat area.

❖ **Tribal Advisory Council** - Under the 5<sup>th</sup> schedule of the constitution, a tribal advisory council is established in the state, whose 3/4<sup>th</sup> members are the representatives of the scheduled tribes in the state legislative assembly.

✓ Apart from advising on the matter referred to it, it oversees the implementation of the tribal sub-plan in the state.

➤ **Acts and Schemes:**

❖ **Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989** - The act prohibits various offences, including atrocities committed against these communities.

✓ It defines offences and specifies penalties for those found guilty of committing atrocities.

✓ The act also outlines procedures for the investigation, trial, and prosecution of such offences.

❖ **Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas**

**(PESA) Act, 1996**– The state govt introduced the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996 in the tribal areas of the state, to strengthen the Gram-Sabhas of these regions.

- ❖ The PESA conferred absolute powers to Gram Sabha, whereas the state legislature has given an advisory role to ensure the proper functioning of Panchayats and Gram Sabhas.
- ❖ PESA acknowledges the traditional decision-making process and advocates for the self-governance of the people.
- ❖ The Gram-Sabha provided with power to the Right to mandatory consultation in land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced persons, ownership of minor forest products, resolution of local disputes, etc.
- ❖ **Samudayik Van Samvardhan Yojana** – The main objective of the scheme is to ensure the participation of local communities in the conservation and development of forests through the plantation, improving the quality of the forest and increasing the forest cover.
- ❖ **H.P. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation** - The government of Himachal Pradesh has opened the Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation in every district headquarters of Himachal Pradesh. It was established on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1979.
- ❖ **Eklavya Scheme** - The Eklavya Model Residential Schools were established to cater to the educational needs of tribal children, who often live in remote and underdeveloped areas with limited access to quality education.
  - ✓ The EMRS model was first introduced in 1997-98.
  - ✓ The scheme envisions establishing one EMRS in each Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) block where the tribal population is concentrated.

**Current status in Himachal Pradesh:**

- At present, a total of four EMRS are functional in three districts of Himachal Pradesh.
- The list of schools is given below;
  - ✓ Chamba - EMRS Brahmaur;
  - ✓ Chamba - EMRS Pangi;
  - ✓ Kinnaur - EMRS Nichar;
  - ✓ Lahaul-Spiti - EMRS Lahaul.
- **Enrollment during 2019-20** – A total of 312 students enrolled in the EMRS in four schools, of which 50%

are boys and 50% are girls.

**WELFARE MEASURES RELATED TO SCHEDULE CASTE OF THE STATE**

The SC population constitutes 25.19% of the total population as per the 2011 census.

- Himachal Pradesh holds the second rank among all states and union territories in terms of the proportion of its SC (Scheduled Caste) population to the total population.
- The SC population is primarily rural, with about 93% residing in villages. However, certain districts, such as Sirmaur and Lahul & Spiti, have the lowest proportion of SC population.

**The Various challenges faced by SCs of the state are:**

- **Lack of Representation** -The local Khumli judicial system, primarily consisting of Brahmins and Rajputs, lacks representation from Dalits and women.
  - ❖ Khumli makes crucial decisions regarding violence, rape, and crimes against Dalits by non-Dalits.
  - ❖ Dalits are often discouraged from seeking police intervention, and those who do are penalized.
- **Religious Problems** - Dalits are often denied a role in managing temple affairs, face discrimination in participating in rituals, and are denied entry into some places of worship.
- **Economic Problems** - Many Dalits lack land for farming and grazing their cattle.
  - ❖ Even in villages where Dalits are in the majority, most of the land belongs to non-Dalits.
  - ❖ As a result, many Dalits work as landless labourers in the fields of high-caste Hindus.
- **Educational Problems** - Traditionally, untouchables were denied access to public educational institutions, leading to high illiteracy rates among them.
- **Social Problems** – Members of lower castes are prohibited from entering the kitchens of higher castes and are required to clean their utensils when consuming food or beverages in the homes of those from higher castes.

The government of Himachal Pradesh has taken various initiatives for the upliftment and welfare of Scheduled Castes (SCs), to ensure their social, economic, and educational development.

**Some of these initiatives include:**

➤ **Constitutional Provisions**

- ❖ **Article 15(4)** - refers to the special provisions for their advancement.
- ❖ **Article 16(4A)** - speaks of reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of SCs/ STs, which are not adequately represented in the services under the State.
- ❖ **Article 17** - abolishes Untouchability
- ❖ **Art 338** – Provide for the establishment of a National Commission for Scheduled castes to ensure the overall development of the scheduled castes.
- ❖ **Art 332** – provides reservations for seats in the state legislative assembly for SCs.
- ❖ **Part 9 and 9A** - provide for the reservation of seats for SCs in Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies.

➤ **Schemes and Acts:**

- ❖ **Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention Of Atrocities) Act 1989** - The act prohibits various offences, including atrocities committed against these communities.
  - ✓ It defines offences and specifies penalties for those found guilty of committing atrocities.
  - ✓ The act also outlines procedures for the investigation, trial, and prosecution of such offences.
- ❖ **H.P. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation** - The government of Himachal Pradesh has opened the Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation in every district headquarters of Himachal Pradesh. It was established on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1979.
- ❖ **Him Swablamban Yojna** – Under the scheme the corporation assists the scheduled cast families whose family income is below the poverty line.
  - ✓ These loans are provided to purchase various types of transport vehicles, agriculture implements, dairy farming, dhabas, guest house cottages, small-scale industries, etc.
- ❖ **Dalit Varg Vaisaik Prashikshan Yojna (Skill development program)** – Under the scheme, the corporation provides training to the unemployed scheduled caste youth in various employment-oriented trades.

✓ During the training, the trainee is eligible to get a stipend ranging between Rs 500 to Rs750 per month and the cost of training is also borne by the corporation.

❖ **Ambedkar Laghu Rin Yojna (Micro Credit Finance Scheme)** - To meet the small financial need of poor Scheduled Caste families to start small and petty businesses individually or in a group, total assistance up to Rs. 50,000/- is provided by the Corporation directly in collaboration with National Scheduled caste Finance and Development Corporation.

❖ **Hast Shilp Vikas Yojna** - Under this scheme, the corporation provides working capital assistance to artisans. The artisans can form a Group/Society/Association for availing working capital from the corporation. An individual artisan is also eligible for this scheme.

✓ Rs.15,000/- per artisan is provided free of interest for 2 years. However, the society/ Association/ Group may charge an interest of @2% from an artisan to meet their administrative expenditure.

❖ **Study Loan** - Under this scheme, the Corporation provides education loans to SC/ST eligible students for professional and technical courses that are approved by the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC).

✓ A maximum loan of up to Rs 10 lakh will be provided at a 4% interest rate to SC students whose family income is below a threshold level.

❖ **Post Matric Scholarship to SC/ST/OBC students** - Students belonging to SC and ST categories with parents earning an annual income of up to 2,50,000 and OBC students with parents earning up to 1,50,000 annually qualify for scholarships.

❖ **Training and Proficiency in Computer** - The state government offers training in computer skills and proficiency to individuals from SC, ST, OBC, Minorities, specially-abled, single women, widows, and those with an annual income of less than 2.00 lakh.

✓ They receive a monthly stipend of 1,350, while specially-abled individuals receive 1,500.

Despite all these initiatives, there are still many challenges persisting in the state, which hinder the effective implementation of the policies.

These are:

- **Persisting Atrocities Against ST Population** - Incidents like the alleged murder of Right to Information activist Kedar Singh Jindan in Sirmaour district and the fatal beating of a Dalit youth in Nerwa, Shimla, underscore the continuation of caste-based violence.
- **Ongoing Caste System in Society** - Instances like the segregation of Dalit students outside in a Kullu district government-run high school during the telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha Par Charcha,' as well as discriminatory practices during the Buddha celebration, reveal the persistence of the caste system in daily life.
  - ❖ Further, the notion of purity and pollution is still persistent in many areas of the state.
- **Caste-Based Political Strategies** - Elected representatives from reserved seats often find their decisions influenced by non-Dalits, and it's observed that SC individuals face difficulties contesting elections when seats are not reserved, indicating the use of caste for political gain.
- **Unequal Distribution of Benefits** - Only a small segment of the SC population manages to access and benefit from the available policies and programs, leaving many marginalized individuals without assistance.
- **Lack of Awareness in Rural Areas** - Many residents in rural areas remain unaware of the advantages offered by these policies and programs, hindering their effective utilization.

It is essential that the government and civil society organizations work together to address these challenges comprehensively and create a more inclusive and just society for all.

### **SINGLE LINE ADMINISTRATION**

Single line of administration is a term in governance meaning proper coordination among various departments of government.

- The single-line administration was introduced in Himachal Pradesh in 1986 in the Pangi (Chamba) and later was extended to all scheduled areas of the state in 1988.

### **The objectives of the SLA are:**

- **Efficiency Unleashed** - To speedy disposal of schemes and execution of development plan.
- **Adapting Progress** - To generate flexibility in development work.
- **Unblocking Progress** - Minimizing administrative planning obstacles for seamless advancement.
- **Harmonizing Governance** - Amplifying governance effectiveness via interdepartmental coordination.

### **Benefits of the Single Line Administration:**

- **Efficient Administration Operations** - To ensure that work proceeds smoothly and without unnecessary delays, the Deputy Commissioner has been granted special and increased powers.
- **Administrative Discipline** - Within this system, the Deputy Commissioner is responsible for writing the yearly confidential evaluations for all officers and employees in the district, emphasizing their responsibility and accountability in their roles.
- **Effective Leadership** - The Deputy Commissioner not only acts as the District Magistrate and Collector but also takes on the leadership of all district-level offices.
- **Success of Panchayat Raj System in Tribal Regions** - The Deputy Commissioner ensures the effective implementation of the Panchayati Raj Act and PESA Act in tribal areas.
- **Maintenance of Law and Order** - In his role as District Magistrate, the Deputy Commissioner is responsible for upholding law and order and acts as the head of the police and prosecuting agency within the district.
- **Efficient Revenue Department Operations** - As the Collector, the Deputy Commissioner holds the highest position in the revenue administration and is accountable for collecting land revenue and all outstanding dues, including arrears of land revenue.
- **Effective Execution of Tribal Sub Plan Provisions** - The Deputy Commissioner ensures the successful implementation of planned projects and coordinates the activities of all development departments.

### **TRIBAL SUB-PLAN**

The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) is a strategy that was established in 1974-75 to accelerate the socio-economic development of tribal communities.

- Its primary goal is to reduce the disparities between the Scheduled Tribes (STs) and the general population in various socio-economic development indicators within a specific timeframe.

- **The Sub-Plan should;**
  - ❖ Identify the problems and needs of tribal people and critical gaps in their development;
  - ❖ Identity all available resources for TSP;
  - ❖ Prepare a broad policy framework for development;
  - ❖ Prepare a detailed department-wise plan;
  - ❖ Define a suitable administrative strategy for its implementation;
  - ❖ Specify the mechanism for monitoring and evaluation.
- **Tribal areas are categorized into two groups:**
  - ❖ Areas with over 50% tribal population;
  - ❖ Areas with scattered tribal populations.
- In Himachal Pradesh, the identified tribal regions were further divided for administrative purposes into five distinct regions:
  - ❖ The entire district of Kinnaur;
  - ❖ Spiti sub-division;
  - ❖ Lahaul sub-division;
  - ❖ Pangi sub-division;
  - ❖ Bharmour Sub-division.
- State government has kept Rs 857 crore under the Tribal Area Development Program for FY 2023-24.
  - ❖ Besides, an outlay of Rs 335 crore is proposed in the Central Schemes under the "Tribal Area Development Program".

**Benefits of tribal plans in Himachal Pradesh:**

- These plans helped in streamlining the schemes directly to the people;
- The Grants given by the centre are impossible to reach tribal people without the tribal sub-plan;
- Under various heads state government is investing heavily for the development of the tribal areas. Like in health, buildings and irrigation water supply;
- Similarly opening of many schools in tribal regions under Eklavya Adarsh residential school;
- Opening up of Tribal Bhawan in Rampur;
- Facilitation of people of **Lahaul through the Atal Tunnel** which will increase tourism hence planning is required;
- Regular helicopter sorties are being carried out to facilitate the people of the tribal areas.

**TRIBAL WELFARE ADMINISTRATION**

In Himachal Pradesh, according to the 2011 census, Scheduled V areas cover about 42.49% of the state's total geographical area and the scheduled tribes make up 5.71% of the total population, with their primary concentration in districts like Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti, and parts of Chamba.

**Obstacles to the integration of tribal communities in Himachal Pradesh include:**

- **Land Alienation, Displacement, and Forced Migration** - The challenge of land alienation, forced displacement, and enforced migration restricted the integration of tribal communities.
- **Issues with PESA Act Implementation** - Forged and manipulated Gram Sabha resolutions, lack of consent before land acquisition and other grave issues persist in the implementation of the PESA Act 1996.
- **Education Disparity** - Currently, the **tribes lag** behind not only the general population but also the Scheduled Caste population in literacy and education.
  - ❖ This disparity is even more marked among **Scheduled Tribe women**, who have the **lowest literacy rates** in the state.
- **Cultural and Language Barriers** - Schedule Tribes who migrate from rural areas to urban areas suffer loss of identity, community solidarity, land, entitlements such as ration cards, and common resources.
- **Geographical Challenges** - The difficult geographical terrain, marked by extreme climate conditions, results in isolation and inhospitable living conditions for tribal communities.
- **Budgetary Constraints and Implementation Issues** - Budgetary constraints and Poor implementation of programmes are offered as another explanation for the issue of lack of social development among the tribe.
- **Limited Employment Opportunities:** The tribal areas suffer from a lack of employment opportunities, as a majority of the tribal population depends on rainfed agriculture, which is seasonal.

For the socio-economic growth of the tribal population Govt. of Himachal Pradesh has set up a proper tribal welfare administration.

**The core principle within the framework of tribal development in Himachal Pradesh:**

- **Non-imposition of Values** - The importance of allowing people to develop in alignment with their own cultural and societal values.

- ❖ E.g. formation of Tribal Development Council which involves tribal people.
- **Respect for Tribal Land and Forest Rights** - Emphasizing the need to respect tribal rights in land and forests.
  - ❖ E.g., effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act of 2006.
- **Local Training for Administration** - Highlighting the training of tribal individuals in administration and development, while avoiding excessive external intervention.
- **Simplicity in Administration** - The importance of avoiding an excessive number of schemes and adopting a single-line administration approach to prevent overwhelming tribal areas.
- **Human-Centric Evaluation** - Stressing that the assessment of results should not be based solely on statistics or financial expenditures, but on the positive human development outcomes achieved.
- **Sustainable Development** - Advocating for a sustainable development approach through initiatives such as homestays and eco-tourism, which not only create employment opportunities but also preserve and promote tribal culture.
- **Leveraging Traditional Knowledge** - Encouraging the use of traditional knowledge to conserve and protect the ecology and to empower and uplift tribal communities.

**Organizational Set-Up under Tribal Development Administration are:**

- **The Tribal Development Department** - It was established in 1976 and has headquarter in Shimla.
  - ❖ In 1981, its name was changed to the Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribes Development Department, and it was entrusted with the responsibility of the welfare of scheduled castes.
  - ❖ In 2002, the task of scheduled caste welfare was transferred to the Social Justice & Empowerment Department, and the department became known as the Scheduled Tribe Development Department.
- **The Modified Area Development Approach (MADA)** - MADA was created during the sixth Plan to encompass tribal-concentrated areas with a population of 10,000 or more, of which 50% or more were tribal.
  - ❖ In Himachal Pradesh, this approach identified two such areas: Chamba and Bhatiyat Blocks in Chamba district.

- **Eklavya Model Residential Schools** - EMRSs in tribal-populated areas were approved during the Ninth Five-Year Plan by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.
  - ❖ These schools, similar to Navodaya schools, are established to cater to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students.
- **The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)** - It aims to promote the socio-economic development of tribal communities by focusing on marketing their products.
  - ❖ This involves forming Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and providing training to undertake specific activities, as well as exploring marketing opportunities in national and international markets.
- **The Village Grain Bank scheme** - It was initiated in November 2004 by the Department of Food & Public Distribution and helps food-insecure households, particularly during lean seasons or natural disasters.
  - ❖ These households can borrow food grains from village grain banks established within their villages, which they return later.
- **The Tribal Advisory Council** - TAC established under Article 244(1) of the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of India, has been in operation since December 13, 1977.
  - ❖ While it serves as an advisory body, its recommendations are generally accepted by the government after due deliberation.
  - ❖ Apart from advising on matters referred to it, it oversees the implementation of the tribal sub-plan in the State.
- **The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)** - TSP introduced in 1974-75, is a strategy for the rapid socio-economic development of tribal populations.
  - ❖ It aims to narrow the socio-economic development gap between Scheduled Tribes and the general population in a time-bound manner.
  - ❖ The concept of integrating the Tribal Sub-Plan into the state's Annual Plan was first introduced during the 5th Five-Year Plan.
- **Single Line Administration** SLA is a governance concept that ensures proper coordination among various government departments.
  - ❖ In 1986, the ITDP Pangi was placed under the authority of a Resident Commissioner-ranked officer, who oversaw all offices in the ITDP

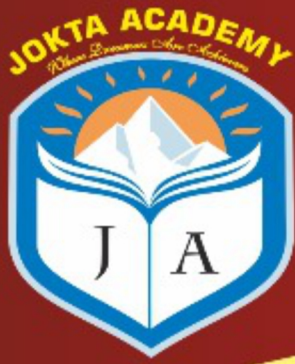


area.

- ❖ This officer became the ultimate authority, establishing single-line administration between the ITDP and the government.

While challenges persist, the government's proactive approach and these strategic mechanisms aim to bridge the socio-economic gap and improve the overall well-being of the tribal populations in the state.

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