

Q. In India we need quality urbanisation. Under this regard discuss the role of aspirational district programme and other programmes critically. 15 marks

Since Indus Valley Civilization, **India is known for her quality urbanization**. By urbanization we mean that majority of **people start living in urban areas**.

Over time, especially after 1990 LPG reforms, the few urban areas i.e., **50 million plus cities are holding majority of urban population** which result into the problems like **slum development, traffic congestion, increasing rent**, etc. Even only some parts of India are becoming developmental zones **resulting into heterogenous development and poor quality of living**.

In 2018, UNDP Human Development Index, **India's rank is just 130**. Therefore, guided by inter-state and inter-district variation, on the recommendation of NITI Aayog on January 2018, **government came out with Aspirational District Program as a regional development strategy**.

[A diagram representing reasons for regional disparity and steps by the government to solve the issue and promote regional development]

Aspirational District Program(ADP) is implemented in 115 districts in 28 states to monitor real time progress of above five indicators (in the diagram) guided by '3C strategy'.

The first C stands for **Convergence of Centre and the state schemes** for more better coordination and financial utilization.

The second C stands for **Collaboration**

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between the Center and the states, district collector and the civil society.

The **third C stands for Competition among districts** to generate quality, accountability and more funding over time.

ADP is highly important for **inclusive development, decentralized government, people's participation and improving the quality of life in the urban areas.**

The other programs over time associated to improve the quality of urban areas are:

1. Rajiv Awas Yojna to JNNURM to Atal Mission for Rejuvenating Urban Areas (AMRUT) where we are focusing upon urban transportation, parks, living space, sewage and its treatment and overall quality of life in the urban areas

2. Housing for All (Urban)

3. Promotion of Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) like metro, bus corridors as well and New Urban Transportation Policy.

All these schemes are directed towards improving the quality of urban areas to make India's urbanization at par with the European countries.'