

Q

Do you think that there is a need to rebuild urban governance structure ensuring convergence and fixing accountability at the base level? Comment (200 words).

"Urbanization is not about simply increasing the number of urban residents or expanding the area of cities. It's about a change from rural to urban style in terms of industry structure, employment, living environment and social society"

- But in the current situation of COVID-19 the rural areas are in much better position competitively to urban areas.
- There is a stark contrast b/w the socio economic and demographic landscape of the rural and urban areas.
- Looking at the current scenario of COVID-19 there is a urgent need to re-empower the institution of the district magistrate in urban towns, where district's are not well ~~are~~ recognised by the public and district administration machinery is not even used by many government departments.

★ Role of District planning committee:

- There is a need to form District planning Committee across the States to strengthen the governance.
- To achieve convergence, we need to have a clear command and control structure at field level.
- A beginning in this direction could be made by designating the district magistrate and ex-officio municipal Commissioner, and also ensuring that line & department functionaries report to the District Magistrate in the field.
- Reformed Urban governance machinery need to invest in building a credible database of the Urban poor and migrants, along with mapping ^{near} skills that is maintained centrally at office of the reempowered magistrat
- The National migrant databased announced in May by the National disaster Management Authority is a step in the direction for the benefit of urban poor and migrants. This Database will help in Implementing MGNREG

- Public participation:- Another major issue is contrast between the rural and urban areas lies in the level of public participation in decision-making spaces.
 - In village meetings at the local panchayat shauran and gram panchayat are "frequent"
 - The same can't be said for the cities where people are unavailable and do not "participate actively" in public discussion.
 - Use of social networking can be beneficial for urban areas to interact with peoples, like Facebook whatsapp twitter, emails etc.
In rural areas there is also a need of technology use to get effective results in the public working.
- ⇒ As we initiate a post-COVID-19 Atmanirbhar nation-building exercise the current Urban governance structure must begin rebuilding internal systems.