

Preface

The present study aims at assessing the current level of economic activity/development, in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and attempts a road map for future development. The topography of the state, the regional diversity, the fragile ecology, the centuries-old traditions of arts and crafts – these are the factors which make the state distinct and different from other states of the Union. The ongoing militancy has indeed impacted the pace and progress of development during the previous decade or so.

The surge in information technology, and the bio-tech revolution underway in some of the states seem to have bypassed the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The rising rate of unemployment, and overwhelming dependence of educated youth on Government employment indeed make the situation complex and difficult. The need is to have some “out-of box” thinking in working out economic nostrums for the state. Because of its climate, and ready availability of skilled and educated manpower, the state is ideally suited for sunrise industries like information technology and bio-technology.

The current study indicates directions and initiatives which are employment oriented, and the accomplishment of which is possible within a short time-frame or horizon.

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