

INTRODUCTION

1) DISTRICT BACKGROUND:

Anantnag District lies in the southern sector of the Kashmir Valley. The district is known for its majestic and high mountains, many perennial springs and streams flowing with melodious sounds and enchanting beauty, famous health resorts which make her climate pleasant and rejuvenating. Besides, fertile soil, suitable agro-climatic conditions, crop diversity, production of fresh and dry fruits, trout fish rearing add to its greatness, glory and fame.

The area of the district after carving out of district Kulgam in the year 2007 stands at 3574 Sq. Kms, which constitutes about 1.60% of the total area of the State (which is 222236 sq. km). As per census 2011, the population of the district is 10.79 lac persons with 5.60 lac males and 5.19 lac females. Thus, the population of the district is 8.60% of the state population. The distribution of population between rural and urban areas is in the ratio of 74:26. The density of population is 302 persons per sq. Km of area.

The district consists of 395 revenue villages (386 = inhabited; 09= un-inhabited) with one Municipal Council and 09 Municipal Committees. There are 12 tehsils, viz, Anantnag, Anantnag East, Bijbehara, Dooru, Kokernag, Larnoo, Pahalgam, Qazigund, Sallar, Shahabad Bala, Shangus and Srigufwara which have further been sub-divided into 34 Nayabats (Land Revenue Circles) and 99 Patwar Halqas. For the development of the rural areas the district has been divided into 16 CD Blocks viz; Achabal, Anantnag, Bijbehara, Breng, Chittergul, Dachnipora, Hiller Shahabad, Khovripora, Larnoo, Pahalgam, Qazigund, Sagam, Shahabad, Shangus, Verinag and Vessu. For maintenance of law and order, there are 13 police stations and 09 police posts in the district.

As the district is surrounded by the Peer Panchal Range which stretches in its South and South-East, it has a temperate climate in summer than other districts of the valley. In winter, however, snowfall is heavier and temperature is relatively low. Being bordered on two sides by mountains, the monsoon does occasionally reach the district. The rainfall is high in spring, moderate in summer and autumn and receives snowfall in winter. Continuous rainfall for a few days in summer sometimes results in overflowing of the River Jehlum and its tributaries leaving behind a trail of devastation, destruction and bereavements.

The district is predominantly inhabited by Muslims (98%) followed by Hindus and Sikhs. The upper reaches/ kandi areas of the district are inhabited by Gujjars and Bakerwals majority of who belong to Scheduled Tribe Community.

The fame of the district as an important tourist destination depends upon the tourist resorts of Pahalgam, Achabal, Daksum, Kokernag & Verinag. These health resorts attract a large number of local, non-local and foreign tourists. The district is also famous for Amarnath Ji cave, situated at a distance of 48 Kms from Pahalgam at high altitude, and is frequented by thousands of Hindu devotees every year.

The district is also known for important monuments like Martand Temple at Mattan, Mughal Gardens at Achabal & Verinag and Padshahi Bagh (Darashikho Garden) at Bijbehara. The district has a fair number of shrines like shrine of Baba Hyder Reshi ^(RA) at Anantnag, Shrine of Zain-ud-Din Wali ^(RA) at Aishmuqam, Shrine of Baba Bamudin ^(RA) at Bumzoo and many others in different villages.

2) SALIENT FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT:-

I. Location and Physical Features:-

Anantnag district is situated in the south-east of Kashmir Valley. The district is bounded in south and east by the Peer Panchal mountain range whereas in the north-west, it is bounded by Pulwama and Kulgam districts. The eastern and the southern hills of the district are covered with thick and dense forests. The soil of the district is by and large good and productivity of soil in plains is high whereas in hilly areas, it is low. Anantnag town is the district headquarter and is at a distance of 55 Kms from Srinagar, the summer capital of the state.

II. Geology:-

The district is extremely poor in mineral resources. However, there is wealth of limestone deposits which are used for manufacturing of lime and cement. There is one private mini cement plant in the district at Anchidora with a capacity of 50 metric tones per day. Besides, there is one sulphur spring in the main town at Malaknag which is famous for healing of skin diseases and rashes.

III. River System:-

The district possesses a number of springs and streams. Among springs, the Nagbal (Sherbagh), the Malaknag, the Kokernag, the Verinag, the Achabal etc. are very famous. Among the Nallas, the Lidder, the Arpath, the Brengi & the Sandran are famous. The river Jehlum drains the district and is joined and augmented by all these streams at one place or the other.

IV. Climate and Rainfall:-

The district experiences severe cold during the winter season when the temperature falls below the freezing point. In the summer season, the temperature normally goes up to 35 degree Celsius. However, the higher belts like Pahalgam, Kokernag, Daksum and Verinag etc. remain pleasant during the summer. The district gets moderate amount of rainfall during the spring & the summer seasons. The snow falls during the winter months and upper areas receive heavy snowfall as compared to plain areas. March and April months are generally rainy. During the year 2018 the district received a precipitation of 1575.50 millimetres (provided upto *June* only by the concerned department).

V. Demographic Features:-

- i). **Population:** Population of the district as per 2011 Census is 10.79 lacs which is 8.60% of the total population of the state. The district has recorded a decadal population growth of 38.58% as compared to 23.71% at the state level, during the decade 2001-2011. Rural population is 7.96 lacs and the urban population is 2.83 lacs. Thus, about 74% population lives in rural areas.
- ii). **Density:** The density of population of the district as per 2011 census is 370 persons per Sq. Km as compared to 124 persons for the state.
- iii). **Sex Ratio:** The sex ratio (number of females per thousand males) as per 2011 census is 927 as against 889 for the state.
- iv). **Workers:** The total work force of the district as per 2011 Census is 3.90 lac persons, forming 36.14% of the total population. Out of the total working force, 1.41 lac persons are working as Cultivators, 0.77 lacs as Agricultural laborers, 0.16 lacs are engaged in Household industry and 1.56 lac persons are engaged in other works.
- v). **Literacy:** The level of literacy as per the Census 2011 is 64.32% against 67.16% for the state. The literacy rate is 74.13% in males and 54.15% in females. In rural areas, the rate of literacy is at 59.24% while as in urban areas, it is 71.97%.

CHAPTER-II

ECONOMIC SECTORS

District Anantnag is richly endowed with natural resources. Its fertile land, abundant water resources & favourable climatic conditions have helped in growing a variety of cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables, flowers, plant nurseries, honey production, mushroom cultivation, rearing of fish, silkworms and livestock etc. The district is known for handicraft and handloom products of carpet weaving, embroidered gabba making, sozni works, chain stitch, khatamband, karimunakash, woodworks. The district is also famous for Cricket Bat Industry which is concentrated in villages of Sether Sathghar and Halmullah situated on the National Highway. Besides, it has famous tourist destinations showcasing her natural beauty, splendour and historical monuments.

The economy of the district has shown a perceptible change over the years due to the steady growth in various economic sectors. The sector-wise performance of various economic sectors is shown through the following pages:

A). AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SECTORS:

He sowed the good seed in the good soil.

1). Agriculture:-

Agriculture is the main occupation of the district as more than 80% of the population derives their livelihood directly or indirectly from this sector and is a vital component of primary sectors. Agriculture occupies dominant position in the district in terms of dependence for livelihood and employment.

- i. **Land Utilization:-** The total reporting area of the district is 0.722 lac hectares as per revenue records of which only 0.453 lac hectares is Net Area Sown & 0.12 lac hectares is the area '*Not available for cultivation*'. Other uncultivable

land excluding fallow accounts for 8133 Ha. The cultivable waste land is 4592 hectares whereas area under fallow & current fallow is 1527 Ha.

Keeping in view the growth in population the net area sown has to be increased if we lack behind in producing sufficient food grains for feeding the growing mouths then we have to rely on imports which will over-burden our economic resources. We have not only to increase the net area sown but also use modern agriculture techniques, fertilizers and high yielding varieties of seed to get maximum output from the existing area sown. Further, we should also take all necessary measures to store the harvest in a scientific way as it has been observed that some percentage of the harvest is being wasted during harvesting and storage stages. We are still dependent on the old and obsolete ways of storing where the rates and pests have a free day. No survey has been conducted about the grain storing system prevalent and in our villages and its improvement.

- ii. **Area & production of Crops:-** The main & high yielding crops of the district are paddy & maize in Kharief & oil seeds & fodder in Rabi season. The area sown under different crops during the year 2019-20 is reproduced hereunder:-

S. No.	Name of Crop	Season	Area sown (in '000 hectares)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Paddy	Kharief	21.811
2.	Maize	Kharief	10.283
3.	Pulses	Kharief	0.337
4.	Wheat	Rabi	0.000
5.	Oil Seeds	Rabi	11.734
6.	Fodder	Rabi	9.359
7.	Fruits & Vegetables	Rabi	13.732
Total			67.256

- iii. **Developmental Activity:-** Development of agriculture on scientific lines with the adoption of modern techniques is the fundamental principle of the agricultural policy in the district. This aims at increasing productivity & achieving self-sufficiency in food-grains & to increase the income level of the farming community. Use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, popularization of modern, improved & inventive agricultural implements, extension of agricultural credit, use of high-yielding variety of seeds etc. are aimed to increase the agricultural production.

a). **Improved Seed Distribution**:- A quantity of 146.70 tons of improved seed of paddy, 38.50 tons of maize was distributed among farmers during 2019-20. Distribution of as much as 115.40 tons of the improved seeds of pulses, fodder, vegetables and potato has been made under other crops in the district.

For a self-reliant agricultural sector, good soil, good seeds and sufficient irrigation are the pre-requisites. The department is duty bound to ensure the supply of quality seed to the farmers at rationalized and subsidized rates. It is a known fact that if we will sow thorns we cannot expect to gather flowers. Likewise, if we sow inferior and expired seeds we cannot expect to harvest a good and quality crop. There should be permanent seed distribution centres and outlets where the farmers can collect seed when the same is required. It has been observed that when there is time for paddy sowing we may maize seed available. The department should ensure the seed distribution in line with the cropping calendar.

b). **Distribution of fertilizers**: - Distribution of various kinds of fertilizers in the district for 2019-20 was of the size of 28.036 thousand quintals. The use of improved seeds, fertilizers, irrigation facilities combined with mechanical farming has resulted in production of as many as 6.33 Lac M.Tons under various crops during 2019-20.

Another important input for the development of agricultural sector is the fertilizers. Here the government should be extra vigilant. Often it has been observed that the fertilizers distributors in collusion with the manufacturers, suppliers and some dishonest government officials succeed in distributing inferior fertilizers which does not only bereft the farmers from their hard earned and hard borrowed money but also wastes and spoils their cropping season. This dents our already deficit food reserves. Any dealers found guilty of supplying and selling inferior and spurious fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides should be blacklisted.

iv. **Apiculture**: - Apiculture is one of the activities being under taken under Agriculture sector which provides employment to a good number of unemployed youth. Apiculture production was of the order of 3538.00 Qtls in private sector and 4.735 Qtls in Govt. Sector, thus, contributing Rs. 886.865 lacs to the GDDP.

Apiculture and Mushroom cultivation has a vast potential and economic value. But the reported achievements are bleak and dismal. Both the branches do not require much investment and labour but persistence and commitment. The department should consider establishment of apiculture and mushroom-growing co-operative societies and provide them with the necessary wherewithal and know-how so that these two branches of overall agricultural sector gain currency and marketability.

2). **Horticulture**:-

Horticulture has assumed much more significance in the district and makes great contribution to the District Gross Domestic Product. The district has high potential in this sector and has about 31857.88 hectares of the area under fruit as per Chief Horticulture Officer, Anantnag and a variety of fruits like apple, pear, apricot, walnut & almond are grown in the district.

As many as 10 fruit nurseries have been established in the district wherefrom 0.32 lac plants were distributed among the orchardists during 2019-20. Besides, distribution of 1210 Motor Power Sprayers, 32 tractors, 118 weeders, 23 tillers , 13 IP sets, 46 pack houses, 46 vermi compost, 21 deep bore well, 06 tube wells and 06 preservation units was made by the department to produce quality fruit.

The state Govt. has taken developmental initiatives to give a fillip to the horticulture industry. Various programmes & schemes are being launched from time to time to ensure integrated development of this sector. The Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), Technology Mission (a Centrally Sponsored Scheme), Post Harvest Management (PHM) & Plant Protection Machinery are some of the important schemes in operation in the district.

3). Sericulture:-

Sericulture (rearing silk worm) has remained an important activity in the past. But with the passage of time, the activity received a setback due to ruthless cutting of mulberry trees and lackadaisical interest shown by the cocoon rearing segment of the population resulting in the decline of production of cocoons. However, efforts are being made to revive this industry by way of providing various types of incentives to the families attached with it.

A number of 10 nurseries covering an area of 611 Kanals were established in the district. In order to raise the morale of cocoon-rearers, the department is making all out efforts by way of distribution of plants free of cost. Moreover, 1372 Ozs of silk-worm seed stands distributed among a number of 1334 cocoon-rearing families which has eventually resulted in production of about 58922.997 Kgs of cocoons, thereby, contributing Rs. 137.30 lacs to the Gross District Domestic Product.

The sericulture nursery area and cocoon production is decreasing which is not a good omen for the sector. The Department of Sericulture should make use of every inch of available area to grow high density foliage mulberry trees so that the silkworms are provided/fed with maximum quantity and quality of mulberry leaf. Besides, the silkworm seeds should be of good quality and high germination ratio.

4). Irrigation:-

Productivity is directly related to the availability of assured irrigation and sources of irrigation. A major impediment in the development of Agriculture in the District is that nearly 36.21% of the Net Area sown is un-irrigated though a number of schemes stand executed for development of irrigational infrastructure.

The main sources of irrigation in the district are rivers, canals, streams, nallahs & springs. Net irrigated area during 2019-20 accounts for 0.28 lac hectares of which 0.26 lac hectares (93%) is irrigated by Govt. constructed canals. Out of the Gross Area Irrigated, i.e, 0.49 lac Hects, paddy area accounts for 45%.

There is much space and scope for augmentation and supplementing our present irrigative facilities and systems. Our irrigation system cannot withstand a dry spell as we have no reservoirs of dams to store water. Our dependence and distribution is running water. No sooner the water level in our streams and nallahs goes down than our verdant agriculture fields start withering and drooping.

5). Live-Stock:-

Live-Stock plays a secondary role in the economic development of the district and forms an integral part of the district Agriculture sector. Live-Stock rearing is a subsidiary occupation of about 80% of population in the district who depend upon agriculture as their main activity. The live-stock activity contributes a sizeable portion to the GDDP.

As per the data provided by the Animal/ Sheep Husbandry Departments, the total live-stock population of the district was 4.76 lac heads(including 2.41 Lac Sheep & 0.20 Lac Goat population in 2019-20) in addition to 3.88 lac poultry birds as per Livestock Census 2013. Specie-wise population of live-stock in the district is reproduced hereunder:-

Specie-wise Live-Stock Population As Per Livestock Census 2013 and as per Sheep/Goat Population Count in 2019-20

S.No.	Category	Population (lac No.)
1.	Cattle	2.11
2.	Buffalo	0.046
3.	Sheep	2.41
4.	Goat	0.20
5.	Poultry	3.88
Total		8.596

The milk production in the district was of the order of 278.12 thousand tons during 2019-20, Mutton production was recorded at 13.84 lac Kgs and Wool sheared was to the extent of 4.47 lac Kgs. All these figures show the importance of this sector in the economic growth of the district.

Poultry farming is emerging as an Agro-Industry for providing a source of income and employment to the unemployed youth in the district. There is potential for development of poultry sector as the white meat and eggs are much in demand. The number of poultry birds was recorded at 3.88 lac numbers as per Livestock Census 2013.

The cattle and sheep rearing have a significant role to play in the economic development of our rural and semi-rural areas. In the past people reared and raised cattle and sheep as a subsidiary and supplementary engagement. As soon as they got other engagements/avenues of easy money they began to distance and dissociate from these traditional engagements. Efforts are required that the people realize the economic value of these sustaining and sustainable engagements. Each and every one of us is witness to heavy imports of cattle, sheep, poultry birds, eggs, milk and milk products on day to day basis into the valley. The imports are an ample evidence of our deficiency in livestock, sheep and poultry. This can also be construed that there are enormous employment and economic opportunities in this sector. Though there exists a network of about 541 Veterinary units and Sub-units consisting of 01 District Veterinary Hospital, 07 Veterinary Dispensaries, 01 Govt. Poultry Farm, 08 Poultry Extension Centres, 01 G.B. Centre, 03 Seasonal Mobile Dispensaries, 37 Trial Centres, 10 Frozen Semen Centres, 372 Private Poultry Farms, 04 First Aid Centres, 19 Sub-units, 01 Mobile Dispensaries/Breeding Centres, 37 Veterinary Assistant Surgeon Centres, 40 Intensive Cattle Development Centres. Besides there are 04 Govt. Sheep Farms, 66 (+02 FAC) Sheep Centres, yet we have not been able to fulfill our growing demand of meat, white meat, eggs, milk and milk products. The draining of our economic resources for importing these items should prompt and prod us to rework and concentrate on these profitable activities.

6) Forests:-

As is well known, the ranges of Peer Panchall in the South and the East bound the district. These ranges are covered with thick and dense forests of Coniferous and Deodar trees. The total area as on 31-03-2020 under the forest is 1283.91 Sq. Kms, which is about 35.92% of the total geographical area of the district. Forests have given rise to a number of processing units, such as, Saw mills, Joinery Mills, Sports Goods Industry, Furniture-manufacturing units etc. wherein thousands of people are engaged to earn their livelihood. In addition to this, Forests provide many important products e.g., gums, oils, waxes and turpentine. Forests help in land conservation and water conservation. Forests have economic environmental and enjoyment value in the sense that it helps to strengthen our economy, maintain an ecological balance and also are a source of enjoyment for the nature lovers. We are not yet aware about the importance of our forests as has been

the case with the famous saint, Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RH) who while describing the indispensability of the forests for the survival of the valley and valleties had said, that; ***Ann Poshe Teli, Yeli Won Poshe (Food is subservient to Forests)*** as we still consider the forests the main and cheap source of timber and firewood and have the figures relating to this.

The Forest Department should undertake a detailed and comprehensive survey to measure and mark the existing forest area. At the same time we should reclaim and re-fence the lost area. There should also be a cataloguing of all the herbs, grasses, flowers, shrubs, creepers, evergreen, and deciduous trees growing in our forests. To maintain the genetic health and diversity of the trees, there should be specific areas for specific trees. For future generation of forest experts there should be a dendrology subject in our colleges. We should educate our people about the social, economic, ecological and adventure tourism value of the forests.

7). Fisheries:-

Owing to its rich sources of fish, the district is also called “*Anglers’ Paradise*”. The fishing has emerged as an economically viable industry in the district. Fish culture is being developed in streams like the Lidder, the Brengi, the Arapath and in springs of Kokernag, Achabal, Panzath Nag and Verinag. There is one hatching farm established/ developed with “Danish Collaboration” at Kokernag to enhance the Rainbow trout production. Besides, 10 Sale/Rearing units have come up at Kokernag, Akad, Pahalgam, Nambal, Verinag, Panzath, Achabal, Wanpora, Dandipora & Khull Chohar Shangus. During the year 2019-20, 1127.68 tons of fish have been caught from the government owned fish rearing units.

Fisheries Department has introduced establishment of private fish ponds and 74 such ponds stand established with a fish stock of 2,23 Lac numbers in 2019-20 and thus, has helped to provide self employment to rural enterprising and intending households.

In addition to this the Fisheries Department is taking welfare measures for the betterment of fishing community by way of insurance coverage, construction of Low Cost Houses, providing of Nylon Twine Thread and Scholarship through Social Welfare Department.

8). Co-operative:-

Co-operative movement as an economic system has been in existence in the district like other parts of the state from decades together. In fact, co-operative movement has played a notable role in every economic sphere of the district.

The Co-operative is linked with manifold activities like sale of essential commodities, K.Oil, fertilizers, poultry birds, milk, sheep, medicines, and distribution of credit among the rural members. There are about 73 No. Cooperative Societies of which 22 are primary agriculture societies, 08 No. sale and service societies, 06 No. Marketing Societies, 02 No. transport societies and 35 other societies with a membership of 0.50 lac Nos. as on 03/2020. The financial structure of societies during the year 2019-20 as reported by Dy. Registrar Cooperatives, Anantnag has been to the tune of Rs. 132.76 lacs, Rs. 754.60 lacs, Rs. 166.75 lacs and Rs. 421.62 lacs under share capital, working capital, loan advanced and loan outstanding, respectively. During the year 2019-20, the fertilizer sales by the cooperative societies has been of the quantity of 28.036 thousand Qtls. Besides, an amount of Rs. 13.32 lacs has been received and disbursed among beneficiaries of cooperative societies under object heads of Managerial subsidy, special assistance, repair/renovation godowns during the year 2019-20.

In addition to the above, there are 10 Handloom Cooperative Societies with 110 members and 37 Handicraft cooperative societies with a membership of 866 persons.

B). INDUSTRIAL SECTOR:-

1). Industry:-

Industrialization is an index of economic development of a country. The J&K state continues to be primarily an agro-based economy. There are only a small number of large and medium industries in the state and in the district there is none. The industrial activity is confined to small scale & un-organized sector in the district. However, this sector acts as a nursery for the development of entrepreneurial talent and has been contributing significantly to the GDDP. During the year 2019-20, the industrial production valuing Rs. 128.50 lacs has been achieved providing employment opportunities to a number of unemployed youth and households.

As many as 18 MSME units have been registered formally in the district during 2019-20 providing employment to 138 persons engaged in the activities of food processing, beverages, hosiery and garment products, wood and paper printing products, leather products, electric and mechanical appliances, non-metallic and mineral works, metal machinery, rubber and plastic etc.

A total of 4969 No. of units have been registered by DIC upto 31-03-2020 out of which 3041 are functional providing employment to 19422 persons which includes 123 units in the organized sector providing employment to 673 persons. It is pertinent to mention here that 03 Industrial estates at Anantnag, Anchidora, and Bijbehara are existing in Anantnag district.

In addition, land measuring 250 kanals has been acquired for establishment of Infrastructural Industrial Development Centre at Vessu.

The DIC registers the proposed units provisionally and existing units formally under MSME Act and accordingly the cases are submitted to various financial Institution/Banks for availing loan facility.

PMEGP is a credit linked subsidy scheme launched in 2008-09 for creation of employment in rural and urban areas. Under the scheme, margin money to the extent of **25%** for Urban and **35%** for Rural categories is provided to the beneficiaries. Since its inception, **1640** number of cases have been sponsored for an amount of Rs **10476.27** lakhs to different banks out of which **832** number of cases have been sanctioned loan amount to the extent of Rs **4108.745** Lakhs and **439** cases have been disbursed for an amount of Rs **1285.34** Lakhs. During the year 2019-20, **337** No. of cases were sponsored for an amount of Rs. **2986.85** lakhs. Out of which **138** no. of cases has been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. **853.40** lakhs. Against which **121** cases have been disbursed during the referred year 2019-20 for an amount of Rs. **389.73** lakhs. The margin money disbursed during the referred year has been released to the extent of Rs. **170.09 lakhs**.

DIC also runs 06 machine knitting training centres for training the candidates in machine knitting where a total of 80 candidates were imparted training during the year 2019-20. The centres are at Cheerpora, Gohan, Adkhar Aishmuqam, Wanpora, Doodwagan & CFC Sether.

2). Handicraft & Handloom:-

District Anantnag is known for unique handicrafts like Gabbas, Namdas, Wood-Carving, Willow-wicker, Crewel, Embroidery and Carpet Weaving. Among wooden products, toys, balls, horses, baby-walker, spinning wheels, whistles, trays, spindles, wooden racks, pestles & mortars, rolling board and pin, spoons, money banks etc. are manufactured in the district. The district is also famous for manufacture of the traditional fire-pot, “Kangri”. In addition to this, Kari-munakash/Kar-i-Kalamkari, Pinjrakari and Khatumbund (wood work) is also prevalent in the district.

There are 28 Handicraft Training Centres imparting training to 293 candidates in different trades against an intake capacity of 685 numbers. An amount of Rs. 40.63 lacs has been paid to the trainees as stipend. The items produced in the training centres were to the value of Rs. 3.86 lacs.

There are 30,000 weavers dependent on handloom weaving for earning their livelihood. In view of the scattered and unorganized nature of this sector, the handloom department has initiated measures for providing training to potential and existing weavers, organization and registration of handloom cooperative societies providing incentives to handloom weaving and relative units and looking for the welfare of the weaving and other workers in the industry.

There are 08 Handloom Training Centres existing in the district in which 105 candidates were trained in handloom activity during the period under report and an amount of Rs. 5.355 lacs was paid as stipend to the trainees.

The interest in the traditional handicraft and handloom activities is on the wane. This needs to be checked before it is too late. All the families and persons related with any of the handicraft and handloom activities should be indentified and registered. Handicraft or Handloom identity cards can be issued to them by the concerned departments for ensuring their easy access to the financial institutions, malls and marts. Subsidies and subsidized raw material can be offered to them to keep them knotted with these occupations and engagements.

C). TOURISM

Tourism has been instrumental in the economic growth of the State and is also contributing a lot in the growth of the district economy. The sector is providing employment directly and indirectly to a large section of the population. District Anantnag is a place of attraction for tourists as the district is endowed and endued with the sweet springs, perennial rivers and green forests in addition to famous developed tourist resorts.

The Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir looks after the tourism activities in Kashmir Valley and also regulates the tourists' inflow. J&K Tourism Development Corporation undertakes commercial activities like construction of accommodation facilities, running of Cafeterias, Restaurants and other related activities.

District Anantnag has the distinction of having a number of tourist resorts of national and international fame, in the state. Of which Pahalgam, Kokernag, Achabal, Daksum & Verinag are worth-mentioning, where thousands of tourists enjoy the feast of nature during the summer and spring seasons.

The number of tourists/Yatries who visited District Anantnag during the year 2019 together with the number of tourist huts etc. are depicted as under:-

Year	No. of Tourists who Visited To District Anantnag		No. of Yatries who performed Pilgrimage to Amaranth Cave	No. of Tourist Huts available in the District	No. of Hotels	No. of Restaurants/ Cafeterias
	Indian	Non-Indian				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2019	233487	6551	240038	21 (Govt.)/ 61 (JKTDC)	97 (Pvt.)/ 04 (JKTDC)	08 (Govt.)/ 07 (JKTDC)/08 (Pvt)

Accommodation is the basic requirement for tourists. The existing accommodation in the district is not sufficient to accommodate all the tourists particularly during the peak season which needs to be upgraded and augmented.

For the growth of the Tourism sector, the government is taking many commendable steps by way of development of various places of tourist attraction. A step in this direction is the establishment of Tourism Development Authority of Pahalgam, Kokernag and Verinag to improve and expand the existing tourist resorts.

Pahalgam has been identified to be brought on tourist map for having potential for development as tourist place under Rural Village Tourism Programme. Tourism department has provided and created various types of facilities and tourism infrastructure to attract more and more tourists. Some of the noteworthy facilities are the Convention Complex/ New Club at Pahalgam and public conveniences at some places enroute to Pahalgam.

While concluding this sector, it is worthwhile to mention here that behavioral change is required and recommended from every one of us having a bearing with tourism. We should not shortchange and deceive any tourist we meet or treat. We should learn lessons from other countries that treat their tourists and guests with respect and warmth. Honesty and warm-heartedness changes foes and aliens into friends and familiarizes and dishonesty, deception and inimicalness converts intimates and confidentials into enemies and strangers. If we will change our present mentality towards our tourists and guests then tourism is ours because we have the bounties of nature already with us. Honesty has the same effect on the tourism as the spring has on the garden. Contrary to it the dishonesty devastates the tourism in the same manner as does the autumn to the garden of roses and lilies.

CHAPTER-III

INFRASTRUCTURAL SECTORS

1). Electricity:-

There is only one Mini-Hydel Power Project of the installed capacity of 3.00 Mega Watts and is very inadequate for fulfilling the electric requirements of the district. Because of this inadequacy, the power supply to the district is made from other districts. There are 146858 number of electric installations (144944 for lightening & 1914 for Power) in the district. All the villages in the district are electrified. Total number of consumers metered in the district was of the order of 56598 of the feeders metered in the district are reportedly getting 24x7 power supply. The consumption of energy in the district has reached to 8789.59Lac Units (LUs) as on 31-03-2020.

Revenue realized, during 2019-20, on account of electricity tariff in the district has been to the tune of Rs. 5920.39 lacs. An amount of Rs 7.18 lacs has been recovered as fine from the consumers for stealing/ pilfering the electrical energy. Since economic development is largely dependent upon the regular and adequate supply of power, necessary steps need to be taken for ensuring the same.

For doing away with load shedding, irregular and unannounced power cuts better management of power distribution is the need of the hour. We should not only apply and install sophisticated equipments and machinery to minimize power wastages during generation, transmission and consumption of power but also take stern action against those officers and officials who collude with unpaying and defaulting consumers. The officials who allow and help the consumers to steel energy are a real liability and the department should get rid of such parasites sooner the better.

2). Transport & Communication:-

Efficient transport services which include road transport, railways, water transport and communication system are the lifelines of an economy. An adequate and efficient network of connectivity & communication is a pre-requisite for local, national & Global trade and commerce.

Industrial and agricultural growth is mainly dependant upon the road and rail connectivity. It is because of an efficient rail and road network, the timely movement of men and material become possible and feasible. The work of construction of railway line from Banihal to Baramulla via Qazigund, Anantnag has been completed and the work on other

sections from Banihal to Udhampur is in progress. Completion of the railway track from Banihal to Baramulla has made the journey of the commuters economical, comfortable and time saving. The stations of this Railway track falling in District Anantnag are located at Hiller Shahabad, Qazigund, Sadoora, Wanpoh & Bijbehara.

The water transport once a main and sole source of transportation of goods from South Kashmir to the Central and the North Kashmir is now conspicuous by its absence. Because of the development of roads and invention and ruling out of modern means of transport, the road transport has assumed top priority. A significant amount is being earmarked under District/ State Plan and various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for maintenance of the existing and development of new roads to provide connectivity to the remote and far-flung areas.

The category-wise road maintained by State PWD (R&B) and under PMGSY upto 31.03.2020 is shown through the following table:

(Road Length in Kms)

S.No	Executing Agency	Black Topped/ Macadamized (MCD)	Metalled	Shingled	Total	Fair Weather	Jeepable	Total	Grand Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1	R&B	1079.22	405.28	8.30	1492.80	65.45	2.50	67.95	1560.75
2	PMGSY	59.40	-	-	59.40	3.268	-	3.268	62.668

In addition to this road length, a number of big and small road projects are under completion and on the anvil.

While the roads ensure movement of men, material and physical contacts, the telecommunication department connects hearts and thoughts irrespective of time and space. Because, of the telecommunication services the world has become a global village. So far as the telecommunication infrastructure of the district is concerned, the district has 101 Post offices of the category of Head post Office, Sub-Post Offices, Branch Post Offices & Telegraph Office. The number of telephone/BT/Broad Band connections stood at 85584 as on ending March, 2020.

CHAPTER-IV

BANKING & INSURANCE

Financial institutions play an important role in promoting savings culture among the people & also help in economic growth by providing advances to interested persons, institutions, agencies etc. The Small Saving Securities & Life Insurance business also help the people to save their hard earned money for the rainy days. In addition to receiving of savings and advancing of loans, banks provide other banking services in the interest of students, business men, workers, immigrants and emigrants. To provide these essential services to the people, there were 136 different bank branches of commercial, regional, rural and cooperative banks in the district as on ending March, 2020. The banks reported deposits to the tune of Rs. 5664.64 crores during 2019-20 and advances of Rs. 3638.58 crores with a credit and deposit ratio of 64.23.

As many as 7150 policies were made & executed by the LIC, Anantnag during the reference period thereby, insuring an amount of Rs. 19630 crores. Savings amounting to Rs. 733690.322 lacs were reported by various Post Offices of District Anantnag.

There is requirement of and potential for strengthening the banking network as presently we have one bank branch for 8050 persons. It is also a known fact that much of the banking network is concentrated and located in the urban areas which needs to be extended to far flung rural areas. Khidmat Centres may also be opened in the areas where presently banking services are not available as various banking and public services are delivered through these centres. It is very heartening and inspiring to note that the credit/deposit ratio is increasing year after year which is reflective and indicative of the contribution of the banks in driving the tempo of our economy.

CHAPTER-V

POTENTIAL AVAILABLE

The district is bestowed with rich, thick and dense forests on its southern and eastern fronts. And, not only provide timber and fuel but are also a source of raw material especially for Saw-Mills, Furniture Units, Wood-Carving Units, Wicker Works and Resin and Turpentine Units. But it is not out of place to mention here that there is need for protecting and processing of medicinal Plants and Herbs, and establishment of Wildlife parks and Sanctuaries in the higher reaches of forests. This will be a right step for preserving and increasing the number of rare species of Lion, Deer, Leopard, Kashmiri Hangul, Panther, Porcupine etc. and also will improve the economic condition of the people by way of attracting large number of tourists from within and outside the country. The need of the hour is to catalogue all the species of forest trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers, herbs and other medicinal plants. This will help the aspirant scholars to search and research our forest products and produce. The research can pave way for preservation and multiplication of our flora and fauna.

Bestowed with lofty mountains, evergreen forests, gushing springs, flowing streams, natural water falls and conducive climate, the district has the largest number of health resorts which offer a very good scope for development of tourism in the district. The holy Amarnathji Cave, situated in the upper reaches of Pahalgam, attracts a large number of Yatries from all over the country. This is oiling the engine of economic development of the district in particular and the state in general. There is urgent need for enchaining, improving and standardizing our tourism infrastructure at Pahalgam, Achabal, Kokernag, Verignag and Daksm but should not be at the expense of the natural beauty of these famous places.

Horticulture sector has gained an important place in the economic development of the district as more and more farmers and growers are entering this sector due to its high income returns as compared to field crops. The Horticulture sector is generating employment and income not only for fruit growers but also for growers of deciduous trees, saw mill owners, transporters, chemical and fertilizer traders, porters, pruners, graders, etc. Keeping in view the limited shelf life of the fresh fruits, there is an urgent requirement of a cold storage facility in the district. This will also help in regulating the supply of the fresh fruits to the fruit markets and mandis as per demand and prevalent price. Besides, the establishment of fruit mandis will help in maximizing the horticulture returns.

CHAPTER-VI

DEVELOPMENT OF KEY SECTORS

Due to diverse topography of the district, the irrigation facilities are not utilized as per capacity of the water resources. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to conceive and execute short term and long term irrigation schemes for increasing the available cultivable area and agricultural production.

Notwithstanding the fact that the district has a number of perennial streams, the Power Development Department has been able to construct only one Mini-Hydel Power Project at Pahalgam of the 3.0 MW installed capacity, although many micro-hydel power projects can be constructed and commissioned to do away with the frequent outages and load shedding.

Surveys should be conducted jointly by the Power Development and Irrigation Departments for construction of water reservoirs and dams not only for power generation but also for increasing the irrigation area.

CHAPTER-VII

SOCIAL SECTORS

1). Health & Family Welfare:-

The role of health sector is of great significance as it has been rightly called that “*Health of the people is Health of the Nation*”. For providing free and affordable curative, preventive health services, the district has a network of different kinds of health institutions from the district level to the village level. The number of health institutions along with number and names of medical blocks is shown in the following paragraph.

The district has 07 Medical blocks namely Achabal, Bijbehara, Larnoo, Mattan, Sallar, Shangus and Verinag. The District hospital is located at the district headquarter and is named after Mirza Mohammad Afzal Beigh, besides, Maternity & Child Care Hospital (MCCH) and District Tuberculosis Centre (DTC) are also functioning in the district. There are 05 Sub-district hospitals located at Bijbehara, Dooru, Seer Hamdan, Shangus and Kokernag. Moreover, the district has 26 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 36 New Type Primary Health Centres (NTPHCs) and as many as 141 Sub-Centres (SCs) are spread/ functioning in every important human settlement of the district and are providing easy and efficient health care facilities to general public. The main activities performed by these health institutions are general health care, RNTCP (Revised National Tuberculosis Programme), NLEP (National Leprosy Eradication Programme), COB (Control of Blindness), School health check-ups.

Under the flagship programme of National Health Mission (NHM), institutional deliveries have increased tremendously in rural areas and the maternity as well as the infant death rates have also come down.

The Govt., in its efforts for good health to all, has succeeded to a greater extent in improving the health scenario in the district. The data available shows that as many as 1.20 lac patients (indoor) and 19.62 lac outdoor patients were treated ending March, 2020. 0.075 lacs Major & 0.22 lacs Minor operations were performed & about 1.82 lac vaccinations administered. Moreover, a commendable progress was achieved under Family Welfare Programme, as many as 484 sterilizations were performed & 947 IUDs inserted, besides distribution of 127898 condoms and 42911 oral pills (tablets).

Besides, the Allopathic System of Medicine the Indian System of Medicine is also on the front to fight different diseases in line with the traditional and time tested therapies. There are 34 number of Unani/Ayurvedic dispensaries in the district manned by 49 doctors, 35 pharmacists, 05 nursing orderlies and 39 other staff. During the year 2019-20, 1.77 lac patients have been treated through these institutions.

2). Education:-

The role of education in facilitating social & economic progress is universally accepted and recognized as it is a liberating and empowering source and force.

As per census 2011 the literacy rate in the district has been of the magnitude of 64.32%, out of which 74.13% are male literates and 54.15% female literates .To realize 100% literacy there is a network of educational institutions from the crèche level to the university level in the district, in addition to a number of specific centrally sponsored schemes for formal and non formal education. The establishment and mushrooming of private institutions is also playing an important role in spreading the quality education in the district.

The District has 07 Govt. Degree Colleges, 05 Private B.Ed. Colleges, one Medical College and South Campus of the Kashmir University. There are sufficient grounds and infrastructure for establishment of a Cluster College University in District Anantnag.

3). Water Supply:-

Water has a direct bearing on the health of the people in the sense that if people are constrained to drink polluted and contaminated water then it can prove disastrous for them. They will be vulnerable to water borne diseases which many a times prove fatal and life consuming. So the government is duty bound to supply safe drinking water to her citizens alongside health and sanitation facilities. The PHE Department looks after this essential service. And many reservoirs, filtration plants and supply networks have been constructed and are being constructed to provide sufficient quantity of potable water to the people. As reported by the PHE Department 100% of the inhabited revenue villages in the district have been provided potable drinking water facility. There are 12424 number of Public Stand Posts and 49666 number of private pipe connections in the district. And where surface water sources are not available, ground water is being tapped and exploited for the purpose. It has also been observed that many other agencies are active in the field who also construct and install hand pumps and tubewells.

Aiming to save the people from the hygiene and sanitation related diseases, Swachh Bharat Mission has been launched in the district and the results are for everyone to see and admire.

4). Social Welfare Services for the social security of the vulnerable, downtrodden and other socially backward Classes/Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):-

The State Govt. through the Social Welfare Department is implementing a number of schemes for the social security and upliftment of these underprivileged and socially and economically sections like Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS), Indra Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) and Rehabilitation of Militancy Victims (RMV). During the year 2019-20, 48548 number of beneficiaries were covered under these centrally sponsored schemes. The department has also provided training to a number of beneficiaries in cutting, tailoring and knitting through 14 training centres during 2019-20. In addition to this, 17526 number of student beneficiaries have been covered under “Pre-Matric Scholarship”, belonging to Social Caste, scheduled Tribe, Physically handicapped & other backward classes by paying an amount of Rs. 138.814 lacs.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) are being provided through a network of 2229 Anganwari Centres where 91198 number of Children (0-6 yrs)/ Nursing & Pregnant Ladies/Adolescent girl beneficiaries have been benefited under Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) during 2019-20.

CHAPTER-VIII

CONCLUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS

To conclude with, urgent need is felt for :-

1. Extension/expansion of irrigation facilities by constructing new irrigation canals and channels so as to increase the irrigated agriculture area for making the district self-sufficient in food grains.
2. Establishment of Research Branches of SKAUST in the district, that too in the fields of Rice, Maize, Pulses, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry which have ample scope for further extension.
3. Construction of Micro-Hydel power Projects for overcoming the power outages and load shedding in the district.
4. Establishment of food processing and fruit processing units both in public and private sectors owing to availability of sufficient raw material in the district.
5. Encouraging mushroom cultivation and production in the district. The concerned departments should take necessary steps for expertise and technology transfer to the interested and intending entrepreneurs. This can go a long way in creating seasonal employment for the unemployed.
6. Construction/upgradation/extension of road connectivity facilities including providing of best means of transport and communication since suitable transport facility is key to the economic development.
7. Expansion of telephone and mobile services for better connectivity and contacts.
8. Encouragement for establishing of private fish rearing farms as this sector has a growing local market keeping in view its dietary value.
9. Boost to Tourist Industry by creating and developing tourist infrastructure, tourist facilities and beautification and maintenance of Archeological Monuments.