

NITI Aayog releases report on First Delta Ranking of Aspirational Districts

The NITI Aayog recently launched the first Delta ranking (incremental progress) for the Aspirational Districts, based on self-reported data of districts between March 31, 2018 to May 31, 2018, across five developmental areas viz. Agriculture and Water Resources, Basic Infrastructure, Education, Financial Inclusion Health and Nutrition, and Skill Development.

The objective of the ranking is to spur a sense of competition among the dynamic teams in the districts. Since these districts face many challenges including legacy, unexploited or weak resource base, deficit of manpower at different levels due to difficult living conditions etc, the ranking is also a tool to identify sectors and indicator specific challenges so that Team India, which is driving this programme, can take immediate corrective measures. The delta ranking is computed in a transparent manner for combined improvements made during April and May 2018.

The Districts started entering data from 1st April, 2018 in the Champions of Change Dashboard and 108 districts out of total 112, participated in this ranking. Data entry by remaining four districts is also in progress, though they are not part of this ranking.

Some of the data points have been sourced from Central Ministries viz. Financial Inclusion, Skill Development and 3 indicators of Basic Infrastructure - Household Electricity Connections, Household Toilets and Rural Drinking Water. Most of the data points, however, have been self-reported by the various districts themselves.

Asifabad district of Telangana, which was ranked 100 in Baseline ranking released in March this year, has made significant improvements in past two months and stood at 15 in Delta ranking. Dahod district of Gujarat improved 19.8 points to rank first in the Delta ranking (was Ranked 17 in Baseline ranking).

West Sikkim district in Sikkim stood second with 18.9 points, a huge improvement from being in the 30th position in Baseline ranking. Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh also made significant strides by improving 14.7 points and ranked 6th position in Delta ranking from 45th position in Baseline ranking.

This Delta ranking takes a step further and looks into specific aspects of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and analyses how districts have performed in last two months across important sectors. This grouping and positioning would aid the District Magistrates/Collectors to focus more on these sectors and improve their ranking in future.

Most Improved District

MOST IMPROVED			
District	State	Delta	Rank
Dahod	GUJARAT	19.8	1
West Sikkim	SIKKIM	18.9	2
Ramanathapuram	TAMIL NADU	17.7	3
Vizianagaram	ANDHRA PRADESH	17.5	4
Y.S.R.	ANDHRA PRADESH	14.9	5
Bijapur	CHHATTISGARH	14.7	6
Washim	MAHARASHTRA	13.8	7
Udham Singh Nagar	UTTARAKHAND	13.7	8
Korba	CHHATTISGARH	13.6	9
Virudhunagar	TAMIL NADU	13.1	10
Khammam	TELANGANA	11.5	11
Raichur	KARNATAKA	11.3	12
Narmada	GUJARAT	11	13
Visakhapatnam	ANDHRA PRADESH	11	14
Asifabad	TELANGANA	10.8	15
Moga	PUNJAB	10.7	16
Ramgarh	JHARKHAND	10.3	17

Source: PHD Research Bureau, compiled from Report on First Delta Ranking of Aspirational Districts, NITI Aayog

Background

Launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji in January this year, the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme aims to quickly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country.

The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central,

State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a Mass Movement or a Jan Andolan. With States as the main drivers, this program will focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.

The Government is committed to raising the living standards of its citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all – SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas. To enable optimum utilization of their potential, this program focuses closely on improving people's ability to participate fully in the burgeoning economy. Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure are this programme's core areas of focus.

After several rounds of consultations with various stakeholders, 49 key performance indicators have been chosen to measure progress of the districts. Districts are prodded and encouraged to first catch-up with the best district within their state, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others in the spirit of competitive & cooperative federalism.

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Warm regards,

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