

## **UP education dept launches app to track out-of-school students**

Meerut: With the government's count of out-of-school students almost always being lower than what is recorded in surveys conducted by other groups, the Uttar Pradesh basic shiksha vibhag, in a first, has launched an app to track such students. The state government has issued instructions to district magistrates of all 75 districts to use "Aagman app" (Arrival app) to identify out-of-school students. The app can be used by city-based NGOs also, to help the basic shiksha vibhag.

"In the academic session 2018-19, students in the age group of 6-14 years were convinced to get enrolled in schools under the 'School Chalo Abhiyan'. Meanwhile, 'out of school' students were also identified during household surveys by teachers and ideas to bring them back to schools were brainstormed. However, the number of out-of-school students identified by the basic shiksha vibhag of UP always differs from what emerges in other surveys by a huge number," read an order issued by Sarvendra Vikram Bahadur Singh, UP education director.

Questions have been raised in the past too, about the low count of out-of-school students that UP basic shiksha vibhag highlights every year after a household survey. "In the backdrop of the huge difference between the number of out-of-school students in the state survey and the other surveys, a mobile app called 'Aagman' has been launched by the state government. All the district basic shiksha adhikaris have been instructed to use the Android app without fail and feed details of the students in question in the app," read Singh's order.

Singh further instructed that these details be shared with all the teachers, school management committees, education officials and even NGOs, so that they themselves can feed the details to the Android app.